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OF THE

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AND OF

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BY PETER FORCE.

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PREPARED AND PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS.

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS, IN THE YEAR 1843,
BY PETER FORCE,
IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

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## DEFINITIVE TREATY OF PEACE WITH GREAT BRITAIN, SEPTEMBER 3, 1783.

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BY PETER FORCE.

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**VOLUME III.**

PREPARED AND PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF ACTS OF CONGRESS, PASSED ON THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, 1833, AND ON THE THIRD DAY OF MARCH, 1843.

WASHINGTON, JANUARY, 1853.

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19, Assent of the President to an ordinance for issuing one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds currency in Dollars, and for borrowing five hundred thousand Pounds, - - 79
19, Report of Committee to whom the President's Message of the 8th instant, with Brigadier-General Howe's Letter, were referred, - - 79
19, Message to the President, sending a copy of the Report of the Committee on General Howe's Letter; desiring him to give such orders as shall appear most effectual for the defence of the back settlers; and requesting commissions for the Captains of the Watch Companies, - - - - - - - 81
19, Thanks to Colonel Williamson and the officers and men under his command, employed in the late expedition against the Cherokee Indians, - - - - - - - - 81
19, Certain persons to be discharged from Jail and permitted to go off the State at the expense of the publick, - - - - - - 81
19, The President desired to recall all the Militia Commissions given by the late Governours, and grant new ones to the officers holding such, - - - - - - - - 81
19, Report from the Committee to examine into the state of the Jail and the treatment of the Prisoners of War, - - - - - - 82
19, Further encouragement to the late commander and mariners of the Revenge for their gallant behaviour in taking the brigantine Glasgow Packet, - - - - - - - - 82
19, Proper and adequate provision to be made for Thomas Farr, Paymaster to the Militia, - 82
19, Fifty-two Pounds reimbursed to John Vinyard, advanced by him for carrying Letters to Members by order of the House, - - 82
19, Pay of Surgeons of the Continental Regiments to be three Pounds currency per day, - 82
19, Daily pay of one Pound currency allowed to the person acting as Gunner, Barrackmaster, and Storekeeper, in Fort Lyttleton, - - 83
19, Report of Committee on the Petition of Thomas Lamar agreed to, - - - - - - 83
19, The Clerk to attend the President with the Journals of the House whenever the same may be required, - - - - - - 83
19, The Clerk to supply General Howe with copies of such Orders and Resolutions of the House as respect the Military Department, and as he shall require, - - - - - 84

MARYLAND CONVENTION.

1776.
Aug. 14, Convention met at Annapolis, - - - 83
14, List of Delegates present, - - - - 83
14, Matthew Tilghman chosen President, Gabriel Duvall, Clerk, Allen Quynn, Messenger, Robert Reynolds, Doorkeeper, - - - 83
14, Committee of Elections appointed, - - 83
14, Council of Safety empowered to draw for thirty thousand Pounds, - - - - - - 84
14, Nicholas Harwood and John Johnson appointed Assistant Clerks, - - - - - 84
15, Report from the Committee of Elections, - 84
15, Election for Kent County to be carried on agreeable to the Resolves of the last Convention, and all friends to America required, if necessary, to be aiding the Judges of Election, - - - - - - - - 85
15, Election of Delegates for Charles County affirmed, - - - - - - - - 86
15, Election of Delegates for Prince George's County declared to be void, - - - - 86
15, Election of Delegates for the Lower District of Frederick declared to be void, - - 86
15, The four Independent Companies immediately to proceed to Elizabeth, and put themselves under the command of Colonel Smallwood, - 87

1776.
Aug. 15, Election of Delegates for Worcester County declared to be void, - - - - - - 87
15, Rules to be observed during this session, - 87
15, Rev. Mr. Lendrum desired to read Prayers before the Convention, - - - - - 87
16, Declaration of Independence laid before the Convention by the Council of Safety, - - 88
16, Petition of sundry Freeholders of Kent County, praying that the Proceedings on the late election for the said County may be rendered void, read and rejected, - - - - 88
16, The Managers of the Gun Manufactory of Dorchester County to be indemnified for the money they have expended, - - - - 88
16, The Guns taken by the Guard under Major Follin to be delivered to the Council of Safety, - 88
16, Militia for the Flying-Camp entitled to Pay and Rations from the time they march, - - 88
16, Such of the Militia for the Flying-Camp as can be equipped to march with all expedition to the Jerseys, - - - - - - - 88
16, Election of Delegates for Queen Anne's County declared to be void, - - - - - 88
16, Eight hundred Dollars advanced to Lodwick Weltner, Major of the German Battalion, - 89
16, The Brigadier-General of the Flying-Camp, if acting in conjunction with the Regular Troops of this Colony, to be subject to the command of Colonel Smallwood, - - 89
16, Question to appoint Military Officers by ballot carried in the negative, - - - - 89
16, No Military Officer to be appointed unless by a majority of the House consisting of forty-five Members, - - - - - - - 89
16, Rezin Beall elected Brigadier-General for the Flying-Camp, - - - - - - - 89
16, The seat of every Member who shall accept a commission in the Flying-Camp to be thereby vacated, - - - - - - - - 89
16, William Richardson elected Colonel, and William Whitely Lieutenant-Colonel, of the Battalion raised on the Eastern-Shore for the Flying-Camp, - - - - - - 89
17, Committee appointed to examine and adjust the several claims on the Treasury, - - 89
17, Robert Campbell appointed Adjutant to the Eastern-Shore Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp, - - - - - - - 89
17, Resolved, unanimously, that this Convention will maintain the freedom and independency of the United States, with their lives and fortunes, - - - - - - - - 89
17, John Hindman appointed Surgeon to the Eastern-Shore Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp, - - - - - - - - 89
17, Committee to receive proposals relating to the establishment of Manufactories, - - - 90
17, Committee to examine the state of the Accounts and Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Loan Office, - - - - - 90
17, President to apply to Congress for ten thousand Pounds, - - - - - - - 90
17, All questions, except the appointment of Committees, to be determined *viva voce*, - - 90
17, Committee to prepare a Declaration and Charter of Rights and Form of Government, - 91
17, Captain Bourke's Company to be added to Colonel Richardson's Battalion, - - - 91
19, Certain Officers of the Flying-Camp to receive pay and rations from the date of their warrants, - - - - - - - - 91
19, Ten Pounds advanced to James Hopkins to enable him to construct a machine according to proposals communicated to the House, - 91
19, Committee to take into consideration sundry Papers and Depositions relative to the Rev. John Scott, - - - - - - - 91
20, Dr. John Dorsey elected Surgeon to Colonel Ewing's Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp, - - - - - - - - 92
20, Petition of sundry inhabitants of Anne Arundel County to be permitted to form themselves into an Independent Militia Company, read and rejected, - - - - - - - 92
21, Board appointed to continue the Books of Accounts of the expenditure, loan, or disposition of all publick moneys, opened by the late Board, - - - - - - - - 92

1776.
*Aug.* 21, Committee to inquire how far the Resolve of the 6th July for raising two Companies of Riflemen and four Companies of Germans, has been complied with, - - - - 92
21, John Muir appointed Clerk to the Board of Accounts, - - - - - - - - 93
21, Report of Committee appointed to examine and price the Linen delivered by John Archer and James Harris, - - - - - - 93
22, Report of Committee on the establishment of Manufactories, - - - - - - 93
22, Officers in the Regular service to take rank of Militia Officers, - - - - - - 93
22, Appointment of Officers of the Independent Company of Regular Troops lately commanded by Captain Rezin Beall, - - 93
22, One hundred Pounds advanced to Thomas Harwood to enable him to carry on a Stocking Manufactory, - - - - - - - 93
23, Committee to report a list of Prisoners of War, and of Officers of the Troops raised in this State for the Continental service, - - 94
23, Committee to report on Resolutions of Congress of 26th June and 17th August, - - 94
23, Commanders for the Vessels and Armed Boats ordered to be fitted out by the last Convention, to be appointed by the Council of Safety, 94
23, Memorial presented from James Cunninghame relative to a Sloop drifted ashore from the Bristish Fleet under the command of Lord Dunmore, - - - - - - - 94
23, John Hall appointed Judge of the Court of Admiralty in the room of William Hayward, resigned, - - - - - - - - 94
23, Return of election of Delegates for the Lower District of Frederick County, - - - 94
24, Commissions of the Officers of the Independent Company of Militia for the Flying-Camp to bear date respectively from the time they completed the number of men required by the Officers of the Battalions for the Flying-Camp, - - - - - - - - 94
27, A Declaration and Charter of Rights brought in and ordered to be printed for the consideration of the Members, - - - - - 95
27, Resignation of Brice T. B. Worthington, Charles Carroll, Barrister, and Samuel Chase, on account of having received instructions from their constituents enjoining them, in framing a Government for the State, implicitly to adhere to points in their opinion incompatible with good government and the publick peace and happiness, - - - - - - - 95
27, Petition from sundry free voters of Anne Arundel County, praying for a new election of Delegates for said County, - - - - 95
27, Change of Officers in the Company lately commanded by Captain Rezin Beall, - - 95
27, Depositions to be taken relative to the late election for Anne Arundel County, - - 95
27, A Remonstrance from George Davis, read and referred to the Committee on the Establishment of Manufactories, - - - - - 95
27, Return of election of Delegates for Kent County, - - - - - - - - 95
27, Election of Delegates for Anne Arundel County to be held on the 4th of September next, 95
27, Proposals of Valentine Reintzel and Anthony Gossler for raising a Company of Riflemen, read and unanimously rejected, - - - 95
28, Petition presented from the inhabitants of Annapolis to be reinstated in their former right of voting for Representatives for Anne Arundel County, - - - - - - - 95
28, Committee to inquire what progress has been made in the different Manufactories erected or about to be erected in the State, - - 96
28, Report brought in from the Committee on the Depositions and Papers relative to the Rev. Mr. Scott, - - - - - - - 96
28, Committee to inquire into the condition of the Log Jail in Frederick-Town, and of the County Jail, - - - - - - - 96
28, Rev. John Scott declared to be a disaffected person, and required to remove from Somerset to Frederick County, and to give bond in the sum of a thousand Pounds not to depart the said County, - - - - - - 96

1776.
*Aug.* 29, Rev. John Scott allowed a fortnight to settle his affairs and to remove himself and family to Frederick, - - - - - - - 96
29, The persons now confined in the Log Jail in Frederick County to be removed to the publick Jail thereof, - - - - - - 97
30, Return of election of Delegates for Prince George's County, and of a Delegate for Caroline County, - - - - - - - - 97
30, Committee on Petition of Thomas French, late Sheriff, and George French, present Sheriff, of Frederick County, - - - - - 97
30, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hooe added to the Committee appointed to prepare a Declaration and Charter of Rights and a Form of Government, 97
30, Mr. Green added to the Signers of the Bills of Credit, - - - - - - - - 97
31, On Petition of Samuel Sharke, the Real and Personal Estate of Isaac Atkinson ordered to be taken into custody, - - - - - 98
31, The Council of Safety empowered to purchase and store thirty thousand bushels of Salt in the West-Indies, - - - - - - 98
31, Committee on Manufactures report against the Petition of John Wells; Report not concurred in, - - - - - - - - 98
31, One hundred and fifty Pounds to be advanced to John Wells to encourage the manufacture of Linen, - - - - - - - - 98
31, The action commenced by Conrad Theodore Wederstrandt against Edward Meadows, Commander of the Tartar man-of-war, not to abate by the death of either party, - - 98
31, Ordinance brought in for the division of Frederick County in three distinct and separate Counties, - - - - - - - - 99
*Sept.* 2, Return of election of Delegates for Queen Anne's County, - - - - - - 99
2, Report of Committee on Papers and Depositions laid before the Convention relative to the conduct of Isaac Costin, - - - 99
3, Warrant to be issued to Abraham Boyd, of Prince George's County, for enrolling a Company of Militia, - - - - - - 100
3, Petition against the election of Delegates for Anne Arundel County, withdrawn, - - 100
4, Report of Committee on Manufactories recommending terms on which the proposals of Elisha Winters for carrying on a Musket Factory ought to be accepted; Report not concurred in, - - - - - - - 100
4, Return of election of Delegates for Worcester County, - - - - - - - - 101
4, A month's pay to be advanced to Captain Abraham Boyd's Company, - - - - - 101
5, Captain Peter Mantz appointed Major to Colonel Griffith's Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp, - - - - - - - 102
6, Time for the receipt and inspection of Tobacco at the publick Warehouses extended to the 10th day of November next, - - - 102
6, Ordinance for erecting two new Counties out of Frederick County, - - - - 103
7, Proposed that no person except a Delegate in Convention be qualified to serve as a Member of the General Congress; carried in the negative, - - - - - - - - 106
7, Moved, and disagreed to, that Thomas Stone be empowered fully to represent the State in Congress, for the present, - - - 106
7, Committee to report Resolutions to prevent Non-Associators from endangering the peace of the State, - - - - - - - 106
10, Return of election of Delegates for Anne Arundel County, - - - - - - 107
10, Action on a Letter and several Resolutions from the President of Congress of the 3d day of this instant, - - - - - - 107
10, Committees of Observation, of Correspondence, and for licensing suits, to continue to act with the powers heretofore vested in them until the 1st day of December next, - - - 108
10, Committee report a Constitution and Form of Government, - - - - - - 108
11, The Deputies appointed to Congress, and now attending the Convention, immediately to repair to Congress, and, in conjunction with Thomas Stone, represent this State, - - 109

1776.
*Sept.* 11, Appointment of Officers for a Company of the Severn Battalion, - - - - - - 109
11, Council of Safety empowered to contract for one thousand Pikes, not less than twelve feet in length, - - - - - - - 109
11, The Rev. John Scott allowed another week from this day to settle his affairs and remove to Frederick County, - - - - - 109
12, Appointment of Officers of ship Defence, - 109
12, Council of Safety empowered to sell the schooner Resolution, - - - - - 109
12, No merchant vessel to sail without license from the Council of Safety or a Committee of Observation, - - - - - - - 110
12, Joseph Wheland to be confined in Jail until he make restitution to John White for his Sloop which he caused to be destroyed, - - 110
12, John Evans, John Price, and Robert Howith, to give bond with security for their good behaviour, - - - - - - - - 110
12, Certain Tobaccoes inspected by private inspectors permitted to be taken out of the Warehouse without publick inspection, - - 110
13, Clerk to transmit to the Board of War an accurate list of all the Prisoners of War in the State, - - - - - - - - 110
13, No further sum to be levied on the inhabitants of Baltimore County for repaying the money appropriated by way of loan to said County for clearing and opening Roads, - - 110
13, The restriction laid on the price of Salt by the resolve of Convention of 6th July, and the bounty given by said resolve, taken off, - - - - - - - - - 111
13, Report brought in from the Committee appointed to consider of the disposition of captures, - - - - - - - - 111
14, Sheriff of Talbot County to forbear to collect the Tobacco tax levied at November Court, 1775, for erecting a Poor House, - - 111
14, Report from the Committee on the condition of the Log Jail in Frederick County, - - 112
16, Isaac Costin required to give bond with security for his good behaviour, - - - 112
17, Mr. Ringold, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Worthington, added to the Committee to examine the Accounts and Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Loan Office, - - - - - - 112
17, The Bill of Rights and Form of Government reported by the Committee, to be immediately printed for the consideration of the people at large, - - - - - - - 112
17, Committee to consider the Resolution of Congress of the 17th of August, reported, - 113
17, Nicholas Thomas elected a Member of the Council of Safety in the room of Thomas Bedingfield Hands, resigned, - - - - 113
17, Council of Safety to take the necessary steps to provide Paper for printing a further sum of money, - - - - - - - 113
17, Council of Safety directed to discharge Henry Green, of Captain Gunby's Company, and one Robinson, of the Flying-Camp, who are sick at Philadelphia, - - - - - 114
*Oct.* 3, William Bartlett Townsend discharged from confinement, on giving security for his appearance before the Convention when called on, - - - - - - - - - 114
3, Colonel Smallwood and General Beall to make Monthly Returns of the forces under their command, - - - - - - - 114
3, Resignation of Captain John Watkins, of the Third Independent Company of Regulars, - 114
3, Appointment of Officers of the Third Independent Company of Regulars, - - - - 114
3, Militia Companies to be exercised only once a fortnight, and in Battalion not oftener than once in two months, nor seldomer than once in three months, - - - - - - 114
3, Petition presented from Robert Cowell and Nicholas Reilly, who had been sentenced to death for felony, praying for pardon, - - 114
4, Proposed and rejected, that the Journals to this day be immediately printed, and for the future printed weekly, - - - - - 115
4, The Inspector immediately to take possession of Robert Browne's Warehouse, by force if necessary, - - - - - - - - 115

1776.
*Oct.* 4, Inspected Tobacco to be paid and received for publick dues until the 20th day of November next, - - - - - - - - - 115
4, Committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the emission of Bills of Credit, - - - 115
4, Council of Safety empowered to import Clothing, Arms, Ammunition, &c., - - - - - 116
4, A Letter from the President of Congress of the 24th September, with several Resolutions, referred to a Committee, - - - - - 116
4, Report brought in from the Committee to whom the Papers relative to William Bartlett Townsend were referred, - - - - - 116
5, The Journal of Convention from the meeting until the adjournment to be immediately printed, and two copies delivered to every Member, - - - - - - - - 116
5, A Committee appointed to revise and correct the Proceedings for the press, - - - 116
5, The schooner Resolution to be loaded and sent on a voyage at the risk and expense of the State, - - - - - - - - 116
5, Three hundred Pounds advanced to Jacob Myers, to be repaid in Wire manufactured by him, - - - - - - - - - 116
7, Appointment of Officers of the Thirty-Fifth Battalion of Militia, - - - - - - 117
7, Mr. Johnson added to the Committee on the Letter and Resolutions of Congress of the 16th, 18th, and 19th of September last, - 117
7, John Rogers elected Judge of the Admiralty in the room of John Hall, resigned, - - 117
7, Proposed and carried in the negative, that Committees of Observation and Licensing Suits be chosen as directed by the Resolves of Convention of 26th July, 1775, and continued for one year, - - - - - - 117
8, Proposed and rejected, that no person except a Delegate in Convention, be chosen a Member of the General Congress, - - - - 118
8, Deputies to Congress allowed twelve Pounds ten Shillings, common money, per week, - 118
8, Reports brought in from the Committee to prepare a scheme for the emission of Bills of Credit; and from the Committee on the Letter and Resolutions of Congress, of the 16th, 18th, and 19th of September, - - - 119
9, The line which divides Frederick and Montgomery Counties to be laid off at least ten days before the election for fixing on a place for building a Court-House and Prison, - 119
9, No person who has not subscribed the Association, (unless from religious principles,) to come within the doors of the House during the sitting of the Convention, - - - 120
9, Action on the Letter and Resolutions of Congress of the 16th, 18th, and 19th of September, 120
9, Commissioners elected to repair to the Camps in the Jerseys and New-York, - - - 121
10, Motion made and lost, that on all questions to be determined by a Committee of the Whole, the yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by any Member, - - - - - - 121
10, Declaration and Charter of Rights and Form of Government taken into consideration in Committee of the Whole, - - - - - 121
11, Petition presented to annex to Montgomery County that part of Prince George's County which lies to the westward of the Eastern Branch of Patowmack River, - - - 122
11, The Vessels lately drifted on the shores of this State from Lord Dunmore's fleet, or otherwise made captures of, placed at the disposal of the Council of Safety, - - - - - 122
12, Appointment of Officers of the Gunpowder Upper Battalion of Militia in Baltimore County, - - - - - - - - - 123
12, The Companies of the Flying-Camp raised under the Resolve for raising two additional Battalions, to be distributed into the four Battalions heretofore raised, - - - - 123
12, The Rev. John Scott permitted to reside in any part of the Western-Shore of Virginia, or in Frederick County, in this State, on giving bond that he will not go on the Eastern-Shore in Maryland or Virginia, and that he will not correspond upon publick matters with any person whatsoever, - - - 123

1776.
*Oct.* 12, Inhabitants of Frederick County recommended to pay their publick levies without delay, - 123
14, Convention to enter on no new business (except from evident necessity) until they have finished the consideration of the Declaration of Rights and Form of Government, - - 123
14, For the expediting the Bill of Rights and Form of Government, the House to sit every evening till eight o'clock, - - - - - 123
16, Commissioners of the Loan Office to put no bonds in that Office in suit before the first day of January next, because of the non-payment of interest thereon, and to advertise that no further indulgence will be given, - 124
16, Council of Safety empowered to draw for fifteen thousand Pounds, - - - - - 124
16, Francis Sanderson reprimanded at the bar of the House, and required to give security that he will not hereafter do any thing in discouragement of the present opposition, - 125
17, The Commissioners appointed to repair to the Camps directed to obtain a list of the Cadets now in the Maryland Troops, - - - 125
17, William Sluby, merchant of Chestertown, to be taken into custody and sent under guard to the Convention, - - - - - - 125
17, Sails and Rigging of John White's Sloop to be restored to him, - - - - - - 126
17, Allowance to be made to Captain Fulford for superintending the Fortifications at Annapolis, over and above his pay as Captain of the Artillery Company, - - - - - 126
17, Petition of Basil Clarkson referred to the Council of Safety, - - - - - - 126
18, Council of Safety empowered to hear and determine the case of William Bartlet Townsend, 126
19, Every Member who asks leave of absence to give his reasons, and they to be entered on the Journal, - - - - - - 126
21, The election for fixing the place for the Court House of Washington County to be held two days at Skipton, besides being held at Hagar's Town, - - - - - - 127
22, Petition presented from William Richardson, praying to be allowed a moiety of the articles saved by him from a scuttled sloop, - - 128
23, Hugh Conn, a private in Captain Fulford's Artillery, to be discharged on his procuring an effective man in his stead, - - - 128
23, Council of Safety empowered to encourage inlistments in the Marine service and to order any vessel fitted by the Convention on such cruise as they may think fit, - - 128
23, Measures for the suppression of depredations and outrages in Dorchester County, - - 128
23, Council of Safety empowered to discharge any individuals inlisted in the service of the Continent or of the State, on such terms as to them may seem proper, - - - - - 129
23, Three Companies of Artillery to be immediately raised, - - - - - - 129
24, The Petition of William Richardson referred to the Council of Safety, - - - - - 129
24, Inquiry to be made into the facts relative to the Ferry over Patowmack River, - - - 129
26, Young men in military service allowed to make their wills at sixteen years of age, - - 130
26, Letter from the Committee of Observation for Kent County, stating that nothing has appeared against Mr. Sluby which would justify his arrest, - - - - - - - - 130
26, Commissions authorized for the Officers of Captain Watkin's Company of Matrosses, - 131
28, Report from the Committee appointed to inquire how far the Resolves of the 6th of July, for raising two Companies of Riflemen and four Companies of Germans, have been complied with, - - - - - - - 131
29, Warrants to issue to Recruiting Sergeants for the inlistments in the Continental service, as a part of the eight Battalions for this State, - 132
29, Delegate to be elected for Kent County in the room of Mr. Thomas Ringgold, deceased, - 132
29, Claim in the Constitution of Virginia injurious to the inhabitants of this State, - - - 133
30, Benjamin Nicholson appointed Judge of the Court of Admiralty, in the stead of John Rogers, resigned, - - - - - - 133

1776.
*Oct.* 30, Warlike stores and other necessaries which were ordered to be imported from the West-Indies, to be paid for in paper money by drafts on the Treasury instead of exporting country produce, - - - - - - 133
30, Resolutions relative to that part of the Constitution of Virginia which was read yesterday, 134
30, All proceedings which were depending in the March and August Courts of St. Mary's and Charles Counties, to be revived and continued to the next November Courts, - - 135
30, Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for Recruiting Sergeants, - - - - - 135
31, Appointments in consequence of the Committee of Observation for Worcester County having declined to act, - - - - - 135
31, Twenty-five hundred barrels of Pork and five hundred casks of Beef to be purchased and salted up at the expense of the State, - 135
31, Declaration of Rights, as reported from the Committee of the Whole, - - - - 135
*Nov.* 1, Committee appointed to take the Deposition of John House, relating to the facts contained in a Letter respecting the Ferry over Patowmack River, communicated to the House on the 24th October, - - - - - - 140
3, Declaration of Rights, as amended and agreed to by the Convention, - - - - 143
3, Constitution and Form of Government as reported by the Committee of the Whole, - 147
4, All civil officers now in commission under the old form of Government to continue to act until others shall be appointed, and the County Courts to assess the County charges as usual, - - - - - - - - 154
5, The rank of the officers of the Companies of Matrosses lately ordered to be raised, to be hereafter settled, - - - - - - 158
5, Appointment of Lieutenants for the Company of Matrosses to be stationed at Baltimore Town, - - - - - - - - 158
7, President of Congress requested to grant a passport for Mrs. Chamier to go to the American Camp, - - - - - - - - 161
7, Directions respecting Money and Tobacco received in virtue of an act for the division of Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties, and for erecting a new one by the name of Caroline, - - - - - - - - 161
7, Act for the more effectual preservation of the breed of wild Deer, passed in December session, 1773, repealed, - - - - 162
7, The County Court for each of the new Counties of Washington and Montgomery to be first held, as for separate and distinct Counties, in the month of March next, - - 162
7, No poll to be taken for fixing the place for building a Court-House and Prison for Montgomery until twenty days after the first meeting of the General Assembly, - - - 162
7, Fine of Thomas Wilson, set upon him by the Committee of Observation for Anne Arundel County, remitted, - - - - - - 163
8, Regulations for Inlistments, - - - - 163
8, Report from Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for Recruiting Sergeants, - 164
8, Resolution of 6th September relative to the inspection of Tobacco to continue in force until the General Assembly shall provide otherwise, - - - - - - - 164
8, Council of Safety to be elected, consisting of five persons on the Western and four on the Eastern-Shore, - - - - - - - 164
8, Electors of the Senate to be entitled to the same itinerant charges and per diem allowance as Members of Convention, - - 164
8, The Constitution and Form of Government agreed to by the Delegates of Maryland in free and full Convention assembled, - - 165
8, List of places for holding Elections and of Judges of Elections, - - - - - - 173
8, Proposed and carried in the negative, that no person who has refused or neglected to sign the Association, (unless from religious principles,) shall ever be eligible to any office of profit or trust, - - - - - - - - 174
9, Committee to inquire into the truth of the facts set forth in the Memorial of William Stone, - 175

1776.
*Nov.* 9, Scheme for the emission of Bills of Credit, - 175
9, Brigadier-Generals of the State, when called into actual service, to be allowed eighty Dollars per month, - - - - - - - - 177
9, Action on Resolutions of Congress respecting bounty of Lands to the Soldiery, - - 177
9, Those of Captain Richard Smith's Company who will not reinlist in the Artillery service to be discharged, - - - - - - - 179
9, Consideration of report on the Memorial of Captain William Stone postponed, at his request, to the meeting of the General Assembly, - - - - - - - - 179
10, Appointment of Delegates to Congress, with authority to concur in forming a Confederation, making alliances, carrying on the war, and concluding peace, - - - - - 179
10, No Civil Officer or Delegate to Congress to be appointed unless there shall be a majority of the Members present in his favour, - - 179
10, Election of a Council of Safety, - - - 179
11, Committee of Observation for each County to be elected on the 25th instant, - - - 179
11, Loan Office established, and Thomas Harwood, Jun., appointed Commissioner, - - - 180
11, Any one who shall, after the first day of December, forge or counterfeit any of the Certificates, Bills, or Notes of the Continental Loan Office, to suffer death as a felon, without benefit of Clergy, - - - - - - 180
11, Petition from a number of inhabitants of Baltimore County, praying to be relieved from exorbitant charges of Magistrates, Clerk, and Sheriff, read and referred to the meeting of the General Assembly, - - - - - 180
11, The fine set upon Nathan Perigo by the Committee of Baltimore County, for not enrolling in the Militia, remitted, on the ground of his being a clergyman, - - - - - 180
11, All Petitions, Reports, &c., whereon no final order shall be made, to be referred to the General Assembly, - - - - - - 180
11, Debtors in Jail who owe upwards of two hundred Pounds, to be released upon the act of Assembly, provided application be made by the first of January, - - - - - - 180
11, Council of Safety empowered to draw for a sum not exceeding ten thousand Pounds, - - 181
11, In case the new emission should be delayed by not getting paper or otherwise, the Council of Safety empowered to borrow a further sum of twenty thousand Pounds, - - - - 181
11, Report from the Committee appointed to examine the claims upon the Treasury, - - 181
11, The Treasurer of the Western-Shore ordered to pay the several claims allowed in the Report of the Committee, - - - - - - 182
11, Thomas Contee elected a Member of the Council of Safety in the stead of Mr. Grahame, resigned, - - - - - - - - 182
11, The Declaration of Rights and the Constitution and Form of Government to be immediately printed and distributed, - - - - - 182
11, Adjourned to the twenty-eighth instant, unless called to meet sooner by the Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 182
11, Council of Safety empowered to take all necessary measures for completing the eight Battalions to be raised for the Continental service, - - - - - - - - 182

COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

1776.
*Nov.* 1, Herculas Courtney appointed Captain-Lieutenant in the Second Company of Artillery, - 181
2, An Officer and twenty-five men sent to the Salt Works on Tom's River, in New-Jersey, as a guard, - - - - - - - - 182
2, Committees of the several Counties to make Monthly Returns of the Prisoners of War, - 183
4, Application to be made to the Board of War to desire General Mercer to despatch a Guard to the Salt Works at Tom's River, - - 183
4, Application to be made to the Board of War to deliver up the men received and detained from the armed vessels of the State by the commanders of the Continental vessels Wasp and Fly, - - - - - - - - - 183

1776.
*Nov.* 4, The Committee appointed to fix upon a spot for a Magazine for Military Stores recommend the Heights on the north side of Wissahickon Creek, - - - - - - 184
6, Commodore Seymour to send an officer on board every vessel passing through the chevaux-de-frise to inspect their permits, - - 184
6, Committee to wait on the owners of the Salt lately arrived, and request them to sell said Salt to this Council, agreeable to a publication of the 12th of October last, - - - 185
7, Charge against Captain Hare, an officer in Continental pay, of purposely depreciating the credit of the Continental currency, - 185
7, The Salt purchased by the Council to be distributed to the several Counties according to the number of inhabitants in each, at prime cost, expense of carriage only added, - - 185
7, Committee to examine into the state of the Salt Works in New-Jersey, - - - - - 185
8, Colonel Grubb authorized to impress Teams to transport the Cannon he has cast for the Congress to Philadelphia, - - - - - 186
8, Mr. Eastburn to deliver to the inhabitants of the City and County of Philadelphia three hundred bushels of Salt; to each housekeeper not more than half a bushel, - - - - 186
8, Commodore Seymour empowered to impress Vessels to weigh the chevaux-de-frise lately sunk by accident near Fort-Island, - - 186
8, The Schooner Nancy not to pass by Fort-Island without special license from Council, - 186
8, Committee to superintend the purchase, sale, and distribution of Salt, - - - - - 186
9, Council informed that Colonel Houssaggor has declared he will pay no obedience to the Magistrates of this State, - - - - - 186
11, Measures taken to get things in forwardness to make a defence, in consequence of intelligence received that part of General Howe's Army was making a move towards Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - - 187
12, A quantity of Military Stores to be immediately removed to Colonel Bull's, at Norrington, 187
12, Order drawn for five hundred bushels of Salt for the use of the Army, - - - - - 187
13, Committee to review the Artillery under the command of Major Proctor, at Fort-Island, - 188
13, The whole Fleet to rendezvous opposite Messrs. Willing & Morris's Wharf, at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning, manned and fitted in the best manner possible, to be reviewed, - 188
13, Colonel Matlack to take into his immediate care the Blankets and other Clothing for the Army, - - - - - - - - 188
13, Committee to draw up a Memorial to be presented to the Assembly, setting forth the dangerous consequence that will attend the refusal of the Continental currency, - - 188
13, Robert Levers appointed Paymaster to the Twelfth Regiment, - - - - - - 188
13, Armed boat Convention, Captain Rice, to be fitted out with all possible expedition, - 188
13, Appointment of Captains in the Eleventh Regiment, - - - - - - - - 188
13, John Simpson appointed Paymaster to the Eighth Regiment, - - - - - - 188
13, Commission for Letters of Marque granted to Thomas Bell, Commander of the ship Speedwell; and to Robert Collings, Commander of the sloop Friendship, - - - - - 188
14, Circular Letter written to the Commanding Officers of the Battalions of Militia, earnestly requesting them to march their respective Battalions to Philadelphia immediately, - 189
14, The Board of War requested to send for Captain Strohbogh's Company of Artillery, lately sent to Fort Montgomery, in New-York, - 189
14, Colonel Bayard requested to get ready immediately as many of his Battalion as are necessary to guard the State Prisoners to Lancaster and Reading, - - - - - - 189
14, The Commodore ordered not to suffer any seavessel to pass through the chevaux-de-frise, - 189
14, An Armed Boat to be stationed at Gloucester-Point, and the utmost vigilance exerted in preventing all shallops from passing down the river, - - - - - - - - - 189

1776.
*Nov.* 14, Jacob Gerard Dyrcks, William Scull, and Matthew Henderson, appointed Captains in the Continental service, - - - - - 189
14, The owners of Cattle and other Stock near the river side to make the necessary preparations for removing the same at least five miles from the river, on the shortest notice, - - - 189
15, Samuel C. Morris appointed to have the care of the Prisoners within the State, and pay them the allowance granted them by Congress, - 190
16, Mr. Biddle requested to employ persons to make up the Linen in his hands belonging to the State into Shirts, - - - - - 190
16, A Committee, in conjunction with the Cannon Committee of Congress, to concert a plan for exerting the utmost skill of all their artists in casting brass Cannon, - - - - - 191
18, Forty thousand Dollars received from Congress, 191
18, Pay of the Officers of the Armed Boats, - - 191
18, Armed boat Convention ordered down to Cape-May, to protect the trade of the State, agreeable to a request from the Secret Committee of Congress, - - - - - - - 191
18, Instructions to Captain Rice, of the armed boat Convention, - - - - - - 192
20, Committee appointed to revise and fix the Pay of the Fleet of the State, - - - - 192
21, Ten Pounds paid to Jacob Kisling for services rendered to the State in producing a model for a Fire-Ship, - - - - - - 193
21, Fifteen hundred blank Commissions for Officers of the Flying-Camp printed, - - - 193
22, An order drawn in favour of William Thompson, for ten hundred weight of Saltpetre, to be manufactured into Gunpowder, - - 194
22, Loan from Congress of one hundred thousand Dollars, - - - - - - - - 194
22, John Biles committed to the State-Prison, charged with being guilty of high treason, - 194
23, Provision made for the reception and care of sick and wounded soldiers from the Army, - 194
23, Mr. Romans, Engineer, to be furnished with such materials as he may require to perform an experiment, in order to give a specimen of his skill in destroying distant objects by fire, 194
23, Proportions in which the Salt now in the possession of the Council of Safety is to be immediately sent to the Committees of the several Counties, - - - - - - - - 195
24, Interview with a Committee of Congress, - 195
24, Measures adopted by the Committee of Congress for reinforcing General Washington, and obstructing the progress of General Howe's Army, - - - - - - - - 195
24, Circular Letter to the Commanding Officers of the several Battalions of the State, - - 196
25, Recommendation to Committee of Congress to pay the accounts of Captain Cochran's Company as they stand, - - - - - - 197
25, Committee to prepare a Memorial to the Assembly on the Resolve of Congress with respect to calling out the Militia, - - 197
26, Committee to audit the Accounts of the Commissioners of Bedford County, for calling out the Militia for the protection of the frontiers, 197
26, The regulations concerning Salt, of the 15th of October last, to be continued until the first day of January next, - - - - - - 198
27, Peter Grubb, Jun., and James Lang, appointed Captains in the Tenth Continental Battalion, 198
27, Applications for Commissions in the Tenth Battalion to be received until the 2d day of December, - - - - - - - - 198
27, Thirty-five thousand Dollars received from Congress for advancing a month's pay to each man who shall enroll himself to serve till the tenth March next, - - - - - - 198
27, Joseph Irwing and Joseph M'Clelan appointed Captains in the Ninth Regiment, - - 198
27, Committee to purchase from the Housekeepers of Philadelphia as many Blankets and Woollen Stockings as each family can spare, for the Army; and to impress them if necessary, 199
27, John Davis appointed Captain in the Ninth Regiment, - - - - - - - - 199
27, The Officers of the Battalions not in actual service, who are in or near Philadelphia, to hold themselves in readiness to receive orders, - 199

1776.
*Nov.* 28, Measures of Congress for calling out the Militia approved by the people of Philadelphia in Town Meeting, (note,) - - - - - 199
28, Artillery in the service of the State, to be allowed the same pay as in the Continental service, - - - - - - - - 199
28, Colonel Bull ordered to send the men that were employed at Billingsport down to that place to-morrow morning, - - - - - - 199
28, Captain Blewer to apply to the Marine Committee for the Cannon which have lately arrived in the prize vessels, that they may be mounted on travelling carriages, - - 200
28, Captain Blewer to make inquiry after suitable Cannon to mount upon travelling carriages, and apply to the owners for them, - - 200
28, Thomas Bartholomew Bowen appointed a Captain in the Ninth Regiment, - - - - 200
28, The publick Arms to be delivered to the Commanding Officers of the Militia of Philadelphia upon their application, - - - - 200
28, The necessities of poor persons, women, children, &c., belonging to the Army, in passing through Philadelphia, to be relieved at the expense of the Board, - - - - - 200
28, Salt to be sold out to the Militia only who go into actual service at this time, or to their families, in the manner directed in the Resolve of the 23d instant, - - - - - 200
29, George Bickham employed as Quartermaster for the State, - - - - - - - 201
29, A Commission for Letter of Marque granted to Michael Barstow, Commander of the brig Industry, - - - - - - - - - 201
29, Teams to be immediately provided to remove the stores from Philadelphia, - - - - 201
29, Generous provision to be made for the families of Associators who shall march into New-Jersey to join General Washington, exclusive of their pay, - - - - - - - - 201
30, The proportion of Salt for the County of Philadelphia to be put into the hands of the Commanding Officers of the Militia, to be sold out on the terms of the Resolve of the 23d instant, to the Militia who go into actual service only, - - - - - - - - 202
30, No Vessels to be suffered to depart the Port of Philadelphia until further orders from the Board, - - - - - - - - - 202
30, The Commodore directed to stop all Vessels from passing through the Chevaux-de-frise, - 202
30, Captain Brown to furnish a Guard for the Salt Vessels, when applied to by the Salt Committee for that purpose, - - - - - 202
30, Money to be sent immediately to the Colonels of Militia to supply the families of such Associators as go into actual service, and may stand in need of the same, - - - - 202
30, Mr. Dormond employed to procure ten Wagons, 202

NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

1776.
*Sept.* 28, Convention met, - - - - - - 201
28, Committee to prepare a Form of Government, to sit every afternoon till ready to report, - 202
28, A Letter from John Sloss Hobart, dated at Head-Quarters, the 26th instant, read and filed, - - - - - - - - - 202
28, The Letter from Mr. Hobart, of the 25th instant, read, - - - - - - - - 203
28, The vessel of war Montgomery, to be continued in the service of the State, - - - - - 203
28, Committee to prepare Instructions for Captain Rogers, - - - - - - - - 203
28, A Letter from Captain Cregier, of the armed schooner Putnam, read, - - - - - 203
28, Committee on the several Papers relative to the armed schooner Putnam, - - - - - 203
28, Letter from General James Clinton, at Fort Constitution, September 27, - - - - 203
28, Letter from Robert Yates, Chairman of the Secret Committee, for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's River, Poughkeepsie, September 25, - - - - - - - - 204
28, Letter from Samuel Tudor, one of the Agents for superintending the building of the Continental Frigate at Poughkeepsie, September 27, - - - - - - - - - 204

1776.
*Sept.* 28, Two Letters from General Schuyler, applying for rigging, read, - - - - - - 205
28, A Letter from Robert Yates and Gilbert Livingston, two of the Committee for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's River, Poughkeepsie, September 27, - - - - - 205
28, The several Letters received this day referred, - 205
28, Statement by Colonel Humphrey of the disaffection in Dutchess County, - - - - 205
28, Orders for the immediate raising of a detachment in Dutchess County, - - - - - 205
28, Report from Committee on the Letters of General Schuyler, Samuel Tudor, and Messrs. Yates and Livingston, - - - - - 206
28, Journals of the former Congresses of the Colony and of the Convention to be transcribed, - - - - - - - - 206
28, Committee to superintend the engrossing the former Journals, - - - - - - 206
28, The last Committee of Safety revived, - - 206
30, Letter from General Mifflin, Quartermaster-General, to Captain Ayres, Mount Washington, September 28, - - - - - - 207
30, Boards, Brick, Lime, &c., also Grain and Cord-Wood, ordered to be procured, at the request of Quartermaster-General Mifflin, - - 207
30, Committee on abuses by owners of Tea in withholding it, - - - - - - - 208
30, Major Schenck empowered to take charge of the children of Isaac Teller, - - - - 208
30, Committee at Rhumbout Precinct to make such provision for Vincent Carter's family as to prevent their perishing by cold or hunger, - 208
30, Last Committee of Safety again revived, to continue until a meeting of the Convention, - 208
30, Letter from the Delegates in Congress, September 24, - - - - - - - 208
30, Resolutions of Congress enclosed in Letter from Delegates, - - - - - - 208
30, Letter from the President of Congress, September 24, - - - - - - - - 209
30, Resolutions of Congress enclosed in Letter of the President, respecting raising eighty-eight Battalions for the war, - - - - - 210
30, Letter from General Morris, September 24, giving his reasons for not having returned to resume the command of his Brigade, - - 211
30, Charles Shaw and Richard Morris exempted from military duty, - - - - - - 211
*Oct.* 1, Committee of New-Windsor to afford assistance to Mary Dunscomb at the expense of the State, - - - - - - - - 212
1, A Letter from Thaddeus Burr, Sheriff of Fairfield County, Connecticut, respecting Isaac Ketchem and Samuel Skidmore; read and acted on, - - - - - - - - 212
1, Report brought in from the Committee on the abuses in selling Tea, - - - - - 212
1, A Letter from Peter T. Curtenius, at Hackensack, read and filed, - - - - - - 212
1, Account of Lead and Ball, &c., shipped off by Peter T. Curtenius, - - - - - - 213
1, Committee to fix the price of Spears and Spear Handles, - - - - - - - - 213
1, Two Letters from Tench Tilghman read, - 213
1, Thomas Storm appointed Captain of a Company of Militia detached to augment the Garrisons in the Highlands, - - - 213
1, Gilbert Deane appointed Captain of a Company of Militia in Colonel Drake's Regiment, - 213
1, Commission issued to Colonel Drake to replace his former Commission, which has been taken by the enemy, - - - - - - 213
2, A Letter from Tench Tilghman to the Committee of Correspondence read, - - - - 214
2, Increase of the subsistence of the Companies of Rangers in the Counties of Dutchess and Westchester, - - - - - - - 214
2, Directions respecting settlement of the Account of George Combe, - - - - - - 214
2, A Letter from Andrus De Witt to Matthew Contine, read, - - - - - - - 214
2, Letter from A. De Witt and D. Wyncoop, Jun., Kingston, September 30. Fear of the inhabitants of Papaconck of a rupture with the Indians, - - - - - - - - - 214
2, Letter from the inhabitants of Papaconck, enclosed in the preceding Letter, - - - 215

1776.
*Oct.* 2, Committee to devise measures for affording assistance to the frontier inhabitants of Ulster County, - - - - - - - - 215
2, Letter from Philip Livingston, one of the Delegates at Congress, September 28; read and referred, - - - - - - - - 216
2, Report of the Committee who had waited upon General Schuyler, and spent some days in inquiring into the reasons of his resignation, and examining his Papers and Letters relative to his conduct since his acceptance of the command in the Northern Department, - 216
2, Report of Committee on application of Major Hoisington, presented and read, - - 216
3, Report from the Committee appointed to make an estimate of the price of Spears, - - 217
3, Letter to the Delegates in Congress, - - 217
3, Thanks to Congress for an advance of Money, 217
3, Committee to devise plan for rendering the communication between the North and the South more easy, - - - - - - 217
3, Committee to devise a more economical mode of providing Provisions for the Poor lately sent to New-Windsor, - - - - - 218
3, Report relative to raising the four Continental Regiments to serve during the war, - - 218
3, Six thousand Pounds appropriated for purchasing coarse Cloth and other articles necessary for the Troops raised in this State, - - 218
3, Rank-Roll of Colonel Morris Graham's Regiment of Foot, - - - - - - - 219
3, Commissions issued to the Officers named in the preceding Rank-Roll, - - - - - 219
3, Rank-Roll of Colonel Cornelius Humfrey's Regiment, - - - - - - - - 219
3, Commissions issued to the Officers named in the preceding Rank-Roll, - - - - - 219
3, Commissions issued to a Company of Militia in Ulster County, - - - - - - 219
4, Letter to the President of Congress, conveying thanks for an advance of a hundred thousand Dollars, - - - - - - - 220
4, Report of Committee appointed to settle the price of Pork to be paid by the Commissary-General, (note,) - - - - - - 220
4, Representation of the indebtedness of the State to Nicholas Bayard for the use of his House for the security of the Publick Records, - 221
4, Roll of the Officers belonging to Major Hoisington's Company of Rangers, appointed and recommended by the Committee of Safety for the Counties of Cumberland and Gloucester, 222
4, Application of Major Hoisington, requesting the remainder of the Bounty for the above Rangers, - - - - - - - - 222
4, Report of the Committee to whom were referred a Letter from the Committee of the County of Cumberland of the 21st June, and the application of Major Hoisington for the pay and subsistence of Rangers; amended and agreed to, - - - - - - - - 222
4, Report of the Committee to whom was referred the application of Lieutenant William Boerum and Lieutenant Daniel Rapalje, of the late Troop of Light-Horse; amended and agreed to, - - - - - - - - - 226
5, Letter from Joshua H. Smith: Detained from the Convention by sickness, - - - 227
5, Report of the Committee appointed to devise means for more easy communication with the southern part of the State, and with the Southern States, - - - - - - 227
5, Clerk of Dutchess County to issue no precept whatever until a New Government is formed, or further order of the Convention. - - 228
5, Letter from Tench Tilghman to William Duer read: Captain Cook is much wanted to sink the old Vessels, - - - - - - 228
5, Memorial of upwards of a hundred inhabitants of Tryon County, read and referred to the Committee for Detecting Conspiracies, - 228
5, Letter from Johannes Sleght, Kingston, 3d October, - - - - - - - - 229
5, Committee of Kingston authorized to hold a Treaty with the Indians, - - - - - 229
5, Letter from Samuel Tudor, one of the Superintendents of the Continental Frigates building at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - 229

1776.
*Oct.* 5, Lead ordered for the Frigates building at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - - - - - 229
5, Report of the Committee on the Letters from Ulster County relative to the Indians, read and recommitted, - - - - - - 229
5, Committees of Ulster and Orange Counties to provide for the defence of their frontier by detachments from the Militia, - - - 229
5, Committee of Safety appointed, - - - 230
5, Report presented from the Committee on the sale and disposition of Salt, - - - 230

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

*Oct.* 7, A Letter from Tench Tilghman to Mr. Duer, read, - - - - - - - - - 230
7, A Letter from General Scott, read and referred to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - 230
7, Armed schooner Putnam to be immediately sold, - - - - - - - - 230
7, Committee to examine all goods belonging to the State, and report what parts are fit for the use of the Army, - - - - - 230
7, Report of Committee to devise means for purchasing Clothing for the Continental Troops, read and recommitted, - - - - - 230
8, A Letter from Dutchess County suggesting the necessity of raising another Company of County Guards, read and referred, - - 231
8, Information that the lower part of the County of Albany is infested with disaffected persons, - - - - - - - - 231
8, Letter to General Morris, informing him that the Convention expect his immediate attendance on the duties of his department, - 232
8, Report of Committee appointed this morning on the Letter from Dutchess County, - - 232
8, Several Letters from Goshen Precinct, relative to certain Scotch Prisoners, read and referred, 233
8, A Letter from General Scott, read and referred to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - 233
9, Report from Committee appointed to devise means for clothing the Troops, - - - 233
9, Twenty Pounds advanced to Captain Benjamin Coe, - - - - - - - - 234
9, Report of Committee on behaviour of the Scotch Prisoners at Goshen, in the County of Orange, - - - - - - - - 234
9, Richard Speight, a disaffected person, on parole, in Goshen, and his wife and children, allowed one ration of provisions each per day, 234
9, Letter from General Schuyler, Albany, October 7, - - - - - - - - 234
9, Letter from the President of Congress to General Schuyler, - - - - - - - 235
9, Colonel Nicoll and Colonel Palmer allowed ten shillings per day for their services and expenses while employed in transporting cannon from New-York to Fort George last spring, - - - - - - - - 236
9, Three Dollars paid to James Wilson, late a sailor on a Continental privateer, - - 236
10, A Letter from John Hancock, enclosing Resolutions providing for the examination of candidates for the offices of Surgeons and Surgeons' Mates in the Army, read and referred, - - - - - - - - 236
10, A Letter from General Greene, relative to a Horse brought from Long-Island, read and referred, - - - - - - - - 236
10, A Letter from Colonel Remsen, enclosing the Accounts of Mr. Hallet, relative to his Vessel chartered by the Committee of Safety, read and postponed till the meeting of the Convention, - - - - - - - 236
10, A Letter from Johannes Sleght relative to the Tea stored in Kingston, read and postponed till the meeting of the Convention, - - 237
10, Committee to audit the Accounts of Abraham Livingston, late Contractor of Provisions, - 237
10, Commissions issued to Officers for three Companies of Rangers to be raised in Tryon County, - - - - - - - - 237
10, Committee to confer with Abraham Livingston about salting Pork in Westchester, - - 237
10, Commissions issued to the Officers of the Companies of Rangers for Gloucester and Cumberland Counties, - - - - - - 237

1776.
*Oct.* 10, Letter from Tench Tilghman: Passage of the enemy's ships through the chevaux-de-frise, 237
10, Three hundred Militia, of Ulster County, to be immediately sent to Peekskill, with three days' provisions, - - - - - - 237
10, One hundred of the Militia of Dutchess County to march to Peekskill with three days' provisions, - - - - - - - - 238
10, All the Rangers raised in the County of Ulster to repair immediately to Fishkill, and be subject to the Committee on Conspiracies, - 238
10, Letter to General Schuyler and General Clinton: Danger of the disaffected forming a junction with the enemy, - - - - 238
10, Letter to General Washington: Nothing can be more alarming than the present situation of the State, - - - - - - - 238
11, Reconsideration of the Resolution of yesterday for sending three hundred Men from Ulster County to Peekskill, - - - - - 239
11, Letter to the Commanding Officers of Fairfield and Litchfield, Connecticut, asking assistance against the disaffected, - - - 239
11, Samuel Arthur and Dirck Wynkoop, Jun., appointed Inspectors of Flour, - - - 239
11, The Deputy Treasurer directed to proceed to Philadelphia to receive the Money lately voted to this Convention by Congress, - 239
11, Two hundred Pounds advanced to the Orange County Troop of Light-Horse, - - - 240
12, Letter from General Clinton relative to arrearages of Bounty, read and committed, - - 240
12, Letter from Colonel Hay, requesting Arms and Provisions for his Regiment, read and referred, - - - - - - - - 240
12, A long Letter from John Sloss Hobart, Fairfield, 7th instant, - - - - - - 240
12, Three Letters from Committee of the Manor of Livingston, complaining of the outrages of the Tories, read and referred, - - - 242
12, Letters from William Paulding and others, relating to Captain Underhill, a disaffected person in Westchester County, read and referred, - 242
12, Committee on Resolutions of Congress of 30th September reported, - - - - - - 242
12, Committee on Letter of General Greene, relative to the Horse brought from Long-Island, reported, - - - - - - - - 242
12, The Members of Convention to furnish themselves with Arms and Ammunition, to prevent a surprise, - - - - - - - 242
12, Certificate recommending William Warne to the favour of the Convention, referred to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - - 242
12, Report of Committee on General Clinton's and Colonel Hay's Letters, - - - 242
12, Letter to Colonel Hay, - - - - - 242
12, Two Letters from Tench Tilghman read, - 243
12, Isaac Ketcham left to the disposition of the Committee for Detecting Conspiracies, - 243
12, Letter to the Chairman of the Committee of the Manor of Livingston, - - - - 243
14, A copy of the Resolution directing the sale of the schooner Putnam ordered to be transmitted to Captain Randall, - - - - 243
14, Committee to devise means to secure the Gunpowder and Saltpetre lately removed from Suffolk County into Connecticut, - - 244
14, A body of Troops to be assembled at or near Fishkill, - - - - - - - - 244
14, The Academy to be put in a proper state for the reception of Troops, - - - - 244
14, Arms taken from disaffected persons by Colonel Luddington to be sent to the Committee of Safety, - - - - - - - - 244
14, All Boats passing up and down the River to be diligently searched, and the Passengers examined, - - - - - - - 245
14, Report of Committee on Gunpowder, - - 245
14, Resolutions for purchasing all the Stock and Grain in Westchester County, - - - 245
15, Letter from John Hancock, enclosing Resolutions of Congress relative to the provision made for the support of Officers and Soldiers who shall enter into the service during the war, - - - - - - - - 247
15, A printed set of Resolutions of Congress, relating to Loan Offices, read, - - - 247

1776.
Oct. 15, A Letter from Tench Tilghman read, - - 247
15, Order for the payment of an account of John Simmons, Innkeeper, - - - - - 247
15, Records of the Counties of New-York and Westchester to be removed with all possible expedition to Kingston, in Ulster County, - 247
15, Letter from a Committee of Congress on Clothing, - - - - - - - - 248
15, One Month's Pay and Rations allowed to Major Hoisington, - - - - - - - 248
15, A Committee to proceed to the Camp at King's Bridge and New-Jersey, and another to Ticonderoga, for the purpose mentioned in the Resolutions of Congress relative to appointing Officers, - - - - - - 248
15, Bounty on Saltpetre and Powder, - - - 249
15, Colonel Pierre Van Cortlandt appointed Vice President of the Convention, - - - 249
15, Resolutions relative to Hides, - - - 249
15, Committee of Safety appointed, - - - 250

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COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Oct. 16, Commissary appointed for the Troops coming up to Fishkill, - - - - - - - 250
16, Express despatched to Peekskill with orders that all the Troops except two Companies remain there until further orders, - - 250
16, Committee to provide Quarters for the Troops at Peekskill and assist the Engineer in pointing out the places in the Highlands most proper to be fortified, - - - - 251
16, Two Companies to be subject to the Committee for Detecting Conspiracies, - - - 251
16, Committee on Conspiracies authorized to call out Militia for fatigue-men, - - - 251
16, Two Letters of intelligence read and returned to the Committee of Correspondence, - 251
16, Colonel Hay directed to prevent Stock falling into the hands of the enemy, - - - 251
16, One hundred Dollars advanced for carrying into execution the Resolve concerning the manufacture of Flax, - - - - 251
16, Letter to General Greene, - - - - 251
16, Letter to the President of Congress, - - 251
16, Roads in the northern part of Orange County leading to the Fortifications in the Highlands to be repaired, - - - - - - 252
16, Mr. Schenck to provide Vessels to transport those Troops which were intended to have come to Fishkill back to Peekskill, - - 252
16, Agreement of Committee on Sulphur and Lead with John McDonald, miner, (note,) - - 252
16, Appropriation for fitting out and paying off the wages of the Officers and Crew of the sloop Montgomery, - - - - - - - 253
17, Letter from General Arnold to General Schuyler, giving a particular account of the action on Lake Champlain, - - - - - - 253
17, Letter from Jacobus Lansing, Jun., setting forth the defenceless state of the City of Albany, read and committed, - - - - 254
17, Two Certificates of Powder manufactured by Henry Wisner, Junior, read and committed, - - - - - - - - - 254
17, Report of Committee on preparing the Publick Academy for the reception of Troops, - 254
17, Fifty Pounds allowed to Nicholas Bayard for providing an Office for securing the Publick Records, - - - - - - - - - 254
17, Appropriation for the purchase of Clothing, - 255
17, Two bushels of Salt ordered for the use of the Troops at Fishkill, - - - - - - 255
17, Provision for the immediate execution of the printing of the Bills of Credit in the absence of Samuel Loudon, the intended printer thereof, - - - - - - - - 255
17, Committees of the several Counties forthwith to take into their custody all the Bohea Tea which shall be found in the possession of any person over the quantity of twenty-five pounds respectively, - - - - - - - 256
17, Rangers from Ulster County to be subject to the order of the Committee for Detecting Conspiracies, - - - - - - - - 257
17, Report of Committee on request of Dr. Osborn for Medicines for the use of Colonel Swartwout's Regiment, - - - - - - 257

1776.
Oct. 17, Major Lockwood to repair immediately to Poundridge and Bedford to inquire into the state of the Prisoners of War confined there, 257
18, Jacob Deane to be arrested for refusing to receive Continental currency, - - - 258
18, Sixty Pounds advanced to David Gelston for the purchase of Saltpetre, - - - - 258
18, Accounts of Jacamiah Allen referred to the consideration of the Convention, - - 258
18, Payment to Henry Wisner, Jun., for bounty on Gunpowder manufactured by him, - - 258
18, Sixteen Shillings a day allowed to Post-Riders, 258
19, Letter from General Schuyler, dated Saratoga, October 16, containing intelligence of the destruction of the Fleet on Lake Champlain, - 259
19, A Letter from the Marine Committee read, relative to the safety of the Ships building at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - - - 259
19, A Letter from Gouverneur Morris read, assigning reasons for his non-attendance, - - 259
19, A Letter from Tench Tilghman to Mr. Duer read, - - - - - - - - 259
19, Resolutions to appoint a Committee to proceed to Albany and concert measures with General Schuyler for the defence of the northern frontier of the State, - - - - - 260
19, The remaining half of the bounty due to Captain De Witt's Company directed to be paid, 261
19, Each Member allowed to take one of the Guns now at Captain Weeks's for his own present use, - - - - - - - - - 261
19, Intrenching Tools to be impressed for the Works at Peekskill, - - - - - 261
19, The Colonels of all the Regiments of Militia in Ulster County to hold their Regiments in readiness to march at a moment's warning, - 261
21, The publication of the Resolves relative to Salt and Tea postponed, - - - - - 261
21, Certificate of Captain De Witt's Pay-Roll, - 261
21, Four Pounds paid to Petrus Bogardus for transporting Troops, - - - - - - 262
21, Report of Committee to whom were referred the Muster-Rolls of the different Corps of Rangers in the Counties of Albany, Tryon, and Charlotte, - - - - - - - 262
21, Pay-Rolls of Colonel Livingston's and Colonel Van Ness's Regiments of Militia referred to the Convention, - - - - - - 263
21, A Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Bedford referred to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - - - - - - 263
22, Anchors, Cables, and other Stores ordered for the Continental Frigates building at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - - - - 264
22, Captain Dirck Brinckerhoff appointed to superintend the repairing the Roads in the Highlands, - - - - - - - - - 264
22, Paul Schenck appointed to purchase Clothing for the Troops, - - - - - - - 264
22, Henry Schenck and Dirck Jansen directed to forward to the Continental Army in Westchester County, with all possible expedition, all the Flour they can procure, - - - 264
22, Quartermaster-General empowered to impress, in the Counties of Dutchess and Westchester, Horses, Wagons, &c., for the use of the Continental Army, - - - - - 264
22, Resolution for expediting the obstructions in Hudson's River, - - - - - 264
22, Six hundred Pounds advanced on account of the Continental Frigates building at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - - - - 265
22, One hundred Pounds paid to Henry Wisner, Jun., as a premium for building a Powder-Mill in Ulster County, - - - - 265
22, Five hundred Pounds advanced to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - - - 265
22, Assistant Quartermaster-General authorized to impress an out-building for the purpose of securing the Continental Stores, - - 265
22, Committees of Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess Counties, requested to send all the Carpenters and Masons that can be procured to Fishkill, - - - - - - - - 265
22, A Letter from Colonel Hasbrouck, enclosing a list of disaffected persons in his Regiment, referred to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - - - - - - - 265

1776.
*Oct.* 22, A Letter from Kerr and others in Orange County referred to the same Committee, - 265
22, A Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Westchester referred to the same Committee, - - - - - - - - - - 265
22, Advance to the Committee of Albany and Charlotte Counties, for bounty money, - - 266
22, Commissions ordered for Officers in Colonel Isaac Nichol's Regiment, - - - - 266
23, Letter from the Committee of Albany, dated October 21, relative to the disaffected, - 266
23, Committee on Conspiracies authorized to dispose of Alexander Stewart, - - - 267
23, Memorial of Andrew Bostwick, an insolvent debtor in the Jail of Orange County, (note,) 267
23, Five hundred Pounds advanced on account of the Fortifications in the Highlands, - - 268
23, One thousand Pounds advanced on account of the obstructions in Hudson's River, - - 268
23, Letter to Elisha Avery, - - - - - 268
23, Letter to the Committee of Albany, - - 268
23, Petition of Henry Dawkins, a prisoner, begging for a termination of his sorrows by a death, to be inflicted in what manner the House may think fit, (note,) - - - - - - 268
23, Petition of William Watkins and others, disaffected persons, referred to the Committee of Conspiracies, - - - - - - - 269
23, A Letter from Orange County, referred to the same Committee, - - - - - - 269
24, Henry Schenck directed to purchase eight thousand bushels of Wheat, and send it to the Mills of Colonel Van Cortlandt, with the utmost expedition, - - - - - - 269
24, Colonel Van Cortlandt directed to keep both his Mills constantly at work night and day in making Flour for the Continental Army, - 269
24, General Washington requested to send three Coopers to Colonel Van Cortlandt's Mills, and seventeen to Fishkill, - - - - - 269
24, Men employed by Colonel Van Cortlandt in manufacturing Flour exempted from military duty, - - - - - - - - - 269
24, One hundred bags to be purchased for the purpose of transporting Wheat to the Mills, - 270
24, General James Clinton requested to send to Fishkill as many Coopers as he can possibly spare from his Garrison, - - - - - 270
24, Quartermaster-General requested to supply Henry Schenck with as many six-penny Nails as he can possibly spare, there being no Nails of that kind to be purchased in this State, - - - - - - - - - 270
24, Provision for the maintenance of six poor Women with their Children, from the City of New-York, - - - - - - - 270
25, Mr. Hazard, Postmaster, requested to forward Newspapers to the Convention or Committee of Safety as often as he may be able to procure them, - - - - - - - - 270
25, Commissions ordered to be issued to Colonel Snyder's Officers, - - - - - - 270
25, Complaint against Philip Dalley for beating a workman in a Blacksmith's shop, - - 271
25, Commission ordered for Thomas Moffat, as Major of Colonel Isaac Nicoll's Regiment, - 271
25, Commissions ordered for Samuel Drake's Officers, - - - - - - - - - 271
25, Letter to Colonel Snyder, - - - - 271
26, Letter read from the Committee appointed to form an arrangement of the Troops, - - 272
26, Two Letters read from Peter T. Curtenius, - 272
26, Dr. Van Wycke requested to engage Quarters for Major Sheldon's detachment of Horse, - 272
26, Settlement of the account of Dr. Malachi Treat for attendance and medicine given to Soldiers, 272
28, Report of Major Lockwood, relative to the removal of the Prisoners of War from Salem and Poundridge, - - - - - - - - 273
28, Parole of James Auchmuty, John Simpson, and William McDermott, - - - - - - 273
28, Reimbursement of the expenses of the Committee appointed to repair to the Camp at King's Bridge, - - - - - - - - 274
28, Payment to Major Lockwood for his disbursements on account of Prisoners of War, - 274
28, Advance to Henry Schenck, Agent to assist the Commissary-General in procuring Flour, 274

1776.
*Oct.* 28, Note from General Mifflin, informing that Philip Dally shall be sent down to give such satisfaction as the Committee may require, - 275
29, A Letter read from Tench Tilghman, containing intelligence from the Army, - - - 275
29, Regulation of prices for Board of a Regiment of Light-Horse from Connecticut, - - 275
29, The following Letters were read:
From the Committee appointed to go to Albany to make an arrangement of Officers, 275
From the Chairman of the Committee of the Convention now at Albany, - - - 275
From Messrs. Tudor & Lawrence, at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - - - 275
From Colonel Peter R. Livingston, the President, at Esopus, - - - - - 275
From Peter T. Curtenius, at Philadelphia, - 275
From Joseph Hallet, at Prince-Town, - 275
29, Major Lockwood requested to proceed to Westchester County, and make provision for the security of the Publick Records, - - 275
29, Twelve hundred Pounds forwarded to the Committee appointed to repair to Albany and Ticonderoga, - - - - - - - - 276
29, Letter to Robert Yates, Chairman of the Committee of the Convention now at Albany, - 276
29, Resolutions authorizing Henry Schenck to purchase Wheat, and to exempt Coopers for two months from military service, (note,) - - 277
29, Letter to the Committee of Arrangement now at Albany, - - - - - - - 277
30, The further sum of nine hundred and eighty Pounds transmitted to the Committee of Albany, for the pay, bounty, and subsistence of the Rangers, - - - - - - - - 277
30, Advance for the subsistence of twenty Coopers, 278
30, Letter from Mr. McNeal, stating that John Kane refuses to receive Congress money in payment of his mortgage, (note,) - - 278
30, Committee appointed to devise means for keeping up a regular communication between Fishkill and Albany, - - - - - 278
31, Mr. Robert Harper added to the Committee appointed to inventory all the goods belonging to the State fit for soldiers' use, - - 278
31, Committee to inquire whether the Rangers, under the command of Captain-Commandant M. Smith, will continue in service during the war, - - - - - - - - - 278
31, Powers of the Committee on the communication between Fishkill and Albany increased, 278
31, Fifteen thousand Pounds to be remitted to Peter T. Curtenius to pay for Clothing, &c., that he has purchased for the Troops, - - 279
31, Egbert Dumont ordered peremptorily to comply immediately with the order of the 12th September, directing him to account with the Treasurer for Moneys advanced him, - - 279
31, Order for supplying twenty-one Coopers sent to Fishkill by General James Clinton, with Provisions, - - - - - - - 279
31, One hundred Dollars advanced to one of the daily Riders on account of his wages, - - 279
*Nov.* 1, A Letter from R. R. Livingston, one of the Committee sent to the northward, read, - - 280
1, Samuel I. Ten Broeck appointed Second Lieutenant in Captain Goosbeck's Company, - 280
1, Letter from Robert Yates, Chairman of the Committee sent to Albany, dated Albany, October 25th, - - - - - - - 280
1, Settlement of the Pay and Billeting Rolls of Captain-Commandant M. Smith and Captain William Clark, - - - - - - 281
2, Information communicated that the soldiers want Shoes, - - - - - - - 282
2, Letter to the three Brigadier-Generals of the State, relative to Clothing, - - - 282
2, Payment of three hundred Pounds to repair the Roads in Orange County leading to the American Army, - - - - - - 282
2, A Memorial of William McNeal, read and referred to the Committee of Dutchess County, 282
2, Letter to the Committee of Dutchess County, 282
2, Settlement of the Accounts of Captain Elias Haasbrouck's Company, - - - - - 283
2, Resolution for mounting Cannon and erecting small works at different places on the banks of Hudson's River, - - - - - - 283

1776.
*Nov.* 4, Letter from Tench Tilghman to the Vice President read, - - - - - - - - 284
4, Memorandum presented for the maintenance of the Poor from New-York placed in Rombout's Precinct, - - - - - - 284
4, Bounty of two Shillings per pair allowed for every pair of good Wool Cards made in this State out of iron manufactured in this State within six months from this day, - - 284
4, A Letter from Mr. Tilghman read and communicated to the Committee on Conspiracies, - 284
4, Report from Committee on means to convey and obtain intelligence from Albany, - - 285
5, Appropriation of one hundred Pounds for Spears made in Orange County, - - 285
5, Committee to examine and settle Accounts relative to schooner General Putnam, - 285
5, Letter from Comfort Sands, asking directions for settling the half bounty of Captain Belknap's Company, - - - - - - 285
5, Order for the payment of the last moiety of the bounty of Captain Belknap's Rangers, - 286
5, Committee appointed on drafting a number of hands from the Militia of Dutchess County to build Barracks, - - - - - - - 286
5, A Letter from Samuel Brewster, covering an Affidavit relating to one Conner and Montgomery, read and referred to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - - - - - 286
5, Mr. Duane requested to prepare to attend Congress, - - - - - - - 286
6, A Letter from Colonel Benjamin Tusteen, relative to some Cloths he has purchased, was read, - - - - - - - - 287
6, A Letter from Johannes Sleght, relative to Salt, of which there is a great scarcity, was read, 287
6, Letter to Johannes Sleght, - - - - - 287
6, Letter from General Schuyler, dated Albany, November 3d, - - - - - - - 287
6, A Letter from John Taylor, enclosing a notification, dated October 4, of a Town-Meeting at New-Marlborough, read and filed, - - 288
6, Loan Office Books and Seal to be delivered into the hands of the Treasurer of the State, and he to act as Loan Officer until further order, 288
6, Report of the Committee appointed to coöperate with General Schuyler in devising and carrying into execution measures for repelling the invasion of the enemy's Army on the northern and western frontiers of the State, 288–299
6, Five hundred Pounds paid to Captain Dennis on account of obstructing the East River navigation, - - - - - - - - 300
6, Settlement of the Account of Peter T. Curtenius, Commissary, - - - - - - 300
7, Advance to Peter T. Curtenius on account of purchase of Clothing, - - - - - 300
7, A Letter from Tench Tilghman, giving intelligence of the Army, read, - - - - 300
7, Regulations for granting Passes, - - - 300
7, A Letter from General Scott, and a Letter from Colonel Malcom, read and referred to the Committee of Arrangement, - - - 301
7, Sundry Newspapers received from Mr. Hazard, 301
7, Letter received from Tench Tilghman, informing of the enemy's Army being moved towards New-York, - - - - - - - 301
7, A Letter from Gerard Bancker, Deputy Treasurer, read and referred, - - - - 301
7, A Letter from Comfort Sands, Auditor-General, read and referred, - - - - - 301
8, Resolution for payment of balance due to Colonel Smith's Regiment, - - - - - 302
8, A person in custody of the Committee on Conspiracies believed to be an officer of the Savage ship-of-war, ordered to be sent under guard to General Washington, - - - 302
8, Henry J. Van Rensselaer appointed Commissioner to superintend the Loan Office, - 302
8, One hundred of the disaffected Militia ordered out to build mud barracks, - - - - 302
9, Five hundred Pounds advanced to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - - - - 303
9, Thomas Outwater to attend immediately, or show cause, on pain of contempt, - - 303
9, Payment to Benjamin Birdsall and others, for conveying two Prisoners from Norwich to Fishkill, - - - - - - - - - 304

1776.
*Nov.* 9, Mr. Ward authorized to purchase, on account of the State, all the Hides he can, - - 304
9, The General Court of New Hampshire requested to advance to Egbert Benson, employed by the Committee on Conspiracies to repair to that State, any sum not exceeding a thousand Dollars, - - - - - 304
9, Colonel Drake and other Members requested to attend without delay, - - - - - 304
9, Letter to General Schuyler, - - - - 304
11, Fifty Iron Stoves ordered to be sent to General Schuyler, - - - - - - - 305
11, The following Letters were read:
From General Schuyler, advising that General Carleton, with his whole Army, has retreated to Canada, - - - - - 305
From Matt. Visscher, informing that the Committee of Albany have appointed a Committee of Correspondence, - - 305
From Leonard Gansevoort, on behalf of Albany Committee, acknowledging receipt of Resolutions, - - - - - - 305
From Henry Wisner, relative to Barracks at Windsor, - - - - - - - 305
11, Order for the security of two felons, apprehended for passing false money, - - 305
11, Order to Committee of Kingston to deliver to John Thomas his Tea, - - - - - 305
11, Letter from Comfort Sands, relative to manufacturing Arms, - - - - - - 305
11, Letter from Comfort Sands, enclosing the Treasurer's Accounts, - - - - - 305
11, Accounts of P. V. B. Livingston, Treasurer, - 306
11, Messenger despatched to Colonel De Witt to request his immediate attendance at Fishkill, to assist the Committee of Arrangement, - 306
12, A Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Rochester, setting forth the distresses of the inhabitants for want of Salt, was read, - - - - - - - - 307
12, Letter to the Committee of Rochester, - - 307
12, Notice to the County Committees that the Convention are now forming a system of Government, and that it is necessary that the Members attend without delay, - - - 307
12, Committee appointed to take the general superintendance of the Poor, - - - - - 307
12, A Letter from John R. Livingston, with an invoice of goods, &c., received and referred, - 308
12, Form of attesting Muster-Rolls, - - - 308
13, Messenger sent to sundry Members to desire their punctual attendance to-morrow morning to form a Convention, - - - - 308
13, Letter to General Schuyler, relative to the Stoves ordered to be made for him, - - 309
13, A Letter from John R. Livingston, with an invoice of goods, &c., read and referred, - 309
13, Committee appointed to examine the quality and prices of a quantity of Linens, - - 309
14, John Sleght requested to examine certain goods, and report what parts of them are fit for the use of the Army, - - - - - 309
14, A Messenger sent to Colonel De Witt to request his immediate attendance, and if from home, to search for him until he shall find him, - - - - - - - - 309
14, Letter from General Schuyler, dated Albany, the 12th current, - - - - - - 310
15, An account presented by Gerret Roorback, of the City of New-York, - - - - - 310
15, Settlement of the Account of the Committee to form an arrangement of officers, - - 310
15, Order for the settlement of an Account of the Committee of Southold, - - - - - 311
21, Letter from General Washington, dated the 16th November, - - - - - - 311
21, A Letter from Jacob Garrigue read, informing that there is about half a ton of Sheet-iron at North-Castle, which may supply pipes for the stoves casting for General Schuyler, - - - - - - - - - 312
21, A Letter from Robert Boyd read, promising his aid in forwarding certain Troops to New-Jersey, - - - - - - - - 312
21, A Letter from T. Tilghman read, informing of the loss of Fort Washington, - - - 312
21, Report of the Committee appointed to form an arrangement of officers for four Battalions, - 312

1776.
*Nov.* 21, Committee to prepare a Letter to the Continental Congress, and to General Washington, requesting their approbation of the Resolutions for raising a fifth Battalion in this State, to be commanded by Colonel Dubois, 313
21, Twelve thousand Pounds advanced for recruiting the four Continental Battalions, - - 313
22, List of Officers of four Battalions to be raised in the State of New-York, arranged by a Committee of Convention of the said State, 314
22, A Letter from Samuel Tudor and Augustine Lawrence, read and referred, - - - 315
22, Order for the repair of certain Roads, in order to facilitate the cartage of Forage to the Continental Army, - - - - - - 315
23, Letter to Henry Outhout and Anthony Van Bergen, directing them not to buy sundry articles, the prices being too high, - - 316
23, An Account of John Sleght, and two Accounts of Thomas Wickes, ordered to be paid, - 316
23, A Letter from Nicholas Governeur read, and committed to the Committee on Conspiracies, - - - - - - - - 316
23, A Letter from the Chairman of Kingston, informing of daily outrages, owing to the misfortune of having that detestable article called Tea stored there, - - - - - 316
23, General Schuyler requested to favour the Convention with his advice on the best plan for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's River, - - - - - - - - 316
23, The Chain which was broken by the tide in Hudson's River not to be paid for until properly examined, - - - - - 316
23, A Letter from General Heath, requesting assistance in procuring a repository for Military Stores, read and referred, - - - 317
23, Letter to Captains Lawrence and Tudor, - 317
23, Letter to the President of Congress, - - 317
23, Letter to General Washington, - - - 318
25, Report on certain Queries presented by Major Bancker, in behalf of Colonel Snyder and sundry Officers of his Regiment, - - 320
25, Resolutions for continuing General Scott's Brigade and Colonel Snyder's Regiment in service one month longer, - - - - - 321
26, The Committee on obstructing the navigation of Hudson's River directed to report a plan for perfecting the same with all convenient speed, - - - - - - - - 322
26, A Letter from Captains Lawrence and Tudor, relative to the removal of the Ships at Poughkeepsie, read and referred, - - - - 322
26, A Letter from Linde Lord, referred to the Committee of Conspiracies, - - - - 322
26, A Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hardenbergh read, requesting directions to whom to deliver certain Arms and Accoutrements, 322
26, Petition of Alexander Stewart, a prisoner, praying for the allowance of a prisoner of war, - - - - - - - - - 322
26, House of William Barnes to be used as an Hospital, - - - - - - - - 322
26, Provision for the relief of part of a Regiment of Connecticut Troops, - - - - 322
26, Order for the arrest of one Gilchrist, a soldier, for passing an altered bill of credit of Rhode-Island, - - - - - - - - 323
26, Committee to state the accounts due to inhabitants of Connecticut on account of expenses accrued in removing Stock and Poor Inhabitants from Long-Island, - - - - - 323
26, Report on the Memorial of Alexander Stewart and William Metcalf, - - - - - 323
26, Report on the circumstances of part of Colonel Bradley's Regiment, - - - - - - 323
26, Robert Livingston requested to confer with Generals Lee, Heath, and Clinton on the situation of the enemy within the State, - 324
26, The navigation of Hudson's River to be obstructed near Pollepel's Island, agreeable to the plan recommended by General James Clinton, - - - - - - - - - 324
26, Order for taking possession of thirty or forty tons of Hay, belonging to certain persons who have gone over to the enemy. - - 324
27, Letter from General Scott, dated the 26th instant, - - - - - - - - - 324

1776.
*Nov.* 27, Letter from General Heath, dated the 26th instant, - - - - - - - - - 325
27, The latches and hinges for the doors of the Stoves ordered for General Schuyler to be made and forwarded with the Stoves, - - 325
27, Thanks to General Scott for his patriotick offer of continuing in service one month without any pay, - - - - - - - 326
27, Fifteen hundred Pounds given as a gratuity to the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates of General Scott's Brigade, - - - - 326
27, Letter to Lynde Lord, - - - - - - 326
27, Letter to Colonel Johannes Hardenburgh, - 326
27, Three Pounds paid to Ebenezer Dayton for going express, - - - - - - - - 327
27, Settlement of pay and subsistence of Captain Jacob Rutsen De Witt's Company of Rangers, - - - - - - - - - 327
27, Resolutions relative to obstructing Hudson's River, - - - - - - - - - 327
27, Order for the removal of Hay, Forage, and Grain, and the sale of the Stock on the farm of Thomas Barclay, who has gone over to the enemy, - - - - - - - - 328
27, Letter to General Scott to enclose the Resolutions respecting his Brigade, - - - - 328
27, Letter to General Heath to enclose Resolutions relative to a part of Colonel Bradley's Regiment, - - - - - - - - 329
28, Letter to General Schuyler, - - - - 329
28, Letter to General Washington, - - - - 330
28, Report from the Committee for securing the frigates at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - 330
28, The Committee appointed to report the Frame of a Constitution and Government to meet every afternoon at four o'clock, - - - 331
28, Order for the payment to Colonel Nicoll for a balance due for the bounty of his Regiment, 331
28, Letter to the President of Congress, - - 331
28, Affidavit of John Marline, (note,) - - - 331
28, A Memorandum of goods plundered from John Marline by the Provincials, (note,) - 332
28, Affidavit of Marmaduke Forster, (note,) - 332
28, A list of articles taken by the soldiers from Marmaduke Forster, at Phillipsburgh, near the White-Plains, (note,) - - - - - 336
28, Letter to General Heath, - - - - - 334
29, Captain John Winn, committed to Tryon County Jail, to be continued in confinement until tried in a regular court of justice, - - 336
29, Committee of Tryon County authorized to appoint a Jailor *pro tempore*, - - - - 336
29, Memorial of Captain James Stewart, praying a settlement for his past services, and to know whether there is provision made for him in the new arrangement, (note,) - - - 336
29, Pay and Subsistence Rolls of a detachment of Albany Militia returned, - - - - - 337
30, Two thousand Pounds advanced to the Secret Committee, - - - - - - - 337
30, The Secret Committee to report their proceedings and expenditures on or before the 20th of December, - - - - - - - - 337
30, A Letter from Hugh Hughes relative to Cattle drove up to the lines; read and referred, - 337
30, Report by Robert R. Livingston of his conference with General Heath and General Clinton, - - - - - - - - - - 337
30, Resolutions recommended by Mr. Livingston, 338
30, A Letter from General Scott, at Haverstraw, representing the exposed situation of that part of the country, read and sent to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 340
30, Alterations in the Letter to the President of Congress of the 28th instant, - - - 340
*Dec.* 1, Letter to General Schuyler, - - - - 341
1, Letter to General Scott, - - - - - 341
1, Letter to Agents for collecting Boats for obstructing the navigation of Hudson's River, - 342
2, A Letter from Henry Wisner, relative to a drove of Cattle for the Army, read and filed, - 342
2, Committee appointed to write a Letter to Colonel Trumbull relative to Salt, &c., - - 342
2, A Letter from William Miller relative to County Records, and his conduct as an executor, read and referred, - - - - - - 342
2, Sundry Accounts from the Committee of Westchester, presented and referred, - - - 342

1776.
Dec. 2, An Account of Major Abeel for expenses incurred in apprehending Disaffected Persons, presented and referred, - - - - - 342
2, A Certificate of inlisting money due to Ensign Finch, presented and referred, - - - 342
2, Letter to Stephen Gilbert, the person who has charge of the Cattle mentioned in Mr. Wisner's Letter, - - - - - - - 342
2, Report on the Memorial of Captain James Stewart, - - - - - - - - 343
2, Report on the Pay and Subsistence Rolls of Charlotte County Rangers, - - - - 343
2, Order for settlement with Capt. Isaac Belknap for pay and subsistence of his Rangers, - 344
2, Payment to Lieutenant Marston in full for wages due to himself and other persons named in a Muster-Roll, - - - - - - 344
2, Payment to Major Abeel for disbursements in apprehending a number of disaffected persons, - - - - - - - - - 344
2, Report on the Account transmitted by Colonel Hay, - - - - - - - - - 344
2, Resolutions relative to burning the Court-House at White-Plains, - - - - - - 345
2, Report from Committee to whom was recommitted a Letter from Mr. Hughes, respecting stock driven from lower part of Westchester County, by order of General Lee, - - 345
2, Letter to General Washington, enclosing resolutions relative to the wantonness and cruelty of the person concerned in burning the publick and private buildings at the White-Plains, 346
2, Letter from General Scott read and filed, stating that he finds the number of his Brigade who are willing to continue in service another month too inconsiderable to be retained, - 346
2, One hundred Pounds paid to Colonel Lott for moneys advanced by him for relief of poor, - 346
2, Payment of ten Dollars to Benjamin Hinchman, an express sent with a gratuity to General Scott's Brigade, - - - - - - 346
2, Four hundred Pounds paid to the Committee appointed to procure Clothing for the Continental Troops, - - - - - - - 347
3, Committee to devise an ordinance for securing all estates and effects which are deserted by the owners, - - - - - - - - 347
3, William Miller appointed a Commissioner for disposing of the stock in Colonel McDaniel's pastures at Bedford, - - - - - 347
3, Letter to Doctor Bard, thanking him for the use of his Team for the publick without reward, - - - - - - - - - 347
3, Letter from Francis Lewis, dated the 27th ult., one of the Marine Committee at Congress, respecting the Frigate at Poughkeepsie, - 347
3, Letter from Captain Samuel Tudor, at Poughkeepsie, dated the 2d instant, - - - - 348
3, Letter from General George Clinton, dated Fort Constitution, the 1st instant, - - 348
3, Petition of Phebe Oakley, representing that she hath been inhumanly robbed and plundered of her effects by Captain Ford, - - - 349
3, Deposition of Phebe Oakley, - - - - 349
3, Deposition of Tolmon Pugsley, - - - - 350
3, Deposition of Ebenezer Burrill, - - - 351
3, Letter to General Heath, requesting him to detain Captain Ford in custody, - - - - 351
3, Letter to Colonel Henry B. Livingston, desiring him to transmit an account of the families, stock, and effects by him removed from Long-Island, - - - - - - - 352
3. A Letter from General James Clinton, recommending Captain I. Rosekrans to be continued in service, read and referred, - - 352
3, A Letter from Benjamin Birdsall, respecting his former services and an appointment in the Army, read and referred, - - - - 352
3, Letter from John Gibson, Auditor-General, dated 21st November, requesting that the Publick Accounts of this State may be sent to Commissioners, - - - - - - 352
3, Letter from John Gibson, directing the Publick Accounts in the Northern Department to be laid before the Commissioners at Albany, - 353
3, One hundred Pounds paid on account of goods lately purchased by John R. Livingston, at Boston, - - - - - - - - - 353

1776.
Dec. 3, Brigade of General Scott disbanded except about one hundred and fifty men, - - 353
3, Four Dollars to be paid to each non-commissioned officer and private of General Scott's Brigade who shall continue in service fourteen days, as a gratuity, - - - - - 354
3, All persons charged with altering or counterfeiting Bills of Credit to be secured, in order to take their trials in a due course of law, - 354
4, Resolution relative to the one hundred Pounds advanced to Captain James Stewart for bounty money, - - - - - - - - 354
4, Report from the Committee to whom were referred the Letters of Francis Lewis and Captain Samuel Tudor, - - - - - - 355
4, Payment in full to Henry Quackenboss for the goods purchased by him for the Convention, together with his commissions at five per cent., - - - - - - - - - 355
4, Memorandum forwarded by General George Clinton of articles wanted, - - - 355

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CONVENTION.

Dec. 5, Letter to General Heath, requesting that Major Taylor may be employed to collect and purchase materials for the obstruction of Hudson's River, - - - - - - - 356
5, Letter to Francis Lewis, a Member of the Marine Committee, - - - - - - 357
5, A majority of the votes of the several Counties, or a representation of seven different Counties, to form a Convention, - - - - 357

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COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Dec. 5, Letter to John Gibson, Auditor-General, desiring that the whole Accounts of the State with the Continent may be audited before the Commissioners at Albany, - - - 358
5, Committee to impress Boats for carrying on obstructions in Hudson's River, - - - 358
5, Committee to devise means for procuring Salt for the relief of the back inhabitants of the State, - - - - - - - - 359
5, Cannon to be cast at Salisbury for the Ships in Hudson's River, - - - - - - 359
5, Order to pay Captain Nathaniel Scribner in full for the pay and billeting expenses of his Company, - - - - - - - - 359

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CONVENTION.

Dec. 6, Memorial of Colonel Hathorne, stating that a number of disorderly persons had forcibly carried away his Salt, read and referred, - 359
6, A Letter of John Elmendorf, stating that he cannot accept the trust of procuring Boats, on account of the riot, read and referred, - 359

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COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Dec. 6, Report of Committee on Conspiracies in the case of Abraham C. Cuyler, late Mayor of Albany, - - - - - - - - 360
6, Petrus Bogardus requested to take charge of a quantity of Tar and Tents belonging to the Continent, which are wasting at Fishkill Landing, - - - - - - - - 360
6, Letter to General Heath, - - - - - 360
6, The Sick Soldiers of General McDougall's Brigade, now lying at Peekskill, permitted to occupy the Academy at Fishkill, - - - 361
7, A Letter from General Heath, respecting a Hospital, read, - - - - - - - 361
7, A Letter from General Schuyler, relative to obstructing Hudson's River, read, - - - 361
7, Committee to wait on Mr. Clinton with General Schuyler's Letter and General Arnold's Plan of Obstruction, - - - - - 361
7, Order to pay Captain George White, in full for inlisting money for his Company, - - 361
7, The President to write a Letter to Governour Trumbull for the removal of the Poor, - - 361
7, Order to pay to James Grinnell and twelve Rangers with him, three Dollars each, - - 362
7, The clause in the Letter to Mr. Hancock, relating to Flaxseed, to be obliterated, - - 362

1776.
Dec. 7, Order for payment of Captain Townsend's Pay and Subsistence Rolls, - - - - - 362
7, Committee to go immediately to General George Clinton, and, in conjunction with him, to call out the Militia of Orange and Ulster Counties, - - - - - 362
8, Letter to Governour Trumbull, - - - - 363
8, Letter to General Schuyler, - - - - - 363
9, Two hundred Pounds advanced to Captain John Houston, on account of Bounty Money, - 364
9, Letter to Committee of Salem, relative to securing the property of the disaffected who have joined the enemy, - - - - - 364
9, A Letter from the Committee of Albany, relative to the abuse in the weight of Flour, and of the Estates of persons who have gone over to the enemy, read and referred, - - 364
9, A Letter from Mrs. Inglis, requesting permission to go to her husband, in the City of New-York, read and referred, - - - - 364
9, All the Militia of Orange and Ulster Counties to march forthwith, with four days' provisions, to Chester, in Orange County, - - 365
9, Gratuity of one Dollar offered to each man of Colonel Malcom's Regiment who will remain in service till the last day of December, - 365
9, General George Clinton, in coöperating with Generals Lee and Gates, to take especial care at all events to secure the Passes in the Highlands, on Hudson's River, - - - - - 365
9, Six thousand Pounds advanced to General George Clinton, - - - - - - 366
10, Mr. Cantine chosen Chairman *pro tem.*, - 366
10, A Letter from General McDougall, assigning reasons for sending three or four hundred men to protect Orange-Town, read and referred, - - - - - - - - 366
10, A Letter from Samuel Tudor, relative to the articles wanted for the equipment of the Ships, read and referred, - - - - - - 366
10, Letter from Delegates in Congress, dated the 4th instant, - - - - - - - 366
10, Resolutions enclosed in the Letter from the Delegates in Congress, - - - - - 367
10, The Rangers of Tryon County allowed Continental rations instead of their weekly subsistence money, during the time they remain in garrison, - - - - - - - - 367
10, Letter to General Schuyler, - - - - 367
10, Letter to General McDougall, - - - - 368
11, Chairman of the County of Orange to request the attendance of the Southern Members of that County, or assign reasons for their non-attendance, - - - - - - - 368
11, List of Letters brought up by a flag with Rev. Mr. Inglis and Mr. Moore, - - - - 368
11, A Letter received from General Heath, informing that he was ordered to the west side of Hudson's River, by which the defiles in the Highlands will be exposed, - - - - 369
11, A Letter to be written to General Washington, requesting that the order for General Heath's division to march may be countermanded, - 369
11, The Letter to General Washington to go by express, who is empowered to impress Horses every ten miles, and to ride night and day, both going and returning, - - - - - 369
11, Reward to the Express if he shall go and return in less than six days, - - - - - 369
11, Letter to General Washington, - - - 369
11, Sundry Letters, brought up by a flag, ordered to be sent to the respective persons to whom they were written, - - - - - - 370
11, General Morris directed to repair to Philadelphia, and take his seat in General Congress, that Philip Livingston may be enabled to visit his family, - - - - - - - 370
11, Report on Samuel Tudor's Letter relative to Mr. De Grushe, - - - - - - 370
11, Committee for furnishing General George Clinton with Ammunition, and other necessaries for his Brigade, - - - - - - - 370

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CONVENTION.

Dec. 12, Major Terboss and Mr. Van Wyck appointed to take charge of all the Hides sent to Fishkill, - - - - - - - - - - 371
1776.
Dec. 12, Six hundred Pounds advanced to Stephen Ward, on account of Hides purchased for the State, - - - - - - - - - 371
12, Notice by the Chairman of the Government Committee, that the said Committee will report this day eight days, - - - - - 371
12, Secretary to write to Colonel Blackwell and Major Jonathan Lawrence, of Queen's County, requesting their attendance as Members of Convention, - - - - - - - 371
12, Letter to General George Clinton, informing him that two Regiments have been sent to Westchester County to drive off Major Rogers and his Rangers, - - - - - 371
12, Samuel Loudon allowed two hundred Pounds per annum, for publishing the acts of Convention in a weekly Newspaper, - - 372
12, Order for payment for the Chain which was lately drawn across Hudson's River, and which broke by the tide, - - - - - 372
12, Letter to Colonel Henry B. Livingston, requesting him, if consistent with his instructions from General Washington, to repair to this State in order to oppose the ravages of the enemy in the County of Westchester, - - 372
12, Mr. Moore and Mr. Little added to the Committee for taking care of the Poor, - - 372
12, Order for the discharge of an account of Rations furnished to Prisoners of War, and for Medicine and attendance, - - - - - 372
12, The Covenant of the Convention of the New-Hampshire Grants, held at Dorset, on the 25th of September last, and extracts from the Minutes of said Convention, read and referred, - - - - - - - - - 373

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COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Dec. 13, Letter to General Gates, from the Committee appointed to concert measures with General Clinton for calling out the Militia of Orange and Ulster Counties, - - - - - - 373
13, Letter to be written to General Schuyler, requesting him to countermand procuring the Logs he has ordered, but to direct the Boards and the Tar to be forwarded, - - - 374

PETITIONS, RESOLVES, AND ORDERS IN COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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1776.
Oct. 9, Petition of the Selectmen of the Town of Concord, for a reimbursement of Money expended for Cord-wood for the Army, - - 373
9, Petition of John Clark, of Hadley, for allowance for a Gun, Coat, Hat, and other articles lost in service, - - - - - - - 375
9, Petition of William Foster and Charles Sigourney, for four three-pound Cannon, for the armed sloop Oliver Cromwell, - - - 375
Petition of Committee of Newburyport, respecting Captain Evans and his brigantine Necessity, - - - - - - - - 376
9, Order to the Commissary-General to send ten bolts Duck and one Four-pounder Cannon, for the use of the armed brigantine Massachusetts, - - - - - - - - 377
9, Order to Timothy Parsons, agent for the Eastern District, to deliver a Prize to Captain Souther, - - - - - - - - 377
9, Petition of Adam Helme, in behalf of Adam Babcock, for a pair of small Cannon for a Brigantine now loading at Dartmouth, - 377
9, Order for delivering Cannon to Adam Helme, 377
9, Petition of Charles Sigourney and others, of Boston, for a commission for the sloop Oliver Cromwell, - - - - - - - - 377
9, Resolve for altering the armed sloop Freedom into a brigantine, - - - - - - 378
9, Resolve for the delivery of Powder to Charles Sigourney, - - - - - - - 378
9, Resolve permitting Joan Bernard Ollive to sail with his cargo of Lumber for the West-Indies, - - - - - - - - 378
9, Resolve permitting Abraham Redwood to exhibit his claim for ten hogsheads of Sugar, at the Superiour Court, where the appeal is now pending, - - - - - - - - 378

1776.
Oct. 10, Petition of Timothy McDaniell, of Scarborough, offering himself to command some vessel in the American Navy, - - - - 378
10, Petition of Thomas Jones and others, of New bury-Port, for a commission for the schooner Washington, - - - - - - 379
10, Petition of Nathaniel Farley and others, of Ipswich, for a commission for the schooner Fair Lady, - - - - - - 380
10, Petition of Tristram Dalton and Stephen Hooper, of Newburyport, for a commission for the brigantine Dalton, - - - - 380
10, Petition of Lawrence R. Campbell, a prisoner of war in Concord Jail, for a release or a hearing, - - - - - - - 380
10, Petition of Josiah Batchelder, Jun., for a protection for James Brown and Nathan Brown to return from Yarmouth, in Nova-Scotia, to Ipswich, - - - - - - - 382
Order to the Sheriff of the County of Bristol, to receive Benjamin Marston and Gideon White, refugees from Boston, - - - 383
10, Resolve for the delivery of Powder to Jonathan Hobby, - - - - - - - 383
10, Resolve for paying Samuel Phillips, Jun., two thousand eight hundred Pounds to pay for Saltpetre, - - - - - - - 384
10 Resolve for paying William Frost in full of the account referred to in his Petition, - - 384
11, Order to Colonel Crafts to secure the two Four-Pounders, the property of the State, now lying at Plymouth, - - - - - 384
11, Resolve for the delivery of Flour to Samuel Russell Gerry, - - - - - - 384
11, Resolve for supplying the inhabitants of Machias with Corn, &c., - - - - - 384
11, Resolve discharging schooner Diligent, officers and men, - - - - - - - 384
11, Resolve on the Petition of Stephen Hall and Peleg-Crocker, praying that their sloop may be restored to them, - - - - - 385
11, Resolve for paying Samuel Adams two hundred Pounds, in part for his services as a member of Congress, - - - - - 385
11, Resolve for paying Jonathan Brown twenty-six Pounds and five Shillings for his service as Commissary, - - - - - - - 385
12, Resolve for making application to Congress for one hundred thousand Pounds, - - - 385
12, Resolve for paying Jonathan Glover in full for sundries he supplied to Captain Jeremiah Obrian and John Lambert, - - - 385
12, Resolve allowing Provisions to the Officers and Mariners of Armed Vessels, - - - 385
14, William Drew added to the Committee appointed for altering the sloop Freedom, - 385
15, Resolve on the Petition of the First Parish in Falmouth, - - - - - - - 386
14, Petition of Nathaniel Somes for six Three-pounders for an Armed Vessel which he is fitting out, - - - - - - - 386
15, Petition of Jacob Williams and others for a commission for the schooner Active, - - 387
15, Resolve for delivering Powder to Nathaniel Goodwin, - - - - - - - 387
15, Resolve for the discharge of sloop Machias Liberty, Captain Obrian and men, - - 387
15, George Saybrook appointed Second Lieutenant of the Company of Matrosses stationed at Gloucester, - - - - - - - 387
14, Resolve for the delivery of Cannon to Alexander Shephard, - - - - - - 387
14, Resolve for paying William Owen for billeting men, and in full for all accounts, - - 388
15, Resolve for paying to the Hon. James Bowdoin two years interest due to him on a Government note, and such part of the principal as he may require, - - - - - - 388
15, Resolve for the delivery of fifty barrels of Flour to William Frost, Commissary of the forces stationed at Falmouth, - - - - - 388
Petition of David Knight, praying that the loss he sustained on Damarris Cove from the enemy, may be made up to him, - - - 388
15, Petition of James M'Cobb and Jordan Parker, of Georgetown, on Kennebeck River, relative to the payment of the Guards at the mouth of Kennebeck River, - - - - - 389

1776.
Oct. 16, Order to Colonel Josiah Brewer to take under his command the Guard of thirty men placed on Penobscot River under the direction of Andrew Gilman, - - - - - - 390
Petition of Elijah Freeman Payne, of Boston, for a commission for the schooner Eagle, - 390
Petition of Josiah Morton, keeper of the Jail in the County of Plymouth, praying relief for maintenance of Refugees, before their discharge be granted, - - - - - - 390
Petition of Dr. Stockbridge and others, Refugees, confined in Jail at Plymouth, - - 392
Resolves on the Petition of Benjamin Stockbridge and others, as also the Petition of Josiah Morton, - - - - - - - 393
16, Resolve for lending Governour Trumbull one ton of Sulphur, - - - - - - 394
17, Resolve directing the Committee of South-Hadley relative to surveys, - - - - - 394
17, Resolve relative to an immediate return of all the Prisoners of War within the State, - 394
17, Petition of Nehemiah Somes for Shot, - - 394
17, Order on the Petition of Robert Cragg, granting him liberty to go to the West-Indies, - - 395
Petition of Richard Silvester, for liberty to depart from the State, - - - - - - 395
17, Resolve establishing the form of Beating Orders and of Inlistment for raising the State's quota of the Army, - - - - - - 396
17, Resolve for adjourning the Inferiour Court in the County of Dukes County, - - - 396
18, Petition of John Mercer and others for a commission for the brigantine Rising States, - 397
18, Resolve relative to the inhabitants of Boston and Charlestown, dispersed in the several Towns in the State and supported at the publick expense, - - - - - - - 397
18, Resolve for paying eighteen Shillings in lieu of a Blanket to each of the men who shall inlist in the new Army, - - - - - - 397
18, Resolve for paying Jesse Story for Arms, Ammunition, &c., lost in the battle at Bunker-Hill, - - - - - - - - 397
18, Resolve relative to receiving Saltpetre, - - 397
18, Resolve for paying two hundred Pounds to the Committee for building a Powder Mill at Sutton, - - - - - - - - 398
19, Petition of Officers of the schooner Diligent, for a commission for Walter Perkins as Second Lieutenant, - - - - - - - 398
19, Resolve for the delivery of four Cannon, and the sloop Liberty and schooner Diligent, with such of their appurtenances as are not the property of the State, to James Noble Shannon and Jonas Farnsworth, - - - - 398
19, Resolve for raising the State's quota of the Continental Army, - - - - - - - 399
19, Resolve for paying Captain Thomas Fletcher twenty Pounds, for treating with and inlisting Indians, at Penobscot, - - - - - 400
19, Resolve for paying Jonathan Lowder four hundred Pounds, to enable him to supply the Penobscot tribe of Indians with necessary Ammunition, Clothing, and Provisions, - 400
19, Resolve for paying Parker Cleaveland for his services as Surgeon to Colonel Sergeant's Regiment, - - - - - - - 400
19, Resolve for the delivery of Powder to Josiah Batcheldor, Jr., for the privateer Warren, - 401
19, Resolve relative to Saltpetre, - - - - - 401
19, Resolve for paying John Perkins for his loss sustained on Bunker Hill, and for his wages, 401
19, Resolve for paying Samuel Belknap for nursing &c., four soldiers belonging to Colonel Stark's Regiment, - - - - - - - 401
21, Petition of Nathaniel Whittaker for aid in erecting and preparing works for the manufacture of Salt, - - - - - - - - 401
21, Petition of a number of the Militia of Falmouth, Scarborough, Gorham, and Windham, 402
21, Petition of James Arnaud, late master of the ship Queen of England, praying permission to go to Cape François, - - - - - 402
21, Resolve for paying Thomas Crane twenty-two hundred Pounds for the purchase of Saltpetre, - - - - - - - - 403
22, Petition of David Pearce and others for a commission for the schooner Langdon, - - 403

1776.
Oct. 22, Order to Sheriffs to make an immediate return of all Prisoners of War within the State, - 403
22, Petition of Abraham Walker and Isaiah Walker, prisoners at Springfield, praying for a release from confinement, - - - - - 403
22, Petition of John Coulston for a commission as commander of the schooner Warren, - - 404
22, Orders to Captain John Fish, of the brigantine Tyrannicide, for a cruise, - - - - 404
21, Petition of Lemuel Perkins, confined to the Town of Salem, praying remission of further punishment, - - - - - - - 405
22, Order for the discharge of Lemuel Perkins, - 405
22, Order to lend one ton of Sulphur to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - 406
22, Order for paying Samuel Harding for his services as Commissary for the Troops stationed at Truro, and for his commissions at two and a half per cent., - - - - - - 406
23, Petition of James Payson and others, of Rowley, offering a quantity of Saltpetre, - - 406
Petition of Samuel Allyne Otis, praying that John Gray, his apprentice, may be released from imprisonment, - - - - - - 406
Petition of officers and soldiers of Colonel Marshall's Regiment, praying that they may be served with Provisions suitable for men in the service of the State, - - - - - - 407
23, Resolve for payment to sundry persons for losses on Bunker's Hill, - - - - - 408
23, Resolve to encourage men to continue in service till the first of February next, - - 408
23, Resolve remitting to the inhabitants of the Town of Falmouth one half the Tax laid on them for the year 1775, - - - - - - - 408
23, Resolve for additional payment to Captain James Sikes, to enable him to pay for Saltpetre, - - - - - - - - - 408
24, Petition of Isaac Harper, praying a release from confinement, - - - - - - - 408
24, Alteration of the Resolve encouraging soldiers to remain in service, - - - - - - 409
24, Resolve relative to apprehending Deserters, - 409
25, Petition of Stephen Rice and James Woods, praying that the persons employed at their Furnace may be excused from military duty, - - - - - - - - - 409
25, Order to Richard Derby, Jun., directing him to file a libel against the prize brig Henry and Ann, - - - - - - - - - 410
25, Petition of Miles Greenwood, of Salem, for a commission for Benjamin Dean as Commander of the sloop Revenge, - - - - 410
25, Order to Colonel Henry Herrick, - - - 410
25, Resolve relative to Captain Obrien's Rolls, - 410
25, Resolve allowing Lieutenant Varnum and Josiah Foster for losses on Bunker's Hill, - 411
25, Resolve for supplying General Schuyler with Nails, - - - - - - - - - 411
23, Resolve appointing a Commissary for Sea-coast men, stationed at Newburyport, - - - 411
25, Resolve appointing a Committee to record certificates, &c., relative to wounded men, - 411
25, Resolve authorizing the Committee of Deer-Island to libel the sloop Sally, - - - - 412
26, Resolve for supplying the Militia in the County of Berkshire with Arms and Ammunition, - 412
26, Resolve granting Levi Allen one hundred and twenty Pounds, of silver or gold, in exchange for the same sum in Bills of Credit of any of the United States, - - - - - - 412
26, Resolve for appointing a Board of War, - - 412
26, Resolve for raising three of the Battalions assessed this State, - - - - - - 414
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Petition of the Selectmen of Beverly for a Company of Sea-Coast Men, or other means for the protection of the Town, - - - - 415
28, Petition of Oliver Allen and others, of Wenham, for a commission for the sloop True Blue, - 416
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28, Resolve allowing Ruth Parker for the loss her late husband sustained on Bunker Hill, - 416
28, Resolve allowing Joseph Trip, a wounded soldier, thirteen Pounds, - - - - - 416
28, Resolve allowing Thomas Mighill for his loss on Bunker Hill, - - - - - - 416
1776.
Oct. 28, Resolve allowing sundry persons for losses on Bunker Hill, - - - - - - - 417
28, Resolve for paying Jacob Frost for his wages while in captivity, and for things lost in the battle, - - - - - - - - - 417
28, Resolve empowering the Commissary to supply the several Towns with Powder, - - - 417
28, Resolve permitting David Smith to go to Nova-Scotia, - - - - - - - - - 417
29, Memorial of Colonel Josiah Whitney, praying that his Battalion may be put on Continental pay, - - - - - - - - - - 417
29, Resolve for adjourning the Superiour Court for Essex and Middlesex, - - - - - 418
28, Resolve permitting William Pitts to return to Massachusetts, - - - - - - - 418
28, Petition of George Child for permission to proceed from Beverly to Bristol with a schooner, 418
29, Petition of Josiah Batchelder, Jun., and Company, for a commission for the schooner Warren, - - - - - - - - - 419
30, Petition of Josiah Ellis and others for seven days' Rations, - - - - - - - 419
Petition of Josiah Godfrey, Chief Pilot of the sloop-of-war Republic, praying for an increase of wages, - - - - - - - 420
30, Resolve for supplying the Army with necessary stores, - - - - - - - - - 420
30, Resolve allowing Thomas Ludlow, Jun., a prisoner, some goods, - - - - - - - 420
30, Resolve empowering the Treasurer of Massachusetts to stop part of Captain Obrian's Roll, - - - - - - - - - 421
30, Petition of the Committee of Salem, praying that some steps may be immediately taken relative to certain Captives, to ensure the publick safety, - - - - - - - - - 421
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1, Resolve allowing the Accounts of the County Treasurer for Suffolk for the year 1775, - 423
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2, Resolve for supplying the Army with Clothing, 424
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2, Resolve relative to casting Cannon, - - 424
2, Address from the General Court of Massachusetts to the Officers and Private Soldiers who are gone from that State to the Army, - 425
2, Resolve on the Petition of Robert Basden, allowing the amount of Rations for eighteen weeks to his son, - - - - - - 427
4, Memorial of Richard Derby, relative to schooner Polly and cargo, - - - - - 427
4, Resolve respecting the Estates of Refugees, - 428
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5, Resolve granting a pension to John Robbins, - 436
5, Resolve for transporting Whale-Boats to Newport, - - - - - - - - 436
5, Resolve relative to Daniel Robbins's Muster-Roll, - - - - - - - - 436
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1776.
*Nov.* 6, Resolve for paying Jonathan Sturgis one month's wages, - - - - - - 438
6, Resolve respecting Prisoners of War, - - 438
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7, Resolve for paying Enoch Coe an allowance for the expense of his sickness, - - - - 441
8, Resolve for paying five thousand Pounds to the Board of War, - - - - - - - 441
8, Establishment for the Commissaries appointed to deliver Stores to the Army, - - - - 441
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9, Resolve on the Petition of Colonel Benjamin Foster, - - - - - - - - 446
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19, Letter from General Schuyler to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - 770
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20, Letter from the President of Congress to Pennsylvania Council of Safety, - - - 776
20, Letter from President of Congress to New-York Convention and Assembly of New-Jersey, - - - - - - - - 776
20, Letter from the President of Congress to the States: Necessity of furnishing the troops for the new army as soon as possible, - - 776
20, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the President of Congress: Have inquired into the affair respecting the escape of prisoners from the Jail, and finds nothing material except some information from Mrs. Conolly of an intended escape of her husband, - 777
20, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to Lancaster Committee, - - - - 777
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20, Letter from General Mercer to the President of Congress: Has received intelligence that the enemy intend to reduce Fort Lee, and then to march through the Jerseys to attack Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - 778
20, Letter from William Grayson to General Lee: The enemy landed this morning between Dobbs's Ferry and Fort Lee, in great numbers, - - - - - - - - 779
20, Letter from Colonel Harrison to General Heath: The complaint of the officers about their abstracts cannot be helped; none but one person can with any propriety draw warrants in the same army, - - - - - - 779
20, Letter from William Grayson to General Mercer: To hold himself in readiness to march at a moment's warning, and to forward this letter to Lord Stirling and General Stephen, who are to make the same preparation, - - 780
20, Letter from Robert H. Harrison to General Schuyler, - - - - - - - - 780
20, Letter from General Heath to New-York Convention: Wishes General George Clinton and General Scott to repair to Peekskill without a moment's loss of time, - - 781
20, Letter from Dr. Morgan to General Heath: Proposed establishment and regulations of a General Hospital at Peekskill, - - - 781
20, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to the President of Congress: Importance of more effectually obstructing the navigation of Hudson river; ask that the direction of the work may be committed to General Schuyler. Recommend the entire prohibition of the exportation of flaxseed, - - - - 782
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20, Pass for Gysbert Osterhout, one of the subalterns of the party sent to work at the barracks at Fishkill, - - - - - 784
20, Letter from Colonel Jacob Bayley to New-York Convention: If the Rangers have not what was engaged them, we have no right to command them; and if General Gates, who doubtless stands in need of them, should call for them, he must be disappointed, - - 784

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*Nov.* 20, Letter from Richard Stockton and George Clymer (Committee at Albany) to the President of Congress, - - - - - - 784
20, Letter from Colonel Wayne to General Gates: Shall be hard pushed for time to put Ticonderoga in any tolerable state of defence; will do all he can to render it tenable - - 785
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20, Summons of the Commanding Officer of the Americans to the Governour of Fort Cumberland, - - - - - - - - 786
20, Lieutenant-Colonel Gorham's answer to the above summons, - - - - - - 786
21, Letter from Charles Graham to Stephen Steward, - - - - - - - - - 774
21, Letter from Captain Stone to Maryland Council of Safety, respecting his vessel, which Captain Martin has taken possession of and forcibly detained, - - - - - - 774
21, Letter from Captain Nicholson to Maryland Council of Safety: As their suspicions have alarmed him, shall lose no time in endeavouring to convince them that he does not intend wronging the Province, - - - 775
21, Letter from Cumberland Dugan to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 775
21, Letter from Maryland Council of Safety to the President of Congress: There are likely to be disturbances of a serious nature in Dorset and Caroline Counties, on the East Shore, for want of salt, - - - - - - - - 786
21, Letter from the President of Congress to General Washington on the necessity of furnishing troops for the new army, - - - - 787
21, Letter from John Gibson, Jun., Auditor-General, to the Council of New-Hampshire: Requests an account to be furnished of the advances made by the State for paying and subsisting the Army, - - - - - 787
21, Letter from Samuel Chase to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 787
21, Letter from Doctor Witherspoon to Richard Stockton: Begs him to lose as little time as possible in getting some orders given about the sick, - - - - - - - - - 788
21, Letter from Lord Stirling to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 789
21, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: Loss of Fort Lee: reasons for ordering him to cross the North River, with the Continental troops, - - - - - - - - 789
21, Letter from General Washington to Governour Livingston: Retreat across the Hackensack and Passaick rivers, - - - - - - 790
21, Letter from General Washington to Colonel Allee, prisoner, - - - - - - 791
21, Extract of a letter from General Lee to Colonel Reed: His reasons for not crossing the North River, - - - - - - - - 792
21, Return of the Brigade commanded by Brigadier-General George Clinton, - - - - 792
21, Return of the Regiment of Foot in the service of the United Colonies, commanded by Colonel Isaac Nicoll, - - - - - - - 792
21, Letter from Joseph Reed, Adjutant-General, to General Lee: Does not mean to flatter nor praise him at the expense of any other, but does think that it is entirely owing to him that the Army, and the liberties of America, so far as they are dependent on it, are not totally cut off, - - - - - - - - 793
21, Letter from Colonel E. Huntington to the Committee of Litchfield, Connecticut, - 793
21, Extract of a letter from Colonel Jedediah Huntington to his son, - - - - - - - 793
21, Letter from General Lee to James Bowdoin: The idea of detaching from one side of the North River to the other, in present circumstances, is absolute insanity. Some means must be devised to raise your regular battalions, for as to your Militia, they are grown more detestable than ever, not from the bad quality of the men, but from the wretched character of the officers. Hopes the cursed job of Fort Washington will occasion no dejection, - - - - - - - - - 794
21, Letter from William Bradford (Aid-de-Camp to General Lee) to Meshech Weare, - - 794

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*Nov.* 21, Letter from General Lee to General Heath: Colonel Reed has written him a short billet that he does not well understand, - - 795
Billet and verbal message from Colonel Reed to General Lee: We are flying before the British; push on and join us, (note,) - - 795
21, Letter from General Lee to General Heath: Has just received a recommendation, not a positive order, to move the corps under his command to the other side of the river. There is no possibility of crossing at any place lower than King's Ferry, which, to us, would be such an immense round that we could never answer any purpose; therefore desires General Heath to send over two thousand of his corps instead, under a Brigadier-General, - - - - - - - - 795
21, Letter from General Heath to General Lee: His instructions are such as not to admit of moving any part of the troops from the posts assigned to him, unless by the express orders of General Washington, or in case of an attack, - - - - - - - - - 795
21, Letter from Henry Outhoudt and Anthony Van Bergen (Committee to purchase clothing) to New-York Convention, - - - - 796
21, Letter from General Schuyler to President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 796
21, Resolution of a Council of War held at Saratoga, respecting recruiting for the new army with all expedition, - - - - - - 797
21, Orders of General Schuyler for recruiting, - 797
21, Letter from General Herkheimer to New-York Committee of Arrangement: Recommends Captain John Eisenlord for a captaincy in the new arrangement, - - - - - 798
21, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - - 799
21, Act of Rhode-Island appointing a Committee to meet Committees from the Eastern States to hold a conference respecting further emissions of paper currency, - - - - - 865
21, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to John Langdon, - - - - - - - - 799
21, Intelligence: Invoice of a prize brig laden with clothing, - - - - - - - - 799
22, Letter from Abisha Washburn to Hugh Orr: Has been to Sheffield and viewed the place proposed for building a furnace for making cannon, and thinks it will answer for that purpose, - - - - - - - - - 800
21, Representation of John Allen, of Nova Scotia, to Massachusetts Council, relative to the Micmac and St. John's tribe of Indians, - 800
A short state of the inconveniences to which the troops on the Eastern Shore of Virginia are particularly subject, - - - - - - 807
22, Order of the Council of Virginia respecting the rations for the Continental troops serving in the State, - - - - - - - - 808
Resolve of the House of Delegates of Virginia transmitted to the Delegates in Congress, - 808
Address of the officers of the Seventh Virginia Regiment to Colonel William Crawford, - 808
Colonel Crawford's Answer, - - - - - 809
22, Letter from Samuel Chase to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 809
22, Address of Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the freemen of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia: Our enemies are advancing upon us, and the most vigorous measures alone can save this city from falling into their hands, - - - - - - - - 809
22, Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Committee: Regulations for the distribution of salt, - - 809
22, Lancaster Committee: Directions for expediting an exchange of prisoners of war, - 810
22, Letter from Committee of Reading (Pennsylvania) to Lancaster Committee: Request that prisoners of war sent from Lancaster to Fort Lee may not pass through Reading, - - 810
22, Letter from Allen McDonald (prisoner) to the President of Congress: He and his son are entitled to be arranged in the class of regular officers, - - - - - - - - 811
21, Letter from John Gibson, Auditor-General, to the Council of Delaware: Requesting them to furnish an account of the advances made by their State to the Army, - - - 811

1776.
*Nov.* 22, Letter from General Lee to the President of the Massachusetts Council: Indecision bids fair for tumbling down the goodly fabrick of American freedom. Even the resolves of Congress must no longer too nicely weigh with us; we must save the community in spite of the ordinances of the Legislature: Requests and conjures him to waive all formalities, and devise some means of completing not only the regiments prescribed to the Province, but add, if possible, four companies to each regiment. Must drive the tyrant's troops out of the Jerseys, or all is lost. Is determined to unnest 'em, even in the dead of winter, - 811
22, Letter from Henry Wisner and Gilbert Livingston to New-York Committee of Safety: Soundings of Hudson river in the Highlands, 812
22, Letter from Augustus Lawrence and Samuel Tudor to New-York Convention, - - 813
Instructions to the officers appointed to recruit in New-York for the service of the United States of America, - - - - - 813
22, Letter from Captain Copp to Gilbert Livingston: Asks his influence for an office in one of the New-York regiments, - - - - 814
22, Letter from Major Fonda to Robert Yates: Recommends sundry officers, - - - - 814
22, Letter from Matthew Griswold to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - 815
22, Declaration of Miles Delwood before the Committee of New-Melford, respecting his being inimical to the country, - - - - 815
22, Letter from General Ward to the President of Congress: Has ordered the Continental regiment stationed in New-Hampshire to Ticonderoga; would not have done it without directions, but the necessity of the case did not appear to admit of delay, - - - 815
22, Arrival of a flag of truce schooner at New-London with a letter from Lord Howe to Governour Trumbull, proposing an exchange of the Navy prisoners confined in Connecticut, - - - - - - - - - - 846
22, Letter from General Ward to Meshech Weare: Has ordered Colonel Long to march his regiment to Ticonderoga with the utmost expedition, - - - - - - - - - 816
22, Letter from John Avery to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 816
23, Letter from Lord Howe to the Secretary of the Admiralty: Naval and military operations, - 816
Return of the killed and wounded on board his Majesty's ships passing the batteries the 9th of October, - - - - - - - 818
23, Letter from Van Bibber & Harrison to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - 818
23, Terms upon which certain Continental troops in Virginia are to be victualed the ensuing year, - - - - - - - - - - 912
23, Letter from M. Audie to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - - 819
23, Letter from Samuel Chase to Maryland Council of Safety: Many of the Congress, some true friends, are uneasy at the powers of the Delegates of Maryland. They are apprehensive, if made known, they will reach Lord Howe and encourage him; and if the Courts of Europe should see them, it would prevent a foreign alliance, - - - - - - 819
23, Letter from the Board of War to General Washington: The prisoners of war have been directed to be sent to Brunswick, instead of Fort Lee, as before ordered, - - - - 820
23, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington: Desire information respecting the movements of General Howe, - 820
23, Letter from William Goodrich, in prison, to the President of Congress, - - - - 821
23, Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia to his friend in Baltimore, - - 821
23, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: The situation of affairs is truly critical and requires uncommon exertions. The enemy will certainly make a push to possess themselves of this part of Jersey; has wrote to General Lee to come over with the Continental regiments immediately under his command, - - - - - - - - 821

1776.
*Nov.* Abstract of the Return of the Troops now at and near New-Ark fit for duty, - - - - 822
23, Letter from General Washington to Governour Livingston: Further and immediate exertions are absolutely necessary, - - - - - 822
23, Letter from Colonel Huntington to General Heath: It would encourage the new inlistment if some of the officers and men could go home on furlough, - - - - - 822
23, Letter from General Lee to General Heath: By your mode of reasoning the General's instructions are so binding that not a tittle must be broke though for the salvation of the General and the Army: must desire that he will have two thousand men in readiness by the day after to-morrow, - - - - 822
23, Letter from General Heath to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - - 822
23, Examination of several prisoners, - - - - 823
23, Letter from Colonel Hardenbergh to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - 824
23, A return of men in garrison at the Forts Montgomery and Constitution, - - - - - 823
23, Intelligence: Prize taken by Captain Tillinghast, in the privateer sloop Independence, - 823
23, Letter from New-Hampshire Committee of Safety to New-York Convention: Have received about two hundred prisoners, sent by the Committee for detecting conspiracies, - 825
24, Letter from the President of Congress to General Washington: In order to give all possible assistance in keeping the Army together, Congress have appointed a Committee to repair to Head-Quarters, - - - - - 825
24, Letter from Edward Rutledge to John Jay: A good government should be established in New-York, with a strong Executive, - - 825
24, Letter from Richard Henry Lee to Samuel Purviance, Jr.: The Congress have determined to build in Maryland two frigates of thirty-six guns each. List of new ships to be immediately undertaken, - - - - - - 826
24, Letter from Benjamin Rumsey to Maryland Council of Safety: Views of Maryland relative to the publick lands and taxation, - - 827
24, Resolutions of Committee of Congress for reinforcing General Washington, - - - 828
24, Circular of Pennsylvania Council of Safety to Commanders of battalions: It is indispensably requisite that troops be immediately raised to reinforce General Washington, - 829
24, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: You seem to have mistaken my views entirely, in ordering troops from General Heath to cross Hudson's river to this side; Colonel Reed's second letter will have sufficiently explained my intention upon this subject, and pointed out to you that it was your division I want to have over, - - - - 829
24, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: A mail has fallen into the enemy's hands, - - - - - - - - - 830
24, Letter from General Washington to Colonel Forman: Orders to suppress insurrection of Tories in Monmouth County, - - - - 830
24, Letter from General Lee to General Washington: Has received his orders, and will endeavour to put them in execution. Sent Heath orders to transport two thousand men across the river, but that great man intrenched himself within the letter of his instructions, and refused to part with a single file, - - - - - - - - - - 831
24, Return of the forces under the command of General Lee, - - - - - - - - 831
24, Letter from General Lee to Colonel Reed: Laments with him that fatal indecision of mind, which in war is a much greater disqualification than stupidity, or even want of personal courage; accident may put a decisive blunderer right, but eternal defeat and miscarriage must attend the man of the best parts, if cursed with indecision. Will fly to him as soon as the business with Rogers is over, - 831
24, Letter from General Heath to General Lee: Conceives it to be his duty to obey his instructions, especially those which are positive and poignant, - - - - - - 834

1776.
Nov. 24, A Return of four Brigades under the commtand of Major-General Heath, - - - 833
24, Letter from Colonel Huntington to General Heath: The greatest part of the people between Ramapough and the enemy's camp are friendly to them, and will do them all the service in their power, - - - - 833
24, Letter from General Scott to New-York Committee of Arrangement: Recommends Rev. Mr. Tetard for Chaplain, - - - - 833
24, Letter from Colonel Livingston to New-York Committee of Arrangement: Recommends sundry persons, - - - - - 834
24, Letter from General Schuyler to General Gates: Directing him to remain at Albany till further orders, - - - - - - - 835
24, Letter from Colonel Willett to Robert Yates. - 835
Order of the Massachusetts Council to Colonel Pickering to discharge Captain Ward's company, - - - - - - - - 835
25, Letter from Captain Martin to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 835
25, Letter from John Haas and others to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 836
25, Letter from James Tilghman to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 836
25, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to Lancaster Committee, - - - - - 837
25, Letter from Committee of Congress for reinforcing the Army under General Washington to George Read, - - - - - - 837
25, Letter from General Washington to Colonel Atlee, prisoner, - - - - - - 838
25, Letter from General Washington to Colonel Miles, prisoner, - - - - - - 838
25, Letter from Colonel R. H. Harrison to General Heath: General Washington has wrote General Lee so explicitly respecting the troops, that any misapprehensions he may have been under at first must now be done away, - 839
25, Extract of a letter from Newark: There is very good intelligence that the enemy intend to make a push for Philadelphia, - - - 839
25, Letter from Colonel Guy Johnson to Lord George Germain: Indian affairs, - - 839
25, Extract of a letter from an English officer at New-York: Lord Cornwallis is carrying all before him in the Jerseys; it is impossible but that peace must soon be the consequence of our success, - - - - - - - 840
25, Letter from Colonel Huntington to General Heath: The people are constantly distressing him with their fears from the enemy and Tories, - - - - - - - - 840
25, Letter from General Scott to New-York Convention: Earnestly requests the interposition of the Convention to prevent the disbanding of his brigade on Sunday next, - - - 841
25, Letter from General Lee to James Bowdoin: Would it not be prudent to order all the Continental stores to a more centrical place than Boston? - - - - - - - - 841
25, Letter from Colonel Hay to General Heath, - 842
25, Council of War at General Heath's quarters, - 842
25, Order to General Scott to move with his brigade to Haverstraw, - - - - - - - 842
25, Letter from Joseph Trumbull to President of Congress, - - - - - - - 842
25, Letter from Colonel Hazen to the President of Congress: Urges that Crown Point be fortified, and a fleet built for the lake, - - 842
25, Letter from Colonel Wayne to Colonel Hurd, 845
25, Letter from Governour Trumbull to James Bowdoin, forwarding General Lee's application for blankets, - - - - - - - 845
25, Letter from Governour Trumbull to James Bowdoin: Connecticut declines uniting in a Convention on the subject of paper currency, - 845
25, Report of Committee on the application made by Lord Howe for an exchange of prisoners in Connecticut: That such an application to this State is altogether improper, and that the Governour be desired to advise General Washington of this singular application, - 846
25, Letter from William Franklin to Mrs. Franklin, 847
25 Letter from Governour Cooke to Massachusetts Assembly: Forwarding resolutions of Congress transmitted to him by General Lee, - 848

1776.
Nov. 25, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to the Marine Committee: The Hamden is nearly fitted; the new ships and the Columbus are ready, but not yet fully manned, - - - - 848
25, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Leonard Jarvis, - - - - - - - - 849
25, Intelligence: Arrival of a schooner from France, 849
25, Letter from Noah Goodman to James Bowdoin: Declines the appointment of Major, - - 850
25, Letter from Joseph Greenleaf to James Warren: Has stopped a number of bills of credit which had been altered and offered for larger sums than their real value, - - - - - 850
25, Resolve of House of Representatives of Massachusetts for the release of Hopestill Capen, - 1519
Certificates of sundry inhabitants of Boston in favour of Hopestill Capen, - - - - 1519
25, Letter from Josiah Bartlett to William Whipple, 850
26, Letter from Silas Deane to the Secret Committee: Introduces and recommends Mr. Rogers as a deserving young gentleman, - - 851
26, Letter from Silas Deane to the Secret Committee: Ships of war may be purchased at Leghorn ready fitted for sea cheaper than at any other port in Europe, - - - - 851
26, Agreement of Silas Deane with three French officers, - - - - - - - - 886
26, Letter from William Aylett, Deputy Commissary-General, to Richard Henry Lee, - - 910
26, Letter from John Archer to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 851
26, Letter from the President of Congress to General Washington, - - - - - - 852
26, Letter from General Mifflin to General Washington: Measures pursued by him at Philadelphia to arouse the people to vigorous exertions against the enemy, - - - - 852
26, Letter from Samuel Chase to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 853
26, Letter from Sebastian Graff to Jasper Yates, - 749
26, Intelligence at Philadelphia, - - - - 854
26, Orders of General Williamson to Colonel Ford to march with all the Militia in his County to Elizabethtown immediately, - - - 1124
26, Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Committee, - - 851
26, Letter from Robert H. Harrison to General Schuyler: General Washington desires him to send down with all possible expedition the whole of the troops belonging to Pennsylvania and Jersey, which are in the Northern department, to join the Army under his immediate command, - - - - - 854
26, Letter from Governour Tryon to Lord George Germain: Has not thought it prudent in the present moment to make a publick declaration of the Royal disposition in favour of the inhabitants of Staten-Island, - - - 855
26, Extract of a letter from an English officer at New-York: Have taken Fort Washington, the strongest post that ever was occupied by an army, - - - - - - - - 855
26, Letter from General Lee to General Washington: Causes of his detention; part of the Army have moved on; he sets out to-morrow, 856
26, Letter from General Lee to General Heath: The Commander-in-Chief is now separated from us. I of course command on this side the water; for the future I will and must be obeyed, - - - - - - - - 857
26, Letter from Joseph Trumbull to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 857
26, Letter from Colonel Henry B. Livingston to New-York Committee of Arrangement, - 857
26, Intelligence from New-York, brought by David Hunt, of Westchester, a known friend to America, - - - - - - - - 858
26, Letter from General Heath to General Washington: The provisions, warlike and naval stores, near the river, have been safely brought off, - - - - - - - - 858
26, Letter from General Heath to the New-York Convention: If the several regiments, whose time is now expired, could be prevailed upon to continue a little longer, it would greatly promote the service, - - - - - 859
26, Letter from General Heath to New-York Convention: Shall assiduously pursue the plan of securing the passes through the Highlands, 859

1776.
Nov. 26, Letter from General Heath to Colonel Cheever, Commissary of Artillery Stores, - - 860
26, Letter from General George Clinton to New-York Convention: The obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river across Polopin's is very practicable, and of the utmost moment to the publick, - - - - - - - 860
26, Order of General Heath to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, - - - - - - 860
26, State of the sick of Colonel Bradley's Regiment, - - - - - - - - - 860
26, Letter from Rev. John Mason to Robert Harper: Suggests sundry matters which he hopes will be provided for in settling the constitution of New-York, - - - - - - 861
26, Letter from General Schuyler to General Gates, 861
26, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - - 862
26, Letter from Benjamin Birdsall to New-York Convention: Unhappy situation he is labouring under, in the unnatural contest between Great Britain and America, - - - - 862
26, Memorial of Frederick Philips to the Congress of New-York, - - - - - - - 864
26, Letter from Henry Ward to the Speaker of the New-Hampshire House of Representatives, 864
26, Letter from Governour Cooke to Massachusetts Assembly: Transmits copy of a letter received from General Lee, - - - - 865
26, Letter from Massachusetts Council to General Washington: Major Shaw has at length arrived with a few Indians inlisted into the Continental service, - - - - - - 865
26, Orders of Massachusetts Council to Major Shaw to repair to General Washington, with the Indians under his care, - - - - 866
26, Convention of Committees from a majority of towns in Worcester County, Massachusetts: Proceedings respecting the formation of a system of Government, - - - - - 866
27, Letter from Silas Deane to the President of Congress: Recommendation of Mr. Rogers, a native of Maryland, and Aid-de-Camp to Monsieur du Coudray, - - - - - 867
27, Letter from Silas Deane to the Secret Committee: Suggests a naval enterprise against the Banks of Newfoundland. Two frigates arriving early in February would destroy the fishery, for one, if not two years, and obtain an acquisition of a fine body of recruits for the Navy, - - - - - - - - - 867
27, Articles of Agreement for supplying the Virginia troops with certain provisions, - - 912
27, Letter from Aquila Hall to Maryland Council of Safety: Recommends Captain Mathews for the command of one of the gondolas now building, - - - - - - - - - 868
27, Letter from Thomas Smyth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 868
27, Letter from James Murray to Maryland Council of Safety: Resigns his command of a battalion of Militia, - - - - - - 868
Memorial of John Sergeant, missionary to the Mohekunnuk tribe of Indians, at Stockbridge, to Continental Congress, - - 868
Memorial of Mr. Thomas Denef to Continental Congress: Solicits the appointment of Lieutenant under Mr. Romand de Lisle, - - 869
27, Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Committee, - - 869
27, Letter from Governour Livingston to General Washington, - - - - - - - 869
Act of New-Jersey for the raising of four battalions, - - - - - - - - - 870
Circular of Governour Livingston to the several Colonels in New-Jersey: Directed to have their battalions ready to march at the shortest notice, - - - - - - - - - 870
27, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress, - - - - - - 871
27, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: His former letters were so full and explicit, as to the necessity of his marching as early as possible, that it is unnecessary to add more on that head: expected he would have been sooner in motion, - - - - 871
27, Letter from Colonel Harrison to General Heath: Importance of General Scott's brigade continuing in service fifteen or twenty days more than they first engaged for, - - 871
1776.
Nov. 27, Letter from Governour Tryon to Lord George Germain: Description of a plat of ground in New-York city, which he recommends, upon a settlement of the war, to be reserved as Crown land, for the purposes of a standing garrison, - - - - - - - - - 872
27, Letter from General Lee to New-Hampshire Council: Suggests whether it is not expedient to lay a temporary embargo on privateers until the regiments of each State are completed, - - - - - - - - 872
27, Letter from General Lee to the President of the Council of Massachusetts: The same, - 872
27, Letter from General Lee to Governour Trumbull: The same, - - - - - - 872
27, Letter from General Heath to General Scott: His situation will not allow him to send over any more troops at present; imagines that General Lee's division will very soon pass over, - - - - - - - - - 872
27, Order of General Heath to Captain Treadwell to move over the river with the three-pounder, and join General Scott's Brigade, - - 873
27, Letter from Captain Sacket to Robert Yates: Recommends Gilbert Strang for Ensign to his company, - - - - - - - 873
27, Letter from Pierre Van Cortlandt to General Heath, transmitting resolutions of Committee of Safety respecting a party of Colonel Bradley's Regiment, - - - - - - 873
27, Letter from General St. Clair to General Gates, 874
27, Letter from General Gates to President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 874
General Orders, Northern Army, November 6 to November 18, - - - - - - - 875
27, Letter from William Edmiston to General Gates: Asks leave to go to General Howe on his own private affairs, and will return at any specified time, - - - - - 879
27, Letter from Henry Quackenboss to the New-York Convention, - - - - - - 879
27, Letter from General Schuyler to General Gates: As his presence is much more required to the northward than any where else, he cannot go down at present, - - - - - - 879
27, Providence (Rhode-Island) town-meeting: Vote to raise forty-three men, including officers, being their quota of a regiment to be raised for the defence of the State, - - 879
27, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Governour Cooke: List of deserters from the fleet, - 880
27, Extract of a letter from Boston: Capture of a fleet of eight vessels bound to Quebeck, with supplies for the Army, - - - - - 1183
Narrative of Mr. Lamout's observations during the time he was a prisoner in Massachusetts-Bay, from the 22d of September till the 27th of November, - - - - - - - - 880
27, Letter from William Tupper to the Massachusetts Assembly: The Committee of Safety for the County of Cumberland, in Nova-Scotia, have represented the extreme difficulties they labour under by means of their joining with Captain Eddy's party, and importunately request aid, - - - - - - 881
28, Letter from Silas Deane to the Secret Committee, - - - - - - - - - 882
Supplies of mast and other timbers from the North, (enclosed in Mr. Deane's letter,) - 885
28, Letter from Maryland Council of Safety to the Board of War: Have given directions for marching the prisoners as soon as possible, that an exchange may take place, - - 888
28, Letter from Thomas Sparrow to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 888
28, Letter from William Harrison to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 888
28, Letter from Colonel Whipple to Meshech Weare: Accounts from abroad are very favourable, though of such a nature that he is not at liberty to communicate them, - - 889
28, Town-meeting in the State-House yard, at Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - 890
Address of "Hampden" to the Associators of Pennsylvania, - - - - - - - 890
28, Letter from Colonel Reed to the President of Congress, resigning his commission as Adjutant-General, - - - - - - - 891

1776.
*Nov.* 28, Extract of a letter from Woodbridge, New-Jersey: Arrived at this place at sunset; we march for Brunswick to-morrow, - - - 891
28, Letter from General Mercer to the President of Congress: Recommends for preferment Lieutenants Burwell and Smith, of the First Virginia Regiment, - - - - - - 891
Letter from General Mercer to Lord Stirling: Intelligence from the enemy, - - - 891
Information of the enemy by sundry persons from Brunswick, - - - - - - 892
28, Letter from Ephraim Blaine to the President of Congress: Has purchased a quantity of beef and pork, and is daily engaging flour, - 892
28, Letter from Governour Tryon to Lord George Germain: Offers his congratulations on the repeated and honourable achievements of the British and Hessian troops; another campaign, pressed with equal vigour, he trusts will restore tranquillity and union to the British empire, - - - - - - - - 892
28, Letter from Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain, - - - - - - - - - 893
28, Letter from General Scott to General Heath, - 894
28, Letter from General Scott to the New-York Committee of Safety, - - - - - 895
28, Letter from Colonel A. Hawkes Hay to John McKesson: Enclosing an account for sundries supplied the guards while the ships-of-war lay in the bay of Haverstraw and Nyack, 896
28, Letter from General James Clinton to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 897
28, Letter from Frederick Roorback to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 898
28, Letter from Mrs. Margaret Inglis to James Duane: Desires leave to return to New-York with her family and furniture, - - - 898
28, Letter from William Miller to the New-York Convention: Desires some written order may be sent respecting the records of the County, 898
28, Letter from Pierre Van Cortlandt to General Heath: The necessity of securing the passes in the Highlands is so urgent, that it would have given the Convention infinite pain had the troops in his division been withdrawn, - 899
28, Letter from Albany Committee to New-York Convention: Abuses committed on flour by the manufacturers of it, both in quality and weight, - - - - - - - - 844
28, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 899
28, Letter from Governour Cooke to Commodore Hopkins: Will give all due assistance to the officers of the fleet in picking up their deserters, - - - - - - - - - 900
28, Letter from Colonel Francis to James Bowdoin: Accepts the appointment of Colonel of one of the new regiments, - - - 900
28, Letter from Colonel Francis to Massachusetts Council: His regiment will not continue in service upon the present encouragement, - 900
28, Letter from John Adams to James Warren: Will attend the House of Representatives, - 900
29, Letter from Silas Deane to the Secret Committee: Should not have completed what he has, but for the exertions of Monsieur Beaumarchais, to whom the United States are more indebted than to any other person on this side the water, - - - - - - - 900
29, Letter from Silas Deane to Secret Committee: Recommends Colonel Conway, the bearer, for a commission as Adjutant or Brigadier-General, - - - - - - - - - 901
29, Notice of the funeral of the Hon. Peyton Randolph, - - - - - - - - - 902
29, Arrival of an express at Williamsburg, Virginia, with despatches from Colonel Christie, advising of his having returned from the Cherokee country, - - - - - - - - 902
29, Arrival at Hampton, Virginia, of three salt vessels, and a French brig from Cape François, with a valuable cargo of woolens, linens, and other dry-goods, - - - - - - 902
29, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety: Has paid all the bills, and advanced all the money for both captains and hands for the schooner Friendship and the Ninety-Two; they all promise they will sail to-morrow, - - - - - - - 903

1776.
*Nov.* 29, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety: Expects all the vessels will sail to-morrow: Has some salt which the people threaten to take from him by violence, - 903
29, Letter from Captain Conway to Maryland Council of Safety: Informs of his safe arrival from Martinico, in the sloop Molly, - - 903
29, Letter from Marine Committee to Captain Warner: Direct him to return to Philadelphia with the schooner Fly, - - - - - 904
29, Petition of Major Lamb to Continental Congress: Requests he may be included in the next exchange of prisoners, - - - - 904
29, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: Approves his application to Governour Trumbull for a reinforcement of Militia, and to Mr. Bowdoin for clothes, - - - - 904
29, Letter from Robert H. Harrison to Colonel Joseph Trumbull, Commissary-General of Provisions, - - - - - - - - - 904
29, Letter from Robert H. Harrison to Colonel Palfrey, Paymaster-General, - - - - - 905
29, Letter from Major Clark to General Washington: Information of an embarkation of the enemy, brought by a prisoner who made his escape from New-York, - - - - - 1070
29, Letter from Colonel Tyler to General Heath, - 905
29, Letter from Ebenezer Lockwood to the New-York Convention: Has been at Stamford this day, and is informed that there are but a few of the enemy's ships up the Sound, - - 905
29, Letter from General Heath to General Scott, - 906
29, Certificate of Delegates of Tryon County, in favour of Captain McKean and Lieutenant French, - - - - - - - - - 906
29, Letter from Doctor Chauncey Graham to General Heath: Asks directions respecting the sick put under his care, - - - - - 906
29, Letter from J. Trumbull to Governour Trumbull: General Schuyler has desired me to exchange offices with Colonel Lewis, Quartermaster-General; what his meaning is, I am at a loss; he affects to flatter me with commendations, which I know not the meaning of, - - - - - - - - - 907
29, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 907
29, Letter from Josiah Waters, Jun., to James Bowdoin: A cartel is settled for the exchange of the prisoners on board the Whitty, prison-ship, at New-York, to take place on the tenth of December, at Huntington-Bay, - - 907
29, Escape of prisoners from Windham Jail, - 907
29, Letter from James Jauncy, Jun., to Robert R. Livingston: Desires to have leave from the Convention for himself and family to return home, - - - - - - - - - 908
29, Volunteer company at Waterbury, Connecticut, composed of a number of aged gentlemen in the first society in the town, - - - 908
Notice to the friends of the American prisoners in New-York, of an opportunity to send them letters and money, - - - - - - 909
29, Letter from Major Batt (Fort Cumberland, Nova-Scotia) to Lieutenant-Colonel Gorham: Attack on the Rebels; burnt every Rebel's house and barn for six miles, including the whole French settlements at Bloody Bridge, - 909
30, Letter from Henricus Godet (St. Eustatia) to the President of Congress, - - - - 910
30, Letter from William Aylett, Deputy Commissary-General, to Richard Henry Lee, - - 913
30, Letter from Pliarne, Penet, & Co., to the Secret Committee, (original,) - - - 610
30, Translation of the above, - - - - 612
30, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety: Has a large parcel of powder that Captain Martin brought in; wishes to know what to do with it, - - - - 914
30, Letter from Stephen Steward to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - 914
30, Letter from William Rumsey to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - 915
30, Letter from Thomas Bond to Colonel Benjamin Rumsey: Officers chosen in Captain Amos's company, - - - - - 915
Letter from Joshua Amos to the Committee of Harford County, Maryland: Accepts the appointment of First Lieutenant, - - - 915

1776.
Nov. 30, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 916
30, Letter from Samuel Chase to Maryland Council of Safety: Congress desire inquiry to be made of some Nanticoke Indians, which the Six Nations allege came into Maryland and have not been heard of, - - - - - 916
30, Letter from Colonel Haussegger to Richard Peters: The Powder Magazine at Branch Creek, which is very small, will soon be full, 916
30, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the Lancaster Committee: It is highly expedient that the prisoners be forwarded as fast as possible to the Jerseys, in order for an exchange, - - - - - - - 917
30, Epaminondas to the People of Pennsylvania, - 917
30, Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Committee, - - 918
30, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Arrived at Brunswick yesterday; it was the opinion of all the Generals who were with him, that a retreat to this place was founded in necessity, - - 919
30, Letter from General Washington to the Board of War: In his opinion, it is neither consistent with the rules of war nor politick, to inlist prisoners of war; nor can he think because our enemies have committed an unjustifiable act, we ought to follow their example, - - - - - - - 920
30, Letter from General Washington to Governour Livingston: General Williamson gives him small encouragement to hope for much assistance from the Militia of New-Jersey, - 920
30, Letter from General Washington to Adjutant-General Reed: Excuse for seeing the contents of a letter which neither inclination nor intention would have prompted him to, - 921
30, Weekly Return of the First Regiment of Foot in the Continental service, commanded by Colonel Edward Hand, - - - - - 921
30, Letter from General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: Military operations from the 12th of October to the retreat of General Washington to Brunswick, - - - - 921
30, Letter from General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: Naval expedition to Rhode-Island: proposed operations of the next campaign, - - - - - - 926
30, Proclamation by Lord Howe and General Howe, - - - - - - - - 927
30, Extract of a letter from New-York, received in London: The British Army moulders away amazingly; many die by the sword, many by sickness, brought on by the bad provisions we have had from Ireland; great numbers will not see the winter over, - - - - 928
30, Letter from General Scott to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 929
30, Letter from General Scott to the New-York Convention: Has had a return of those in his brigade willing to continue a month in the service; their number too trifling to be mentioned, - - - - - - - 931
30, Letter from Henry Wisner to Pierre Van Cortlandt and William Duer, - - - - - 932
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30, Letter from General Lee to General Washington: With regard to his not being in motion sooner, assures him that he has done all in his power, and shall explain his difficulties when they both have leisure, - - - - 932
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30, Letter from John McKesson to General Heath, 935
30, Letter from Dr. Graham to General Heath, - 936
30, Letter from Colonels Van Schaick, Cortlandt, and Gansevoort, to the New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 936

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Nov. 30, Letter from John Lansing, Jun., to James Duane: Declines the appointment of Lieutenant, General Schuyler having honoured him with the office of Secretary, - - 936
30, Letter from John Trumbull to Colonel Patterson: His regiment on the new establishment to be at Springfield, where he will order his officers and men to repair on the first of January, - - - - - - - 624
30, Letter from Governour Trumbull to the President of Congress: The Assembly request that two battalions of Continental troops may be stationed in the towns on their sea-coast, to protect them from sudden invasion: have ordered four battalions to be immediately inlisted to serve under General Washington until the 15th of March, - - - - - 936
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30, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Lee, - - - - - - - - - 938
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*Nov.* 6, Lord John Cavendish said, that he had seen in the publick prints of this day a most extraordinary Declaration, which, if genuine, requires the attention of the House, - - 1006
The Declaration of Lord Howe and General Howe of the 19th of September, read, - 1006
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Lord George Germain confessed the authenticity of the paper in question, - - - 1007
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*Navy Estimates.*
*Nov.* 8, Motion by Mr. Buller, that forty-five thousand seamen, including ten thousand one hundred and twenty-nine marines, be employed for the year 1777, - - - - - - 1016
Debate—Sir George Yonge, - - - - 1016
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The Attorney-General, - - - 1020
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Honourable Mr. Luttrell, - - - 1020
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1776.
*Dec.* 1, Letter from Silas Deane to the Secret Committee: Ways and means for defraying the expense of the present war, - - - - - 1019
1, Letter from George Cook to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 1024
1, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1024
1, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety: Can load twenty vessels rather than man and sail two; the money paid to captains and sailors is wonderful, and no way to shun it, - - - - - - - 1025
1, Letter from Thomas Smyth to Maryland Council of Safety: The row-galley building at his yard is nearly ready to launch; wishes to know what name to call her, - - - - 1025
1, Letter from the President of Congress to General Washington: Congress have agreed that he may order into the Jerseys the troops at present on the east side of Hudson's river, - 1026
1, Letter from the President of Congress to Dr. Morgan, - - - - - - - - - 1026
1, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: The enemy are fast advancing; some of them are now in sight; the Jersey Flying-Camp have refused to continue longer in service, - - - - - - - 1026
1, Letter from General Washington to Governour Livingston: Cannot help calling on him in the most urgent manner, and begging him to fall upon proper means to draw forth the strength of New-Jersey to his support, - 1027
1, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: Entreats him to hasten his march as much as possible, or his arrival may be too late to answer any valuable purpose, - - 1027
1, Letter from General Washington to General Howe: Exchange of prisoners, - - - 1028
1, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: It being impossible to oppose the enemy with our present force with the least prospect of success, we shall retreat to the west side of Delaware, - - - 1028
1, General Return of the Army, - - - 1035
1, Extract of a letter from New-York to a gentleman in London: Should not wonder if the King's troops were put in possession of Philadelphia without striking a blow, - - 1028
1, Winter quarters of the British Army in Canada, 1028
1, Letter from General Heath to Colonel Tyler, - 1029
Letter from Colonel Scammell to General Heath: General Lee desires a quantity of lead, if there is any to spare at Peekskill, - 1030
1, Letter from Nicholas Quackenbush to Judge Duer: Difficulties from want of forage, - 1030
1, Letter from Isaac Nicoll to Pierre Van Cortlandt, - - - - - - - - - 1030
1, Letter from Timothy Danielson to General Washington: Officers appointed by the Committee of Massachusetts, - - - - - 1030
1, Letter from John Bard to the New-York Convention: Offers his teams for the publick service for a week at his private expense, - 1 30
1, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to Captain Elmendorf: On obstructing the navigation of Hudson's river, - - - - - 1031
1, Letter from General Gates to General Schuyler, 1031
1, Letter from Colonel Wayne to General Gates, 1031
Letter from Joseph Trumbull to General Washington: Leaves Mr. William Hoskins to act for him in his absence in New-England, - 1032
2, Letter from Governour Cooke to Massachusetts Assembly: A large fleet of square-rigged vessels was seen this morning between Block-Island and Montauk, steering for Newport, - 1032
2, Letter from James Bowdoin to Massachusetts Council, - - - - - - - - - 1033
2, Letter from Baltimore Committee to Maryland Council of Safety: Request the commissions for Colonel Cockey's Battalion, - - - 1033
2, Letter from Robert Cummins to the Maryland Council of Safety: Offers to contract for supplying the troops with provisions, - - 1033
2, Letter from the Pennsylvania Council of Safety to commanding officers of battalions: There is no time for words; exert yourselves like men, - - - - - - - - - 1033

1776.
*Dec.* 2, Letter from Jasper Yates to Richard Peters, - 749
2, Letter from Colonel Joseph Reed to the President of Congress: Retracts his resignation, - 1033
2, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Hoped General Lee would have arrived before now, - - - - - 1034
2, Letter from General Washington to Captain Ottendorf: Authorized to inlist a company of Germans, - - - - - - - - 1034
2, An estimate of the provisions and men at and near Trenton; also the cattle on the east side of the river Delaware, - - - - 1034
Return of officers in General Sullivan's Brigade, 1035
2, Extract of a letter received in London from a Field Officer in the King's Army at New-York: The Rebels continue flying before our Army; the Congress have lost their authority: it consists now of only seven members at Philadelphia; if they embrace the proclamation, they may yet escape the halter, - - 1037
2, Letter from Colonel Sargeant to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 1038
2, Letter from Colonel Huntington to General Heath: Is it not feasible to possess ourselves of Hackensack? - - - - - - 1039
2, Letter from General James Clinton to the New-York Convention, - - - - - 1039
2, Letter from General James Clinton to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 1039
2, Letter from General George Clinton to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 1040
2, Memorial of John Hathorn to New-York Committee of Safety: Praying for protection of his property against the disorderly spirit pervading among the common people, - - 1040
2, Letter from General Heath to General Washington: General Lee is this day beginning to pass the river with his division, - - 1040
2, Letter from Colonel Weissenfels to Robert Yates: Encloses a list of officers who refuse to serve, and of those whom he recommends, 1041
2, Letter from Col. Weissenfels to Robert Harper, 1041
2, Letter from James Duane to New-York Committee of Arrangement, - - - - 1042
2, Letter from James Clay to Delegates from Cumberland County, in New-York Convention, - 1042
2, Court of Inquiry on General Arnold, - - 1042
2, Letter from Colonel Brown to General Gates: Begs an answer to his petition respecting General Arnold, - - - - - - 1159
2, Letter from Colonel Brown to General Gates: Requesting an answer in writing to his petition presented yesterday, - - - - 1159
2, Letter from General Gates to Colonel Brown: Shall lay his petition before Congress, who will, when they see fit, give such orders as they think necessary, - - - - 1160
2, Letter from General Schuyler to Pierre Van Cortlandt: His opinion on the best mode of obstructing Hudson river, - - - - 1043
2, Letter from Adjutant Stelle to Governour Cooke: This evening, about sunset, came to anchor off the west end of Block-Island, eleven sail of British ships, armed, - - 1087
2, Intelligence at Newport: Arrival of sloop Providence, Captain Hacker, - - - - 1044
2, Letter from Massachusetts Assembly to President of Congress: Recommend Mr. Faneuil and others, and their plan of raising one or more regiments to be officered by French gentlemen, - - - - - - - 1044
2, Letter from John Langdon to Meshech Weare, 1045
2, Letter from Josiah Bartlett to William Whipple: Hopes the Congress act with more spirit than they have done lately, or else he is assured they will lose much of their former influence, - 1045
3, Translation of a letter written by a foreigner on his travels: Character of the English, - - 1046
3, Letter from Silas Deane to the Committee of Secret Correspondence: History of his proceedings, - - - - - - - - 1050
3, Letter from Silas Deane to John Jay: Suggests destruction of Newfoundland fisheries. Could fill ten ships with passengers for America; copy of articles acknowledging the independence of the United States, which have been shown to him, and which have been seen by both the Courts of France and Spain, - - 1051

1776.
Dec. 3, Letter from Matthew Tilghman to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1053
3, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Arrived at Trenton yesterday morning with the main body of the Army; has not heard a word from General Lee since the 26th last month, though he has despatched daily expresses to him, desiring to know when he might look for him, - 1053
3, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: The sooner he can join him with his division, the sooner the service will be benefited; as to bringing any of the troops under General Heath, he cannot consent to it, - 1054
3, Letter from General Washington to General Howe, - - - - - - - - 1054
3, Letter from Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: Must detain his prisoners until the Rebels return the King's officers and men, - 1054
Return of commissioned and non-commissioned officers, rank and file, killed, wounded, and missing, belonging to the Army under the command of his Excellency the honourable General Howe, in several actions, &c., with the Rebels, from the 17th of September to the 16th of November, 1776, inclusive, specifying the different periods, and the corps the casualties have happened in, - - 1055
Return of Ordnance and Stores taken by his Majesty's troops in the redoubts and lines of the enemy, from their landing at Frog Neck, Westchester County, from the 12th of October to the 20th of November, 1776, - - 1058
3, Extract of a letter from an English officer, at New-York, - - - - - - - - 1059
3, Letter from Colonel Malcom to General Heath, 1059
3, Letter from Colonel Hay to General Heath, - 1059
3, Letter from General Heath to Pierre Van Cortlandt: Shall pay a particular attention to the passes on the west side of Hudson river. A hospital for the reception of the sick is extremely wanted, - - - - - - 1060
3, Letter from Ezra Thompson to Jonathan Landon: Certificate of work done by McDonald at the lead mines, - - - - - - 1060
3, Letter from the New-York Committee of Safety to General Heath: Complaints of depredations committed by Captain Ford and his company, - - - - - - - - 1061
3, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to John Rowe, - - - - - - - - 1061
3, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to Captain Nathaniel Platt, - - - - - 1061
3, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to Captain Weeks, - - - - - - 1061
3, Letter from John Elmendorf to New-York Committee of Safety: Declines appointment to collect boats, scows, and crafts, for carrying stone, - - - - - - - - - 1062
3, Letter from Colonel Gansevoort to Robert Yates: Recommends two gentlemen for Ensigns, - - - - - - - - - 1062
3, Letter from General Schuyler to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - 1062
3, Letter from General Schuyler to Meshech Weare, - - - - - - - - 1063
3, Deposition of Oliver Johnson and others, respecting the violent and wicked conduct of sundry persons who had spent the evening with Governour Franklin, - - - - - 1063
3, Letter from Governour Cooke to New-Hampshire Assembly: Yesterday morning a large fleet of square-rigged vessels was seen, who in all probability are designed for an attack upon Rhode-Island, - - - - - - 1065
3, Letter from the Massachusetts Board of War to Messrs. Penet & Son, merchants at Bordeaux: An order for fire-arms, - - - 1065
3, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Messrs. Jackson & Tracy, - - - 1065
3, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to John White, - - - - - - - 1066
An act of Massachusetts to prevent the forging and altering bills of publick credit, and for preventing the depreciation thereof; and for making the bills of credit of the United Colonies and the bills of this Government a tender in all payments, - - - - - 1066

1776.
Dec. 4, Letter from Captain Cook to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 1068
4, Letter from Mat. Driver to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 1068
4 Letter from the President of Congress to General Washington: Governour Franklin not to be exchanged till further orders, - - 1069
4, Letter from New-York Delegates in Congress to the Committee of Safety: Congress have granted leave to New-York to raise another battalion, to be commanded by Colonel Dubois, - - - - - - - - - 1069
4, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress, - - - - - - 1069
4, Letter from General Washington to the Board of War: More regularity must be observed in sending on prisoners for exchange; if left to choose their own route, they will always take that through our Army, for reasons too obvious to mention, - - - - - 1070
4 Letter from Governour Tryon to Rev. Dr. Inglis: Forwards by him, under the flag of truce, a packet for William Smith, - - - 1156
4, Letter from Jacob Watson, New-York city, to Daniel Birdsall: Asks him to dispose of his salt, at the going price, and lay the money out in flaxseed, pork, or good firkin butter, 1156
4, Letter from Murray, Simpson, & Co., Philadelphia: As they do not wish to have any Continental money on hand, desire their goods may not be disposed of till further notice, - 1157
4, Letter from Jacob Watson, New-York, to Daniel Terboss: Is willing his salt should be sold for pork, flaxseed, and good firkin butter, - 1157
4, Letter from General Greene to Governour Cooke: History of the state of the Army, - 1071
4, Letter from Colonel Huntington to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 1072
4, Letter from General Lee to General Washington: Has received his pressing letter; since which has intelligence that he had quitted Brunswick, so that it is impossible to know where he can join him; but although he should not be able to join him at all, hopes to render him service which will be full as efficacious, - - - - - - 1072
4, Letter from General Lee to General Heath: For ten hogsheads of rum, - - - 1073
4, Letter from Colonel Malcolm to General Scott: The choicest of the men continue with him, are exceedingly hearty, and in high spirits, - - - - - - - - 1073
4, Letter from Joseph Trumbull to Governour Trumbull: Some companies have more officers than privates at best; but not content with that, they add brevet officers, to pick the pockets of the publick; is sorry to have the character of the State suffer by such conduct of its officers, - - - - 1073
4, Letter from General Heath to Colonel Malcom: The noble principles which animated his regiment to continue a little longer in the service at this critical time, cannot fail to ensure them lasting honour, - - - - - 1074
4, Letter from General James Clinton to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 1074
4, Letter from William Duer to New-Hampshire Assembly: Enclosing two resolutions of the Committee appointed by the New-York Convention for inquiring into, detecting, and defeating conspiracies, - - - - - 1075
4, Letter from Peter R. Livingston to Robert Benson, - - - - - - - - - 1076
4, Letter from J. Trumbull, Jun., to Governour Trumbull: General Gates, General Arnold, and several regiments have gone from the Northern department to join the Army below: the people are much surprised, not to say uneasy, at the return of so many Tories, some of whom are the most dangerous of any they sent away, - - - - - - - 1076
4, Letter from J. Roorback to Robert Yates: Wishes to know why his step-son, John Visscher, was passed by in the new appointment, - - - - - - - - 1076
4, Letter from Colonel Wood to Pennsylvania Council of Safety: Represents the suffering of the soldiers in the Northern Army, - - 1358

1776.
Dec. 4, Letter from Colonel Wayne to the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety: Has made strict inquiry concerning the supposed fraud they mention, and finds no just foundation for the charge; if soldiers have gone home without their pay, it is not the officers who are to blame, - - - - - - - - 1359
4, Letter from Governour Trumbull to Governour Cooke: Connecticut has declined meeting by Commissioners at Providence to join in measures for securing the bills of credit against depreciation; has made the Continental and its own bills of credit a legal tender, - - - - - - - - - 1077
4, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1077
4, Flag of truce taken into custody at New-Haven last Saturday; acquitted after examination, - 1077
4, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Governour Cooke: Would be glad that the Board would devise some way to complete their men, and likewise some way that the great number of deserters may be sent on board, - - - 1078
4, Letter from Alexander Wilson to Massachusetts Board of War: Terms on which he proposes to go a voyage to Europe, - - 1078
4, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Hugh Orr: Are now ready to treat for casting cannon, - - - - - - - - - 1078
4, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Captain Ayres: Orders to proceed to sea for the purpose of reconnoitring a fleet said to be off Block-Island, - - - - - - 1078
4, Letter from Major Cushing to Massachusetts Council: Declines the appointment of Major in the Second Regiment of Militia, in the County of Lincoln, - - - - - - 1078
4, Letter from Noah M. Littlefield to Massachusetts Council: Accepts the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel, - - - - - - 1079
4, Letter from M. Lotbiniere to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - 1079
4, Vote in the House of Representatives of New-Hampshire for raising five hundred men for the State of New-York, - - - - - 1080
4, Letter from Colonel Bayley to New-Hampshire Assembly: Proposes to supply the St. François tribe of Indians with the articles they need for the purpose of counteracting the designs of the enemy, - - - - - 1081
Return of the six Independent Companies and First Regiment of Maryland Regulars, in the service of the United States, commanded by Major Gist, - - - - - - - - 1081
5, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Is his duty and inclination to make head against the enemy as soon as there shall be the least probability of doing it with propriety. If forty thousand men had been kept in constant pay since the first commencement of hostilities, and the Militia had been excused from doing duty during that period, the Continent would have saved money, - - - - - - - - - 1081
5, Report that an armed brig, commanded by Captain Christopher Whipple, has been taken by the Portland man-of-war, - - - - 1082
5, Letter from Timothy Danielson, Chairman of Massachusetts Committee of Arrangement, to General Heath, - - - - - - - 1083
5, List of Field Officers appointed for Massachusetts State, - - - - - - - - 1084
5, Letter from Timothy Danielson to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1084
5, Letter from Timothy Danielson to General Heath: The Committee are on their return; desire him to open all letters and packages that may come directed to them, - - - 1084
5, Sentence of a General Court-Martial on Lieutenant William Horton, - - - - - 1084
5, Letter from General George Clinton to General Heath: The bad weather, and the want of felling axes has prevented much being done in the obstruction of Hudson river, - - 1085
5, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to General Heath, - - - - - - - 1085
5, James Weeks's receipt for eighty pounds for transporting four hogsheads of dry-goods from Boston to Fishkill, - - - - - 1086

1776.
Dec. 5, Letter from Nicholas Brewer, agent for impressing boats, to New-York Committee of Safety, - - - - - - - - - 1086
5, Letter from J. Trumbull, Jun., to Governour Trumbull: Suggests that the enemy's design in sending a flag to New-London, may be to view the country, consult with friends, and judge of the practicability of making an attempt in that quarter, - - - - - - 1086
5, Letter from Governour Trumbull to Governour Cooke: Intelligence of a fleet of the enemy in the Sound; thinks it high time for the New-England Colonists to be alarmed, and almost every other consideration laid aside to have the great object of their defence employ their utmost attention, - - - - - 1086
5, Letter from Governour Trumbull to James Bowdoin: Ten or eleven ships-of-war from New-York, and about eighty transports with troops, are just arrived off New-London harbour, - 1087
5, Letter from Governour Cooke to Massachusetts Assembly, - - - - - - - - 1087
5, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Governour Cooke: Is not Agent nor Paymaster, and has nothing to do in the matter of wages and prize money further than to use his influence that right be done to every man in the Navy; has no knowledge of any fraud in any officer under his command, - - - - - - 1088
5, Letter from William Bartlett to Stephen Moylan, - - - - - - - - - 1088
5, Intelligence that Captain Henry Johnson, late commander of the Yankee privateer: Has escaped from London to France, - - - - 1088
5, Intelligence at Boston: French and Spanish ports open to American cruisers; arrival of Hon. James Lovell from Halifax, after a long and cruel imprisonment, - - - - - 1088
6, Letter from Silas Deane to Committee of Secret Correspondence, - - - - - - 1089
List of officers of Infantry and Light-Troops destined to serve the United States of North America, December 1, - - - - - - 1089
5, Agreement between Mons. des Epiniers and Mr. Silas Deane, in his character of Deputy from the Congress of the Thirteen United Colonies, December 5, - - - - - 1090
List of officers of Infantry and Light-Troops, destined to serve in the Armies of the States General of North America, December 7, - 1090
Agreement between the Marquis De La Fayette and Silas Deane, December 7, - - - 1090
6, Letter from Governour Henry to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - 1092
Instructions to the Representatives of Accomack County, Virginia, - - - - - 1092
Petition of Inhabitants of Charles City County to Virginia Assembly, that the established Church may be maintained in all its legal rights, and that the sectaries may be indulged with a regulated toleration, - - 1092
6, Notice to the officers and soldiers of the Ninth Virginia Regiment to join the regiment, it being ordered to reinforce General Washington immediately, - - - - - - 1093
6, Notice to master and crew of the ship Caroline, taken by the privateer Harlequin and condemned as a lawful prize, - - - - 1093
6, Letter from Captain Cook to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 1093
6, Letter from Thomas Wharton to Richard Peters, - - - - - - - - - 1094
6, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress, - - - - - - 1095
6, Letter from Joseph Nourse to General Heath, 1095
6, Letter from General Sullivan to Daniel Coe: Requests the Militia of Cakiact to be assembled, with three days' provisions, and to join General Lee at Morristown as soon as possible, - - - - - - - - - 1095
6, Letter from Daniel Coe to New-York Committee of Safety: It is not in the power of the District of Kackiate to comply with the request of General Sullivan, - - - - 1095
6, Letter from Mr. Elliot to James Duane: Requests him to procure liberty for his son-in-law, James Jauncey, Jun., his wife, and servant, to return to New-York, - - - 1156

1776.
Dec. 6, Letter from General Heath to Governour Trumbull: On the 4th instant seventy sail of ships-of-war and transports, with many troops on board, sailed down the Sound towards New-England, - - - - - - - - 1096
6, Letter from General Heath to James Bowdoin: General Lee, two days ago, crossed the river, with between three and four thousand men, 1096
6, Letter from General Heath to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 1096
6, Letter from General Heath to Pierre Van Cortlandt, - - - - - - - 1096
6, Court Martial on Captain Abraham Dolson: Selling a blanket belonging to a soldier, - 1097
6, Letter from Matthew Adgate to John McDonald, Miner: To proceed no further in exploring the lead mine in the Great Nine Partners till further order, - - - - - - 1098
6, Letter from Henry Schenck to New-York Committee of Safety, - - - - - 1098
7, Petition of Miles Sherbrook to New-York Convention: Asks permission to repair to the city of New-York and Long-Island, - - - 1098
6, Petition of Alexander Wallace to New-York Convention: Requesting permission to proceed to the city of New-York and Long-Island, - - - - - - - - 1099
6, Letter from Committee of Salem to New-York Convention: An account of the effects of persons who have absconded and gone to the Ministerial Army, - - - - - - 1100
6, Letter from Robert Yates to James Duane, - 1101
6, Letter from General Schuyler to New-York Committee of Safety, - - - - - 1101
6, Letter from General Schuyler to Robert Yates: Much evil will arise if a government is not soon established for New-York, - - - 1101
6, Letter from General James Clinton to New-York Committee of Safety, - - - - 1102
6, Letter from General Schuyler to Colonel Lewis: If the Committee agrees to let Lady Johnson go down, he has no objection; but no person can be permitted to go to New-York without a pass from the General commanding in Westchester County, - - - - - 1102
6, Letter from Colonel Joseph Wood to President of Congress: Desires Captain O'Hara's company to join his regiment, - - - - - 1102
6, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - - 1102
6, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Washington: Ten of the enemy's capital ships of war have passed New-London, where they are since joined by about eighty transports, - - - - - - - - 1103
6, Letter from Andrew Adams to Governour Trumbull: Arrest of John Sheapard, who confessed that he set out from New-Hampshire upon the request of Governour Wentworth, to join the Ministerial Army, - - 1103
6, Intelligence: Exchange of prisoners agreed to by Rhode-Island. Alarm at New-London, from appearance of English men-of-war, - 1104
6, Letter from Gov. Cooke to James Bowdoin, - 1104
6, Letter from James Bowdoin to President Weare: The proposed conference of the New-England Colonies, on the subject of paper currency, laid aside for the present, - - 1104
6, Votes of Massachusetts on the proposed Convention of the Eastern States respecting the further emissions of paper currency, - - 846
6, Letter from William Dawes to James Bowdoin: Report on the situation of the forts at Dorchester Heights, - - - - - - 1105
6, Letter from James Bowdoin to Meshech Weare, 1105
6, Letter from Jona. Jackson to Massachusetts Assembly: Resignation as a member of the Board of War, - - - - - - - 1105
7, Letter from William Kennon to General Lee: Has formed magazines of provisions in Georgia, North-Carolina, and Virginia, - 1105
7, Letter from Samuel Dorsey, Jun., to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1094
7, Letter from William Paca to Maryland Council of Safety: Congress are of opinion that the order from the Board of War extends only to such prisoners as are natives of Great Britain and soldiers from thence in the present war, - - - - - - - - 1094

1776.
Dec. 7, Order of the Board of War to all officers on the recruiting service in Pennsylvania immediately to march the men they have inlisted to Philadelphia, - - - - - - - 1107
7, A Citizen to the Assembly of Pennsylvania: Suggests the appointment of a Dictator for three or six months, with full powers to exert the strength of the State in any way he should think proper against the enemy, - - - 1107
Letter from Colonel Joseph Reed to the President of Congress: No opposition will be given till we cross the Delaware. Our whole force will not exceed six thousand, and they are diminishing every moment by desertion, 1107
7, Letter from General Greene to General Washington: Thinks General Lee must be confined within the lines of some general plan, or else his operations will be independent, - 1107
7, Letter from General Lee to Governour Cooke: The appointments of Generals in New-England threatens destruction; the men and younger officers are good, but there is no man with them capable of conducting an army: therefore sends Mr. Malmadie, a Frenchman, and entreats if he cannot have the entire command, that his counsels may direct, - 1108
7, Letter from Colonel Malcom to General Heath, 1109
7, Letter from William Peck, Aid-de-Camp to General Spencer, to General Heath: On the march towards Crum Pond; shall this night be at North-Castle Church, - - - - 1109
7, Letter from General Heath to Captain Eayers: Directions to proceed with his company to Fishkill, - - - - - - 1109
7, Report of Committee from Massachusetts appointed to repair to the Army, - - - 713
7, Letter from Robert Provoost, Jun., to New-York Committee of Safety: Asks to be appointed Paymaster in one of the new regiments, - 1110
7, Letter from Abraham P. Lott to Robert Benson, - - - - - - - - 1100
7, Letter from Albany Committee to New-York Committee of Safety, - - - - - 1111
7, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Washington: Appeal to the officers and soldiers of Connecticut to reinlist until the fifteenth of March, - - - - - - 1111
7, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - - 1112
7, Letter from Ralph Isaacs to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1113
7, Memorial of Ralph Isaacs to Governour and Council of Connecticut, praying that he may have the limits of Glastenbury or Durham for the place of his residence, - - - 1113
7, Letter from Governour Cooke to James Bowdoin: By the advice of General Lee, the Committee sitting at Providence have laid an embargo upon all shipping until further orders, - - - - - - - - 1114
7, Letter from Governour Cooke to James Bowdoin: Thirty sail of ships seen coming into the harbour of Newport, and upwards of one hundred sail between Canonicut and the main land, steering directly up the river, - 1114
7, Proclamation by Governour Cooke: Calling upon all military officers of Rhode-Island and the neighbouring States, to exert themselves in the defence of their country, - - - 1115
7, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Governour Cooke: Measures taken for the assistance of Rhode-Island, - - - - - 1115
7, Letter from Ephraim Spooner to Massachusetts Board of War, - - - - - - 1116
7, Letter from Brigadier Harnden to Gen. Warren, 1116
7, Orders of a Committee of New-Hampshire Assembly to Colonel Wentworth, - - - 1116
8, Letter from Silas Deane to Count Vergennes: Dr. Franklin's arrival in France is the common topick of conversation, and has given birth to a thousand conjectures and reports, 1117
8, Letter from Benjamin Franklin to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - 1117
8, Letter from Dr. Franklin to the Committee of Secret Correspondence, - - - - - 1118
8, Letter from Captain Cook to Maryland Council of Safety: Many of the seamen will leave the service of the State without higher wages are given, - - - - - - - 1118

1776.
Dec. 8, Letter from Dr. Shippen to General Washington: Has got all the sick, except twenty, who are too ill to remove to Easton, Bethelem, and Allenstown, - - - - - - 1119
8, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Has retreated across the Delaware river. Has no certain intelligence of General Lee, although he has sent frequent expresses to him, - - - - - - 1119
8, Letter from General Washington to General Maxwell: As it is a matter of the utmost importance to prevent the enemy from crossing the Delaware, all the boats and water crafts should be secured or destroyed, - - 1120
8, Letter from General Mathias Williamson to General Washington: Feels sensible pain at some expressions in his Excellency's last letter, which imply that he had not done all in his power to assemble the Militia under his command, - - - - - - - 1120
8, Letter from General Lee to a Committee of Congress: Can make a better impression by beating up and harassing the detached parties of the enemy in the rear, than by joining General Washington, being assured he is very strong, - - - - - - - - 1121
8, Letter from General Lee to General Washington: If he was not taught to think his Army was considerably reinforced, would immediately join him, - - - - - - - 1122
8, Letter from General Lee to General Washington: Is shocked to hear that his force is so inadequate. It will be difficult, he is afraid, to join him; but cannot he do more service by attacking the enemy's rear? Shall look about to-morrow, and inform him further, - 1122
8, A Return of the First Pennsylvania Regiment of Foot in the service of the United States of America, commanded by Colonel John P. De Haas, - - - - - - - - 1122
8, Letter from Committee of New-York Convention, at New-Windsor, to General George Clinton, - - - - - - - - 1110
8, Letter from the Rev. Charles Inglis to James Duane: Asks permission for his family to remove to New-York, - - - - - - 1154
8, Letter from Colonel Hay to General Heath, - 1123
8, Letter from General Wadsworth to General Heath: Sends a number of persons taken up as dangerous to the American States, - 1124
8, Letter from General Heath to General Washington: Should be glad to be informed if the men belonging to one State are to inlist under officers belonging to another, - - 1124
8, Letter from General Heath to General Lee, - 1125
8, Letter from General Heath to Colonel Hay: Would have him treat the flag with the utmost politeness and respect, at the same time as great precaution, - - - - - - 1125
8, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - 1125
8, Proceedings of a Committee of the New-York Committee of Safety appointed to coöperate with General George Clinton, - - - 1126
8, Letter from Robert R. Livingston to General Gates, - - - - - - - - 1127
8, Orders of General Gates to the officers commanding Greaton's, Bond's, and Porter's Regiments, - - - - - - - 1190
8, Letter from General Wooster to the President of Congress: Learns by deserters that the fleet in the Sound has about eight thousand men on board—a bad situation for our eastern people, and not a General officer in that part of the country, - - - - - - 1129
8, Providence (Rhode-Island) town meeting: Measures proposed for defence, the enemy having arrived in Narraganset Bay, - - 1130
8, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Governour Cooke: Has sent a boat to Newport for intelligence, but she has not yet returned, - 1130
8, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Governour Cooke: Motions of the enemy's fleet, - 1130
8, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Governour Cooke: The enemy landed eight thousand men this morning on Rhode-Island, and took possession of the whole Island without opposition, - - - - - - - - 1131

1776.
Dec. 8, Letter from Governour Cooke to James Bowdoin: The enemy obliged the small body of troops on Rhode-Island to quit it with precipitation, - - - - - - - 1131
8, Letter from Governour Cooke to the President of Congress: The enemy have full possession of the Island of Rhode-Island, - - 1131
8, Letter from Governour Cooke to General Washington, - - - - - - - 1315
8, Letter from James Warren to the Council of Massachusetts: There have been seventy or more Irishmen, prisoners in Plymouth, for several weeks, who grow very troublesome; some order should be taken about them, - 1132
8, Letter from Massachusetts Council to General Washington: Will exert themselves in raising a new army, notwithstanding the alarm the enemy are spreading by hovering around their coasts, - - - - - - - 1116
8, Letter from Massachusetts Assembly to General Lee: Are contemplating the most effectual measures for raising with vigour their quota of the Continental Army. Earnestly solicit his frequent correspondence, - - 1132
8, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - 1133
8, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - 1133
8, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Governour Cooke: Have ordered reinforcements to march forthwith to Providence, - - 1133
8, Letter from Colonel Jonathan Mitchell to Massachusetts Assembly, - - - - - 1133
8, Letter from Captain Ayres to Massachusetts Board of War, - - - - - - - 1134
9, Arrival in England of General Burgoyne and others, - - - - - - - - 1134
9, Letter from Archibald Buchanan to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1134
9, Letter from Stephen Steward to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1134
9, Letter from John Carey to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 1135
9, Address of Pennsylvania Council of Safety, entreating the Militia to march without delay to join General Washington's Army, now in Bucks County, - - - - - - - 1135
9, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington: Call his attention to Dunk's Ferry, where the river is narrow, and may afford the enemy a better chance to pass than any other on the river, - - - 1135
9, Letter from James Mease to President of Congress: Asks for a draft for fifty thousand dollars, - - - - - - - - - 1135
9, Memorial of Elisha Painter to Continental Congress, - - - - - - - - 1136
9, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Proposes that a communication of lines and redoubts be formed from the Delaware to the Schuylkill, on the north entrance of Philadelphia. Has ordered General Putnam down to superintend the works, 1137
9, Letter from General Lee to General Heath: Hopes to reconquer the Jerseys: It was really in the hands of the enemy before his arrival, - - - - - - - - 1138
9, Letter from John Haring to General George Clinton, - - - - - - - - 1123
9, Letter from General McDougall to New-York Committee of Safety: The enemy have five Counties and part of two others. If they get possession of these, they will get a representation of the majority of the State, and make a surrender of its rights, - - - - - 1123
9, Letter from John Coe and others to General George Clinton: Unless they soon get assistance, the southern part of Orange County will be laid waste, - - - - - - 1123
9, Letter from Samuel Tudor to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 1128
9, Letter from William Duer to General Gates, - 1127
9, Letter from James Cuyler to James Duane: Recommends Mr. Van Valkenbrugh and others on the new arrangement, - - - 1129
9, Letter from John Moore to Pierre Van Cortlandt: Asks permission for his family to remove to New-York - - - - - - 1155

1776.
Dec. 9, Letter from Philip I. Livingston to James Duane, - - - - - - - - - 1156
9, Letter from Timothy Parker and others (prisoners in New-York) to Governour Trumbull: Condition of prisoners in the prison-ship, - 1138
9, Letter from Colonel Malcom to General Heath, 1139
9, Letter from General McDougall to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1139
9, Orders of General Heath to General Parsons, - 1140
9, Certificate respecting the chain across the North River, - - - - - - - - - 1140
9, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to Ezekiel Hawley, - - - - - - 1140
9, Letter from John Hulbert to the New-York Committee of Arrangement: Declining appointment, - - - - - - - 1140
9, Letter from Nathaniel Hazard to New-York Committee of Arrangement: Recommending Captain Nathaniel Platt, - - - - - 1141
9, Letter from Matthew Adgate to the Superintendent of the lead mine, - - - - - 1141
9, Letter from Temperance Cook to Captain Platt, 1141
9, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - - 1141
9, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1142
9, Letter from Governour Trumbull to Massachusetts Council: What means that languor, inertion, and dispiritedness, that seems to overwhelm the New-England States? Suggests a meeting of the New-England States by their Commissioners, as soon as the enemy are retired into winter quarters; has a hint of this in a late letter from General Lee, - - 1143
9, Parole of Daniel Kissam and fourteen others, - 1143
9, Letter from Colonel Livingston to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - - 1144
9, An account of the Arms and Ammunition brought off from the east end of Long-Island by Colonel Henry B. Livingston, - - 1144
9, Letter from Colonel Huntington to Captain Tracy: Orders for issue of ammunition and provisions to the Militia ordered from Connecticut to Providence, - - - - - 1145
9, Letter from Lieutenant General H. Clinton to Lord George Germain: Has taken possession of the Island of Rhode-Island, - - 1145
9, Letter from John Avery to the Committee of Dartmouth: Necessity of removing the military stores from the town in consequence of the enemy being in the neighbourhood, - - 1146
9, Letter from William Lithgow to John Avery: Accepts his appointment as Major, - - 1146
9, Letter from Major Bullard to Massachusetts Council, - - - - - - - - - 1146
10, Letter from C. Beatty to Maryland Council of Safety: Has now in the factory one hundred and fifty-six gun-locks, completely finished, 1147
10, Letter from Robert Christie, Jun., Sheriff of Baltimore County, to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer: Compelled by a number of people to leave town instantly, - - - - - 1147
10, Letter from Marine Committee to Captain J. Paul Jones: Orders to proceed to sea with all possible despatch, to intercept the store-ships going to the enemy at New-York, - 1148
10, Letter from Georgia Delegates to the President of Congress: Request an order for two thousand dollars on account of the State, - - 1148
10, Letter from William Ellery to Governour Cooke: Retreat of Washington through the Jerseys. Where General Lee is, or what delays his coming, is unknown, - - 1148
10, Letter from Donald Campbell to the President of Congress: The critical situation of Philadelphia makes it necessary for him to receive directions for the preservation of the publick accounts of the campaign, 1775, in Canada, 1149
10, Address of the Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled to the People in general, and particularly to the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania and the adjacent States, - - - - - - - - - 1149
10, Letter from General Armstrong to the Board of War: General Washington maintains the full possession of himself; is indefatigable by day and night, taking every precaution, as well to prevent surprise, as to discover where the enemy intend to cross, - - - 1151

1776.
Dec. 10, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress, - - - - - 1152
10, Letter from General Washington to the Pennsylvania Council of Safety: The fort began at Billingsport should be attended to, - 1152
10, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: Requests and entreats him, and this too by the advice of all the General officers with him, to march and join him with his whole force with all possible expedition, - - 1153
10, Letter from General Heath to General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1153
10, Letter from General Heath to Pierre Van Cortlandt, - - - - - - - - - 1153
10, Letter from Levi De Witt to Charles De Witt: Would be glad to be appointed a Captain, - 1157
10, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to General George Clinton: To coöperate against the enemy, but at no time to lose sight of the necessity of having open his return to the passes in the Highlands, - - 1157
10, Lady Johnson's Pass, - - - - - - 1158
10, Letter from Colonel Brown to the President of Congress: Must once more request a peremptory rule of Congress for his own as well as General Arnold's trial; thinks himself to have been treated in a most extraordinary and singular manner, - - - - 1158
Petition of Colonel Brown to General Gates, dated December 1, praying a compliance with the order of Congress for a court of inquiry on himself, together with a complaint against and petition for the trial of General Arnold, for the crimes therein mentioned, - 1158
10, Letter from General Schuyler to the President of Congress: Has every reason to believe that the troops at Ticonderoga will not tarry five days after their term is expired; and what makes this the more alarming is, the very little probability of replacing them with others, - 1160
10, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1161
10, Letter from Dr. Eustis, Surgeon of the General Hospital at Norwalk, to General Heath: State of the sick under his care, - - - 1161
10, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to the Marine Committee: The English have taken possession of the Island of Rhode-Island without opposition, - - - - - - 1162
10, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Governour Cooke: Desires a Sheriff may be sent with his officer to bring on board a number of men now at Providence, belonging to the fleet, - - - - - - - - - 1162
10, Letter from M. de Gaiault to the President of Congress: Shall join General Lee, and from thence will go to General Washington, whose order he will take, and offer him his services, 1162
Letter from John Avery to President of Congress: Advances to French officers, - - 1163
Resolve of Massachusetts, November 16th, on the petition of Le Sieur Gaiault, &c.: Advance made to them on account of Congress to enable them to procure horses and carriages for their journey to Philadelphia, - - 1163
10, Letter from William Thompson to Richard Devens, - - - - - - - - - 1163
10, Letter from M. Malmedy to General Lee, - 1322
10, Letter from Meshech Weare to James Bowdoin: The Militia of New-Hampshire are to march to the relief of Rhode-Island, on the shortest notice, if necessary, - - - 1163
11, General Return of men, horses, arms, accoutrements, and other necessaries, wanting for the regiment of Horse commanded by Theodorick Bland, now in the service of Virginia, 1270
11, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1164
11, Letter from Charles Thomson to General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1164
11, Resolve of Congress recommending a day of fasting and prayer, - - - - - - 1164
11, Memorial of Lewis De Linkensdorff, Adjutant of the German Battalion, to Congress: Asking an advance of six months' pay, - - 1164
11, Letter from Thomas Wharton to Maryland Council of Safety: By advice of the Board of War sends a number of State prisoners to their care, - - - - - - - - - 1165

1776
Dec. 11, Letter from Henry Fisher to Pennsylvania Council of Safety: Appearance of two vessels of war at the Capes of Delaware, - 1181
,11 Letter from Samuel Chase to Captain Nicholson: If he could come up immediately with a body of seamen, an attempt might be made to bring all the frigates at Philadelphia round to Baltimore, - - - - - - - 1165
Letter from Captain Nicholson to Mr. Authenbeck, - - - - - - - - - 1165
11, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: From the several attempts of the enemy to seize boats, it does not look as if they had brought any with them, as he was at one time informed, - - - - - 1166
11, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: Entreats him to push on with every possible succour he can bring, - - - 1166
11, Letter from General Washington to General Thompson, prisoner: Desires him to furnish the names and ranks of the officers who were released on parole by General Carleton, - - - - - - - - - - 1166
11, Letter from General Lee to General Washington: Thinks he can, without great risk, cross the great Brunswick post-road, and by a forced night's march make his way to the ferry below Burlington, - - - - - 1167
11, Letter from General Lee to General Heath: Directions for his route, - - - - - 1167
11, General Sullivan's orders: The whole Army to strike their tents to-morrow morning, at half past seven, and to parade in order to march by eight, - - - - - - 1167
11, Letter from Rev. Charles Inglis to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1167
11, Letter from General Heath to General Washington: Finds the inhabitants to be in the utmost distress; the Tories are joining the enemy, and insulting and disarming the Whigs, stripping them of their cattle, effects, &c. Petitions are continually presenting for relief; the greatest complaints are from Orange-Town, Clecky-Town, and the neighbourhood of Hackensack, - - - - - 1169
11, Letter from Colonel Scammell to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1169
11, Letter from General James Clinton to Pierre Van Cortlandt, - - - - - - - 1169
11, Orders for securing Sergeant Tripp and others, 1170
11, Letter from Colonel Brewer to General Heath: Asks to be appointed Colonel in the new arrangement, - - - - - - - - 1170
11, Letter from Matthew Cantine to General Washington: Entreats that the order to General Heath to cross to the west side of the Hudson may be countermanded, - - - - - 1171
11, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to General Heath: Highly approve of the precaution which he has used with respect to the flag of truce, - - - - - - - 1171
11, Letter from Captain Dutcher to New-York Convention: Requests that he and his company may be discharged or have a furlough, 1171
11, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to Colonel Livingston: Secret; desire him to coöperate in an expedition against a detachment of the enemy who are now ravaging without restraint or remorse the suffering inhabitants of the County of West-Chester, - 1172
11, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to the President of Congress, - - - - - 1172
11, Colonel Dubois's recommendation for officers, 1173
Letter from Daniel Griffing to New-York Congress: Understands that he has been neglected in the last appointment by not being duly represented, - - - - - - - 1173
11, Letter from Colonel Malcom to General Heath: His people are now almost unfit for duty, on account of their clothes; and so much marching as they have had hath rendered them barefooted. If the reinforcement appears to-day, hopes before Monday to run over the Tory ground and scatter their gangs, - - - 1174
11, Letter from General Schuyler to Pierre Van Cortlandt: What few recruits have been raised in this quarter will be absolutely wanted to the northward; and indeed, unless the Eastern States send up a body of troops, Ticonderoga will not remain in our possession until spring, - - - - - - - - - 1174
Dec. 11, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1175
11, Letter from Governour Trumbull to James Bowdoin, - - - - - - - - 1175
11, Letter from Commodore Sir Peter Parker to Mr. Stevens, Secretary to the Admiralty: Has the pleasure to inform their Lordships that Rhode-Island, with the isles adjacent, are now in possession of General Clinton, - 1176
11, A list of Rebel ships and privateers at Providence, commonly called the Continental Fleet, - - - - - - - - 1176
11, Address to the Publick on exorbitant prices, dated Worcester, Massachusetts: All seem striving to be beforehand with each other in raising the price of necessary articles of consumption; a great number of forestallers and regraters have infested the country, and are the plagues and pests of society; one would think there is a confederacy among many not to stir in the common cause, unless they can fatten themselves upon the estates of their neighbours, - - - - - - - 1176
11, Letter from J. Warren to Samuel A. Otis, - 1177
11, Letter from James Bowdoin to Meshech Weare, 1177
Letter from Philip Dalton and others to Massachusetts Council: Return thanks for their liberation, - - - - - - - - 1177
11, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Captain Melvil: Appoint him temporary Commissary for their Militia about Rhode-Island, - - - - - - - - - 1178
11, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Captain Melvil, - - - - - - - 1178
11, Letter from William Thompson to Richard Devens, - - - - - - - - 1178
11, Embargo in New-Hampshire, - - - 1178
12, Letter from Silas Deane to the Secret Committee: Arrival of Dr. Franklin in France. Nothing has for a long time occasioned greater speculation than this event, and our friends here are elated beyond measure, as this confirms them you will not negotiate with England, - - - - - - - 1179
12, Letter from Baltimore Committee to Committee at Annapolis, - - - - - - - 1179
12, Letter from Charles Thomson to General Washington, - - - - - - - 1179
12, Letter from General Putnam to General Washington: Has reconnoitred the ground around Philadelphia, in company with General Mifflin and the French Engineers, who are preparing a draft of the lines, which are to be begun to-morrow, - - - - - - 1180
Commission of Colonel Weibert, appointing him an Engineer, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army of the United States, 1180
12, General Orders of General Putnam, Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - - 1180
12, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington, - - - - - 1181
12, Letter from Major Irving to Major Bland, - 1181
12, Letter from Colonel Joseph Reed to General Washington: Intelligence of the positions and movements of the enemy, - - - 1181
12, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Declines publishing the resolve of Congress declaring their intention not to remove from Philadelphia. Our little handful is daily decreasing, and without considerable exertions on the part of the people, what can we reasonably look for, but an event that will be severely felt by the common cause, and that will wound the heart of every virtuous American—the loss of Philadelphia? The subject is disagreeable, but yet it is true, - - - - - - - 1182
12, Orders of General Washington to Brigadier General Dickinson, - - - - - - 1184
12, Orders of General Washington to Brigadier General Ewing, - - - - - - 1184
12, Orders of General Washington to Colonel Cadwalader, - - - - - - - - 1185
12, Letter from General Washington to General Heath: Our situation is truly critical: our Army has been greatly diminished; the troops

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composing the Flying Camp have mostly gone home; and we have as yet received very little assistance, except from the Philadelphia Militia, - - - - - - 1185
*Dec.* 12, Letter from General Washington to Dr. Shippen: Authorizes him to open Dr. Morgan's stores immediately, - - - - - 1186
12, Letter from General Washington to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - 1186
12, Letter from General Washington to General Howe: Exchange of prisoners; severe treatment of Monsieur Weibert, - - - 1187
12, Extract of a letter from Head-Quarters, Trenton Falls, to a gentleman in Connecticut, - 1187
12, Conduct of the British and Hessian troops in New-Jersey, - - - - - - - 1188
12, Extract from an English Book of Orders, found at Trenton, and from one found at Princeton, 1188
12, Letter from Lord Stirling to General Washington: Intelligence from the enemy, - 1188
12, Letter from Rev. James Caldwell to General Lee: Intelligence of the enemy's motions, - 1189
12, Letter from General Gates to General Washington: On the march to join him; asks directions respecting the route, - - - - 1190
12, Letter from Major Wilkinson to General Gates, 1190
12, Letter from Isaac Nicoll to John McKesson, - 1191
12, Letter from Hendrick Wyckoff to New-York Committee of Safety: Wishes to know whether he must continue to act as Commissary, - - - - - - - - - 1191
12, Letter from Major Ledyard to New-York Committee of Arrangement: Recommends Lieutenant Theodosius Fowler, - - - - 1191
12, Letter from Samuel Tuder to Pierre Van Cortlandt: The ship Congress got into Esopus Creek yesterday, and thinks the General Montgomery has got in this day, - - 1192
12, Letter from Henry Sherburne to General Gates, 1192
12, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - - 1192
12, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Washington: The distress of our prisoners in New-York demands the most speedy method to be come into and accomplished for their relief, - - - - - - - - - 1193
12, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Schuyler: Has issued the most pressing orders to the officers expected to go in the northern service to fill up their companies and move them forward in small parties, - 1194
12, Letter from Governour Trumbull to Pierre Van Cortlandt, - - - - - - - - 1194
12, Letter from Governour Trumbull to Pierre Van Cortlandt, - - - - - - - - 1195
12, Letter from Ebenezer Williams to Governour Trumbull: Resigns his commission, - - 1196
12, Letter from William Thompson to Richard Devens, - - - - - - - - 1196
12, Letter from Silas Deane to C. W. F. Dumas: Arrival of Dr. Franklin in France: Here is the hero, and philosopher, and patriot, all united in this celebrated American, who, at the age of seventy-four, risks all dangers for his country, - - - - - - - - 1196
13, Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Bordeaux: The business of Dr. Franklin is a matter of much speculation among the French, - - - - - - - - - 1197
13, Letter from Captain Wickes to the Committee of Secret Correspondence: Landed Dr. Franklin and his suite in good health; took two prizes on the passage, - - - - - 1197
13, Letter from Robert Christie, Jun., Sheriff of Baltimore County, to Maryland Council of Safety, 1198
13, Letter from Robert Morris to the President of Congress: Will endeavour to get the ships at Philadelphia away before the arrival of General Howe, - - - - - - - 1198
13, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington: General Mifflin is about setting off on a tour through the Counties to try his influence with our Militia; the Assembly has offered a bounty to draw out the Militia: General Putnam is preparing to draw out the people which remain, to throw up works for defence, - - - - - - - 1199
13, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to William Atlee, - - - - - - - 1200

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*Dec.* 13, Notice by Pennsylvania Council of Safety that General Putnam is in command of Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - - 1200
13, General Orders of General Putnam, - - 1200
13, Letter from General Washington to President of Congress, - - - - - - - 1201
13, Letter from General Lee to General Gates: The ingenious manœuvre of Fort Washington has completely unhinged the goodly fabrick we had been building. There never was so damned a stroke: *entre nous*, a certain great man is most damnably deficient, - - 1201
13, General Lee taken prisoner, at Baskenridge, by a party of the enemy's Light-Horse, - 1202
13, Letter from General Sullivan to General Washington: Gives him the most pungent pain to inform him of the sad stroke America must feel in the loss of General Lee, who was this morning taken by the enemy near Vealtown, 1232
Letter from William Clajon to General Gates: Arrest of a man who declares himself to be an emissary from General Howe, - - 1202
13, Letter from Joseph Trumbull, Commissary-General, to the President of Congress: Has been making preparations for salted provisions in New-England; will need six or seven hundred thousand dollars by the 1st January, - 1202
13, Letter from Joseph Trumbull to General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1203
13, Letter from Colonel Nicoll to General Heath, - 1204
13, Report on the application of John Moore, Charles Inglis, and others, to the New-York Convention, for permission to remove their families and effects to the city of New-York, 1204
13, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1207
13, Intelligence from New-London: The enemy have taken possession of Newport, - - 1195
13, Letter from Governour Cooke to New-Hampshire Assembly: The safety of New-England, and perhaps the fate of America, depends upon establishing an army with the utmost expedition capable of opposing that body of the enemy which hath taken possession of Rhode-Island, - - - - - - - 1208
13, Resolve of the Rhode-Island General Assembly, appointing a Council of War, with full power, 1208
13, Resolve of Rhode-Island Assembly, requesting the other New-England States to appoint Committees to meet at Providence and confer with the Council of War this day appointed, 1209
Letter from Massachusetts Council to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - 1209
13, Letter from John Murray to Samuel A. Otis, - 1210
13, Eighty-seven volunteers from Salem, to reinforce the Army at the southward, among whom were gentlemen of the first character in the place, - - - - - - - - - 1211
13, Orders of General Folsom to Colonel Bellows, to take up deserters, - - - - - - 1211
13, Letter from E. Thompson to Matthew Thornton and William Whipple, - - - - - 1211
14, Letter from a French merchant at L'Orient: Has resolved to undertake a voyage to Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - - 1212
14, Letter from Stephen Steward to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1212
14, Letter from Samuel Purviance, Jr., to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1212
14, Letter from Marine Committee to William Bingham, - - - - - - - - - 1212
14, Letter from Robert Morris to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 1213
14, General Orders of General Putnam, - - 1214
14, Letter from Amos Taylor to Samuel Chase, - 1214
14, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington: Hope a considerable reinforcement may join him in a few days if the enemy can be kept at bay, - - - 1214
14, Letter from General Washington to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1215
14, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: Has so frequently mentioned the necessity of his aid that it is painful to add a word on the subject; once more requests and entreats him to march immediately for Pittstown, - - - - - - - - - 1216
14, Letter from General Washington to General Gates: Has heard that he is coming on with

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seven regiments; this may have a happy effect; entreats him not to delay a moment, - - 1216
Dec. 14, Letter from General Washington to Lord Stirling, - - - - - - - - - 1217
14, Letter from General Washington to General Arnold: Desires him to repair to New-England to take command of the Militia, in conjunction with General Spencer, - - - 1217
14, Letter from General Washington to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1218
14, Letter from General Washington to General Spencer: Immediately to repair to New-England and take command at such place as he may find his presence most necessary, - 1218
14, Letter from General Sullivan to General Heath: Begs him to hasten his march as fast as possible, as General Washington writes in the most pressing manner for the troops to come on, - - - - - - - - - - 1218
14, Letter from Commissary Hughes to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1218
14, Letter from General Heath to General Gates, - 1219
14, Letter from Captain Paine to General Heath, - 1219
14, Letter from General George Clinton to James Duane, - - - - - - - - - 1219
14, Letter from John McKesson to James Duane. - 1220
14, Letter from Anthony Rutgers to James Duane, 1220
14, Application of Ann Leake to New-York Convention for leave to remove her family and effects on board the flag and go to New-York, - - - - - - - - - 1220
14, Letter from Jacob Cuyler to William Duer, - 1221
14, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1221
14, Intelligence at Providence, R. I.: From the first appearance of the fleet, the Militia and Independent Companies of the State have been in motion, and are since joined by a large body of troops, with some companies of Artillery, from the neighbouring States, - 1222
14, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Colonel Golding: Terms on which the Board will contract for beef and pork, - - - 1222
14, Letter from Meshech Weare to New-Hampshire Delegates in Congress: An Address of several towns in the County of Grafton to the people at large, (fabricated he supposes at Dartmouth College,) calculated to stir up animosities, had such an effect that almost the whole County have refused to send members to the new Assembly, - - - - - 1223
Writ for the election of a member of the New-Hampshire Assembly by the towns of Hanover, Canaan, and Cardigan, September 30, 1223
Vote of the towns of Hanover, Canaan, and Cardigan, New-Hampshire, against choosing a Representative, and their reasons for it, November 27, - - - - - - - - 1124
Vote of the town of Lyme against choosing a Representative, November 25th, - - 1225
Vote of the town of Ackworth against choosing a Representative, December 9, - - - 1225
Petition of the towns of Marlow, Alstead, and Surrey, to New-Hampshire Assembly, that each town may be entitled to a Representative, December 11, - - - - - - 1226
Instructions to Michael Creasy, Representative for the town of Chesterfield, New-Hampshire, to procure a redress of certain grievances respecting representation, and in case that cannot be done, to return home for further instructions, December 12, - - 1226
Vote of the towns of Haverhill, Lyman, Bath, Gunthwait, Landaff, and Morristown, against choosing a Representative to the New-Hampshire Assembly, December 13, - - - 1227
15, Letter from Claude Crespigny, Bath, England, to Ralph Izard, - - - - - - - 1227
15, Letter from Andrew Buchanan to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1228
15, Letter from General Armstrong to the President of Congress, - - - - - - 1228
15, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington: Have collected a quantity of old clothes for such of the Army as are most necessitous, - - - - - 1229
15, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to General Washington: If there is not more than five or six hundred men in Burlington to-night, and no body to sustain them if attacked, he will attack them about daylight to-morrow morning, - - - - - - - - - 1229
Dec. 15, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to Robert Morris: The removal of Congress from Philadelphia has discovered a timidity that encourages our enemy and dispirits our friends, 1230
15, Letter from Colonel Grayson to Colonel Cadwalader, - - - - - - - - - 1231
15, Letter from General Washington to President of Congress: Sincerely regrets General Lee's unhappy fate, and feels much for the loss of the country in his captivity, - - - - 1231
15, Letter from General Washington to General Sullivan, - - - - - - - - - 1232
15, Letter from General Washington to Pennsylvania Council of Safety: Instead of giving any assistance in repelling the enemy, the Militia exult at the approach of the enemy and our late misfortunes; recommends that all such people be disarmed, - - - - - 1232
Letter from General Sullivan to General Heath: Intends to cross the Delaware at Easton if possible this night, - - - - - - 1233
15, Letter from Colonel Moylan to General Heath, 1233
15, Depositions relative to treatment of prisoners taken at Fort Washington, - - - 1233
15, Letter from General Heath to General Washington: Has taken about fifty of the disaffected, and a sloop loaded with hay, house furniture, &c., - - - - - - - - 1234
15, Letter from Colonel Hay to the commanding officer at Paramus, - - - - - - 1235
15, Letter from Colonel Hay to General Heath, - 1236
15, Letter from Albert Pawling to Colonel Dubois, - - - - - - - - - 1236
15, Letter from Lady Johnson to New-York Convention: Requesting a pass to proceed with Captain Man to New-York, - - - - 1236
15, Letter from Judith Bruce to New-York Convention: Application for a pass to New-York, 1236
15, Letter from Anthony Rutgers to New-York Committee of Arrangement, - - - 1237
15, Letter from James Yancey to Committee at Bennington, - - - - - - - 1237
15, Letter from George Measam to General Gates: Has not been able to put the troops in any tolerable order with respect to clothing, to enable them to do the fatigue of a soldier in these frozen regions, - - - - - 1237
15, Letter from George Measam, Commissary of Clothing for the Northern Army, to New-York Committee of Safety, - - - 1238
16, Letter from Baltimore Committee to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1238
16, Letter from Captain Cook to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 1238
16, Letter from James Claypoole to Maryland Council of Safety: Has sent two hundred pair shoes, and expects to send two hundred pair more in four weeks, - - - - 1239
16, Letter from Thomas Johnson, Jun., to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - 1239
16, Letter from Robert Morris to President of Congress: The loss of General Lee is a severe stroke, and the effect it will have on the spirits of our shattered Army will add greatly to it. A return of Congress to Philadelphia will not be advisable until the enemy are actually gone into winter quarters. There is the greatest scene of confusion in the management of the Continental horses, wagons, and expresses, that ever was exhibited, - - 1239
16, Letter from Robert Morris to the Committee of Secret Correspondence: If Congress mean to succeed in this contest, they must pay good executive men to do their business as it ought to be done, and not lavish millions away by their own mismanagement. - - 1241
16, Warrant for the commitment of Matthew McHugh to the jail at Lancaster, - - - 1241
16, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Urges that more battalions should be raised for the new Army than have been voted for. The clothing of the troops is a matter of infinite importance, many of them being entirely naked, and most so thinly clad as to be unfit for service, - - - 1242

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Dec. 16, Letter from General Washington to Colonel Trumbull, Commissary-General of Provisions, - - - - - - - - - 1242
16, Letter from General Washington to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1242
16, Recruiting orders to Elisha Sheldon, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel and Commandant of a regiment of Cavalry to be raised, - - 1244
16, Letter from General Washington to Pennsylvania Council of Safety, - - - - - 1245
16, Letter from General Washington to New-York Convention: To avoid disputes, wishes that the matter respecting Aid Major might be waived, as the office has been hitherto unknown in the Continental service, - - 1245
16, Letter from General Washington to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1246
16, Letter from General Greene to President of Congress: Is glad the Hospital department is to be put upon a better establishment, for the sick this campaign have suffered beyond description and shocking to humanity, - 1246
16, Letter from Lord Stirling to General Heath, - 1246
16, Letter from John Trumbull to Governour Trumbull: The Army lately commanded by General Lee is to cross at Easton this day. Deprived of the best, almost the only officer who could rescue our affairs from a situation so nigh desperate, - - - - - - 1247
16, Letter from Colonel Symmes to General Heath: The men suffer exceedingly for want of salt, 1247
16, Letter from John Johnson to Robert Harper, - 1247
16, Letter from John Coe to New-York Committee of Safety, - - - - - - - - 1248
16, Letter from Philip Bartell to New-York Committee of Safety: Resigns his commission as Ensign, - - - - - - - - - 1248
16, Letter from Frances Livingston to John Williams, - - - - - - - - - 1248
16, Letter from Captain Walker to William Duer, - 1248
16, Court-Martial on Peter Harris, - - - - 1263
16, Letter from Ebenezer Hazard to New-York Committee of Safety: Has been informed that the records of the city of New-York were deposited in Colonel Cortlandt's family vault near King's Bridge, - - - - - - 1248
16, Letter from General Schuyler to New-York Committee of Safety: Every account from Ticonderoga confirms him in the belief that not a man will remain there beyond the term of their inlistment, - - - - - - 1249
16, Memorandum of the Agreement signed by the Artificers, Northern Army, - - - - - 1249
16, Letter from J. Trumbull, Jr., to Governour Trumbull: Alarm at Ticonderoga by the appearance of a hay-boat, supposed to be the enemy approaching, - - - - - - 1250
16, Letter from George Pitkin to Governour Trumbull: Resigns his commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Nineteenth Regiment of Militia, - - - - - - - - - - 1250
16, Letter from Joseph Youngs to General Wooster: Sends for examination three deserters from Colonel Robert Rogers's regiment, - - 1251
16, Letter from Colonel Henry B. Livingston to Matthew Cantine, - - - - - - - 1251
16, Letter from Thomas Melvill to Samuel P. Savage: Desires the Massachusetts Board of War to send a number of intrenching tools to Providence immediately, - - - - 1251
16, Letter from Massachusetts Council to General Schuyler, - - - - - - - - - 1251
16, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Governour Cooke: Have appointed a Committee to meet the Council of War at Providence the 23d instant, the time appointed by the Assembly of Rhode-Island, - - - - - - 1251
16, Letter from J. Warren to Massachusetts Board of War, - - - - - - - - - 1252
16, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to William Thompson, - - - - - - 1252
16, Letter from William Pynchon, Jun., to Samuel P. Savage, - - - - - - - - - 1253
16, Intelligence from France, - - - - - 1253
17, Letter from James Tilghman to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 1253
17, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1253

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Dec. 17, Letter from Robert Morris to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - - - 1254
17, Letter from Robert Morris to General Heath, - 1254
17, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington, - - - - - 1254
17, Resolution of Pennsylvania Council of Safety, recommending to General Washington to seize and treat as enemies those Militia of Bucks and Northampton Counties who do not forthwith join his Army, - - - - 1255
Letter to General Dickinson, found in the possion of his servant, advising him to receive no more Continental money on his bonds and mortgages, - - - - - - - - - 1255
17, Anonymous Address to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Howe, - - - - - - 1255
17, Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Committee, - - 1257
17, Letter from General Washington to Lieutenant General Howe: Has not received such officers in exchange as were requested, - - - 1257
17, Letter from General Washington to Colonel Magaw: Desires an exact return of the officers, with their names and ranks, and the number of non-commissioned officers and privates, taken at Fort Washington, - - 1257
17, Letter from Robert H. Harrison to Colonel Palfrey, - - - - - - - - - 1258
17, Letter from General Washington to Pennsylvania Council of Safety, - - - - - 1258
17, Letter from General Gates to General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1258
17, Letter from William Shippen, Jun., to Richard Henry Lee: Proposed arrangement for a military Hospital, - - - - - - - 1258
17, Letter from Colonel Palfrey to General Heath, 1260
17, Letter from General McDougall to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1260
17, Letter from Colonel Ford to General Heath, - 1260
17, Letter from General George Clinton to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - 1261
17, Letter from General George Clinton to Colonel Allison, - - - - - - - - - 1262
17, Letter from Isaac Nicoll to John McKesson: In the situation the enemy is now in, in the Jerseys, a fatal stroke may be struck. The secret expedition the Convention has planned ought to be drove on with all expedition, - 1262
17, Letter from Thomas Moffat to John McKesson: Yesterday went on board the enemy's flag at Verplanck's Point and delivered the letter of the Convention to Messrs. Inglis and others, - - - - - - - - - 1263
17, Letter from Colonel Swartwout to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 1263
Letter from New-York Convention to General Washington: Mr. Duer and others are now attending the Army on a secret expedition projected by this Convention. Reasons and apology of the Convention for using the Continental clothing stored at Fishkill, - - 1263
17, Letter from Joseph Trumbull to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1265
17, Letter from William Gordon to General Washington: Is preparing for a history of the war, 1265
17, Letter from J. Warren to Massachusetts Board of War, - - - - - - - - - 1267
17, Letter from Ellis Gray to Captain Stone, - 1267
17, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Captain Johnson, - - - - - - - 1267
17, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to John Bradford, - - - - - - - 1267
17, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to General Godfrey, - - - - - - - 1267
17, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Captain Melvil, - - - - - - - 1268
17, Letter from Azor Orne to Thomas Cushing, - 1268
17, Memorial of Committee of Sunbury, Nova Scotia, to Massachusetts Assembly: Beg that measures may be taken to satisfy the St. John's tribe of Indians, otherwise the States will be in danger of losing their friendship, 1268
17, Return of Indians present in the expedition against Fort Cumberland, - - - - 1269
18, Extract of a letter received in London from Portsmouth, England: Arrival of the Fowey man-of-war, with despatches from General Howe, and intercepted letters from General Washington, - - - - - - - - 1269

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Dec. 18, Extract from Samuel Curwen's Journal, Exeter, England, - - - - - - - 1269
18, Intelligence at St. John's, Antigua: Purchase at St. Kitts of woolen stuffs by an American agent, - - - - - - - - 1269
18, Letter from Governour Henry to the Board of War, - - - - - - - - 1270
18, Letter from Benjamin Harrison to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - 1271
18, Letter from John Barwell to Maryland Council of Safety: Last night Captain Cook, of the ship Defence, departed with sixty or seventy men for Philadelphia, to join the forces there, 1271
18, Letter from Major Deakins to Richard Ridgely: John Youst, who has contracted with the Council of Safety for a number of muskets, now waits on them for cash to carry on his business, - - - - - - - - 1271
18, Letter from Colonel Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - 1272
18, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington: Five of the enemy's ships, and three tenders, are in the Capes of Delaware, - - - - - - - 1272
18, Letter from George Ross to Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Committee, - - - - - 1272
18, Circular to Associators of Pennsylvania, - 1272
18, Letter from General Washington to the General Court of Massachusetts-Bay: Has as yet received but little or no augmentation, except that of the Philadelphia City Militia, who have turned out in a spirited manner, - - 1274
18, Letter from General Washington to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 1274
18, Letter from General Washington to General Lincoln, - - - - - - - - 1275
18, Letter from General Washington to John Augustine Washington: The conduct of the Jerseys has been most infamous: instead of turning out to defend their country, they are making submissions as fast as they can. The captivity of General Lee is an additional misfortune, and the more vexatious as it was by his own folly and imprudence, and without a view to effect any good, that he was taken, -
18, Letter from Robert H. Harrison to Gen. Heath, 1176
18, Letter from Richard Dallam to President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 1276
18, Letter from Colonel Harcourt to Admiral Geary: Informing him of the death of his son, - 1277
Recommendation of Captain James Perry, - 1277
18, Letter from Jonathan Pollard to Pierre Van Cortlandt: Sends a number of prisoners, - 1277
18, Letter from Colonel Ford to General Heath, - 1277
18, Letter from General Heath to Colonel Ford, - 1277
18, Letter from General Heath to General McDougall, - - - - - - - - - 1278
Invoice of effects taken at Hackensack, - 1279
18, Letter from Jonathan Pollard to Commissary Cheever, - - - - - - - - 1279
18, Letter from Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: The exchange of prisoners by agreement with Mr. Washington has not been so generally complied with as he had reason to expect; it may become necessary to send an officer purposely to remonstrate upon the injustice of the delay, - - - 1279
18, Letter from Samuel Brewster to New-York Convention: The Committee have detained Mr. Elliston's sloop (which was loading goods on board, the property of Rev. Mr. Inglis, to be sent to New-York) till they shall hear from the Convention, - - - - - - 1280
18, Resolution of New-York Committee of Safety, appointing a Committee to prevent the conveyance of such property on Mr. Elliston's, sloop as they shall think proper, - - 1280
18, Receipt given to Captain Ford, acknowledging restitution for the things taken at White-Plains, - - - - - - - - - 1406
18, Letter from Stephen Oakley to General Spencer: Has received satisfaction for the things Captain Ford is under arrest for, - - 1406
18, Certificate of Thomas Palmer in favour of excusing Mr. Carscaden's son from marching with the Militia, as he can be of more service by continuing at the spinning-wheel making business, - - - - - - - - 1280

1776.
Dec. 18, Letter from Thaddeus Burr to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - - 1281
18, Letter from William Judd to Governour Trumbull: Application for the rank of Major, - 1281
18, Letter from Captain Brainerd to Governour Trumbull: Resigns his commission, - - 1281
18, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Captain J. Paul Jones, - - - - - - - 1281
Note of the time of material occurrences during the Alfred's cruise in November and December, 1776, - - - - - - - - 1282
Orders of Captain Jones to commanders of prizes, November 25, - - - - - 1282
Orders of Captain Jones to John P. Rathbun, commander of the ship John, November 25, 1283
Letter from John P. Rathbun to Captain Jones, November 25, - - - - - - - 1283
Orders of Captain Jones to Philip Brown, commander of the ship Mellish, November 25, - 1283
Orders of Captain Jones to John Margeron, commander of the ship Betty, December 8, - 1284
Orders of Captain Jones to Robert Saunders, commander of the ship John, - - - 1284
Orders of Captain Jones to Mr. Tyler, commander of the ship Providence, - - - 1284
18, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to John Bradford, agent for the Continental fleet at Boston, - - - - - - - - - 1284
18, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Esek Hopkins, Jun., - - - - - - - 1284
18, Letter from Governour Cooke to the Council of Massachusetts: Application for intrenching tools for the use of the troops at Providence, 1285
Receipt of Abijah Draper, in behalf of the State of Rhode-Island, for intrenching tools received from the Commissary-General of Massachusetts, - - - - - - - 1285
18, Letter from General Lincoln to James Bowdoin: Arrived at Providence this day about noon. If attacked immediately, it cannot be defended. A little time will give a new face to affairs, - - - - - - - - 1285
18, Letter from James Bowdoin to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - 1285
18, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Colonel Crafts: The command of all the force in the pay of this State has devolved upon this Board, - - - - - - - - 1286
18, Letter from the Massachusetts Board of War to Commissary Newman, - - - - - 1286
18, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to the Council of the State: Suggest the discharge of certain Militia, to work at the cannon furnace, - - - - - - - 1287
18, Letter from Tristram Dalton to John Avery: Will proceed to Providence to meet the Committees from the other New-England States, 1287
19, Resolution of Virginia Assembly for removal of English subjects from the State, - - 1287
Extract from a statute of 27th of Edward III., chapter XVII, - - - - - - - 1288
19, Resolution of the House of Delegates of Virginia, recommending a prohibition of the exportation of beef, pork, and bacon, - - 1271
19, Letter from Frederick (Maryland) Committee, to the President of Congress, - - - 1288
19, Resolves of the Committee of Frederick County, Maryland, for forwarding the Militia with all possible speed to Philadelphia, - - 1288
19, Letter from Thomas Johnson, Jun., Brigadier-General, to Maryland Council of Safety: Thinks it is best not to let the Militia go out under any Provincial Brigadier, - - - 1289
19, Letter from Captain Cook to Maryland Council of Safety: Left Baltimore with seventy-six men, all hearty and in high spirits, for Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - 1289
19, Information against Major John Willbank, one of the Legislative Council of Delaware, one of the Council of Safety for the County of Sussex, and Military Treasurer for the same, - 1359
19, Letter from John McKinley to Committee of Kent County, Delaware: The branch of the Council of Safety for this County has met almost every day since their return from Dover; their business has been principally to provide for the marching of the Militia to reinforce General Washington, - - - 1290

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Dec. 19, The American Crisis, Number one, - - 1290
19, Letter from General Washington to Pennsylvania Council of Safety: Nothing ever amazed him more than the note said to be wrote by John Dickinson, Esq., to his brother, the General, - - - - - - - 1294
19, Orders of General Washington to the Colonels of the Militia of Bucks and Northampton Counties, Pennsylvania, - - - - - 1295
19, Extract of a letter to a friend in Connecticut, from an officer in the American Army, dated Bucks County, Pennsylvania: I doubt not before one week you will hear of an attack somewhere, when I trust we shall do honour to ourselves, - - - - - - - 1295
19, Letter from General McDougall to General Washington, - - - - - - - 1296
19, Letter from the Committee at Morristown and others to General McDougall: Urging that the detachment of Colonel Vose be permitted to remain in that neighbourhood, for which they had had the assurance of General Lee, - - - - - - - - 1297
19, Letter from Colonel Malcom to General Heath: An order from Head-Quarters for the Ticonderoga detachment to join the grand Army had almost lost this State; to avert so capital a blow, General McDougall hath detained Colonel Vose until further orders, - - 1297
19, Letter from General Heath to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 1298
19, Letter from General Heath to New-York Convention: General Washington has directed him to return to Peekskill, to exert his utmost endeavours to secure the post, cover the country, and curb the insolent, - - - 1299
19, Letter from Commissary Hughes to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 1300
19, Letter from John Schenck to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 1300
19, Letter from Robert Yates to James Duane, - 1300
19, Letter from New-York Convention to General George Clinton: They approve the measures he has adopted for promoting the success of the expedition under his command, - - 1300
19, Extract of letter from Gouverneur Morris to his mother: What may be the event of the present war, it is not in man to determine; but the worst which can happen is to fall on the bleak mountain of America, - - - 1301
19, Resolution of New-York Convention for a secret expedition into the County of Westchester and the Island of New-York, - - 1301
19, Letter from General Schuyler to Governour Trumbull: Is greatly distressed with the situation of affairs to the northward; every letter from thence advises that the troops will leave it immediately after the term of their inlistment is expired; his whole dependence must be on troops from the Eastern States, - 1301
19, Letter from J. Trumbull, Jun., to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1302
19, Letter from Thaddeus Burr to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - - 1303
19, Letter from Lieutenant Hurlbut to Colonel Parsons: Copy of charter, and of the most material rules and regulations of their company, and of proceedings relative to dismissing Captain Starr, - - - - - - - 1303
19, Intelligence of prizes taken by the Alfred, - 1304
19, Letter from Nathaniel Carter to Massachusetts Board of War, - - - - - - - 1305
19, Intelligence of the expedition of Captain Eddy against Fort Cumberland, Nova-Scotia, - 1305
19, Letter from Meshech Weare to Governour Cooke: New-Hampshire Assembly have appointed a Committee to repair to Providence to act in conjunction with Committees from the other New-England States, - - - 1305
19, English Order in Council for extending the time for allowing bounties to seamen who shall inlist in the Royal Navy, and of rewards for the discovery of seamen who secrete themselves, - - - - - - - 1306
20, Letter from Samuel Curwen, Exeter, England, to George Russell, - - - - - - 1306
20, Letter from Thomas Johnson, Jun., to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1307

1776.
Dec. 20, Letter from Benjamin Rush to Richard Henry Lee: Proposition by a foreigner to go in person into Howe's Army and bring off two hundred Hessian recruits, - - - - - 1308
20, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the President of Congress: Under an absolute necessity of expending large sums of money daily, or of totally deserting the publick cause; therefore earnestly request two hundred thousand dollars to be immediately sent to them, - - - - - - - 1308
20, Address of Meeting of Suffering of the Quakers: Let not the fear of suffering, either in person or property, prevail on any to join with or promote any work or preparation for war, - - - - - - - - - 1309
20, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to General Washington: Necessity of impressing blankets and stockings for the Army, - 1310
20, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: His views and opinions at large on sundry measures for promoting the efficiency of the Army, - - - - - 1310
Plan of Colonel Knox for the establishment of a Continental artillery, magazines, laboratories, &c., - - - - - - - - - 1314
Plan of General Stephen for recruiting in Virginia, - - - - - - - - - 1314
20, Orders of General Washington to Carpenter Wharton, Assistant Commissary-General, to impress wheat and mills, if necessary, - 1315
20, Letter from General McDougall to General Heath: The detention of Colonel Vose's corps was absolutely necessary to prop the drooping spirits of the militia; the receipt of General Washington's orders authorizing it, has relieved him from many embarrassments, - 1315
20, Intelligence by John Halstead from Elizabeth-Town, - - - - - - - - 1316
20, Application of the Captains of Colonel Maxwell's regiment, in behalf of the men, to General Washington, not to be charged for cartouch-boxes, &c., - - - - - 1316
20, Letter from Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: His first design extended no further than to get and keep possession of East Jersey, but finding the advantages that might be gained by pushing on to the Delaware, and the possibility of getting to Philadelphia, the communication leading to Brunswick has been reinforced, - - - - - - 1316
20, Extract of a letter from Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: Plans for the next campaign; some changes in consequence of the late progress of the Army, - - - 1317
20, Letter from Jonathan Hallet to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 1318
20, Letter from Colonel Swartwout to New-York Convention: The time of the troops at Fort Constitution will expire on the 31st, - - 1318
20, Letter from General James Clinton to Colonel Dubois, - - - - - - - - 1319
20, Letter from Captain Rosekrans to Colonel Dubois, - - - - - - - - - 1319
20, Resolution of New-York Convention reviving Committee of Safety, - - - - 1320
20, Parole of Miles Sherbrooke, - - - - 1320
20, Parole of Alexander Wallace, - - - 1320
20, Letter from Robert Yates to New-York Committee of Arrangement, - - - - 1321
20, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1321
20, Letter from M. Malmedy to General Lee, - 1321
20, Letter from M. Malmedy to General Lee, - 1322
20, Letter from M. Malmedy to General Lee, - 1324
20, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Governour Cooke: Have ordered intrenching tools to be furnished, agreeable to his request, - 1324
20, Letter from Massachusetts Council to General Lincoln: Desire him to proceed immediately to Danbury, in Connecticut, - - - 1325
20, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Nathaniel Tracy: Respecting contract for linen, - - - - - - - - 1325
20, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to James Russell: Respecting contract for pork, 1325
20, Arrival of General Lincoln at Boston, escorted in by Colonel Crafts, accompanied by many of his officers on horseback, - - - 1325

1776.
*Dec.* 21, Letter from Committee of Foreign Affairs to B. Franklin, Silas Deane, and Arthur Lee, at Paris: Detail of the progress and present state of affairs. The British recall of their Mediterranean passes is an object of great consequence. Mr. Deane's proposition of loan is accepted by Congress, and they have desired two millions sterling to be obtained if possible. The value of captures by American vessels have been estimated at two millions, - - - - - - - - - 1325
21, Letter from General Lewis, Williamsburg, Va., to the President of Congress, - - - 1329
21, Letter from Charles Carroll to Maryland Council of Safety: Report that the enemy intend to station six frigates off Georgia and the Carolinas, six off the Capes of Virginia, and six off Delaware, to put a total stop to trade. No delegates from Maryland present in Congress, though questions of the greatest magnitude every day agitated, and resolves entered into, - - - - - - - 1329
21, Letter from Stephen Steward to Maryland Council of Safety: Has built, rebuilt, rigged, fitted, and been in all the trouble for four fine vessels for them, and has the fifth and sixth almost ready, - - - - - 1329
21, Letter from Captain Dems to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1330
21, Letter from the President of Congress to Committee of Frederick County, in Maryland, - 1330
21, Letter from Robert Morris to General Washington: Being possessed of publick papers which must never fall into the hands of the enemy, would be glad of a line when it is best to retire from Philadelphia. Has been told to-day that he is preparing to cross into the Jerseys; hopes it is true, and promises himself joyful tidings from the expedition, - 1330
21, Invoice of blankets received at Philadelphia by the Continental sloop Independence, - 1331
21, Letter from Robert Morris to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - 1331
21, Letter from Robert Morris to the Commissioners in France: Detail of military affairs; depreciation of Continental currency; state of the Navy; privateering, - - - - 1332
21, Letter from General Washington to General McDougall: Approves of the disposition of the three regiments under Colonel Vose, - 1337
21, Orders of General Washington to General Maxwell, to repair to Morristown and take command of the three Eastern regiments and the Militia there, - - - - - - 1337
21, Orders of General Washington to Carpenter Wharton, Assistant Commissary-General, - 1338
21, Letter from General Washington to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - 1338
21, Letter from General Washington to Governour Cooke, - - - - - - - - 1339
21, Letter from General Washington to Massachusetts Assembly, - - - - - - - 1340
21, Letter from General Greene to President of Congress: Greater power must be lodged in the hands of General Washington than he has ever yet exercised, - - - - 1341
21, Letter from General Greene to Governour Cooke: Hopes a stroke may be given to the enemy in a few days which may put a stop to General Howe's progress. The reports propagated about himself, respecting the loss of the baggage and stores at Fort Lee, are as malicious as they are untrue. The enemy's publication of the cannon and stores then taken is a grand falsehood; not an article of military stores was left there, or nothing worth mentioning, - - - - - 1342
21, Letter from General Dickinson to General Washington, - - - - - - - 1343
21, Letter from General Heath to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 1344
Inventory of sundries taken at Hackensack, in a large chest, going to New-York, - - 1345
Recommendation of Mr. Sobriski, - - - 1345
21, Letter from Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: Recommends raising a corps of German Chasseurs, to be commanded by Captain Emmerick, - - - - - 1345

1776.
General Court Martial: Trial and conviction of Lieutenant Nowell: Dismissed from the Army with infamy, - - - - - - - 1346
*Dec.* 21, Letter from Colonel Nicoll to General Heath, 1366
21, Letter from General George Clinton to New-York Convention: The security of the passes in the Highlands shall always be his first object, from which he will not suffer himself for any other consideration, however specious, to be diverted, - - - - 1347
21, Letter from Colonel Allison to Captain Johnston: Has arrested two suspicious persons, inhabitants of Ulster County, - - - 1348
21, Letter from Colonel Swartwout to Dr. McKnight, - - - - - - - - 1348
21, Resolves of New-York Convention, - - 1348
21, Letter from New-York Convention to General George Clinton: Have great reason to believe that the enemy are meditating a vigorous expedition against the passes in the Highlands, - - - - - - - - 1349
21, Letter from New-York Convention to General Spencer: There is reason to believe the passes in the Highlands will be attacked, - 1350
21, Letter from New-York Convention to President of Congress: A further application for clothing. As no State has suffered so severely they think she ought to have a particular attention in the distribution of those articles which belong to the United States, and which by no care and industry can be procured on her separate account, - - - - - 1350
21, Letter from New-York Convention to General Mifflin: On the subject of clothing, - - 1350
21, Letter from New-York Convention to General Howe: The families of the Rev. Mr. Inglis and others permitted to remove to New-York; request that Major Fish, who conducts them in, may have permission to bring out certain families and their effects, - - - - 1351
Letter from William Duer to New-York Delegates in Congress: Difficulties the State will labour under in procuring clothing for the troops they were to raise, - - - - 1351
21, Letter from Joseph Trumbull to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1352
21, Letter from Richard Varick to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 1352
21, Letter from General Herchkeimer and others to New-York Convention: Appeal for relief in a case in which certain military proceedings in General Herchkeimer's brigade were taken before the County Committee, and countermanded, - - - - - - 1353
21, Memorial of Henry Van Schaick to Governour Trumbull: Asking leave to visit, on parole, the heirs and executors of his late father, - 1354
21, Petition of Robert R. Waddell and Samuel Burling to Governour Trumbull, - - 1354
21, Parole of Benjamin Whitehead, Richard Betts, and George Hewlett, - - - - - 1355
21, Letter from Henry Newman to Massachusetts Board of War, - - - - - - - 1355
21, Letter from John Proud to Commodore Hopkins, - - - - - - - - 1356
21, Letter from James Bowdoin to the President of Congress: Introducing Monsieur Fanieul, and other French gentlemen, who offer their services in the Army of the United States, - 1356
21, Letter from M. Lotbiniere to his son, - - 1414
22, Letter from the Governour of Virginia to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - 1356
Resolution of the Virginia Assembly: Measures for completing their quota for the Continental Army. Recommendation to invest the commander with more ample powers, - 1357
22, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the President of Congress: Recommend that a severe example be made of John Willbank, a person in several important publick stations, who is endeavouring to enforce submission to Great Britain, - - - - - 1357
22, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the President of Congress: America has suffered more from herself than her enemies, and until a thorough reform can take place in the several departments, opposition will be vain, - - - - - - - - 1358

1776.
Dec. 22, Letter from Colonel Joseph Reed to General Washington: Some enterprise must be undertaken, or we must give up the cause. Will it not be possible to make a diversion, or something more, at or about Trenton? - 1360
22, Letter from General Washington to Pennsylvania Council of Safety: Their collection of old clothes for the Army deserves his warmest thanks. Has not a musket to furnish the Militia; it will therefore be needless for those to come who have no arms, except they will consent to work upon the fortifications, - 1361
22, Letter from General Washington to Massachusetts Council: Exchange of prisoners, - 1362
22, Letter from General Washington to Lewis Gordon, Chairman of the Committee of Northampton, - - - - - - - - - 1362
22, Circular from General Washington to the Colonels of the Militia of Northampton County, Pennsylvania: To march with their battalions immediately to Philadelphia, - - 1363
22, Letter from General Washington to General Heath: Without vigorous exertions and early succours, he does not see what reasonable hope there will be to preserve Philadelphia from falling into the enemy's hands, - - 1363
22, Letter from General Washington to General Spencer: Desires Militia to be hastened on with all possible expedition, as he sees no other chance of saving Philadelphia, and preventing a fatal blow to America, - - 1364
22, Letter from General McDougall to General Washington: Is extremely chagrined that the object of directing Colonel Vose to stay in New-Jersey is not likely to be effected; the State is totally deranged, without government, or officers, civil or military, in it, that will act with any spirit, - - - - - 1364
22, Letter from General Sullivan to the President of Congress: Introduces Captain Vernejou, who was with General Lee when he was taken, - - - - - - - - 1365
22, Letter from Commissary Hughes to General Heath: The secret expedition of our Convention remains a secret to every body but the Tories and enemy; such a tardy race of animals never before composed a Senate, - 1366
22, Letter from General James Clinton to New-York Convention, - - - - - - 1366
22, Letter from Hester De Witt to New-York Convention: Prays leave for herself and children to go to her husband in New-York, - - 1367
22, Letter from Captain Abner Seelye to John Sessions, - - - - - - - - 1367
22, Letter from General Lincoln to Governour Cooke, - - - - - - - - - 1367
22, Letter from Doctor Green to David Gilman, - 1367
23, Letter from Arthur Lee to Lord Shelburne, - 1368
23, Letter from the President of Congress to General Washington: The multiplicity of business which Congress left unfinished at Philadelphia, has induced them to appoint three gentlemen with full powers to perfect the business in such manner as they shall judge proper, - - - - - - - - - 1368
23, Letter from the President of Congress to Robert Morris: Congress desires to afford General Lee all the relief in their power, - - 1369
23, Letter from William Whipple to John Langdon, - - - - - - - - - 1369
23, Letter from William Blair to General Johnson, 1370
23, Letter from Benjamin Rumsey to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1370
23, Letter from Cæsar Rodney to Thomas Rodney, 1370
23, Letter from Robert Morris to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 1370
Letter from Robert Morris to James Searle: Impossible for him to appear on behalf of the owners of the privateer Phœnix, - - 1373
23, Letter from Robert Morris to General Washington: An obstinate partiality to the habits and customs of one part of this continent has predominated in the publick councils, and too little attention been paid to others, - 1373
23, Letter from Captain Cook to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - 1374
23, Address of Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania, - - 1375

1776.
Dec. Extract of a letter from an officer of distinction in the American Army, published by order of the Pennsylvania Council of Safety: Horrid depredations committed by that part of the British Army which was stationed at and near Pennytown, under the command of Lord Cornwallis, - - - - - - - - 1376
23, Letter from General Washington to Colonel Reed: Desires to know if his plan was attempted last night; and if not, to inform him that Christmas day and night, one hour before day, is fixed upon for the attempt on Trenton. His numbers less than he had any conception of; but necessity, dire necessity, will, nay must, justify the attack, - - 1376
23, Extract from the New-York Mercury: Capture of General Lee: the Rebels every where mouldering away like a rope of sand. Mr. Washington, with about two thousand poor wretches, who can get no subsistence but by following him, has fled to Lancaster; the Allens, and some other principal people of Philadelphia, have come in and claimed the protection of his Majesty's Army, - - 1377
23, Letter from General George Clinton to New-York Convention, - - - - - - 1378
23, Letter from Major Johnson to General Clinton, 1378
Orders of General Howe for recruiting a company of fifty men in the Province of New-York, - - - - - - - - - 1379
23, Letter from Colonel Hathorn to General George Clinton, - - - - - - 1379
23, Petition of Inhabitants of Westchester County to New-York Convention, - - - - 1379
23, Letter from Major Fish to General Heath, - 1380
Order of General Heath allowing Major Fish to attend the families of Rev. Mr. Inglis and others to New-York in a flag of truce, - 1380
23, Letter from Colonel Huntington to General Heath, - - - - - - - - 1381
23, Letter from William Dobbs to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 1381
23, Letter from Samuel Tuder to Peter R. Livingston, - - - - - - - - 1381
23, Letter from John Field to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - 1381
23, Letter from Benjamin Marvin to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - 1381
23, An Address of the Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York to their constituents, - - - - - - - 1382
23, Letter from Colonel Van Schaick to New-York Committee of Arrangement, - - 1388
23, Letter from Governour Trumbull to the President of Congress, - - - - - 1388
Resolution of the Assembly of Connecticut appointing a Committee to meet the Committees of the other States of New-England, at Providence, on the 23d of December, - 1389
23, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Washington, - - - - - - - 1389
23, Petition of Isaac Corsa, of the city of New-York, to Governour Trumbull: Desiring liberty to visit his family under the same restrictions as the other prisoners, - - - 1390
26, Parole of Isaac Corsa, Robert R. Waddell, and Samuel Burling, - - - - - 1390
23, Parole of Hugh Wallace and others, - - 1391
23, Parole of John Munro, - - - - - 1391
23, Letter from J. N. Varnum to General Lee, - 1391
23, Letter from General Lincoln to Massachusetts Council: The ship with clothing, taken by the Alfred, is arrived at Bedford; her cargo is of so much importance to the United States, and the loss of it so great a disappointment to our enemies, that it is the opinion of some that they will run every hazard yet to take possession of her, - - - - - - 1392
23, Letter from General Godfrey to Massachusetts Board of War: The number of Militia round Rhode-Island belonging to Massachusetts he supposes about one thousand, - - - 1392
23, Letter from General Ward to the President of Congress: Has forwarded to the Army near New-York a quantity of clothing lately brought in to Boston in a prize, - - - 1392
23, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Commissary Newman, - - - - - 1393

1776.
*Dec.* 23, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Samuel Purviance, Baltimore: Order for a quantity of flour and iron, - - - - - 1393
23, Letter from Joseph Dimuik to Massachusetts Council, - - - - - - - - - 1393
"Perseverance" on the probability of succeeding in the war, - - - - - - - 1393
24, Letter from Samuel Chase to General Sullivan: If we expect to succeed in the present war, we must change our mode of conduct; the business of the Congress must be placed in different hands, - - - - - - - 1395
24, Letter from Samuel Chase to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 1395
24, Letter from Thomas Johnson, Jun., to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1395
24, Letter from Baltimore Committee to President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 1397
24, Letter from William Whipple to John Langdon: The accounts from France, which are down to October, are very favourable, - - - 1397
24, Petition of Thomas Slater to Continental Congress: Asks the indulgence of a parole, - 1398
24, Letter from Donald McLeod and others, prisoners, to the President of Congress: Expect a parole on the same terms that have been granted to others of the King's officers, and a chance of exchange for officers of the same rank, - - - - - - - - - 1398
24, Letter from Robert Morris to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, President of Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 1398
24, Address of Pennsylvania Assembly to the inhabitants of the State, - - - - - 1399
24, Skirmish with the Hessians, - - - - - 1360
24, Letter from Richard Dallam, Deputy Paymaster-General, to General Washington, - - 1399
24, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: That he should dwell upon the subject of their distresses cannot be more disagreeable to Congress than it is painful to himself; the alarming situation to which affairs are reduced impels him to the measure, - - - - - - - - - - 1399
Return of the Forces in the service of the States of America, encamped and in quarters on the banks of the Delaware, in the State of Pennsylvania, under the command of his Excellency George Washington, Esq., Commander-in-Chief of all the forces of the United States in America, December 22, - - - - 1401
24, Letter from General Washington to Samuel Griffin: The unfortunate mode adopted by Congress for the appointment of officers under the new establishment, has been big with every evil, and among others with the most shameful delays. Offers encouragement to him to raise a regiment for Continental service, - - - - - - - - - 1401
24, Letter from General Washington to the officers commanding the Massachusetts and Connecticut Militia on their march to Peekskill, - 1403
24, Letter from General Washington to the St. John's Indians, - - - - - - - 1403
24, Letter from General Washington to the Passamaquoida Chiefs, - - - - - - 1403
24, Letter from Governour Tryon to Lord George Germain: Not the least apprehension of any further commotions from the inhabitants on Long-Island, - - - - - - - - 1404
24, Letter from General Spencer to the commanding officer at Peekskill, - - - - - 1404
24, Letter from General Heath to General Lincoln, - - - - - - - - - 1405
24, Letter from General Heath to New-York Convention: Requesting that the trial of Captain Ford and his men may not be delayed, - 1405
24, Letter from Colonel Joseph Trumbull, Commissary-General, to General Heath, - - 1406
24, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to General Washington, - - - - - 1406
24, Letter from New-York Convention to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - 1407
24, New-York Convention: Report of Committee on a letter from Governour Trumbull covering accounts of sundry persons for removing inhabitants, with stock, &c., from Rhode-Island, - - - - - - - - - 1407

1776.
*Dec.* 24, New-York Convention: Report of Committee appointed to confer with Colonel Trumbull relative to want of provisions, and a plan for the importation of salt for Connecticut and New-York, - - - - - - - - 1407
24, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to Governour Trumbull: This State has suffered greatly in the course of the war; five entire Counties, and part of a sixth, are in the possession of the enemy; much therefore cannot be expected from them; but whatever they can do, has and will be done. An act lately passed by Connecticut, prohibiting the transportation out of the State of certain articles, has given this Convention the most serious concern. Being deprived, by the misfortunes of war, of a sea-port, we have no possible means of procuring many of the necessaries of life but from the Eastern States, whose commerce is still open, - 1408
24, Letter from Colonel Parsons to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1409
24, Return of Clothing sent by Peter T. Curtenius to Esopus, and delivered in the store of Captain John Elvendorp, - - - - - 1409
Return of sundries sent to New-Windsor, addressed to Mr. James Jackson, and by him sent over to Fishkills, by order of the Convention, - - - - - - - - - 1410
24, Letter from Colonel Parsons to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1410
24, Letter from John McLean to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - - 1410
24, Parole of Joseph Reade, - - - - - 1411
24, Letter from Thomas Cushing to Massachusetts Council, - - - - - - - - 1411
24, Letter from James Lovell to John Avery, - 1412
24, Letter from M. Lotbiniere to the President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 1412
24, Letter from Arthur Lee to Richard Henry Lee: We have had an audience, been received, and presented our propositions. As yet we have received no answer, nor can we divine what it will be; they are very timid and secret, but we have hopes, - - - - - 1415
25, Letter from Samuel Wright to Colonel Richardson: Resigns his commission, - - 1415
25, Letter from President of Congress to Assemblies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, and Connecticut: Without your immediate aid, the important fortress of Ticonderoga will unavoidably fall into the hands of our enemies, the troops who garrison that and the adjacent posts having determined not to remain after the term of their inlistment expires, - - - - - - - - - 1415
25, Letter from Benjamin Harrison to Maryland Council of Safety: Congress are in immediate want of a fast-sailing vessel, - - - 1416
25, Letter from William Ellery to Governour Cooke, - - - - - - - - - 1416
25, Letter from Colonel Thornton to Meshech Weare: An inexcusable neglect in the officers, want of fidelity, honour, and humanity, in the doctors, and avarice in the sutlers, has slain ten soldiers to the enemy's one, and will soon prevent every man of common sense from putting his life and fortune in the power of such as destroy both without pity or mercy, - - - - - - - - 1418
25, General Gates arrived a few days ago at General Washington's head-quarters. A number of the Boston Tories have lately died, unpitied and unlamented, at Halifax, - - 1419
25, Letter from Marine Committee to Captain Nicholson: It is hoped his vessel is ready; he must act in concert with Captain Biddle, 1419
25, Letter from General Washington to Robert Morris: Bad as our prospects are, I should not have the least doubt of success in the end, did not the late treachery and defection of those who stood foremost in opposition while fortune smiled upon us, make me fearful that many more will follow their example, who, by using their influence with some and working upon the fears of others, may extend the circle so as to take in whole Towns, Counties, nay Provinces, - - 1419

1776.
Dec. 25, Letter from General Washington to General Putnam: An intercepted letter puts it beyond doubt that the enemy intend to cross the Delaware as soon as the ice is strong enough, - - - - - - - - 1420
25, Court Martial on Caleb Green, - - - 1420
25, Letter from Robert Yates to James Duane, - 1421
25, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1421
Letter from Terence McDermott to George Wyllys: Asks leave to go to New-York for thirty days on parole, on some private affairs, 1422
Parole of Terence McDermott, - - - 1422
25, Permission to Terence McDermott to go to New-York, - - - - - - - 1422
Memorandum of agreement of Mr. McDermott, 1422
25, Letter from Stephen Hopkins to James Bowdoin: Opinion of the Committees from the New-England States, now convened at Providence, on measures to be taken at this critical conjuncture for the common defence, - 1423
25, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to John Watson, - - - - - - - 1423
Statement of affairs in America, by Colonel White, Aid-de-Camp to General Howe, at Lord George Germain's office. Attack at Trenton, - - - - - - - - 1423
Observations on the action at Trenton; written in England before the American account of it arrived, - - - - - - - 1424
26, Proclamation by the Governour of Virginia: To engage volunteers, - - - - - 1425
26, Letter from James Lloyd Chamberlaine to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer: Resigns his commission, - - - - - - - - 1426
26, Letter from Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer to Colonel Plater, - - - - - - 1426
Memorial of Meyniere to Continental Congress: If granted the honour of finishing this campaign with his regiment he solemnly pledges to appear at his trial when required, - - 1426
26, Letter from Robert Morris to the President of Congress: Intelligence received that General Washington is master of Trenton, - - 1427
26, Letter from Robert Morris to General Washington: We have just heard of your success at Trenton. Good news sets all the animal spirits to work; the imagination is heated. I have just wrote to Congress the substance of the account, and almost promised them that you should, by following up this first blow, finish the campaign with that eclat that your numerous friends and admirers have long wished for, - - - - - - - 1428
26, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to Pennsylvania Council of Safety, - - - - - 1441
26, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to General Washington: The river was so full of ice that it was impossible to pass above Bristol, and therefore concluded to make an attempt at Dunk's Ferry. Could not land the cannon, and the field officers were all of opinion that it would not be proper to proceed without them. I imagine the badness of the night must have prevented you from passing as you intended, - - - - - - - 1429
26, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to Pennsylvania Council of Safety, - - - - - 1441
26, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to General Washington: Has determined to pass over to the neck of land a little above Bristol at six o'clock in the morning, - - - - 1429
26, Extract of a letter from a prisoner in New-York to a gentleman in New-London, Connecticut: The distress of the prisoners cannot be communicated by words; twenty or thirty die every day; they lie in heaps unburied. I have seen it, - - - - - - - 1429
26, Letter from General Heath to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 1430
26, Letter from Joseph Trumbull to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - 1431
26, Letter from General Heath to Colonel Thomas, 1431
26, Letter from General Heath to Colonel Palfrey, - - - - - - - - - 1431
26, Proceedings of a General Court Martial at Peekskill, - - - - - - - - 1432
26, Letter from Colonel Humfrey to Major Birdsall, - - - - - - - - - 1432

1776.
Dec. 26, Letter from Colonel Swartwout to New-York Convention, - - - - - - - 1433
26, Letter from New-York Committee of Safety to General Heath, - - - - - - - 1433
26, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1433
26, Beating orders to Lieutenant Burr, Connecticut, - - - - - - - - - 1433
26, Parole of Stephen de Lancey, of the city of Albany, - - - - - - - - 1434
26, Amongst the worthies who have put themselves under the protection of Howe and company, we find the names of the following noted personages: James Galloway, John Allen, Andrew Allen, William Allen, - - - 1434
26, Letter from Colonel Gilman to New-Hampshire Assembly, - - - - - - 1434
26, Letter from James Lyon to the President of Congress: Account of the expedition of Captain Eddy to Nova-Scotia. Recommends that that Province be immediately subdued by a force sufficient to hold it when taken, and that these troops be inlisted during the war, - - - - - - - - 1435
27, Intelligence of a most valuable cargo of arms, powder, &c., being gone up to Baltimore from Cape François, in a brig that was sent out by Congress, - - - - - - 1436
27, Letter from George Wells to Maryland Council of Safety: Has launched one of the row-galleys, and shall push on the other as fast as possible, - - - - - - - - 1437
27, Letter from John Hall to the Board of War, - 1437
27, Letter from the President of Congress to Robert Morris, - - - - - - - 1437
27, Letter from President of Congress to General Washington, - - - - - - - 1438
27, Letter from President of Congress to Pennsylvania Council of Safety, - - - - - 1438
27, Letter from President of Congress to Pennsylvania Council of Safety, - - - - - 1438
27, Letter from President of Congress to Joseph Trumbull, - - - - - - - 1438
27, Letter from Robert Morris to the President of Congress: From private information that can be depended on, our victory at Trenton has been complete, - - - - - - 1439
27, Letter from Committee for transacting Continental business to Thomas Smith: Expects his immediate attendance at Philadelphia, - 1439
27, Letter from Robert Morris to Benjamin Hogeland, - - - - - - - - 1439
27, Letter from Robert Morris to Colonel Fleming, 1439
27, Letter from Captain Nicholson to Samuel Purviance, Jun.: The particulars of yesterday's action at Trenton. This affair has given such amazing spirit to our people, that you might do any thing or go any where with them. Vast numbers of fine Militia are coming in momently, - - - - - - - 1440
27, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the President of Congress: Are sending off reinforcements of Militia, in hopes the very important blow at Trenton may be followed up. This Council has maintained their authority in the fullest extent, notwithstanding the near approach of the enemy, and the confidence which the Tories and disaffected derived from that cause, - - - - - 1440
27, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to the President of Congress, - - - 1441
27, Extract of a letter from an officer of distinction at New-Town, Bucks County: Particular account of the action at Trenton, - - - 1442
27, Extract of a letter from an officer in the American Army, dated New-Town, in Pennsylvania: Account of an advantageous victory obtained over the Hessians yesterday, - 1442
27, Letter from General Washington to Robert Morris, - - - - - - - - 1443
27, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Congratulates them upon the success of an enterprise which he had formed against a detachment of the enemy lying in Trenton, and which was executed yesterday morning, - - - - - - 1443
Return of the prisoners taken at Trenton by the Army under the command of his Excellency General Washington, - - - - 1445

1776.
Dec. 27, Letter from General Washington to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - - 1445
27, Letter from Colonel Moylan to Robert Morris: Was unfortunately too late to share in the honours of the day, being catched in the storm, and little imagining that any attempt would have been made at such an inclement time, 1446
27, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to General Washington: This morning embarked and landed fifteen hundred men two miles above Bristol: is now at Burlington, and shall march at four to-morrow morning for Bordenton. The enemy went off with great precipitation and pressed all the wagons within their reach, - - - - - - - - 1447
27, Letter from Colonel Tilghman to Colonel Cadwalader: Directing him not to attempt anything (without a certainty of success) till General Washington crosses the river, because a miscarriage would defeat all the good effects of the late victory, - - - - - 1447
27, Letter from Colonel Burd to William Atlee, - 1448
27, Letter from Colonel Burd to General Mifflin: State of his battalion, and his reasons for resigning, - - - - - - - - 1448
27, Letter from Colonel De Hart to General Washington: Has this day begun the recruiting service of the First Jersey Regiment, and shall expedite it with all possible speed, - - 1449
27, Petition of Captain Hamlen to General Heath: Asking a Court of Inquiry, that he may have a publick hearing, - - - - - - 1449
27, Letter from General George Clinton to New-York Convention: Recommends dismissing part of the Militia, retaining only in the service about one thousand of them, - - 1450
27, Letter from Major Moffat to John McKesson, 1450
A list of the Officers in Colonel Nicoll's regiment who have not received commissions for the service of this campaign, - - - - 1450
27, Letter from Jonathan Pollard to Abraham Ten Broeck, - - - - - - - - - 1451
27, Recommendation of Lieutenant Laurence, - 1451
27, Letter from John Duncan to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - - - 1451
27, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Schuyler, - - - - - - - - 1451
27, Parole of Philip Palmer, of Westchester, in the State of New-York, - - - - - - 1452
27, Advertisement for apprehension of Major French and others, - - - - - - 1452
27, Extract of a letter from Colonel Huntington to his son: Spent this afternoon at General Spencer's, with the Indian Chiefs, - - 1452
27, Letter from Massachusetts Board of War to Colonel Crafts, - - - - - - - 1453
27, Letter from Meshech Weare to the President of Congress: Application for twenty thousand dollars, - - - - - - - - 1453
27, Letter from Meshech Weare to Matthew Thornton and William Whipple: Every thing is so amazing dear that the soldiers say their wages will not half support them, - - 1453
27, Letter from New-Hampshire Committee of Safety to William Duer: Respecting the prisoners sent to New-Hampshire from New-York, - - - - - - - - - 1454
27, Letter from Thomas Thompson to New-Hampshire Assembly, - - - - - - - 1454
27, Letter from Colonel Long to New-Hampshire Assembly, - - - - - - - - 1454
27, Petition of John Grout to the Committee of the town of Charlestown, New-Hampshire, - 1455
28, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1456
28, Letter from Jesse Hollingsworth to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1456
28, Letter from Thomas Johnson, Jun., Brigadier-General, to Maryland Council of Safety, - 1457
28, Letter from Colonel Murdock to Maryland Council of Safety: Not more than eighty-eight men in his battalion of Militia are willing to march, in which is included the greatest part of the officers belonging to the different companies, - - - - - - - - 1457
28, Letter from the President of Congress to the Council of Massachusetts-Bay: Magazine and elaboratory to be fixed at Brookfield, - - 1457

1776.
Dec. 28, Letter from James Wilson to Robert Morris, 1457
28, Letter from Committee for transacting Continental business to the President of Congress: Have opened their office in Philadelphia, and given publick notice of their daily attendance to transact such Continental business as may be proper and necessary, - - - - - 1458
28, Letter from Committee of Congress to General Washington: The success at Trentown will have the most important publick consequences, and will do justice, in some degree, to a character which they admire, and which they have long wished to appear in the world with that brilliancy that success always obtains, and which the members of Congress know he deserves. Advise that the Hessian prisoners be not exchanged at this time, - 1458
28, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to Robert Morris: Much of their time is spent in quieting the discontents of the soldiery, who have not their pay regularly, and are in exceeding great distress for want of it, - 1460
28, Letter from General Mifflin to General Washington: Pennsylvania is at length roused, and coming in great numbers to his aid, - 1460
28, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to General Washington: Arrived at Bordenton about one o'clock; shall pursue the enemy to-morrow before day; the enemy are much encumbered with baggage and cattle; hopes to fall on their rear, - - - - - - - - 1460
28, Letter from General Washington to General McDougall, - - - - - - - - 1461
28, Letter from General Washington to General Maxwell: Is about to enter the Jerseys with a considerable force immediately for the purpose of attempting a recovery of that country from the enemy, - - - - - - 1461
28, Letter from General Washington to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1462
28, Letter from Lord Stirling to Governour Livingston: Now is the time to exert every nerve; and if we do, General Howe's Army will be ruined; be active, and make the State of New-Jersey what it ought to be, - - 1462
28, Letter from Joshua Loring, English Commissary for Prisoners, to New-York Convention, 1463
28, Letter from General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: Recommends the plan of Lieutenant-Colonel White for drafting forty or fifty volunteers from each regiment of dragoons in England, to form a battalion of foot to serve in America. - - - - - 1463
28, Letter from Philip Skene to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - - 1463
28, Letter from Alexander Wallace to Gouverneur Morris, - - - - - - - - - 1464
The contents of a chest of plate belonging to Hugh Wallace, taken about five miles below Hackensack, - - - - - - - - 1464
28, Letter from General Heath to General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1464
28, Letter from General Arnold to General Heath, 1466
28, Letter from Jonathan Pollard to William Duer, 1466
28, Letter from New-York Convention to President of Congress: Second and urgent application upon the subject of clothing and blankets for the troops. The dictates of humanity oblige them to mention that there are numbers of sick at Fishkill dying for want of the commonest attentions. The Convention are also much concerned to find that the laying up proper magazines of provisions and forage hath as yet been utterly neglected, - 1466
28, Report on saltpetre in New-York Convention, - - - - - - - - - 1468
28, Letter from Governour Trumbull to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 1469
28, Letter from Jonathan Warner to General Heath, - - - - - - - - - 1469
28, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to John Langdon, - - - - - - - - - 1470
28, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to John Bradford, - - - - - - - - - 1470
28, Letter from Commodore Hopkins to Leonard Jarvis, - - - - - - - - - 1470
29, Letter from Benjamin Harrison to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1471

1776.
Dec. 29, Letter from Benjamin Rumsey to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - 1471
29, Letter from Robert Morris to Benjamin Harrison: Believes it would have an excellent effect were Congress to return to Philadelphia immediately, - - - - - - 1471
29, A list of the names of those Pennsylvania Associators who had not entered into the service under the command of his Excellency General Washington, the 28th day of this instant, December, and then either refused or neglected to give in their names and march to Philadelphia, agreeable to his Excellency's orders, - - - - - - - 1472
29, Letter from General Washington to Robert Morris, - - - - - - - - - 1473
29, Letter from General Washington to the President of Congress: Informing of his intention of passing the river again, and the plans he has in view, - - - - - - - 1473
29, Letter from General Washington to Lieutenant General Howe, - - - - - - - 1474
29, Letter from General Washington to General Lee: Enclosing a draft on Major Small, - 1474
29, Letter from General Maxwell to General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1474
29, Letter from General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain: Loss at Trenton; this misfortune seems to have proceeded from Colonel Rall's quitting his post and advancing to the attack, instead of defending the village. The Rebels recrossed the Delaware immediately with the prisoners and cannon they had taken, - - - - - - - - - 1475
29, Letter from Hugh Hughes to General Washington: The inlisting of teamsters and wagoners, independent of the Army, and that for a year at least, would be productive of advantage to the service. The late conduct of the artificers seems to make it necessary that they should undergo a reform of men or measures, - - - - - - - - - 1475
29, Letter from General Schuyler to Governour Trumbull: Has resolved, without waiting any longer for the directions of Congress, as the winter is slipping away, to carry into execution whatever he deems essential to the service, and which does not admit of further delay, - - - - - - - - - 1476
30, Letter from President of Congress to General Schuyler, - - - - - - - - - 1477
30, Circular from the President of Congress to the States: Extensive powers vested in the Commander-in-Chief, - - - - - - 1478
30, Letter from Committee of Foreign Affairs to the Commissioners of France: Congress have authorized such tenders to France and Spain as they hope will prevent any longer delay of an event that is judged so essential to the well-being of North-America, - - - 1480
30, Letter from James Wilson to General St. Clair, 1482
30, Letter from William Lux to Maryland Council of Safety, - - - - - - - - 1482
30, Petition of Henry Ashfield, private in Captain Fulford's company, to Maryland Council of Safety, for a discharge, - - - - - 1482
30, Letter from J. Hall to Benjamin Harrison, - 1482
30, Memorial of Lieutenant-Colonel Antill to Continental Congress, - - - - - - - 1507
30, Letter from Captain Hammond, English Navy, to Robert Morris: Has given orders that every prisoner now on board the ship under his command, shall be set at liberty without delay, - - - - - - - - - 1483
30, Letter from Committee for transacting Continental business to the President of Congress, 1483
30, Letter from Robert Morris to General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1485
30, Letter from Robert Morris to General Washington: Has long since parted with very considerable sums of hard money to Congress; therefore must collect from others; and, as matters now stand, it is no easy matter. He means to borrow silver, and promise payment in gold, and will then collect the gold in the best manner he can, - - - - - - 1485
List of hard money in two canvas bundles for his Excellency General Washington, - - 1485

1776.
Dec. 30, Letter from Robert Morris to Continental Agents: Introducing Mr. Nicholas Eveleigh, who has some commercial views in his journey to New-England, - - - - - 1485
30, Extract of a letter from Philadelphia: The late enterprise of General Washington has had a most glorious effect; it animates the friends of liberty amazingly; it is said when all our forces in Jersey join they will amount to fifteen thousand effective men, - - - 1486
30, Letter from Thomas Rodney to Cæsar Rodney: Jersey will be the most whiggish Colony on the Continent; the very Quakers declare for taking up arms; hopes to see the conquest of Jersey, and set off for home again in two weeks, - - - - - - - - - 1486
30, Letter from Benjamin Rush to Richard Henry Lee: Our Army increases daily, and our troops are impatient to avenge the injuries done to the State of New-Jersey, - - 1487
30, Letter from General Washington to Robert Morris: Has the greatest occasion at present for hard money to pay a certain set of people who are of particular use. The greatest impediment to his motions is the want of provisions, - - - - - - - - 1488
30, Letter from General Washington to General McDougall: The Continental regiments from the Eastern Governments have, to a man, agreed to stay six weeks beyond their term of inlistment, which was to have expired the last day of this month. For this extraordinary mark of their attachment to their country, he has agreed to give them a bounty of ten dollars per man, besides their pay running on, - - - - - - - - - 1488
30, Letter from General Washington to Major Bland, - - - - - - - - - 1489
30, Letter from General McDougall to General Washington, - - - - - - - - 1489
30, Recruiting orders of Colonel Robert Rogers, Lieut. Colonel Commandant of the Queen's Rangers: Recruits to serve during the present rebellion and no longer; they will have their proportion of all Rebel lands, and all privileges equal to any of his Majesty's troops, - - - - - - - - - 1490
30, Letter from General Heath to Governour Trumbull: The signal victory at Trenton will be productive of the best consequences; ardour glows in every face, - - - - - - 1491
30, Report of a Court of Inquiry on Captain Hamlen, - - - - - - - - - - 1491
28, Decision of Court of Inquiry on Captain Hamlen, - - - - - - - - - - 1493
30, Sentence of a General Court Martial on Joseph Fosey and others, for inlisting more than once, - - - - - - - - - 1493
30, Letter from General James Clinton to New-York Committee of Arrangement, - - 1494
30, Resolution of New-York Convention, authorizing the Committee for carrying on a secret expedition in Westchester County to draw for six hundred pounds, - - - - - 1494
Letter from New-York Convention to President of Congress: Further application on the subject of clothing, - - - - - - 1494
30, Letter from General Schuyler to President of Congress, - - - - - - - - 1495
30, Letter from General Schuyler to Thomas Cushing, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts-Bay, - - - - - 1498
30, Letter from General Schuyler to Meshech Weare: Has received a friendly message from the Indians; they seem determined to adhere to their treaties with us; blankets they always expect, and unfortunately he has not one to give them; entreats that four or five hundred be sent the soonest possible, - 1499
30, Letter from J. Trumbull, Jun., to Governour Trumbull, - - - - - - - - 1500
30, Letter from John Watson to Massachusetts Board of War: The price of tobacco advanced fifty per cent. since last year, - - 1453
30, Connecticut Council of Safety, - - - 1500
30, Letter from Captain Delaplace, prisoner, to Governour Trumbull: Asks leave to go to New-York to effect an exchange, - - - - 1500

1776.
Dec. 30, Letter from Massachusetts Council to the President of Congress: Many of the inhabitants of Nova-Scotia, perhaps most of them, are well-affected to the cause of the United States; submit it to the serious consideration of Congress whether they ought not to be assisted, and whether it be not likely that such assistance, if speedily and sufficiently given, will in several ways operate to the benefit of the United States, and it may eventually add another to them, - - - - 1501
30, Letter from Francis Shaw to John Avery, - 1503
30, Meeting of Committees of Safety, &c., of towns of Worcester County, Massachusetts: Proceedings respecting John Caldwell and Captain John Black, the principal movers in calling a meeting to consider Lord Howe's declaration, to the great grief and astonishment of the inhabitants in general, - - - 1503
30, Letter from Hopestill Capen, in Boston prison, to Joseph Greenleaf: Begs that he may not be persecuted any longer for what he cannot in conscience do, - - - - - - 1522
31, Letter from Arthur Lee to the Secret Committee: Accepting his appointment as one of the Commissioners to the Court of France, - 1504
31, Letter from South-Carolina Council of Safety to Massachusetts Council: Requesting assistance for Captain Cochran, sent by them to procure seamen in that Colony for the defence of South-Carolina; shall think themselves happy in rendering any service to their brethren in the Massachusetts-Bay, - - 1504
31, Pay and Rations of the Staff and Army of the United States of America, - - - - 1505
31, Letter from a Committee of Congress to Massachusetts Council: Application for ordnance and other stores for the Northern Army, to be transported with all possible despatch to General Schuyler, - - - - - - 1505
31, Letter from Thomas Nelson, Jun., to General Gates: Requests him to furnish a plan for establishing a Board of War and Ordnance, such as he shall think best adapted to answer the designs of Congress, - - - - - - 1506
31, Letter from William Ellery to Governour Cooke: Among other things that fell into our hands by the victory at Trenton, were four standards, one of which is now in the room where the Congress is held, and directly before me: It is an Hessian silken standard: Description of it, - - - - - - - - - 1506
31, Petition of Abraham Winent to Continental Congress, to be heard and discharged from close confinement, - - - - - - 1508
Petition of Peirce Hackett, and others, indented servants, praying liberty may be granted for them to join in some company, - - 1508
Petition of William Clouse to Continental Congress, praying that his son may be excused from going with the Militia, - - - - 1509
Petition of John Casey to the President of Congress: Prays to be released from service, having been trapanned to inlist when very much in liquor, - - - - - - 1509
31, The enemy have degraded themselves beyond the power of language to express, by wantonly destroying the curious waterworks at New-York, an elegant publick library at Trenton, and the grand orrery made by the celebrated Rittenhouse, which was placed in the college at Princeton, - - - - - - - 1509
31, Letter from Captain Cook to Maryland Council of Safety: The greatest part of the people that he brought to Philadelphia have inlisted in the land service, for the sake of the twenty dollars bounty; those who were sailors have entered in merchantmen, wages being extravagantly high, - - - - - - 1510
31, Letter from Committee of Congress to General Washington: Happy it is for this country that the General of their forces can safely be entrusted with the most unlimited power, and neither personal security, liberty, or property, be in the least degree endangered thereby, - 1510
31, Letter from Committee of Congress for transacting Continental business to Thomas Nelson, - - - - - - - - - - 1510

1776.
Dec. 31, Letter from Carpenter Wharton to the President of Congress: Asks for seventy thousand dollars, for the purpose of forming magazines of provisions, as instructed by General Washington, - - - - - - - - - 1511
31, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to Lancaster Committee: The Hessian prisoners are to march from Philadelphia for Lancaster on the 2d of January. It is our interest to improve the present opportunity to make them our friends, and sow the seeds of dissension between them and the British troops, 1511
31, Letter from Pennsylvania Council of Safety to Lancaster Committee: As our arms have been attended with an unexpected success, shall have no present occasion for more wagons to assist in removing stores from Philadelphia, - - - - - - - - - 1512
31, Yesterday morning upwards of nine hundred Hessians, who were taken at Trenton, were brought to Philadelphia. Last Thursday afternoon Colonel Rohl died at Trenton, of the wounds he received that morning, - - 1512
21, Letter from Benjamin Rush to Richard Henry Lee, - - - - - - - - - 1512
31, Letter from Colonel Cadwalader to General Washington: Intelligence by a young gentleman just returned from Prince-Town, - 1513
31, Letter from General Washington to Robert Morris: The radical evil which pervades our whole system again shows itself—to-morrow the Continental troops are all at liberty; wishes to push his success to keep up the panick, and has promised them a bounty of ten dollars if they will continue a month. If it be possible, sir, to give us assistance, do it: borrow money where it can be done; we are doing it upon our private credit, - - - 1514
31, Letter from Governour Tryon to Lord George Germain: The Rebels carrying off the Hessian brigade has given him more real chagrin than any other circumstance this war; unlucky as was this loss, he has received great comfort by assurances that the Rebels will not, with all their arts, be able to seduce them from their allegiance to their Prince and duty to his Majesty. Trusts this tarnish to the campaign will in due season be wiped away by some brilliant enterprise of the King's forces, who entertain the keenest sense of the insult, 1514
31, Letter from General Heath to Major Smith: Directing him to endeavour to seize a number of persons, who are going to join the enemy this or to-morrow night, - - - 1515
31, Proceedings of a Court Martial: John Young and John Eames tried and acquitted, - - 1515
31, Letter from Colonel Willett to New-York Committee of Arrangement: Recommends Christopher Hutton for an Ensign, - - - 1515
31, Committee of Safety of New-York: Report of Committee appointed to examine Captain Ford and others on accusation of plundering the house of Talman Pugsley, - - - 1515
New-York Committee of Safety: Captain Ford committed to gaol, - - - - - - 1516
31, Letter from H. Glen to Major Fonda, - - 1516
Memorial of Daniel Tucker to General Schuyler, - - - - - - - - - 1516
31, Letter from Major Malmedy to Governour Cooke: His observations on the distribution of artillery for the defence of Providence, - 1517
31, Pass for Felix Powell, from Guy Carleton, - 1517
Names of the men that were against coming away from Onion River in the time of the retreat, - - - - - - - - - 1517
31, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Rhode-Island Committee, - - - - - - 1517
31, Letter from Massachusetts Assembly to General Lincoln: Suggest an attack on the city of New-York, - - - - - - - - 1518
31, Letter from Massachusetts Council to General Lincoln: Directing him to furnish Mr. Livingston with an escort through New-York and the Jerseys for the clothing intended for the Continental Army, - - - - - 1518
31, Letter from Massachusetts Council to Abraham Livingston: To apply to General Lincoln for an escort, - - - - - - - - 1518

1776.
*Dec.* 31, Letter from J. Greenleaf to James Warren: Lays before the House three papers signed by Hopestill Capen, and begs protection from the insults of Mr. Capen, who stands committed for signing an association to join the enemies of his country whenever called upon, and other crimes, - - - - - - 1522
31, Letter from Henry Stevenson to Hugh Orr: Purchase of pig iron in Maryland for Massachusetts, - - - - - - - - 1522
Letter from William Pynchon, Jun., to Richard Devens, - - - - - - - - 1523
List of vessels seized as prizes, and of recaptures made by the American squadron, between the 10th of March and the 31st of December, 1776, according to the returns received by the Vice Admiral the Viscount Howe, - - - - - - - - 1523
An authentick list of vessels taken by American privateers, - - - - - - - 1527

PROCEEDINGS OF NAVY BOARD OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

1776.
*Nov.* 1, Application to be made to the President for eight hundred bushels of salt, - - - 1529
1, Inquiries to be made respecting building row-galleys, - - - - - - - - 1529
2, Letter to Clement Lempriere, respecting terms of building a row-galley, - - - - 1531
2, Order from the President for eight hundred bushels of salt, - - - - - - 1531
2, Letter from President Rutledge: Desires them to ship on board the Defence a thousand pounds stirling worth of indigo to Cape François, and with the proceeds to procure good seamen, arms, &c., - - - - - - 1531
2, Orders for Captain Pickering, of the brigantine-of-war Defence, - - - - - 1531
4, Contract with Mr. Gibbes for fifty barrels of beef, - - - - - - - - 1532
4, Letter to Captain Pickering, - - - 1532
4, Letter to the Committee of Sunbury, - - 1533
4, Pilot-boat Hibernia discharged from publick service, - - - - - - - - 1533
5, Alexander Horn, publick boat-keeper, ordered to attend at the next meeting to answer for his neglect, - - - - - - - - 1533
5, Orders to be drawn for sixteen casks of indigo, shipped on board the Defence, - - - 1533
7, Alexander Horn reprimanded, - - - 1533
7, Guns and stores to be removed from the pilot-boat Hibernia, - - - - - - - 1533
7, Letter from Thomas Wade, offering to contract for pork, - - - - - - - - 1533
7, Letter from President Rutledge: Intelligence that two armed vessels from St. Augustine infest the southern part of Georgia, - - 1534
7, Instructions to Captain Allen, of the Comet, brigantine-of-war, - - - - - - 1534
7, Captain Wade's offer refused, - - - 1534
11, Offer of Mr. Burkmeyer to contract for beef; rejected, - - - - - - - - 1535
11, Mr. Hest to be furnished with two hundred bushels of salt to procure hemp for the Navy, 1535
11, Letter from Captain Pickering, - - - 1535
14, Offer of Mr. Nettles to contract for pork; agreed to, - - - - - - - - 1535
14, Offer of Mr. Willaman to contract for beef; rejected, - - - - - - - - 1535
14, Application to be made to the President for another pilot-boat, to attend the bar, - - 1535
14, Sundry accounts ordered to be paid, - - 1535
21, All letters received to be numbered and filed for reference, - - - - - - - 1536
21, Message from the President: The Commissioners may do what they think necessary concerning the purchase of another pilot-boat, - 1536
21, Captain Ammonette offered eight hundred Continental dollars for his boat, - - - 1536
21, Order for the payment of sundry accounts, - 1536
21, Agreement of Mr. Black to build a row-galley, 1536
22, The pilot-boat Glory of America purchased from Captain Ammonette, - - - - - - 1536
25, Resignation of Alexander Horn, publick boat-keeper, - - - - - - - - 1536
25, Mr. McCully Righton appointed publick boat-keeper, - - - - - - - - 1536

1776.
*Nov.* 25, Letter to Alexander Horn, directing him to bring in his accounts, - - - - - 1536
25, Letter to Mr. Righton, informing him of his appointment, - - - - - - - 1537
25, Mr. Righton to be allowed thirty shillings per day, - - - - - - - - - 1537
25, Letter to Clement Lempriere: Accept his proposals for building a row-galley, - - 1537
28, Order to Mr. Righton to engage eight good negro boatmen, - - - - - - 1537
30, Letter received from Captain Allen, - - 1537
*Dec.* 5, Captain Allen attended the Board, - - 1537
5, The President desired to give a pass to the Forts for the pilot-boat Hawke, - - - - 1537
10, Pass granted to pilot-boat Hawke, - - - 1537
10, Application of Mr. Hezekiah Anthony for his wages as First Lieutenant, - - - - 1538
10, Pilot-boat Hawk sent to Georgetown for sundry articles, - - - - - - - - 1538
10, Articles ordered for the use of the works carrying on at Sullivan's Island, - - - 1538
10, Order in favour of Captain Allen, - - - 1538
12, A letter received from Anthony Bonneau, and one from General Gadsden, - - - 1538
16, A letter received from Captain Seymour, of the Rattlesnake, and from Lieutenant Seward, of the Defence, - - - - - - - - 1538
16, Clerk furnished with £2,000, to pay off the people belonging to the Rattlesnake, - - 1538
16, Order for Mr. Hezekiah Anthony: In case of his refusal to obey, to be dismissed the service, - - - - - - - - - 1538
16, Letter to Captain Allen, desiring him to have the Comet ready for a cruise as soon as possible, - - - - - - - - - 1538
30, Report from the Clerk that he had paid the armed schooner Rattlesnake, - - - - 1539
30, Payment for sundries supplied Captain Darrell, 1539
30, Captain Allen to open a rendezvous and to advance a month's pay to every man that will inlist in the service of the State for six months, - - - - - - - - 1539
30, The Surgeon of the Comet to give his attendance on board the said vessel once every day while in harbour, - - - - 1540
30, A small boat to be purchased from Captain Morgan, for the use of the pilot-boat Eagle, - 1540
30, Draft for the Comet's pay-bill for three months, and for the detachment of soldiers on board said brigantine, - - - - - - 1540

*Minutes of the Committee appointed by New-York Convention, for Inquiring into, Detecting, and Defeating all Conspiracies, &c.*

1776.
*Dec.* 11, Committee met at Connor's Tavern, Fishkill, 1539
Mr. Duer being absent, Mr. Jay was chosen Chairman, - - - - - - - 1539
Names and crimes of sundry persons communicated by Colonel Huntington, - - - 1539
11, Letter received from Joh's Hardenbergh, Jun., 1539
11, Dr. Graham requested to examine two sick prisoners, - - - - - - - - 1539
11, Information by Gouverneur Morris, respecting certain prisoners, - - - - - 1539
11, Examination of Charles Hight, Jun., - - 1539
11, Stephen Lyon and others to be apprehended and brought before the Committee, - - - 1540
11, Report of Rev. Dr. Graham of his examination of two sick persons, - - - - - 1540
13, Anthony Alair released on bail, - - - 1540
13, Letter received from Egbert Benson, - - 1540
13, Letter received from Maurice Pleas, respecting Charles Vincent, - - - - - - 1540
13, Letter received from Colonel Thomas, enclosing a letter from General Wadsworth to General Spencer, - - - - - - - 1540
13, Names of a number of Tories apprehended by General Wadsworth, - - - - - 1540
13, Certificate communicated of certain matters against William Underhill, - - - - 1540
13, Letter received from Isaac Everit, the Chairman of the Committee of Fredericksburgh, - 1540
13, Letter received from Leonard Gansevoort respecting three half-pay officers disaffected to the American cause, - - - - - 1541
13, Escape of the Mayor of Albany from custody, - 1541

1776.
Dec. 13, The three half-pay officers to be removed to Boston, and to remain there on parole, - 1541
13, Mr. Duer appointed Chairman, - - - 1541
15, Three Tories from the Precinct of New-Marlborough brought before the Committee, - - 1541
15, Henry Brandt and John Niles discharged, on taking the oath of allegiance, - - - 1541
15, Officer of the guard to deliver Isaac Tomkins to Colonel Drake, - - - - - 1541
16, Letter received from Joshua Draper, Massachusetts, in favour of Ralph Philips, - - 1541
16, Letter received from Lawrence Fonda, Chairman of the Committee of Claverack, - - 1541
16, Committee of Claverack requested to remove George Clapper and others to the jail at Poughkeepsie, - - - - - - 1541
16, Peter Corne on parole so long as General Parsons shall lodge at his house, - - - 1542
17, Examination of Enoch Crosby, read, - - 1542
17, Walter Dubois and others, in Ulster County, to be apprehended and brought before the Committee, - - - - - - - 1542
17, Uriah Townsend and others discharged on taking the oath of allegiance, - - - 1542
17, Letter received from the Committee of Tryon County, - - - - - - - - 1542
17, Francis Prince and others to be confined in jail at Poughkeepsie, - - - - 1542
17, William Gilroberts, charged with horse stealing, to be confined in jail at Poughkeepsie, - 1542
17, Charge laid against Charles Haight, - - 1542
18, Information by General Clinton of a quantity of butter taken from Brian Connor, who had intended to carry it to the enemy, - - 1542
18, Examination of Josias Berkely respecting Baltus Van Kleeck, - - - - - - 1543
18, Testimony of Captain Platt to the equivocal character of Baltus Van Kleeck, - - 1543
18, Examination of John J. Sligell, - - - 1543
18, John Sligell to appear before the Committee every Saturday, - - - - - - 1543
18, Letter received from Colonel Luddington, - 1543
18, Order for the arrest of David Atkins and all others who there is good reason to suppose have received protections from the enemy, - 1543
18, Jeremiah Bailey to be kept in safe custody till further orders, - - - - - - - 1544
18, Information against Thomas Tobias and others, of Nine Partners, very active Tories, who had for some time absconded, - - - - 1544
18, List to be prepared of persons who have absconded from the Nine Partners, distinguishing such as have property, - - - 1544
18, Mr. Gansevoort chosen Chairman, - - 1544
18, Lieutenant Schoonmaker put under arrest for having suffered Abraham Cuyler, Mayor of Albany, to escape, - - - - - - 1544
18, Thomas Menzies permitted to return to his place of residence on parole, - - - 1544
18, Mr. Southerd requested to furnish the guard at Fishkill with fire-wood, - - - - 1544
20, Dr. Gale charged with being one of the most subtle and dangerous Tories in America, - 1545
20, Lieutenant Schoonmaker to be reprimanded, and discharged from arrest, - - - - 1545
20, Mr. Menzies appeared and signed his parole, 1545
20, Examination of John Haines, - - - - 1545
20, Malcom Morison and David Aitkins arrested and brought to Fishkill, - - - - - 1545
20, Major Smyth appointed to the command of Rangers, and requested forthwith to repair to Fishkill, - - - - - - - 1545
20, Captain Myrick to take Joseph Pinnie in custody, 1545
20, Examination of Malcom Morison, - - 1545
20, Malcolm Morrison to be committed to the custody of the guard, and by them confined in irons, - - - - - - - - 1545
20, Examination of David Aikins, - - - 1545
20, David Aikins to be discharged on taking the oath of allegiance, - - - - - 1547
20, John Kain, charged with having received a protection from General Howe, to be apprehended and brought before the Committee, 1547
20, Charles Collins to be immediately committed to the guard-house, - - - - - - 1547
21, Order for twelve pair of manacles and handcuffs to be forthwith made and sent to the Committee, - - - - - - - 1547

1776.
Dec. 21, Captain Clark forthwith to attend the Committee, - - - - - - - - - 1547
21, Letter received from the Chairman of the Committee of Poughkeepsie District, - - 1547
21, Committee of Poughkeepsie District requested to send Joseph Odel and Michael Smith to the Committee under a guard of two men, - 1547
21, Six dollars paid to John Hains for secret services, - - - - - - - - 1547
21, Oath of Allegiance to be tendered to David Van Schaack, Peter Van Schaack, John Stevenson, and Cornelius Glen, of Albany, who are supposed to be unfriendly to the American cause, and, from their influence, are enabled to do it essential injury, - - - - 1547
21, Dirck Gardinier and Matthew Gose to be discharged on taking the oath of allegiance, - 1547
22, Examination of John Kane, - - - - 1548
22, Examination of Colonel Ludinton, - - 1548
22, Examination of Mathew Patterson, - - 1548
22, John Kane to be put in irons, - - - 1549
22, Jesse Holmes committed to the guard-house, - 1549
22, Josiah Bartley committed to the custody of the guard, - - - - - - - - 1549
22, Daniel Reeves to be confined in irons, - - 1549
22, Payment for twelve pair of manacles or handcuffs, - - - - - - - - 1549
22, David Penbrooke, escaped from the guard-house and retaken, to be confined in irons, - - 1549
22, Order for the arrest of three persons, lurking in Beekman's Precinct, - - - - 1549
23, Request for the enlargement of Malcolm Morrison, - - - - - - - - 1549
23, The enlargement of Malcolm Morrison considered highly inexpedient and improper, and that it would greatly impeach the impartiality of the Committee, - - - - - 1549
23, Deposition of Roswell Wilcox, of Fredericksburgh, in Dutchess County, - - - 1549
23, Nathaniel Sacket appointed Treasurer to the Committee, and auditor of all accounts offered for payment, - - - - - - 1550
23, Information that Jesse Holmes is a dangerous person, - - - - - - - - 1550
23, Zebediah Heath committed to the guard-house, 1550
23, Enoch Crosby, under an assumed name, to repair to Mount Ephraim, and use his utmost art to discover the designs, places of resort, and route of certain disaffected persons in that quarter, who have formed a design of joining the enemy, - - - - - 1550
23, Enoch Crosby to be furnished with a horse and thirty dollars, - - - - - - - 1551
23, Nathaniel Sackett to give instructions to Enoch Crosby, - - - - - - - - 1551
23, Order for the payment of a saddle and bridle for the use of the Committee, - - - 1551
23, Examination of John Hains (concealing his name) to be forwarded to Thaddeus Burr, of Fairfield, Connecticut, - - - - 1551
23, Enoch Crosby to be furnished with such clothing as he may stand in need of, - - 1551
24, John D. Crimshire requested to repair to Fishkill, for the purpose of bringing up the Minutes of this Committee, - - - - 1551
24, Joseph Odel, Michael Smith, and Jeremiah Shafer, brought to Fishkill under guard, - 1551
24, A letter received from John Schenck, - - 1551
24, A letter received from Luke Babcock, - - 1551
24, Joseph Ferington, Judas Kronck, and Jacob Jewel, to be discharged on taking the oath of allegiance, - - - - - - - 1551
24, Enoch Crosby went off on the business proposed last night, under the name of Levi Foster: to be at Mount Ephraim by Thursday noon, - 1551
24, A letter received from the Chairman of the District Committee of Claverack, - - 1551
24, A letter received from Thomas Palmer, enclosing two depositions against Elijah Townshend, - - - - - - - - - 1551
24, William Hogan, Isaac Man, Jun., and John McKenny, to have passes to go to Albany, - 1551
24, Michael Smith and others discharged, on taking the oath of allegiance, - - - - 1551
24, Richard Bull to be put under guard, and James Corshader confined in irons, - - - 1551
24, Draft of a letter to Thaddeus Burr read and agreed to, - - - - - - - 1552

1776.
Dec. 26, Account submitted by Mr. Sacket of the moneys he had disbursed for the Committee, 1552
26, Edward Drake discharged, to appear before the Chairman of Westchester Committee by the tenth of January, and enroll in the Militia, and take the oath of allegiance, - - 1552
26, Sundry accounts ordered to be paid, - - 1552
26, James Wall, having inlisted and taken the oath of fidelity, was discharged, - - - 1552
26, Major Purdy enlarged on his parole, - - 1552
26, Names of a number of persons who escaped from the guard-house on the night of the 19th December, - - - - - 1552
26, Information of the manner in which the several persons sent to this Committee by General Spencer were apprehended, - - - 1552
26, Mr. Jay elected Chairman, - - - - 1552
30, Death of Christopher Patrie, one of the prisoners in the guard-house, - - - - 1552
30, John Maloyd and Samuel Striker committed to custody, - - - - - - - 1553
30, Examination of Martin Cornell, respecting Samuel Striker and John Maloyd, - - 1553
30, A Petition and certain papers of Major Colden from the Committee of Safety, - - - 1553
30, Petitions of Charles Cullen, Caleb Archer, John Dickson, and Samuel Wood, read, - - 1553
30, Release of Nathaniel Conclin, a prisoner in Woorster gaol, prayed for, - - - 1553
30, Deposition of Peter Noxon respecting John Maloyd, - - - - - - - - 1553
30, Information from Francis Wilsie that a company of about fifteen men was seen travelling towards the mountains this morning between one and two o'clock, and that some of the neighbours in sleighs had pursued them, - 1553
30, John Simkins permitted to go at large, being very sick, and his father engaging to return him to the Committee on his recovery, - 1553
30, Isaac Winn escaped from the guard, - - 1553
30, Captain Myrick with a party, with power to impress a sleigh and horses, sent to apprehend the persons mentioned in Francis Wilsie's information, - - - - - - 1553
30, James Carscaden committed to the guard for travelling with a forged pass, - - - 1553
30, Thomas Beamus apprehended for damning the Congress, - - - - - - - 1553
30, Deposition of Archibald Little, a member of the Convention, respecting James Carscadden, 1553
30, Captain Van Gaasbeck's company of Rangers put under the direction of the Committee by order of the Convention, - - - - - 1554
30, Deposition of David Clarke respecting John Kain, - - - - - - - - 1554
30, Information that the wife of Verdun Ellsworth, and sister of Samuel Gale, had lately been once or twice to New-York, and that she resides in Goshen, - - - - - 1554
30, One hundred dollars to be paid to Captain Myrick on account, - - - - - 1554
30, Payment for burying Christopher Patrie, - 1554
30, Mr. Sacket, taking with him Captain Van Gaasbeck's company, to apprehend the persons mentioned in John Haines's last examination, - - - - - - - - 1554
30, Captain Van Gaasbeck to obey such orders as he shall receive from Mr. Sacket, - - 1554
30, Captain Van Gaasbeck to be furnished with six days' provision, ready dressed, for his company, - - - - - - - - 1554
30, Samuel Gale and William Tredwell to be discharged on taking the oath of allegiance, - 1554
30, Resolution that when Mr. Wickoff accepted the office of Commissary, he accepted all the trouble attending the same; and therefore, so long as he chooses to keep the said office, the Committee expect he will perform all the duties of it, - - - - - - - 1555
30, Gilbert Ogden enlarged on his parole, - - 1555
30, Information that a number of persons who had absconded, rendezvous at or near a place called Ketcham's Town, - - - - 1555
31, Sundry persons, sent to the Committee by order of General Heath, committed to the guard, - 1555
31, John Rikeman, apprehended for seizing and holding a Continental soldier till the enemy came and took him, put in irons, - - 1555

1776.
Dec. 31, Five prisoners brought to the Committee by Captain Menee and Ensign Baldwin, - 1555
31, Deposition of Captain Menee and Ensign Baldwin respecting the fifteen or twenty persons seen travelling towards the mountains, believed to be going to join the enemy, - 1555
31, Plan to be concerted with General Heath for the apprehension of a number of persons, that will rendezvous at Joseph Bright's, near Croton river, - - - - - - - 1555
31, William Besley and Cornelius Besley discharged, nothing appearing against them, - 1555
31, Daniel Smith and Isaac Smith ordered to apprehend Henry Wooden, - - - - 1555
31, Nineteen cartridges to be given to Daniel and Isaac Smith, - - - - - - - 1556
31, Petitions presented from Peter Dobbs and others, - - - - - - - - 1556
31, Thomas Volentine permitted to return home on parole, - - - - - - - 1556
31, Examination of Josiah Smith, one of the prisoners brought by Captain Mana and Ensign Balding, - - - - - - - - 1556
31, Payment for carrying Captain Myrick and five men to Dan. Wright's in a sleigh, - - 1556
31, Deposition of Captain Concklin and Lieutenant Burton, respecting John Grant, one of the prisoners, - - - - - - - 1556
31, Samuel Gale and William Tredwell took the oath of allegiance and were discharged, - 1556
31, Report of Captain Myrick of his proceedings in pursuance of the order of yesterday, - 1556
31, Account of cash disbursed by the Committee, 1557
31, Payment to Peter Van Bremen, - - - 1557
31, Examination of John Reid, one of the prisoners mentioned in Captain Myrick's report, - 1557
31, Anthony Kennedy brought before the Committee and admitted to his parole for three days, 1558
31, John Reid enlarged on his parole, - - 1558

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

1776.
Nov. 1, Draft of J. Trumbull in favour of Acklam Bonfield ordered to be paid, - - - - 1557
1, Commissions granted to fill up the vacancies in Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Virginia Battalions, 1557
1, Three thousand dollars advanced to the Delegates of Georgia, - - - - - 1557
1, Four companies of the Virginia Battalion on the Eastern Shore to march to Dover, - 1557
1, Money to be raised by Lottery for defraying the expenses of the next campaign, - - 1557
1, Georgia to be supplied with a quantity of military stores, - - - - - - - 1557
2, Preparation to be made for a new emission of five millions of dollars, - - - - 1558
2, Five hundred thousand dollars to be speedily issued in small bills, - - - - - 1558
2, Three thousand dollars advanced to Colonel Hazen, - - - - - - - - 1558
2, Report from the Committee of Treasury, - 1558
4, Credentials of Matthew Thornton, a Delegate from New-Hampshire, - - - - 1558
4, Resolutions for expediting the reinlisting the Army, - - - - - - - - 1559
5, Credentials of Benjamin Harrison, a Delegate from Virginia, - - - - - - 1559
5, Mr. Harrison added to the Board of War, and continued a member of certain standing Committees, - - - - - - 1560
5, Resolutions for the government of the Commissioners appointed to settle the Accounts of the Northern Army, and of the Army near New-York, - - - - - - - 1560
5, Instructions to the Commissioners of the Northern Army, - - - - - - - 1560
5, Resolutions respecting the Post Office and Expresses, - - - - - - - - 1561
5, The Chevalier Matthias Alexis Roche de Fermoy appointed Brigadier-General, - - 1561
6, The report of a Court of Inquiry respecting the promise to the troops concerned in taking the vessels on the Sorel, referred to the Commissioners for adjusting the Accounts of the Northern Army, - - - - - 1562
6, The business of the Navy to be executed by three persons well skilled in maritime affairs, under the direction of the Marine Committee, 1562

1776.
Nov. 6, Commissions ordered to be delivered to the Captains and Subalterns of the Sixth Virginia Battalion, - - - - - - 1562
6, Four thousand dollars advanced to Colonel Lawson, of the Fourth Virginia Battalion, - 1562
6, Auditors appointed to settle the Continentalaccounts in Virginia, - - - - - 1562
6, Report of Committee of Treasury, - - 1562
6, Secret Committee empowered to settle the accounts of the ship Lady Catharine, - - 1563
7, General Ward to receive the pay of a Major-General, till his place shall be filled, - - 1563
7, Richard Bache appointed Postmaster-General, Dr. Franklin being absent, - - - 1563
7, A resolution of the 14th October, respecting reinlistments, repealed, - - - - 1563
7, Sundry resolutions on a report from the Board of War, - - - - - - - 1563
7, Salary of the persons appointed to execute the business of the Navy fifteen hundred dollars per annum, - - - - - - - 1564
8, Resignation of Paul Christman, Ensign in the German Battalion, accepted, - - - 1564
8, Report of Committee of Treasury, - - 1564
8, Committee to report under what restrictions the Sutlers who supply the Army should be laid, - - - - - - - - - 1564
8, Leave granted to James Budden and T. Lawrence to export provisions to Turk's Island, in order to bring from thence a load of salt, 1565
8, Mynheer N. D. Ottendorf appointed a Brevet Captain, - - - - - - - - 1565
8, Advance to the Committee appointed to contract for casting cannon, - - - - 1565
8, Advance to Captain Gibson of First Virginia Battalion, - - - - - - - - 1565
9, Two months' pay advanced to General Roche de Fermoy, and he to repair to the Northern Army, - - - - - - - - 1565
9, Two months' pay advanced to Captain Ottendorf, and he to repair to General Washington, 1565
9, Report of Committee of Treasury, - - 1565
Report of the Committee relative to the Sutlers, (note,) - - - - - - - 1565
9, Governour of New-Jersey requested to stop the communication between that State and the enemy's quarters, - - - - - - 1566
11, Colonel James Livingston has leave to recruit his regiment in any of the United States, - 1566
11, Board of War to confer with Pennsylvania Council of Safety on the best means of defending Philadelphia, - - - - - 1566
11, Committee of the Treasury empowered to administer oaths to persons whom they shall examine, - - - - - - - - 1566
12, Report of Committee of Treasury, - - 1567
12, Report on so much of Lieutenant-Colonel John Brown's petition as prays that his extraordinary services in Canada last year may be considered, (note,) - - - - - - 1567
12, Resolution on a request from Virginia for cannon, - - - - - - - - - 1568
12, Monsieur Romand de Lisle appointed a Major of Artillery, - - - - - - - 1568
12, Committee from Massachusetts-Bay desired not to inlist their men on the additional pay offered by the Assembly of that State, - - 1568
12, Recruits for three years to be allowed the same bounty and pay as those who inlist for the war, except the one hundred acres of land, - 1568
13, Forty thousand dollars advanced to Thomas Lowry, - - - - - - - - - 1568
13, John Nixon and John Wharton appointed to execute the business of the Navy, - - 1569
13, Resolution in consequence of a letter from the Convention of Maryland relative to the raising their quota of new levies, - - - 1569
13, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1569
13, Two thousand dollars advanced to Colonel Hausegger, for the use of the German Battalion, - - - - - - - - - - 1570
13, Secret Committee to make strict inquiry into the conduct of Captain Pierce, respecting the capture of the ship Hancock & Adams, employed in the Continental service, - - 1570
14, Committee to inquire of Pennsylvania Council of Safety what quantity of salt they can spare for the publick service, - - - - 1570

1776.
Nov. 14, Information to be sent by express todifferent States, that part of the enemy's fleet was seen coming out of the Hook and steering southward, - - - - - - - 1570
14, Board of War to confer with the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania on the defence of Philadelphia, - - - - - - - 1570
14, Marine Committee to make such disposition of the Naval force as will best conduce to defeat the designs of the enemy, - - - 1570
15, Application to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania for salt for the publick service, - 1570
15, Monsieur Romand de Lisle to have an opportunity of giving a specimen of his abilities, thinking the appointment on the twelfth inadequate to his merits, - - - - - 1571
15, Marine Committee to apply to Pennsylvania Council of Safety for a quantity of shot, to be sent to South-Carolina, - - - 1571
15, Report of Secret Committee on the cargo belonging to the Continent, imported in the Hancock & Adams, - - - - - - 1571
15, Order for the distribution of the cargo of the Hancock & Adams, - - - - - - 1571
15, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1571
15, Rank of the Naval officers, - - - - 1571
15, Table of Pay of all officers and men in the American Navy, from the date of the new commissions, under the free and independent States of America, - - - - - 1572
15, General Washington has leave to negotiate an exchange of the foreign troops in the pay of Great Britain, that are prisoners to these States, - - - - - - - - - 1572
15, Resolutions directing the form and denominations of the certificates to be given to the lenders of the five millions of dollars, voted to be borrowed, - - - - - - - - 1572
15, Dr. Charles Ludwig appointed Surgeon to the German Battalion, - - - - - - 1572
16, Three hundred dollars advanced to the Secretary of the Board of War, - - - - 1572
16, Measures recommended to the Convention of North-Carolina for the defence of that State and of South-Carolina against the enemy, when and wheresoever they shall attempt to land, - - - - - - - - - 1573
18, Forty thousand dollars advanced to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, - - - 1573
18, Francis Hopkinson appointed one of the persons to execute the business of the Navy, - 1573
18, Petition of Isaac Cox, for letters of safe conduct for two sloops from Philadelphia to Providence, granted, - - - - - - 1573
18, Scheme of the Lottery, and rules for its management, - - - - - - - - 1573
19, Credentials of the Delegates from Maryland, - 1575
19, General Armstrong allowed his travelling expenses to and from South-Carolina, - - 1575
19, The Secret Committee to procure two hundred and twenty-six pieces of brass field artillery, the matter to be kept as secret as the nature of the business will admit, - - - - 1575
19, Four hundred dollars advanced to the Delegates of North-Carolina, - - - - - 1575
19, Further regulations for the Lottery, - - 1575
19, George Howard and Jacob Laudermilk elected Ensigns in the German Battalion, - - 1576
19, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1576
19, Commissary-General to make Weekly Returns, 1576
19, Regulations for payment of sick or disabled non-commissioned officers or soldiers, - 1576
19, Pennsylvania and the States to the southward thereof desired forthwith to lay up magazines of military stores, ammunition, and salt provisions, - - - - - - - - - 1576
19, Armourer to be appointed to assist the Commissary, - - - - - - - - 1576
19, The States to be reminded how indispensable it is to the common safety to pursue the most vigorous measures to furnish their respective quotas for the new Army, - - - - 1577
19, Major Stewart to have the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel by brevet, and to be presented with a sword, - - - - - - - - 1577
20, Forty thousand dollars advanced to J. Mease, 1577
20, Plot among the prisoners at the publick prison to escape, - - - - - - - 1577

1776.
Nov. 20, Election of Managers of the Lottery, - - 1577
20, Mr. Whipple added to the Secret Committee, 1577
20, Postmaster-General directed to remove Besonet, of Bristol, from the office of Deputy Postmaster, - - - - - - - 1577
20, Besonet and his bar-keeper to be apprehended and brought to Philadelphia, - - - 1577
Diligent search to be made for one Wilkins, who was at the tavern in Bristol when the packet from General Washington was lost, and to send him, if found, to Philadelphia, - 1577
20, Board of War empowered to administer oaths to persons examined by them, - - - 1577
20, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1578
20, Further instructions to the Commissioners for settling the accounts of the Army under the command of General Washington, - - 1578
20, The Navy to be increased, - - - - 1578
21, Two hundred and fifty dollars advanced to Captain Long, - - - - - - - 1578
21, Recruiting officers may inlist their men either for the war or three years, without presenting inlisting rolls for both terms, - - 1578
21, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1578
22, Sick soldiers to be removed from the barracks in Philadelphia, - - - - - - 1579
22, Lieutenant-Colonel Zedwitz to be removed to Philadelphia and confined in the State prison, 1579
22, Payment to Mrs. Zedwitz, - - - - 1579
22, One hundred thousand dollars advanced to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, - - 1579
22, Committee appointed to repair to General Washington and assist in expediting the recruiting the new Army, - - - - - 1579
22, Inquiries to be made why the troops are not paid, and their just grievances to be redressed, 1579
22, Advance to the State of Massachusetts-Bay, in part of their account against the Continent, 1579
22, Managers of the Lottery to proceed immediately in carrying the Lottery into execution, 1579
22, Resolution for preventing the waste of hides in the Army, - - - - - - - 1579
22, Two months' pay advanced to Dr. Ludwig, of the German Battalion, - - - - 1580
22, Twenty thousand dollars paid to the order of Joseph Trumbull, - - - - - 1580
23, Five hundred thousand dollars sent to the Paymaster-General, - - - - - - 1580
23, Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars sent to Richard Dallam, - - - - - 1580
23, Committee appointed with full powers to devise and execute measures for effectually reinforcing General Washington, and obstructing the progress of General Howe's Army, 1580
23, The Virginia Battalion on the Eastern Shore, and two Pennsylvania Battalions, to join General Washington with all possible expedition, 1580
23, General Washington to order under his immediate command the Pennsylvania and New-Jersey troops in the Northern Department, - 1580
23, General Washington directed to propose Governour Franklin in exchange for General Thompson, - - - - - - - 1580
23, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1580
23, Resolution explanatory of proceedings respecting the publick lands and the adjustment of the expenses of the war, - - - - - 1581
23, Twenty thousand dollars advanced to the Commissioners from Maryland, - - - 1581
25, Memorandum by Charles Thomson respecting the position, &c., &c., of the American troops, (note,) - - - - - - - - 1581
25, Associators of Philadelphia, Chester, Bucks, and Northampton Counties, to be called forth immediately to serve in the Army six weeks, 1581
25, The volunteers who enroll to serve till the tenth of March, shall, nevertheless, be discharged as soon as the situation of affairs will possibly admit, - - - - - - - 1581
25, Thirty-five thousand dollars advanced to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, - - 1581
25, Four thousand dollars advanced to Colonel Hausegger, - - - - - - - 1582
25, German Battalion to march and immediately join General Washington, - - - 1582
25, Governour Henry requested to order the Light-Horse of Virginia to join General Washington with all possible expedition, - - 1582

1776.
Nov. 25, General Roche de Fermoy to repair immediately to General Washington, instead of going to the northward, - - - - - - - 1582
26, One thousand dollars advanced to Robert Erwin, Wagonmaster-General, - - - 1582
26, Pennsylvania Assembly requested to prevent monopolies, in Philadelphia, in shoes, stockings, and other necessaries for the Army, - 1582
26, A regiment of Artillery, armed with muskets and bayonets, to be raised in Virginia on Continental establishment, - - - - - 1582
26, Order for the payment of a draft of Richard Dallam for eleven hundred and fifty dollars, 1582
26, Dr. David Jackson elected a Manager of the Lottery in the place of F. Lewis, Jun., resigned, - - - - - - - - 1582
26, The Committee who brought in the scheme of the Lottery, to confer with the Managers thereof, - - - - - - - - 1582
26, Cannon, on board the prize ship that arrived at Philadelphia yesterday, to be sent to General Washington, - - - - - - 1583
26, Pennsylvania Assembly requested to send brass field-pieces with all possible expedition to General Washington, - - - - - 1583
26, Mr. Mease directed to go to the shops and stores in Philadelphia, and purchase such articles as are necessary for the Army at this season of the year, - - - - - - 1583
26, Application to be made to the housekeepers in Pennsylvania for as many blankets and woolen stockings as they can spare for the Army, - - - - - - - - 1583
26, Particular inquiry to be made into the abuses in the Medical department in the Army, - 1583
27, Report of the Committee appointed to consider the letter from Thomas Cushing, concerning the Indian Missionaries, (note,) - - - 1583
27, Ten thousand pair of shoes and ten thousand pair of stockings to be purchased in New-England for the Army, - - - - - 1583
27, Committee to procure a translation into German of the Treaty between the Courts of London and Hesse for troops to be employed in America, and to communicate said treaty to the Hessians, - - - - - - - 1583
27, Twenty thousand dollars of hard money to be lodged in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief for the purpose of secret services, - 1583
27, Order for the discharge of Mr. Bessonet, the Committee appointed to examine him having found nothing against him, - - - 1584
27, Report of the Committee sent to the Northern Department, (note,) - - - - - 1584
27, Payment of a draft of Jonathan Trumbull, Jun., for two thousand five hundred dollars, - 1584
Memorandum of sundry articles that may be necessary to carry on the works in the Northern Army in the year 1777, (note,) - - 1585
Memorandum of works to be done near Tyconderoga next spring, (note,) - - - 1585
List of the wants of the Northern Army, - 1585
6, Letter from General Schuyler to Messrs. Stockton and Clymer, Commissioners of Congress, (note,) - - - - - - - - 1585
General Orders: Regulations to prevent abuses in the Returns made for drawing and issuing provisions, and by embezzlements of those employed in the transportation, (note,) - 1587
List of articles wanted in the Northern department, (note,) - - - - - - - 1588
Letter from Commissioners of Congress to Mr. Commissary Trumbull, (note,) - - - 1588
27, Board of War, in conjunction with a member of the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, directed to seize the person and papers of Monsieur Bonvolour; and having examined him and them, to report to Congress, - - 1588
27, Such of the companies of the German Battalion as have not already marched, to be detained, - - - - - - - - 1589
29, Return of the Forces of the United States of America which compose the garrisons of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, under command of Colonel Anthony Wayne, (note,) - - - - - - - - 1589
28, William Bradford promoted to rank of First Lieutenant, - - - - - - - 1590

1776.
*Nov.* 30, A calculation of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores wanted for the Army of the Northern department, made by order of General Schuyler, (note,) - - - - - - - - 1590
Plan of an Artillery Yard, (note,) - - 1590
28, Report of the Committee to whom was referred the report of the Committee lately sent to the Northern Army, (note,) - - - - 1591
28, The Commissary-General empowered to import such quantities of rice from the Southern States as he shall think necessary for the use of the Army, - - - - - - - - 1591
28, Dr. Morgan to take care of such sick and wounded of the Army of the United States as are on the east side of Hudson's River, and Dr. Shippen to take care of those on the west side, - - - - - - - - 1591
28, One hundred thousand dollars advanced to the Delegates of South-Carolina, - - - 1592
29, General Washington directed to include Major Lamb in the next exchange of prisoners, - 1592
29, Further report from the Committee on the affairs of the Northern Army, (note,) - - - 1592
29, Medical Committee to provide antiscorbutics for the hospitals in the Northern Army, - 1592
29, Hospital at Fort George to be continued for soldiers with contagious diseases, and a General Hospital to be erected on Mount Independence, - - - - - - - - 1592
29, A garden to be cultivated near the General Hospital to supply the Army with vegetables, 1592
29, Strict inquiry to be made into the conduct of the Directors of Hospitals, and their Surgeons, officers, and servants, - - - - - 1592
29, Frequent inquiry to be made into the health of the men, - - - - - - - - 1592
29, All the batteaus on Lakes Champlain and George to be immediately repaired, - - 1593
29, One batteau to be built at Schenectady, so as to be ready for use in February or March next, 1593
29, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1593
29, Secret Committee directed to provide as soon as may be arms and equipage for three thousand horse, - - - - - - - - 1593
29, Committee appointed to report a proper method for establishing and training a cavalry in this Continent, - - - - - - - - 1593
29, Further resolutions respecting the Lottery, - 1593
30, One thousand dollars advanced to Robert Erwin, Wagonmaster-General, - - - - - 1594
30, Eight carriages for field-pieces to be got ready with all possible expedition, - - - - 1594
30, Further resolutions for managing the Lottery, - 1594
30, State of New-York empowered to raise another battalion on Continental establishment, and to appoint an Aid-Major to each of the battalions raised by the State, - - - - - 1594
30, Election of officers for the Artillery Battalion ordered to be raised in Virginia, - - 1594
30, Board of War to confer with a Committee from the Assembly of Pennsylvania, - - - 1594
30, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1594
30, Committee of Intelligence directed to establish expresses to go daily to and from Head-Quarters, - - - - - - - - - 1595
*Dec.* 1, The German Battalion to march to join General Washington with all possible despatch, - 1595
1, One or more trusty persons to proceed immediately to the Eastern States for clothing and stores, - - - - - - - - - 1595
1, General Washington has the full approbation of Congress to order the troops on the east side of Hudson's river to the west side, whenever he shall think it conducive to the publick service so to do, - - - - - - - 1595
1, Mr. Mease to employ as great a number of tailors as possible in making up clothes for soldiers, - - - - - - - - - 1595
2, Captain Montgomery and his crew taken into the service as an Artillery company for two months, - - - - - - - - - 1596
2, The Associators of Pennsylvania to be urged forthwith to march, in order to oppose the hasty advances of the enemy, - - - - 1596
2, All the copper, and other materials fit for casting brass field-artillery, that can be got in Virginia, to be collected for Continental use, - 1596
2, Credentials of the Delegates from Virginia, - 1596

1776.
*Dec.* 2, An officer to be sent express to General Lee, to know where and in what situation he and the Army with him are, - - - - - - 1596
2, All the boats on the Delaware between Philadelphia and Trenton to be brought from the Jersey to the Pennsylvania side, - - 1596
2, Philadelphia Battalions to be urged to immediately march and join General Washington, - 1596
2, Council of Safety of Pennsylvania requested to furnish the Wagonmaster-General with one thousand wagons, - - - - - - - 1596
3, Fifty thousand dollars advanced to Mr. J. Mease, - - - - - - - - 1597
3, Two thousand dollars advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel Antill, - - - - - - - 1597
3, Fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars advanced to Major Symes, - - - - - 1597
3, Credentials of Delegates from New-Jersey, - 1597
3, The prisoners at Bristol to be removed back into the country, - - - - - - 1597
3, Mrs. Chamier permitted to go to her husband at New-York, and Mrs. Lewis to be required in exchange, - - - - - - - - 1597
3, Mr. Mease directed to settle with and pay the Militia of the Maryland Flying-Camp, - 1597
3, Terms proposed by Congress to the Maryland troops, - - - - - - - - - 1597
3, The officers of the Maryland troops requested immediately to parade those troops, and to use their utmost influence to persuade their adoption of the terms proposed by Congress, 1598
3, The order for the exchange of Governour Franklin for General Thomson countermanded, - - - - - - - - - 1598
4, The printers engaged in printing certificates for the Continental Loan Offices to be detained from marching with the Militia, - 1598
4, Report from the Committee of Treasury, on expenses of a treaty with Indians at Pittsburg, 1598
5, Directions for payment of such of the Maryland troops of the Flying-Camp as cannot produce rolls, - - - - - - - - 1599
5, Two months' pay advanced to Mons. Romand de Lisle and to Mons. Kosciusko, - - 1599
5, The Indians were introduced, and delivered a speech, - - - - - - - - 1599
5, Provision to be made for the care of the sick, 1599
5, Certain inhabitants of New-Jersey charged with inlisting men for General Howe, to be sent under guard to Frederick, in Maryland, and there to be confined, - - - - - 1599
5, Captain Ottendorf to raise an Independent corps, consisting of one hundred and fifty men, - - - - - - - - - 1599
5, The time for commencing the drawing the Lottery altered to the tenth of April, - - 1599
6, Fifty thousand dollars advanced to Mr. J. Mease, - - - - - - - - 1600
7, Board of War empowered to exchange such of the Canadians as they shall think proper, - 1600
7, The four New-England Governments requested to use their utmost influence in raising their respective quotas of troops, and to hasten their march, - - - - - - - 1600
7, One hundred thousand dollars advanced to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, for bounty money, - - - - - - - - 1600
7, Captain Biddle empowered to inlist into the Continental service such of the sailors in prison as he shall think proper, - - - 1600
7, Report of the Committee of the Treasury, - 1600
7, One thousand dollars advanced to the Committee for procuring cannon, - - - 1600
7, Congress to be opened every morning at ten o'clock, Sundays excepted, - - - 1600
7, Speech to the Six Nations, Delaware, and Shawnee Indians, - - - - - - 1600
7, Council of Safety to suspend the further execution of the request to procure a thousand wagons, - - - - - - - - 1601
7, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1601
9, Houelman Arnold appointed a Lieutenant of the company commanded by Major Ottendorf, - - - - - - - - 1602
9, Two thousand dollars advanced to the Delegates of New-Jersey, - - - - 1602
9, Fifty thousand dollars advanced to Mr. J. Mease, - - - - - - - - 1602

1776.
Dec. 9, Committee appointed to prepare an Address to the Inhabitants of America, and a recommendation to the several States to appoint a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, - 1602
9, Thomas de Naif appointed a Lieutenant of Artillery under Mons. Romand de Lisle, - 1602
9, Committee appointed to inquire into the state of the prisoners sent from New-Jersey, - 1602
9, Recommended to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania to take off all restraint upon the sale of salt, - - - - - - 1602
9, Congress to be adjourned to Baltimore in case it shall be under the necessity of removing from Philadelphia, - - - - - 1602
9, Pennsylvania Council of Safety requested to send expresses to the several Counties, earnestly urging reinforcements for the Army under General Washington, - - - - 1602
9, Expresses to be sent to Maryland and Delaware, to urge forward the Militia of those States for the defence of Philadelphia, - - - 1602
9, Appointment of officers in Colonel Hazen's Battalion, - - - - - - - - 1603
10, One thousand dollars advanced to the Committee of the Middle District of Frederick County, on account of prisoners, - - 1603
10, General Mifflin directed to repair immediately to the neighbouring Counties, and, by all the means in his power, rouse and bring them in, to the defence of Philadelphia, - - 1603
10, The President to return the twenty-five thousand dollars received for the use of the Marine Committee, - - - - - - - 1603
10, General Putnam to proceed, without delay, to make the proper defences for the protection and security of Philadelphia, - - - 1603
10, Two thousand dollars advanced to Georgia, - 1603
10, An Address to the Inhabitants of America, reported by the Committee, and ordered to be published, - - - - - - - - 1603
10, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1604
10, General Washington desired to send a party to watch the roads leading from New-Jersey to Philadelphia, above Trenton, and give Congress the earliest notice of the enemy's motions, - - - - - - - - - 1604
10, Two thousand dollars advanced for the purpose of recruiting Colonel Hazen's Battalion, - 1604
10, Two of the Continental Battalions now raising in Connecticut to be stationed for the defence of the said State in such parts thereof as Governour Trumbull shall direct, - - - 1604
10, Forty thousand dollars to be paid upon the order of the Government of Connecticut, out of the first moneys which shall be received into the Loan Office in that State, - - 1604
10, Antoine Seelim appointed a Captain of a Rifle company, - - - - - - - - 1604
11, Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a resolution for appointing a day of fasting and humiliation, - - - - - 1604
11, General Washington desired to contradict, in general orders, a false and malicious report which hath been spread by the enemies of America, that the Congress was about to disperse, - - - - - - - - - 1605
11, Resolution respecting the prisoners sent from New-Jersey, - - - - - - - 1605
11, General Putnam directed to order parties of active men to cross from Philadelphia into New-Jersey, directing them to send frequent daily intelligence through him to Congress of the enemy's movements, - - - - 1605
12, Twenty thousand dollars advanced to the account of Richard Dallam, - - - - 1605
12, Fifty thousand dollars advanced to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, - - - - 1605
12, Five thousand dollars advanced to Dr. Nicholas Way, - - - - - - - - 1605
12, The two companies raised in the town of Westmoreland ordered to join General Washington with all possible expedition, - - - 1605
12, All the medicines belonging to the Continent in Philadelphia to be removed to a place of security, - - - - - - - - 1605
12, The frigate Randolph and the sloop Hornet put under the direction of the Continental General commanding in Philadelphia, - - - 1605

1776.
Dec. 12, Mr. Walton, a Delegate from Georgia, attended, 1605
12, A regiment of Cavalry to be raised, and to join General Washington without delay, - - 1605
12, One or more fast-sailing vessels to proceed immediately on a cruise off the Capes of Delaware, and give notice to all vessels inward bound, that they may proceed to some place of more safety, - - - - - - - 1606
12, John Connolly to be sent under guard to Baltimore, there to be confined, - - - 1606
12, Provision to be made for burning such Continental vessels as may be in immediate danger of falling into the enemy's possession, - 1606
12, Should Philadelphia fall into the enemy's hands, a reward of ten thousand dollars will be given to Captain Biddle and his people if they carry the frigate Randolph safely to sea, - 1606
12, The Continental General commanding in Philadelphia directed to defend the same to the utmost extremity, - - - - - - 1606
12, R. Morris empowered to borrow a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars for the use of the Marine Committee, - - - - - 1606
12, Timothy Dod to be released from confinement, 1606
12, The arms, ammunition, and clothing, in or near the city of Philadelphia, put under the direction of General Putnam, - - - - 1606
12, General Putnam authorized to employ all the private armed vessels in the harbour of Philadelphia for the defence of the city, - - 1606
12, Adjournment, to meet in Baltimore on the twentieth December; and, until the Congress shall otherwise order, General Washington be possessed of full power to order and direct all things relative to the department and to the operations of war, - - - - 1606
20, Congress met in Baltimore, - - - - 1607
20, Credentials of the Delegates from Georgia, - 1607
20, Provision for the prisoners from North-Carolina, that they may experience that humanity which hath ever marked the conduct of this Congress to its prisoners, - - - - 1607
20, General Washington to inquire in what manner General Lee is treated, and whether General Howe will permit supplies of money to be sent to him, - - - - - - - 1607
21, A number of prisoners arrived at Baltimore from Philadelphia, to be secured, - - 1607
21, Six thousand dollars advanced to Colonel Price, 1607
21, Report of the Committee of Treasury, - - 1607
21, Congress approve the conduct of General Washington in not publishing in general orders the resolution declaring their intention not to remove from Philadelphia, - - 1608
21, Proper magazines of provisions for the Army to be immediately formed in or near Pennsylvania, - - - - - - - - 1608
21, General Smallwood requested to use his utmost endeavours to promote the speedy raising the new levies in Maryland, - - - - 1608
21, Robert Morris, George Clymer, and George Walton, appointed a Committee to execute such Continental business as may be proper and necessary to be done in Philadelphia, - 1608
21, Two hundred thousand dollars placed at the disposition of the above Committee, - - 1608
21, The above Committee to keep up a regular correspondence with Congress, - - - 1608
21, Mr. Secretary Peters to repair to Baltimore as soon as possible, - - - - - 1608
21, Nineteen thousand dollars advanced to the Paymaster of Colonel Mackay's Battalion, - 1608
21, Eighteen thousand dollars to be transmitted to the Committee of Frederick, - - - 1608
21, Date from which officers are to receive pay on the new establishment, - - - - 1608
21, Alteration to be made in the ration of the Virginia troops, - - - - - - - 1608
21, Three thousand dollars advanced to Colonel Richardson, - - - - - - - 1608
21, The sick among the North-Carolina prisoners to be removed to a private house, and a physician to be provided to attend them, - - 1608
21, The Militia that march to reinforce General Washington, to be paid the same as the other troops, - - - - - - - - 1609
23, The Rev. P. Allison and the Rev. W. White elected Chaplains to Congress, - - - 1609

1776.
Dec. 23, The prisoners from North-Carolina to be removed to different rooms in the Court House until the apartments in the Jail of Baltimore shall be put in such a condition as not to endanger the health of those who may be confined in them, - - - - - - 1609
23, Robert Patton appointed Doorkeeper, and James Long Messenger, to Congress, - - - 1609
23, Instructions to the Committee of Secret Correspondence for an answer to the letter of Silas Deane, - - - - - - - - 1609
23, Rule for settling the accounts of the Militia raised for reinforcing the Army, - - - 1609
23, The Commissioners at the Court of France authorized to borrow two millions sterling, for a term not less than ten years, - - - 1610
24, Mr. Heyward and Mr. Whipple added to the Committee on the affairs of the Northern Army, - - - - - - - - 1610
24, Two hundred thousand dollars advanced to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania, - - 1610
24, The Treasury empowered to employ proper persons to sign the bills which remain unsigned in the Treasury, - - - - 1610
24, The President to write immediately to the Assemblies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, and Connecticut, urging in the most pressing terms the necessity of hastening up troops to Ticonderoga with the utmost despatch, - - - - - - - - 1610
24, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Ellery added to the Committee for the better regulating the Treasury Board, - - - - - - - - 1610
24, Committee appointed to report a plan for obtaining foreign assistance, - - - - 1610
24, Sundry French letters read, and referred to the Committee for procuring cannon, - - 1610
24, Mr. Lewis added to the Committee for procuring cannon, - - - - - - - - 1611
24, Two more magazines of ammunition to be formed, one in the Eastern States and one in the Southern States, - - - - - 1611
26, Four hundred thousand dollars advanced to Joseph Trumbull, Commissary-General, - 1611
26, The Commissary-General empowered to import from the Southern States such quantities of flour and other provisions as he may judge necessary for the Army, - - - - 1611
26, The Governour and Council of Virginia requested to contract with proper persons for the delivery of ten thousand barrels of flour to Joseph Trumbull, - - - - - 1611
26, Committee to take into consideration the state of the Army, and report to-morrow, - - 1611
26, Committee to prepare a plan for the better conducting the executive business of Congress, by Boards composed of persons not members of Congress, - - - - - - 1611
26, Colonel Henry Knox elected Brigadier-General of Artillery, - - - - - - - 1612
26, Sundry resolutions on the report from the Committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the Army, - - - - 1612
26, General Washington invested with extraordinary powers for the term of six months, unless sooner determined by Congress, - - 1613

1776.
Dec. 26, Pennsylvania Council of Safety requested to take the most vigorous measures for punishing all such as shall refuse Continental currency, - - - - - - - - 1613
26, Names of the persons employed to superintend the press, and to sign the bills of credit, - 1613
28, Committee to prepare a circular letter to the several United States, explaining the reasons which induced Congress to enlarge the powers of General Washington, and requesting them to give him all the aid in their power, - 1613
28, The five millions which the Treasury Board were ordered to prepare, to be now emitted on the faith of the United States, - - 1613
28, Maryland Council of Safety requested to furnish fifty blankets for the use of the sick soldiers in Baltimore, - - - - - 1614
28, Resolutions on the report of the Committee on the affairs of the Northern Army, - - 1614
Report of Committee on a plan for obtaining foreign assistance, (note,) - - - - 1614
28, Board of War directed to write to Philadelphia for accoutrements and necessaries to supply the Light-Horse ordered from Virginia, - 1615
29, Committee to procure such cannon and ordnance stores as are required by General Schuyler in his letter of the tenth December, 1615
30, General Schuyler to cause an elaboratory to be erected to fix all the necessary ammunition for the ensuing campaign, - - - 1616
30, Fifteen companies for batteau service, and four companies of carpenters, to be engaged for the Northern Army, - - - - - 1616
30, Regulations for the wagons in the Northern Army, - - - - - - - - 1616
30, Resolution in consequence of the escape of prisoners last night from the gaol in Baltimore town, - - - - - - - - 1616
30, Circular to the States reported, amended, and agreed to, - - - - - - - 1616
30, Exportation of bacon, salted beef, pork, soap, tallow, and candles, prohibited, - - - 1617
30, Board of War empowered to employ as an assistent clerk, Mr. Nourse, late General Lee's Secretary, - - - - - - - 1617
30, Sundry resolutions on the report of the Committee for obtaining foreign assistance, - 1617
31, Doctor Mackenzie authorized to purchase medicines for the sick soldiers now in Baltimore, 1618
31, General Smallwood directed to exert his utmost endeavours to expedite the raising the levies in Maryland, - - - - - - - 1618
31, Requisition of General Schuyler for powder referred to General Washington, - - - 1618
31, All restrictions removed from the exportation of staves and other lumber, except to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Islands, or any place under the dominion of Great Britain, - - - - - - - - 1618
31, Letter to be written to General Washington respecting the purchase of clothing in the different States, - - - - - - 1619
31, An appeal in the libel Esek Hopkins *vs.* Richard Derby, ordered to be received, that it may be prosecuted before the Committee on Appeals, - - - - - - - - 1620

# DOCUMENTARY HISTORY, &c.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

SOUTH-CAROLINA,
Tuesday, the 17th September, 1776.

The General Assembly being adjourned to the first day of *October* next, but his Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief having thought fit to call the same by the following Proclamation, viz:

"By His Excellency *John Rutledge*, Esquire, President and Commander-in-Chief of *South-Carolina*:

"A PROCLAMATION.

"Whereas, it appears to me necessary for the publick service to call the General Assembly and Legislative Council before the time to which they stand adjourned, I have therefore thought fit to issue this Proclamation, requiring them, and they are hereby required, to meet at *Charles-Town*, on *Tuesday*, the seventeenth day of *September* next, then and there to sit for the despatch of divers weighty and important affairs.

"Given under my hand and the seal of *South-Carolina*, at *Charles-Town*, this 12th day of *August*, Anno Domini 1776.

"JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"By his Excellency's command:

"JOHN HUGER, *Secretary*."

Thirty-eight Members met on this day. But they not being a sufficient number to proceed upon business, Mr. Speaker adjourned the meeting of the House till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Wednesday, the 18th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment.

Mr. Speaker having issued Writs, dated the 1st day of *August*, for electing Members of this House to fill the seats that had been vacated by acceptance of places and otherwise, the following Returns were now made of the election—

Of *Alexander Moultrie*, *Josiah Smith*, Jun., *George Abbot Hall*, *John Ernest Poyas*, *Peter Timothy*, *John Webb*, *Thomas Jones*, *Arthur Middleton*, *Edward Rutledge*, *Nicholas Eveleigh*, and *Joshua Ward*, Esqr's, for the Parishes of *St. Philip* and *St. Michael*, *Charles-Town*.

Of *Richard Park Stobo*, Esq., for the Parish of *St. Andrew*.

Of *George Livingston*, Esq., for the Parish of *St. Paul*.

Of *Keating Simons*, Esq., for the Parish of *St. James*, *Goose-Creek*.

Of *Daniel Ravenell*, Esq., for the Parish of *St. John*, in *Berkley County*.

Of *John Matthews* and *John Waring*, Esqs., for the Parish of *St. George*, *Dorchester*.

Of *Joshua Toomer* and *Levi Durand*, Esqs., for the Parish of *Christ Church*.

Of Colonel *William Moultrie*, for the Parish of *St. Helena*.

Of the Rev. *Robert Smith*, *Thomas Screven*, and *Hopson Pinckney*, Esqs., for the Parish of *St. Thomas* and *St. Dennis*.

Of *Levi Durand*, Esq., for the Parish of *St. James*, *Santee*.

Of *John Withers*, Esq., for the Parish of *Prince George*, *Winyah*.

Of *Thomas Sumpter* and *William Richardson*, Esqs., for the District to the Eastward of the *Wateree* River.

The following gentlemen then took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and their seats as members of the House, viz:

*Joshua Ward*, *George Livingston*, *John Ernest Poyas*, *John Withers*, *Thomas Jones*, *Nicholas Eveleigh*, *Josiah Smith*, Jun., *Arnoldus Vanderhorst*, *Elias Ball*, Jun., *Benjamin Waring*, *William Brisbane*, *Ralph Izard*, *George King*, *George Robinson*, *John Collins*, *George Abbot Hall*, *John Webb*, and *John Matthews*, Esqs.

*Levi Durand*, Esq., returned duly elected in two Parishes, (*Christ-Church* and *St. James*, *Santee*,) made his election for the former, then took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member.

Mr. Speaker acquainted the House that he had received a Letter from *Peter Timothy*, requesting leave to resign the place of Clerk of this House; which Letter Mr. Speaker read to the House in the words following:

"HONOURABLE SIR: As I engaged and took an active part in the present struggle of *America* to preserve its rights from principle, and even without a distant view to advance my private interest, so I accepted the unsolicited and unexpected honour conferred upon me by the unanimous voice of the present General Assembly in their appointment of me for their Clerk, as a publick acknowledgment that my former conduct in the station of Secretary to the several Congresses had at least been irreproachable; and I have endeavoured to discharge the last duty to which I was appointed with equal fidelity, so far as my circumscribed abilities would allow. But having since received the most honourable testimony from my fellow-citizens, also, of their approbation of my conduct as a member, by reëlecting me one of the representatives of this metropolis, notwithstanding my having been appointed to a place of emolument, and as it may be impossible for me to discharge with propriety and satisfaction the duties both of a member and Clerk, I think it incumbent on me to give a preference to the last election, and obey the summons I have seen affixed at the church door. I do therefore beg leave to request that my resignation of the place of Clerk to the General Assembly may be accepted, and that your Honour will do me the favour to deliver my most grateful thanks to the House, as well for the favourable opinion they have been pleased to entertain of me as for the indulgences they have shown to my imperfections.

"I have the honour to be, sir, with great respect, your most obedient and most humble servant,

"PETER TIMOTHY.

"Charles-Town, 17th September, 1776."

Whereas it was moved and *Ordered*, That Mr. *Timothy* be sent for, and acquainted by the Speaker, that as the House had experience of his integrity and ability, so they did not incline to accept of his resignation, but desired and expected that he would continue to act as their Clerk, at least during the present session, as the time would be but short.

Mr. *Timothy* attending, and being informed accordingly, he declared his obligation to the House for the favourable opinion they were pleased to have of him, and that, in compliance with the expectations of the House, whose commands he was always ready to obey, he would continue to execute, to the best of his power, the duty of Clerk, provided it was not expected that his continuance in that office should prevent his qualifying and taking his seat as a member.

Which the House acquiescing in, Mr. *Timothy* took his place as Clerk, and afterwards qualified as a member.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the admission of the present Clerk of this House to act in that capacity, and at the same to sit as a Member, shall not be drawn into precedent.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Horry* and Mr. *William Skirving* do wait on the President, and acquaint his Excellency that the House is met.

*Ordered*, That all the Committees who were appointed during the last sitting of the General Assembly, and have not yet reported, be revived.

Colonel *Horry* reported, that Mr. *Skirving* and himself had attended the President with the Message they had in charge, and that his Excellency was pleased to say the House should hear from him.

A Petition of *William Scott*, Jun., was presented to the House and read, in the words following, viz:

"That the petitioner, together with *Jonathan Scott*, *Clement Lamprier*, *Hugh Rutledge*, *Levi Durand*, and *Joshua Toomer*, Esqs., were candidates at the election lately held in the Parish of *Christ Church*, for the choosing of two members to sit in the General Assembly, in the room of his Excellency the President and Captain *Lamprier*; that at the close of the poll at the said election and examining the votes, there appeared to be thirty votes for *Joshua Toomer*; twenty-seven votes, part whereof were for *William Scott* and part for *William Scott*, Jun.; and twenty-five votes for *Levi Durand*; and thereupon the petitioner (who was at the election) and *Joshua Toomer* were declared duly elected, and complimented thereupon by several of the electors; that after such declaration a scrutiny was demanded, and the votes severally again looked over, and some of them which were given in for the petitioner appearing without the word Junior thereto, the Church-wardens were thereupon pleased to declare *Levi Durand*, Esq., with *Joshua Toomer*, Esq., duly elected, and have returned the said gentlemen accordingly; that the petitioner conceives himself injured by such return, as he presumes he was duly elected, by having more votes than *Levi Durand*, Esq., although the word Junior was omitted in some of them, there being no other person of his name who had offered himself as a candidate, or any of his name in this country to his knowledge, but his uncle, *William Scott*, Esq., who is already a member of this honourable House; and as the electors who voted for the petitioner are ready to testify, that although they left out the word Junior, they meant to vote for him, your petitioner therefore humbly prays this honourable House to take his case into consideration, and grant him such relief therein as may appear just."

*Ordered*, That the said Petition be referred to a Committee on Privileges and Elections.

*Ordered*, That the following gentlemen be a Committee on Privileges and Elections, viz: Colonel *Pinckney*, Mr. Justice *Matthews*, Reverend Mr. *Tennent*, Captain *Vanderhorst*, Mr. *De Saussure*, Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Colonel *Horry*, Mr. *Young*, and Mr. *Williamson*.

The House being informed that the Honourable *Thomas Bee* and the Honourable *David Oliphant*, Esquires, had been appointed to places of emolument, whereby their seats in the Legislative Council were vacated; Therefore

*Resolved*, That this House will to-morrow morning proceed to ballot for two members of the Legislative Council, in the room of the Honourable Mr. *Bee* and the Honourable Mr. *Oliphant*.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received a Letter addressed to them, which he had not opened.

And the said Letter being received, opened, and read, was from *Joseph Turpin*, Commander of the armed brigantine *Comet*, belonging to this State, dated *Charles-Town*, 16th *September*, 1776.

*Ordered*, That the said Letter do lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

A Memorial of *Richard Pearis* was presented to the House and read, in the words following:

"That the memorialist some time past was released from confinement, took the test oath, also the oath of fidelity, as appear by a certificate signed by his Excellency, recommending him to all good people: That the memorialist set out on his journey towards home, but to his great surprise found himself ruined by means of Colonel *Thomas* and his party, who burnt and destroyed his houses, mills, grain, and furniture, his negroes and stocks of cattle sold, and the spoil distributed amongst him and his men, whose cruelty extended so far as to strip Mrs. *Pearis* and family, leaving them with only part of their apparel and then to shift for themselves: That the memorialist, having furnished himself with vouchers, and testimonial proofs respecting his grievance, therefore most humbly prays that order might be made for vesting his negroes and stocks of cattle; and with regard to all other damage, the memorialist submits to your serious consideration, praying such relief in the premises as you in your wisdom shall deem meet."

*Ordered*, That the said Memorial be referred to the following Committee, viz: Colonel *Gervais*, Mr. *Robinson*, and Mr. *Collins*.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Thursday, the 19th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Henry William Harrington* and *George Hicks*, Esquires, were returned duly elected members of this House for the Parish of *St. David*.

Mr. *Pegues*, Mr. *Stobo*, Mr. *Hicks*, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. *Philip Smith*, and Mr. *Selly*, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and their seats as members of the House.

The House, according to their resolve of yesterday, proceeded to ballot for two members of the Legislative Council, in the room of the Honourable Mr. *Bee* and the Honourable Mr. *Oliphant*, the former having been elected a Judge, and the latter appointed Director-General of the Hospitals. And the ballots being cast up, Mr. Speaker reported, that *Thomas Fuller* and *Daniel Horry*, Esquires, were duly elected by majority of votes.

The Honourable *Rawlins Lowndes*, Esquire, attending, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member of this House, declining to take the seat to which he had been elected in the Legislative Council.

*Resolved*, That this House will immediately proceed to the election of another member of the Legislative Council, in the room of the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*.

The House proceed to ballot accordingly; and the ballots being reckoned, Mr. Speaker reported, that *John Parker*, Esquire, was duly elected a member of the Legislative Council, in the room of the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the Minutes of the foregoing elections be made out, signed by the Speaker, and delivered to the gentlemen elected.

Message from the President by the Master in Chancery:

"Mr. Speaker: His Excellency the President desires the attendance of this House in the Council Chamber immediately."

And the Messenger withdrew.

Mr. Speaker, with the House, waited upon his Excellency accordingly.

And being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that this House having waited upon the President in the Council Chamber, his Excellency had been pleased to make a Speech, of which he had obtained a copy, in the following words:

"*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the General Assembly:*

"I think it my duty to pay this tribute of applause to those brave troops who, in repelling the formidable *British* armament which attacked them on *Sullivant's Island*, vainly flattering themselves with an assurance of easy conquest, displayed a firmness and intrepidity that would have reflected honour on *Roman* veterans; and I most heartily congratulate you on their heroick behaviour. It is an auspicious presage of what may be expected from the valour of our other troops when theirs shall be the post of danger, as it demonstrates that men, animated by an ardent zeal for the sacred liberties of their country, and trusting in the Divine support, are capable of the most glorious achievements.

The *Cherokee Indians* having committed such barbarous acts of hostility as threatened desolation to the frontier settlements at a time when the enemy lay in view of this town, and an attack on it was daily expected, a considerable force was immediately sent into that nation, to obtain satisfaction for their cruel outrages, by acting with the greatest vigour. Our people have behaved with much spirit. It has pleased God to grant very signal success to their operations; and I hope, by His blessing on our arms and those of *North-Carolina* and *Virginia*, from whom I have promises of aid, an end may soon be put to this war. Since your last meeting, the Continental Congress have declared the *United Colonies* free and independent States, absolved from allegiance to the *British* Crown, and the political connection between them and *Great Britain* totally dissolved, an event which necessity had rendered not only justifiable, but unavoidable. This Declaration and several Resolves of that honourable body, received during your recess, shall be laid before you. I doubt not you will take such measures as may be necessary in consequence of them.

"A well-regulated Militia being essential to the preservation of our freedom, I am persuaded you will think with me that your time cannot be better employed than in framing a law for making such improvements in the Militia as may produce the most beneficial consequences. It is not improbable that at the season appointed for the meeting of the next Assembly the business of legislation must yield to that of a different nature; and it behoves us to employ this time of the enemy's absence in making the best preparations for defence, and enacting such laws as the present exigencies demand. I have, therefore, thought it for the publick service to call you together now, that you may deliberate on those matters which tend to the interest and security of the State. I shall propose what, in the course of your session, appears so to me, and be happy in receiving your advice on, and concurring with you in, any that may effect those important objects.

"JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"September 19th, 1776."

Message from the President by the Master in Chancery:

"*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the General Assembly:*

"I send you the resolves of Congress which I promised to lay before you. Also, a letter from the Delegates of this State relative to the *East-India* tea in the cellars under the Exchange. And I recommend it to you to consider whether it will not be expedient to dispose of this tea, and apply the money arising from the sale of it towards defraying the publick expenses.

"JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"September 19, 1776."

The papers accompanying the foregoing Message were: Letter from the Delegates of this State in the Continental Congress, dated *Philadelphia*, 9th *July*, 1776, enclosing Resolves of Congress of 26th *December*, 1775, 17th *February*, 14th *March*, 23d and 25th *March*, 6th *April*, Order of the Continental Board of Treasury of 7th *May*, Resolves of Congress of 18th, 19th, 24th, and 26th *June*, the Declaration of Independence, 4th *July*, and Resolves of Congress of 4th and 5th *July*, 1776. Also, another Letter from the Delegates, dated *Philadelphia*, 25th *July*, enclosing a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, President of the Congress, to his Excellency the President of this State, dated *Philadelphia*, 24th *July*, 1776, enclosing Resolves of Congress of that date. Also, another Resolve of Congress, dated 24th *July*, 1776.

*Ordered*, That the Speech this day delivered to both Houses by his Excellency the President, and also his Excellency's Message of this date, be referred to the following Committee, viz: The Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*, Colonel *Pinckney*, Mr. Attorney General, the Reverend Mr. *Tennent*, the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Mr. *Newfville*, Colonel *Motte*, Mr. *Philip Smith*, and Captain *Roger Smith*.

Mr. *Pegues* informed the House that the small-pox having broke out among the drivers or passengers in some wagons from *Philadelphia*, in the service of Mr. *John Mitchell*, of *Meldrum*, arrived in the frontier of this State, some Committees had thought it necessary to take measures for preventing that infection being brought or spread in this country, but were desirous of being indemnified in what they had done, and to be authorized by the General Assembly to pursue any further measures that might be necessary.

*Ordered*, That the information laid before this House by Mr. *Pegues* be referred to the following Committee, viz: Mr. *Loocock*, Major *Hick*, Mr. *Josiah Smith*, Junior, Mr. *Withers*, and Mr. *Young*; and that they do report thereon as soon as may be.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

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Friday, the 20th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*John Waring*, *Keating Simons*, *Charles Cantey*, and *John Caldwell*, of *St. Matthew's* Parish, Esqrs., took the oath prescribed by the Constitution and their seats as members of this House for the Parishes they respectively were elected to represent.

Mr. *Young* reported, from the Committee to whom was referred the information given to the House yesterday by Mr. *Pegues* respecting a number of wagons laden with woolens and other merchandise, said to be the property of Mr. *John Mitchell*, now on their way from *Philadelphia* to this State, some of the drivers or passengers of which having the infection of the small-pox; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That it is the opinion of your Committee that the District Committee of *St. David's* Parish be authorized and empowered to take every necessary precaution, and use every means in their power, to prevent the infection spreading, by causing the persons and merchandise so infected to be carried to some distant place from the settlement, and place a proper guard thereon till such time as they shall be fully satisfied that no infection remains, or to pursue any other mode that they shall think most proper. That the goods during such detention shall be and remain at the risk of the owner or owners thereof. That the expense accruing thereon be advanced by the publick; and that the Chairman of the said District Committee be empowered to draw upon the Treasury for the same, to be refunded by Mr. *Mitchell*. Your Committee are further of opinion that the said District Committee should be indemnified for any necessary step already and hereafter to be taken by them to prevent the said infection from spreading in this State."

*Resolved*, That the said Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the same being taken into consideration accordingly, was amended and agreed to by the House, and is as followeth:

"That it is the opinion of the Committee that the District Committee of *St. David's* Parish be authorized and required to take every necessary precaution, and use every means in their power, to prevent the infection spreading, by causing the persons and merchandise so infected to be carried to some distant place from the settlements, and place a proper guard thereon till such time as they are satisfied no infection remains, or to pursue any other mode that they shall think most proper. That the goods during such detention shall be and remain at the risk of the owner or owners thereof. That the expenses accruing thereon be advanced by the publick, and that the Chairman of said District Committee be empowered to draw on the Treasury for the same, to be refunded by Mr. *Mitchell*, if the General Assembly shall hereafter think proper. Your Committee are further of opinion that the said District Committee should be indemnified for any necessary steps already and hereafter to be taken by them in order to prevent the said infection from spreading in this State."

*Ordered*, That a Message be sent to the President, with a copy of the foregoing Report.

The Honourable Mr. *Lowndes* reported, from the Committee to whom the President's Speech, delivered to both Houses yesterday was referred, an Address in answer to the said Speech; and he read the Address in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: We, the Representatives of the State of *South-Carolina*, convened and met in General Assembly, beg leave most heartily to join your Excellency with our tribute of applause to those brave

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troops who lately signalized themselves by their firmness and intrepidity in repelling the formidable *British* armament which attacked them on *Sullivant's Island*, and thereby disappointing the vain and flattering expectation of our cruel and unnatural foes; a tribute we deemed justly due from an injured country for such heroick behaviour, and as a grateful testimony of the early and auspicious presage of the future valour and heroism of men animated by the noblest of all incentives—an ardent zeal for the sacred liberties of their country and a confidence in Divine justice. We are happy to find the barbarous and ungrateful attempt of the *Cherokee Indians* on our frontier settlements are checked by the spirit and activity of our brave countrymen in those parts; and from their past success, as well as the zeal and activity of our friends of *North-Carolina* and *Virginia*, hope a speedy end will soon be put to the outrages of those detestable savages. It is with the most unspeakable pleasure we embrace this opportunity of expressing our joy and satisfaction in the declaration of the Continental Congress declaring the *United Colonies* free and independent States, absolved from allegiance to the *British* Crown, and totally dissolving all political union between them and *Great Britain;* an event unsought for, and now produced by unavoidable necessity, and which every friend to justice and humanity must not only hold justifiable, as the natural effects of unmerited persecution, but equally rejoice in as the only effectual security against injuries and oppressions, and the most promising source of future liberty and safety. The Declaration of Independence and the Resolves of the honourable the Continental Congress, now laid before us, shall be the principal object of our attention in our deliberations for the publick good. We are fully persuaded how essential it is to the freedom and support of a free State to have a well-regulated Militia, and more especially to this State in the present circumstances of affairs in *America*. We shall therefore think it our duty, while the business of legislation is not interrupted by the din of arms, to employ every moment necessary to effect a purpose so essential and so beneficial, in making the best preparations for defence and enacting such laws as are necessary for the safety and security of the State."

*Resolved*, That the said Address be taken into immediate consideration.

The first and second clauses thereof being read, were amended and agreed to by the House.

Upon reading the third clause, it was moved to amend the same by striking out the words "unspeakable pleasure." A debate ensued, and the question being put, it passed in the negative.

The third, fourth, and fifth clauses being then read and amended, were agreed to; and the said Address, as agreed to is in the words following:

"*To his Excellency* JOHN RUTLEDGE, *President and Commander-in-Chief of the State of* SOUTH-CAROLINA:

"*The Address of the General Assembly of the said State:*

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: We, the Representatives of the State of *South-Carolina*, met in General Assembly, beg leave most heartily to join your Excellency with our tribute of applause to those brave troops who lately signalized themselves by their firmness and intrepidity in repelling the formidable *British* armament which attacked them on *Sullivant's Island*, and thereby disappointing the vain and flattering expectations of our cruel and unnatural foes; a tribute we deemed justly due from an injured country for such heroick behaviour, and as a grateful testimony of the early and auspicious presage of the future valour and heroism of men animated by the noblest of all incentives—an ardent zeal for the sacred liberties of their country, and a confidence in Divine justice. We are happy to find the barbarous and ungrateful attempts of the *Cherokee Indians*, instigated by our *British* enemies on our frontier settlements, are checked by the spirit and activity of our brave countrymen in those parts; and from their past success, as well as the zeal and activity of our friends of *North-Carolina* and *Virginia*, hope a speedy end will be put to the outrages of those detestable savages. It is with unspeakable pleasure we embrace this opportunity of expressing our satisfaction in the Declaration of the Continental Congress, constituting the *United Colonies* free and independent States, absolved from allegiance to the *British* Crown, and totally dissolving all political union between them and *Great Britain*; an event unsought for, and now produced by unavoidable necessity, and which every friend to justice and humanity must not only hold justifiable, as the natural effect of unmerited persecution, but equally rejoice in as the only effectual security against injuries and oppressions, and the most promising source of future liberty and safety. The Declaration of Independence and the Resolves of the honourable the Continental Congress, now laid before us, shall be the principal object of our attention in our deliberations for the publick good. We are fully persuaded that it is essential to the liberties and support of a free State to have a well-regulated Militia, and more especially to this State, in the present circumstances of affairs in *America*. We shall therefore think it our duty, while the business of legislation is not interrupted by the din of arms, to employ every opportunity to effect a purpose so beneficial in making the best preparations for defence and in framing such laws as are necessary for the safety and security of the State."

*Ordered*, That the Address be engrossed.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Gervais* and Mr. *Ralph Izard* do wait on the President, and acquaint him the House have an Address to present to his Excellency, and desire to know when he will please to be attended for that purpose.

Colonel *Pinckney* reported from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, to whom was referred the Petition of *William Scott*, Junior, of *Charles-Town*, merchant, the matter as it appeared to them touching the Election for the Parish of *Christ Church*, with their opinion thereupon. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That they have considered the said Petition, and have examined witnesses concerning the truth of the allegations therein contained, and find, that at the election for two members for the Parish of *Christ Church*, at the close of the ballot, there appeared to be thirty votes for *Joshua Toomer*, twenty votes for *Levi Durand*, twelve for *William Scott*, and fifteen for *William Scott*, Junior; that the petitioner, *William Scott*, Junior, was the only candidate of the name of *William Scott;* that it did not appear to your Committee that there was any other person of that name in the country but *William Scott*, Esq., already a member of this House, and uncle of the petitioner; and that even by the admission of Mr. *Durand*, the sitting member, it appeared that the votes which were given for *William Scott* were meant and intended for the petitioner, *William Scott*, Junior. Your Committee further report, that on its being suggested by Mr. *Durand*, the sitting member, that several persons who had voted at the said election had not the qualifications required by law, they examined the list of the electors, and found that only one person had balloted who was not duly qualified, whereby a majority of votes still appeared to be for the petitioner. Your Committee, therefore, are of opinion that *William Scott*, the petitioner, should have been returned duly elected, and not Mr. *Durand*, the sitting member, and recommend it to the House that the returning officer be ordered to strike out the name of *Levi Durand*, on the return of the writ of election, and insert the name of *William Scott*, Junior, in its stead."

*Resolved*, That the said Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the same being taken into consideration accordingly,

*Resolved*, That this House do agree with the Report of the Committee.

*Ordered*, That *Jonathan Scott*, the returning officer, do attend this House immediately, to amend the Return for the Parish of *Christ Church*, by erasing out the name of *Levi Durand*, Esq., and inserting the name of *William Scott*, Junior, Esq., instead thereof.

*Ordered*, That the several Papers which accompanied the President's Message of yesterday be now read.

And they were read accordingly; and are as follow:

Letter from the Delegates of this State in the Continental Congress to his Excellency the President:

"Philadelphia, 9th July, 1776.

"SIR: Enclosed are the resolutions of Congress respecting our Provincial forces. We wish they may be agreeable to your Excellency, to our Assembly, and to the officers of

our Army; if they are not, there is nothing compulsory in them. Congress would not strictly comply with the request we were ordered to make on this subject, lest they should establish a precedent which might be injurious to the general interest of *America*. We have, therefore, been obliged to vary our application, and to adopt such resolutions as seemed most conformable to the intentions of our Congress, and most likely to give satisfaction to the officers of our Army.

"Enclosed, also, are some other occasional resolutions of Congress, and a very important Declaration, which the King of *Great Britain* has at last reduced us to the necessity of making. All the Colonies were united upon this great subject, except *New-York*, whose Delegates were restrained by an instruction given several months ago. Their Convention is to meet in a few days, when it is expected that instruction will be immediately withdrawn, and the Declaration unanimously agreed to by the thirteen *United States of America*.

"We have procured an order from Congress for three hundred thousand dollars, for the payment and disbursements of our troops; which will be forwarded to you as soon as possible. Congress have also given directions to the commanding officer in *Virginia*, about a fortnight ago, to send forward five thousand pounds of gunpowder to our Colony. Every day now is likely to produce something important. We have heard of *Clinton's* arrival off *Charles-Town* bar, and most anxiously wait to know the event. General *Howe's* Army from *Halifax*, said to contain ten thousand men, are arrived at *Sandy-Hook*. A part of them are landed upon *Staten-Island*. It is said he is waiting to be joined by twenty thousand more, who are coming from *England*, in the fleet under Lord *Howe*; when it is expected that *New-York* will become the scene of action. The Army under General *Washington* are in high spirits, and the Militia have taken the field with an alacrity that does them honour. From these circumstances we still hope for a Providential interposition, and that the virtuous efforts of *America* will be crowned with deserved success.

"With the greatest respect, we are your Excellency's most obedient servants,

"Thomas Lynch, Thomas Heyward, Jun.,
"Edward Rutledge, Thomas Lynch, Jun."
"Arthur Middleton,

"P. S. The express is to be paid for every day that he is detained in *Carolina*.

"His Excellency *John Rutledge*, Esq."

"In Congress, *December* 26th, 1775.—*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils or Committees of Safety of the respective Colonies, to ascertain, by the most impartial and effectual means in their power, the number of Inhabitants in each respective Colony, taking care that the lists be authenticated by the oaths of the several persons who shall be intrusted with this service, and that the said Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils or Committees of Safety, do respectively lay before this Congress a return of the number of Inhabitants of their respective Colonies as soon as the same shall be procured.

"Extract from the Minutes:
"Charles Thomson, *Secretary*."

"In Congress, *February* 17th, 1776.—1st. *Resolved*, That a Standing Committee of five be appointed for superintending the Treasury. 5th Article. That it shall be the business of this Committee to obtain from the different Assemblies and Conventions of the *United Colonies*, accounts of the number of Inhabitants in each Colony, according to a resolution of Congress on that subject.

"Extract from the Minutes:
"Charles Thomson, *Secretary*."

"At a Treasury Board, held at the Treasury Office, in *Philadelphia*, the 7th day of *May*, Anno Domini 1776, present *James Duane*, Chairman, *Thomas Willing*, *Elbridge Gerry*, *John Gibson*, Auditor-General, *William Webb*, Assistant, Esquires, Superintendents:

"*Ordered*, That Letters be written pursuant to the Resolution of Congress of the seventeenth day of *February*, to the different Assemblies and Conventions of the *United Colonies*, requesting them to furnish accounts of the number of the Inhabitants in each Colony respectively, according to resolution of Congress on that subject, and that a copy of the last-mentioned resolution be forwarded to each of them.

"Extract from the Minutes of the Treasury Board:
"John Gibson, *Auditor General*."

"In Congress, 14th *March*, 1776.—*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils or Committees of Safety of the *United Colonies*, immediately to cause all persons to be disarmed within their respective Colonies who are notoriously disaffected to the cause of *America*, or who have not associated, and shall refuse to associate, to defend by arms these *United Colonies* against the hostile attempts of the *British* Fleets and Armies; and to apply the arms taken from such persons in each respective Colony in the first place to the arming the Continental troops raised in said Colony; in the next, to the arming such troops as are raised by such Colony for its own defence; and the residue to be applied to the arming the Associators. That such arms when taken be appraised by indifferent persons, and such as are applied to the arming Continental troops, be paid for by the Congress, and the residue by the respective Assemblies, Conventions, or Councils or Committees of Safety.

"Extract from the Minutes:
"Charles Thomson, *Secretary*."

"In Congress, 23d *March*, 1776.—Whereas the Petitions of these *United Colonies* to the King, for the redress of great and manifest grievances, have not only been rejected, but treated with scorn and contempt, and the opposition to designs evidently formed to reduce them to a state of servile subjection, and their necessary defence against the hostile forces actually employed to subdue them, declared rebellion: And whereas an unjust war hath been commenced against them, which the commanders of the *British* Fleets and Armies have prosecuted, and still continue to prosecute with their utmost vigour, and in a cruel manner, wasting, spoiling, and destroying the country, burning houses and defenceless towns, and exposing the helpless inhabitants to every misery from the inclemency of the winter, and not only urging savages to invade the country but instigating negroes to murder their masters: And whereas the Parliament of *Great Britain* hath lately passed an act affirming these Colonies to be in open rebellion, forbidding all trade and commerce with the inhabitants thereof, until they shall accept pardon and submit to despotick rule, declaring their property wherever found upon the water liable to seizure and confiscation, and enacting that what had been done there, by virtue of the royal authority, were just and lawful acts, and shall be so deemed; from all which it is manifest that the iniquitous scheme concerted to deprive them of the liberty they have a right to by the laws of nature and the *English* Constitution, will be pertinaciously pursued: It being therefore necessary to provide for their defence and security, and justifiable to make reprisals upon their enemies, and otherwise to annoy them according to the laws and usages of nations, the Congress, trusting that such of their friends in *Great Britain* (of whom it is confessed there are many entitled to applause and gratitude for their patriotism and benevolence, and in whose favour a discrimination of property cannot be made) as shall suffer by captures, will impute it to the authors of our common calamities, do declare and resolve as followeth, to wit:

"*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of these Colonies be permitted to fit out Armed Vessels to cruise on the enemies of these *United Colonies*.

"*Resolved*, That all Ships and other Vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandises, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of *Great Britain*, taken on the high seas, or between high and low water mark, by any armed vessel fitted out by any private person or persons to whom commissions shall be granted, and being libelled and prosecuted in any court erected for the trial of maritime affairs, in any of these Colonies, shall be deemed and adjudged to be lawful prize, and after deducting and paying the wages the seamen and mariners on board of such captures as are merchants ships and vessels shall be entitled to, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the adjudication, shall be condemned to and for the use of the owner or owners, and the officers, marines,

and mariners of such armed vessel, according to such rules and proportions as they shall agree on: *Provided always*, That this resolution shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to any vessel bringing settlers, arms, ammunition, or warlike stores, to and for the use of these Colonies, or any of the inhabitants thereof, who are friends to the *American* cause, or to such warlike stores, or to the effects of such settlers.

"*Resolved*, That all Ships or Vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandises, belonging to any inhabitant of *Great Britain* as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any of the vessels of war of these *United Colonies*, shall be deemed forfeited, one-third after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, to the officers and men on board, and two-thirds to the use of the *United Colonies*.

"*Resolved*, That all Ships or Vessels, with their tackle, apparel, and furniture, goods, wares, and merchandises, belonging to any inhabitants of *Great Britain*, as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessel of war fitted out by and at the expense of any of the *United Colonies*, shall be deemed forfeited, and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, in such manner and proportions as the Assembly or Convention of such Colony shall direct.

"*Resolved*, That all vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and cargoes, belonging to inhabitants of *Great Britain*, as aforesaid, and all vessels which may be employed in carrying supplies to the Ministerial Armies, which shall happen to be taken near the shores of any of these Colonies, by the people of the country or detachments from the Army, shall be deemed lawful prize, and the Court of Admiralty within the said Colony is required, on condemnation thereof, to adjudge that all charges and expenses which may attend the capture and trial, be first paid out of the moneys arising from the sales of the prize, and the remainder equally divided among all those who shall have been actually engaged and employed in taking the said prize: *Provided*, That where any detachments of the Army shall have been employed, as aforesaid, their part of the prize-money shall be distributed among them in proportion to the pay of the officers and soldiers so employed.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

"IN CONGRESS, *March* 25th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That the Convention or Council of Safety of *South-Carolina* be permitted to raise and imbody two other Battalions, and that they be on the pay and at the expense of the Continent as soon as they shall be armed fit for service and accordingly mustered.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

"IN CONGRESS, *April* 6th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That any Goods, Wares, and Merchandises, except Staves and empty Casks, other than shaken or knocked down Casks for Molasses, may be exported from the thirteen *United Colonies* by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the King of *Great Britain*, to any parts of the world which are not under the dominion of the said King: *Provided*, That no vessel be permitted to export any greater number of shaken or knocked down Molasses Casks than the same vessel is capable of carrying when they shall be filled with Molasses.

"*Resolved*, That any Goods, Wares, and Merchandises, except such as are of the growth, production, or manufacture of, or brought from, any country under the dominion of the King of *Great Britain*, and except *East-India* Tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world to the thirteen *United Colonies* by the inhabitants thereof, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the said King, liable, however, to all such duties and impositions as now are, or may hereafter be, laid by any of the said Colonies.

"*Resolved*, That nothing herein contained shall be understood to prevent such future commercial regulations as shall be thought just and necessary by these *United Colonies* or their respective Legislatures.

"*Resolved*, That no Slaves be imported into any of the thirteen *United Colonies*.

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Assemblies and Conventions in the several Colonies to appoint proper officers, at convenient places in their respective Colonies, to take bonds in adequate penalties for observing the regulations made by the Congress, or Assemblies or Conventions concerning Trade, and for securing the observation of such parts of the Association as are not inconsistent therewith, and that the obligator shall, within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such officers a certificate, under the hands and seals of three or more reputable merchants residing at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered, that the same was there unladed, and take manifests, upon oath, of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof; give bills of health when desired; grant registers showing the property of the vessels cleared out; and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels to trade have been complied with; and that the fees of the said officers be stated by the respective Assemblies or Conventions: *Provided always*, That no prosecution upon any of the said bonds shall be commenced but within three years after the date thereof.

"*Resolved*, That all Goods, Wares, and Merchandise, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly or indirectly from *Great Britain* and *Ireland* into any of these *United Colonies*, contrary to the regulations established by Congress, shall be forfeited and disposed of agreeable to such rules as shall be made by the several Assemblies or Conventions, and shall be liable to prosecution and condemnation in any court erected, or to be erected, for the determination of maritime affairs in the Colony where the seizure shall be made.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

"IN CONGRESS, 11th *April*, 1776.—*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Committees or Councils of Safety of the *United Colonies*, to use their best endeavours in communicating to foreign nations the Resolutions of Congress relative to Trade.

"By order of Congress:

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President*."

"IN CONGRESS, *June* 18th, 1776.—Whereas the Congress, on the fourth day of *November* last, resolved that, for the defence of *South-Carolina*, there be kept up in that Colony, at the Continental expense, three Battalions of Foot, each Battalion to consist of the same number of men and officers, to be upon the same pay and under the same regulations as the Continental Army; and on the 25th day of *March* last, resolved, that the Convention or Council of Safety of *South-Carolina* be permitted to raise and imbody two other Battalions, and they be on the pay and at the expense of the Continent as soon as they shall be armed fit for service and accordingly mustered: And whereas the Provincial Congress or Convention of *South-Carolina*, on the twenty-second day of *February* last, ordered that their Council of Safety return the thanks of that Colony to the Continental Congress for their attention to its security; that they state the peculiar circumstances, and the heavy expenses which have been, and will be, incurred by that Colony in the measures necessary for their defence, and that they request the Continental Congress to allow that Colony so much money as the expenses of three Battalions upon the Continental establishment would amount to for one year, and to give Continental rank to the officers of the three Regiments raised in *June*, and of the Regiment of Artillery raised in *November*, from the date of their respective commissions, or at least from the first day of *November*, when they resolved to allow that Colony three Battalions: And whereas the Delegates of that Colony in Congress have represented the peculiar circumstances and heavy expenses of that Colony, and that the troops in it were inlisted for three years upon a different establishment of pay, and under different articles of war, so as to render it inconvenient to place them in all respects upon the Continental establishment thereof:

"*Resolved*, That the Battalion of Artillery and the two other Battalions of Foot, raised in *South-Carolina* and kept up in that Colony for the defence of the same, be considered as Continental forces, and allowed the same pay, rations, and disbursements, as other forces on the Continental establishment; that the two Battalions under the command of the Colonels *Gadsden* and *Moultrie* be allowed all the advantages of the Continental establishment from the fourth day

of *November* last, and the Regiment of Artillery from the time when the same was ordered to be raised by the Provincial Congress or Convention of *South-Carolina*; that the two Battalions of Riflemen raised in, and for the defence of, the said Colony, be considered as Continental troops from the 25th day of *March* last, and be entitled to all the advantages of the same; that all the above-mentioned troops be liable to the articles for the government of the forces in the said Colony; that the said forces be continued on the Continental establishment until the expiration of their inlistment, unless they shall be sooner disbanded by Congress; that not more than one-third of the effective men of the above-mentioned forces be ordered out of the said Colony without the express order of Congress or the consent of the President of that Colony.

"Extracts from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*"

"IN CONGRESS, *June* 19th, 1776.—Whereas it is indispensably necessary for the good of the service that the Soldiers of the *United Colonies* should be well provided with Blankets and Clothing: Therefore,

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Assemblies and Conventions of the *United Colonies* forthwith to cause a suit of clothes, of which the waistcoat and breeches may be of deer leather, if to be had on reasonable terms, a blanket, felt hat, two shirts, two pair of hose, and two pair of shoes, to be manufactured, or otherwise procured, at reasonable rates, in their respective Colonies for each soldier of the *American* Army inlisted therein for the present campaign, and that the same be baled, invoiced, and stored in suitable places, to be delivered to the order of Congress or the Commander-in-Chief of the *American* Army; that sufficient sums of money be granted to the Assemblies and Conventions aforesaid, on applying for the same, to enable them to discharge the demands arising from the purchase of the articles aforesaid; that the Commander-in-Chief of the *American* Army be empowered to draw on the said Assemblies and Conventions for such articles of clothing aforesaid as he shall from time to time judge necessary, and that the cost thereof be deducted from the pay of the soldiers who shall receive the same, by the proper officer for examining and discharging the accounts and pay-rolls of the respective regiments."

"JUNE 24.—*Resolved*, That all persons abiding within any of the *United Colonies*, and deriving protection from the laws of the same, owe allegiance to the said laws, and are members of said Colony; and that all persons passing through, visiting, or making a temporary stay in any of the said Colonies, being entitled to the protection of the laws during the time of such passage, visitation, or temporary stay, owe, during the same time, allegiance thereto; that all persons members of, or owing allegiance to, any of the *United Colonies*, as before described, who shall levy war against any of the said Colonies, within the same, or be adherent to the King of *Great Britain*, or others the enemies of the said Colonies, or any of them, within the same, giving to him or them aid and comfort, are guilty of treason against such Colony; that it be recommended to the Legislatures of the several *United Colonies* to pass laws for punishing, in such manner as to them shall seem fit, such persons, before described, as shall be provable attainted of open deed, by people of their condition, of any of the treasons before described; that it be recommended to the Legislatures of the several *United Colonies* to pass laws for punishing, in such manner as they shall think fit, persons who shall counterfeit, or aid or abet in counterfeiting, the Continental bills of credit, or who shall pass any such bills in payment, knowing the same to be counterfeit."

"JUNE 26.—*Resolved*, That a Bounty of ten dollars be given to every non-commissioned officer and soldier who shall inlist to serve for the term of three years."

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*"

"In Congress, July 4th, 1776.

"*A Declaration by the Representatives of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *in General Congress assembled:*

"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of *Great Britain* is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having, in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

"He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the publick good.

"He has forbidden his Governours to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

"He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the repository of their publick records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

"He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

"He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise, the State remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

"He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States, for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of land.

"He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

"He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

"He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harass our people and eat out their substance.

"He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our Legislatures.

"He has affected to render the military independent of, and superiour to, the civil power.

"He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution and unacknowledged by our laws, giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

"For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

"For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States:

"For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

"For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

"For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

"For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences:

"For abolishing the free system of *English* laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary government and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

"For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering, fundamentally, the forms of our Governments:

"For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

"He has abdicated Government here by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

"He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

"He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

"He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

"He has excited domestick insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless *Indian* savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

"In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury.

"A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

"Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our *British* brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace, friends.

"We, therefore, the Representatives of the *United States of America*, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these *United Colonies* are, and of right out to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the *British* Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of *Great Britain* is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.

"Signed by order and in behalf of the Congress:

"Attest: JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

"IN CONGRESS, *July* 4th, 1776.—*Ordered*, That the Declaration be authenticated and printed.

"That the Committee who brought in the Declaration be ordered to correct the press.

"That copies of the Declaration be sent to the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils of Safety, and to the several Commanding Officers of the Continental troops, that it be proclaimed in each of the *United States* and at the head of the Army."

"*July* 5.—*Resolved*, That a Chaplain be appointed to each Regiment in the Continental Army, and that their allowance be increased to thirty-three Dollars and one-third of a Dollar a month.

"Extracts from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

Letter from the Delegates of this State in the Continental Congress to his Excellency the President, dated

"Philadelphia, 25th July, 1776.

"SIR: Immediately upon the receipt of your letter we applied to Congress for permission to order the *East-India* tea now in your stores to be sold, and to direct the produce thereof to be carried into the Colony Treasury, to be appropriated in such manner as your Assembly should judge right. In consequence of this application, a debate of some length ensued, in which the House indicated a strong inclination to lay their hands upon the profits which should arise from the sale, either for the use of the Continent at large, or to be carried into a fund to reimburse those Colonies whose property should be seized in *England*. There appeared neither reason nor justice in these measures, and we endeavoured to obviate the objections which were made to the application, and to answer the arguments which had been advanced against it. We observed that this property should be looked upon as belonging to the King of *Great Britain*, and not to the *East-India* Company, as the latter had been divested of it both by the seizure which the custom-house officers had made of it and by the indemnification of the Parliament; that the Congress had therefore no more right to apply this tea to the use of the Continent at large, than they had to dispose of the cannon in our forts or the Crown lands within the limits of the Colony; but that if it was the *East-India* Company's property, they had occasioned such an expense to the State of *Carolina* as to justify them fully in the seizures; that it would be repugnant to the principles of justice to insist that this tea should be sold for the benefit of those whose property had been or might be seized in *England*, in exclusion of those whose property had been seized in *America*, and that it would be impracticable to bring every species of loss into one common account; that the seizure of property had been a common misfortune, of which, as well as of publick expenses, we have had our full proportion, and that, therefore, it would be injurious to our State not to be permitted to make use of the advantage in this instance which the possession of the tea had given. It was confessed that we had a right to sell it if we chose, and apply the profits as we pleased; but as we had asked the opinion of the House upon the subject, we should now be governed by the disposition which they should think proper to make, and that they should take time to consider of it. The Delegates being by this time fully convinced that there were many in the House who wished to dispose of it in a manner injurious to the interest and the right of our State, agreed to withdraw the motion, for which they obtained the leave of Congress; and we now, with one voice, advise you to recommend to your Assembly immediately to sell the same and apply the profits thereof to Colonial purposes. Indeed, we were not a little surprised at your requesting us to lay the same before Congress, and we hope that you will determine for yourselves in future in all cases where the concern is of a Provincial and not of a Continental nature.

"We are, with regard, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servants,

"THOMAS LYNCH, THOMAS HEYWARD, Jun.,
"EDWARD RUTLEDGE, THOMAS LYNCH, Jun."
"ARTHUR MIDDLETON,

"Philadelphia, 24th July, 1776.

"SIR: The Congress being of opinion that the service of the *United States* will be promoted by taking into pay a number of troops in the State of *South-Carolina*, who are to act either as Infantry or Light-Horse, as occasion may require, have come to the enclosed resolves, which I do myself the honour of transmitting in obedience to their commands. In consideration that these troops will go through more than ordinary duty and be put to greater expense than others, the Congress have augmented their pay in propor-

tion. I have delivered blank commissions to the Delegates of your State.

"With most hearty and sincere wishes for your health and happiness and the prosperity of the State over which you preside, I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient and very humble servant,

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

"The Honourable *John Rutledge*, Esq., Governour of *South-Carolina*."

"IN CONGRESS, *July* 24th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That the Regiment of Rangers now in the pay of the State of *South-Carolina* be placed upon Continental establishment, and that it consist of a Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, a Major, ten Captains, twenty Lieutenants, a Surgeon, a Paymaster, twenty Sergeants, and five hundred Privates.

"That the pay of the Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant be the same as a Colonel of foot; a Major, that of a Lieutenant-Colonel; a Captain, that of a Major; and the Lieutenants, that of a Captain; and Sergeants, that of Ensigns of foot of the Continental forces; that the Surgeon be allowed thirty-three and one-third dollars per month; the Paymaster, twenty-six and two-thirds; and the Privates, twelve and an half dollars per month, to provide themselves with horses, guns, and provisions for themselves and horses.

"That the said Rangers be liable to act on horseback or foot as occasion may require.

"That the like number of Rangers be raised in the State of *Georgia*, and put upon Continental establishment.

"That these be entitled to the same pay and subject to the same duties as the *Carolina* Rangers.

"That the Rangers raised in the State of *South-Carolina* be subject to the articles formed by the Convention of that State for the government of the forces raised therein.

"By order of Congress:

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*"

"IN CONGRESS, *July* 24th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That all the Resolutions of this Congress passed on the 23d day of *April* last, relating to Ships and other Vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandise, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of *Great Britain*, taken on the high seas, or between high and low water mark, be extended to all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel, and furniture, and all goods, wares, and merchandise, belonging to any subject or subjects of the said King, except the inhabitants of the *Bermudas* and *Providence* or *Bahama* Islands.

"By order of Congress:

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*"

The House thereupon came to the following Resolutions, to wit:

*Resolved*, That this House do acquiesce in the Resolves of the Continental Congress, of the 18th of *June* and 24th of *July*, 1776, relating to the putting the two Regiments of Infantry, the Regiment of Rangers, the Regiment of Artillery, and the two Regiments of Riflemen, in the service of this State on the Continental establishment.

*Resolved*, That this House will defray the expense between the Continental bounty, clothing, and pay, and the bounty, clothing, and pay allowed to those regiments respectively by the acts of this State.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above Resolves be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence, and to the President for his assent.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and Mr. *Thomas Middleton*, Jun., do attend the Legislative Council with the said message.

*Ordered*, That an Ordinance be brought in for making the provisions aforesaid, and for settling the manner of ordering General Courts-Martial; and that Colonel *Pinckney*, Colonel *Motte*, and Captain *Scott*, do prepare and bring in the same.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners to sell the Tea now in the cellars under the Exchange, and to lodge the money arising from such sale in the Treasury of the State; and that Colonel *Pinckney*, Mr. Attorney-General, and Mr. *Ward*, do prepare and bring in the same.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a Bill pursuant to the Resolution and recommendation of the Continental Congress, of the 14th of *March*, 1776, for disarming all persons notoriously disaffected to the cause of *America*, or who have not associated, and shall refuse to associate, to defend by arms these *United Colonies* against the hostile attempts of the *British* Fleets and Armies, and to dispose of such arms; and that Mr. *Ward*, Mr. *Stobo*, and Mr. *Ralph Izard*, do prepare and bring in the same.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to revise the present Militia Law, and to bring in a Bill for the better regulation of the Militia.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Gervais*, Major *Hicks*, Colonel *Pinckney*, Mr. Attorney-General, Captain *Vanderhorst*, Captain *Roger Smith*, Captain *Forgartie*, Captain *Stone*, Captain *Benjamin Waring*, Captain *Withers*, Captain *William Skirving*, Captain *Eveleigh*, Captain *Leger*, Captain *De Saussure*, Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews*, Mr. *Philip Smith*, and Mr. *Cantey*, be a Committee for the above purpose.

Colonel *Gervais* reported, that Mr. *Izard* and himself had waited on the President, and delivered the Message they had in charge, and that his Excellency was pleased to say he would receive this House to present their Address in the Council-Chamber to-morrow morning, ten of the clock.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

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Saturday, the 21st day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

Colonel *Garden*, Mr. *William Moore*, Mr. *John Williams*, and Mr. *Anthony White*, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and their seats as Members of this House.

A Petition of *Edward Fenwick*, Esq., was presented to the House, and read in the words following:

"That *John Stuart*, Esq., late of this State, by letter dated the 23d day of *December*, 1775, did direct his attorney, *Robert Balingall*, to remove twenty of such negroes from his plantation at *Maple Cane*, to plant on your petitioner's lands at *Ashepoo*, as he, the said Mr. *Balingall*, should judge best, and did also direct Mr. *Charles Shaw*, by a letter of the same date, to put your petitioner in possession of ten more negroes from the plantation on *Lady's Island*; that the said Mr. *Stuart*, by a letter at the same time to your petitioner, acquainting him therewith, and that he intended them as a part of the portion he meant to give your petitioner with his daughter; that these letters lay a considerable time in the post-office at *Georgia*, and never came to hand till some time in *May* last, previous to which the then Colonial Congress had appointed certain Committees to possess themselves of all the said Mr. *Stuart's* estate, who had accordingly done it, and removed Messrs. *Balingall* and *Shaw* from the possession thereof, so that they have been hitherto unable to comply with Mr. *Stuart's* orders. Your petitioner, therefore, humbly hopes that your honourable House will be pleased to take his case into your consideration, and issue your order to those Committees, commanding them to permit the said Mr. *Balingall* to put your petitioner in possession of twenty negroes from the *Maple Cane* plantation, and Mr. *Shaw* to deliver to your petitioner ten negroes from the plantation on *Lady's Island*. Your petitioner further shows unto your honourable House, that the several attachments have been sued against the said Mr. *Stuart's* estate, and many of his negroes seized and sold by the Sheriff of *Charles-Town* District in consequence thereof; that your petitioner is advised that the crops of the said Mr. *Stuart* are legally as much liable to be attached and sold as any other part of his estate, and as they are of a perishable nature, your petitioner therefore also prays that your honourable House would be pleased to issue your further orders to the respective Committees commanding them to restore the said crops to your petitioner, in order that they in the first instance may be sold for payment of the debts already sued for."

*Ordered*, That the said Petition be referred to the consideration of a Committee; and that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same, as it shall appear to them, to the House.

And it is referred to the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*, Mr. *Cantey*, and Captain *Trapier*.

Message from the President by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker: The President is now in the Council Chamber, ready to receive the House with their Address."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

*Ordered*, That Mr. Speaker do sign the engrossed Address to be presented to the President.

Then Mr. Speaker, with the House, attended his Excellency in the Council Chamber; and being returned, Mr. Speaker reported that he, with the House, having attended the President in the Council Chamber with their Address in answer to his Speech, his Excellency had been pleased to reply in the following words:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: This most honourable reward cannot fail to make the deepest impression upon generous minds. It will increase the laudable ambition of those on whom it is conferred, and excite others to emulate that fame which they have acquired. May the happiest consequences be derived to the *United States* from the independence of *America*, who could not obtain even peace, liberty, and safety by any other means. Your disposition and assurances afford a confident expectation that this session will be usefully employed. "John Rutledge.

"21st September, 1776."

*Ordered*, That his Excellency's Speech, delivered to both Houses, the Address of this House in answer thereto, and his Excellency's Reply, be forthwith printed and made publick.

Message to the President:

"May it please your Excellency: This House being informed that a number of wagons, laden with woolens and other merchandise, the property of *John Mitchell*, of *Meldrum*, in the Parish of *St. David*, are now on their way from *Philadelphia* to this State, having the infection of the small-pox among some of the drivers or passengers, request that your Excellency will be pleased to give immediate directions to the District Committee of the said Parish to take every necessary precaution and use every means in their power to prevent the infection from spreading, by causing all persons and merchandise infected therewith to be carried to some distant place from the settlements, and to place a proper guard thereon till such time as they shall be fully satisfied that no infection remains, or to pursue any other mode that they shall think most proper. That your Excellency may see the necessity for pursuing the above measures, we herewith send you a copy of the report, as agreed to by the House, in consequence of the foregoing information."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Pegues* and Major *Hicks* do carry the Message to the President.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: On considering Captain *Lampriere's* letter herewith sent, and other representations respecting the ship *Prosper*, it was thought expedient at the time of the late invasion to apply her guns to the use of some of the batteries, and put her out of the way of danger. In my opinion it will be most for the publick advantage to sell her or employ her in trade; but I think myself not authorized to do so. You will therefore judge in what manner it will be best to dispose of her. The appointing Commissioners to superintend the naval affairs of this State would, I hope, place them upon a better footing than the present. I therefore recommend it as a matter worthy of your attention. "John Rutledge.

"21st September, 1776."

Read Captain *Lampriere's* Letter, which accompanied the Message, dated the 28th *May* last; which Letter is preserved among the papers of the present session.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to examine the publick Treasury Accounts, and report to the House an exact and circumstantial account of the state of the Treasury, what sums have been issued, and for what particular services, arranging under distinct heads the particular services for which the moneys have been expended.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Neufville*, the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Mr. *Josiah Smith*, Junior, Captain *Roger Smith*, Mr. *Corbett*, Mr. *Jones*, and Mr. *Webb*, be a Committee for the above purpose.

Colonel *Pinckney* presented to the House, according to order, an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners for selling certain *East-India* Teas imported into this State from *Great Britain*, and for applying the moneys arising therefrom to the use of the said State.

And the same was received and read the first time.

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance be read a second time.

And the same being read accordingly,

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* and Mr. *Middleton* do carry the same to the Legislative Council.

The House being informed that Captain *Joseph Turpin*, commander of the armed Brigantine *Comet*, belonging to this State, is absent and gone to *Georgia* without leave,

*Ordered*, That Captain *Turpin's* Letter of the 16th instant, addressed to this House, laid before them on the 17th instant, and then ordered to lie on the table, be now read.

And the same being read accordingly, is as followeth:

"Honourable Gentlemen: Having had the honour to serve in your Navy with some reputation, think it my duty to acquaint you before I quit that service, with my reasons for so doing. The Navy of *England* have ever been invincible, and from no other cause than the great encouragement they give their officers and people, and the wise and honourable footing they are set on. All prizes taken from their enemies are divided into eighths in the following manner: Three-eighths to the Captain, one to the Lieutenants, Master and officer of marines, if a Captain; one to the warranted officers; one to the petty officers; and two to the men before the mast. One of these two-eighths *George* the Second gave to the seamen in the year 'forty, as an encouragement. All ships of war, either King's ships or privateers, taken from the enemy or destroyed, the King allows ten pounds for each man and ten pounds for each gun the enemy had on board. Captains of the Navy serving under an Admiral gives up one of his three-eighths to that officer. No other deductions are made whatever. As to rank, all Post-Captains rank with Colonels of horse or foot in the land service; Commanders who have not taken post, with Majors; and the Lieutenants of the fleet with Captains of the Army.

"To conclude, I humbly offer this plan for your perusal, and on those terms shall be ready and proud of the honour to serve you; and am, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble servant,

"Joseph Turpin.

"Charles-Town, South-Carolina, 16th September, 1776."

*Resolved*, That this House will, on *Monday* next, ballot for another commander of the Brigantine *Comet*.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the armed Ship *Prosper*, belonging to this State, be sold, and that the moneys to arise from such sale be deposited in the publick Treasury.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above Resolve be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* and Mr. *Middleton* do carry the Resolve to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That a Message be sent to the President, requesting that his Excellency will be pleased to give directions for the sale of the Ship *Prosper*, her apparel and furniture.

Message to the President:

"May it please your Excellency: This House having resolved that the armed ship *Prosper*, belonging to this State, with her apparel and furniture, be sold, and the money arising by such sale lodged in the Treasury, request that your Excellency will be pleased to give directions accordingly."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Edwards* and Mr. *Chiffelle* do wait on his Excellency with the said Message.

Mr. *Pegues* reported that Major *Hicks* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President.

Mr. *Dupont* reported from the Commissioners appointed by an Ordinance passed 9th of *April* last to take a state of the Treasury, and to settle the Accounts of the late Powder Receiver; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read.

Upon a doubt expressed by the said Commissioners in respect to settling with the late Powder Receiver:

*Ordered*, That the Report be recommitted; and that the Commissioners be authorized to select and accept from the late Powder Receiver such bonds as they shall approve of for the balance of moneys due from him to the publick of this State, and to procure from the obligors in such bonds in lieu thereof bonds payable to the present Commissioners of the Treasury for the use of the State; and that they do report their proceedings thereon additional to the report recommitted to this House.

The Honourable Mr. *Edwards* reported that Mr. *Middleton* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury be authorized and required to receive payment of the Bonds payable to the King, and notes payable to the late Joint Publick Treasurers mentioned in the foregoing Report, or in lieu thereof to take new bonds, payable to the said Commissioners for the use of this State.

*Ordered*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury be immediately served with a copy of the above Resolve.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a bill for appointing Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of this State, and that the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Captain *Roger Smith*, Mr. *Corbett*, Mr. *Neufville*, and Mr. *Ward*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in the same.

And the House adjourned till *Monday* morning, nine of the clock.

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Monday, the 23d day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of last *Saturday's* proceedings.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Gervais*, Mr. *Loocock*, the Reverend Mr. *Tennent*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *John Williams*, Mr. *Robinson*, Major *Hicks*, Mr. *Pegues*, Mr. *John Caldwell* of *St. Matthews*, Mr. *Cantey*, and Mr. *Harrington*, be a Committee to consider and report to the House proper places of election and the names of persons proper to receive votes and make returns in the different Districts where there are no Churches or Church-Wardens, and that the said Committee do sit upon that business without loss of time.

The Honourable Mr. *Mathews* reported, that Mr. *Middleton* and himself had delivered the Ordinance, and also the Message they had in charge, to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That the order of the day, to ballot for another commander of the Brigantine *Comet*, be discharged.

*Ordered*, That a Committee be appointed to receive the names of persons desirous or proper to be appointed to the command of the Brigantine *Comet;* that they do sit forthwith for that purpose, and give publick notice thereof.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Mr. *Corbett*, Mr. *Hall*, Mr. *Chiffelle*, and Mr. *Ward*, be a Committee for the above purpose.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Garden*, Mr. *Harrington*, Captain *Singleton*, Captain *White*, and Captain *Maham*, be added to the Committee for revising the present Militia Law, and to bring in a bill for the better regulation of the Militia.

Message from the Legislative Council, by their Clerk:

"Mr. Speaker: The Legislative Council have read twice the Ordinance for appointing Commissioners for selling certain *East-India* teas, imported from *Great Britain* into this State, and for applying the moneys arising therefrom to the use of the said State."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

*Resolved*, That the said Ordinance be now read a third time; and the same being read accordingly,

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance do pass.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Ward* and Captain *McQueen* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: Colonel *Powel* having represented the necessity of a stockade fort at the *Cheraw Hill*, I gave him directions some time ago (by advice of the Privy Council) to have one built there; but on receiving from him the petitions and estimate herewith laid before you, some of which petitions prayed that it might be built at that place, and others at *Long-Bluff;* and being informed by several inhabitants of *St. David's* Parish, that a fort at either of those places was altogether unnecessary, I thought it proper (the time of your meeting being then not very distant) to suspend the matter till I could have your opinion respecting it, and I now refer this subject to your consideration.

"John Rutledge.

"23d September, 1776."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Read the Petitions referred to in the Message, which, with the estimate, are preserved among the other papers of the present sessions.

*Ordered*, That the Message, with the papers accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee.

And they are referred to Mr. *Harrington*, Major *Hicks*, Mr. *Pegues*, Captain *Withers*, Captain *White*, Mr. *Young*, and Captain *Trapier*.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Tucker* have leave of absence from the service of this House.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That Mr. Speaker be desired to write to the Delegates of this State in the Continental Congress, that they will cause this House to be furnished with a complete copy of the Journals of the Proceedings of the said Congress, for the use of this State.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

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Tuesday, the 24th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceeding.

Mr. *Joseph Palmer*, Captain *Samuel Wise*, and Mr. *Daniel Ravenell*, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and their seats as members of this House.

Mr. *Jonathan Scott*, the returning officer of the election for the Parish of *Christ Church*, attended according to order, and being called in, amended the Return, by rasing the name of *Levi Durant*, Esq., and inserting, instead thereof, the name of *William Scott*, Jun., Esquire.

The Honourable Mr. *Lowndes* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *Edward Fenwick*, Esquire, was referred; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That in *September* last, as Mr. *Fenwick* informed your Committee, he received a letter from Mr. *Stuart*, informing him that he had sent for an inventory of his slaves, in order to enable him the better to judge what part he would allot to Mr. *Fenwick*, in part of his lady's portion; which letter is mislaid. That Mr. *Fenwick* produced a letter, dated 23d *December*, from Mr. *Stuart*, directed to Mr. *Balingall*, wherein he tells Mr. *Balingall*, that if it is agreeable to him, he leaves it to him to move twenty of his hands from *Maple Cane* to Mr. *Fenwick's* plantation at *Ashepoo;* and that he (Mr. *Stuart*) proposed, also, to give orders to Mr. *Charles Shaw* to remove ten more from *Lady's Island*, so as to be at Mr. *Fenwick's* in *February* following. That Mr. *Fenwick* informed the Committee that Mr. *Shaw* did, in consequence, receive such directions from Mr. *Stuart* concerning the ten negroes to be removed from *Lady's Island;* that Mr. *Shaw* is now in town, and although he has not the letter to produce, he is willing to make oath to the purport of it as above. (Mr. *Shaw* appearing before the Committee, confirmed this article.) That Mr. *Fenwick* informed the Committee, that he also had received a letter

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from Mr. *Stuart*, acquainting him that he had wrote letters to Mr. *Balingall* and *Shaw*, to the above purpose. That the letter was detained in the post-office at *Georgia* a considerable time, and taken up (opened) by Mr. *Rose*, who brought it to Mr. *Fenwick* in *May* last; that Mr. *Fenwick*, in consequence, went up to Mr. *Balingall*, who acknowledged the receipt of Mr. *Stuart's* letters, but informed Mr. *Fenwick* that the effects of Mr. *Stuart* were taken out of his hands by order of the Congress, otherwise he would have complied with Mr. *Stuart's* directions. *Shaw* also declared to Mr. *Fenwick*, that he would have delivered up the ten negroes mentioned in his letter, had Mr. *Stuart's* effects remained in his custody. That Mr. *Fenwick* has no bill of sale, or other instrument of writing, transferring the said slaves to him, but is assured, from the letter received from Mr. *Stuart*, first referred to, that it was Mr. *Stuart's* intention to have given him those slaves as part of his wife's portion, and that the orders given to Mr. *Balingall*, he considers as an evidence of such his intention. That Mr. *Fenwick* informed the Committee that there are now brought to *Charles-Town*, seized on attachment, ten of the slaves belonging to Mr. *Stuart*, from *Maple Cane*, besides a considerable number already sold. That the crop now on the ground must be lost for want of negroes to harvest the crop. That if the crop of the last year, lying on hand, together with the indico made the present year, were put into his hands, he could, by the proceeds thereof, pay off the attachments on which the negroes were seized, and redeem the negroes now in the custody of the Sheriff, which would afford them the means of saving some part of the crop on the ground, which must now inevitably be lost. That he will give security to apply the effects put into his hands solely to the payment of the just debts of Mr. *Stuart*, and account with any person the House will appoint, for the residue of the sales. That on the above state of facts, which Mr. *Fenwick* is ready to attest upon oath, the Committee are of opinion, that it appears to have been the intention of Mr. *Stuart* to have given to Mr. *Fenwick*, his son-in-law, thirty negroes, in part of his wife's portion. But inasmuch as there is no deed or regular transfer for that purpose from Mr. *Stuart*, obligatory upon him, the Committee are of opinion that the presumption arising from the letters wrote by Mr. *Stuart*, is not sufficient in law to vest the property of the said slaves absolutely in Mr. *Fenwick*. But as it is clear and evident, by the directions given to *Balingall* and *Shaw*, that Mr. *Stuart* intended at least to give to Mr. *Fenwick* the temporary use and service of thirty slaves, to work on his plantation at *Ashepoo*, and that those persons would have put Mr. *Fenwick* into the quiet possession of them if they had not been prevented by the orders of the Congress, which dispossessed them of the power over Mr. *Stuart's* effects, the Committee recommend that Mr. *Fenwick* may now take the liberty of availing himself of the temporary use of the said slaves, and that Mr. *Balingall* and Mr. *Shaw* may be permitted to deliver over to him the said negroes, or such part thereof as are in their power, agreeable to Mr. *Stuart's* directions, Mr. *Fenwick* holding himself answerable for the said negroes, and obliged to deliver them whenever thereunto required by the resolution of this House. That the Committee are of opinion it would be detrimental and grievous to sell the negroes of Mr. *Stuart* for the payment of his debts, while there is a sufficient value in perishable commodity for that purpose on hand, the more especially as this present crop in the ground would thereby be totally lost. The Committee, therefore, further recommend, that Mr. *Fenwick* be permitted to take in his possession the rice and indico belonging to Mr. *Stuart*, dispose of the same, and apply the proceeds to the payment of the just and legal debts of Mr. *Stuart*, holding the residue, if any there is, in his hands, subject to the disposal of this House, and that Mr. *Fenwick* lodge in the hands of the Commissioners of the Treasury a faithful and exact account, attested on oath, of such sale and payments."

*Ordered*, That the said Report be taken into consideration on to-morrow.

*William Scott*, Jun., Esquire, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member for the Parish of *Christ Church*.

A Petition of *William Hart*, Esq., was presented to the House and read, in the words following:

"That a part of the land on which the troops lately encamped at *Haddrel's Point* is the property of your petitioner. That they had while there totally destroyed a field of corn and other provisions, a large garden with a great number of choice fruit-trees, and burnt and destroyed all his fences, and otherwise injured him. Your petitioner humbly hopes that you will take his case into consideration, and grant him such relief as to you in your wisdom shall seem meet."

*Ordered*, That the Petition be referred to the consideration of a Committee.

And it is referred to Mr. *Capers*, Captain *Vanderhorst*, Mr. *Benjamin Elliott*, Mr. *John Boone*, and Mr. *William Scott*, Junior.

Mr. *Corbett* reported from the Commissioners appointed by the late Congress to purchase materials for, and superintend the making of Gunpowder. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That they did employ *William Bartey*, a man skilled in the art of making gunpowder. That they have allowed him twenty shillings currency per pound for all the gunpowder that he produced out of the materials with which the Commissioners furnished him with, charging him with those materials. That they have worked up into gunpowder all the nitre they have received or could procure, which is as follows: two hundred pounds from Mr. *John Neufville*, paid for by the Treasury; one hundred and forty-eight and a half from Mr. *Daniel De Saussure*, paid for by the Treasury;—three hundred and forty-eight and a half; one hundred and thirty, the Commissioners bought in *Charles-Town* and paid for—in all, four hundred and seventy-eight and a half pounds of nitre; from which they have made, and delivered to the Gunpowder Receiver and officers of the Army, (per receipt for the same,) six hundred and twenty-five pounds weight of gunpowder. That the Commissioners have also received a cask of brimstone from Mr. *Neufville*, and two casks from Mr. *De Saussure*, paid for by the Commissioners of the Treasury, and two thousand nine hundred and five pounds of brimstone which the Commissioners for Gunpowder bought and have paid for in *Charles-Town*, out of which they have used only seventy pounds, Mr. *Bartey* having brimstone of his own, which he furnished in the making of gunpowder. Part of the brimstone is lodged in the publick magazine, by order of the late Council of Safety, the rest Mr. *Calvert* is ordered to put into the Arsenal.

"The expenses attending this business are charged in an account delivered herewith, on which there is a balance due to the Commissioners of one hundred and eighteen pounds thirteen shillings and four pence currency."

The Accounts referred to, being likewise read,

*Ordered*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury do pay to Mr. *Thomas Corbett* and the Reverend Mr. *William Tennent*, Commissioners for purchasing materials for and to superintend the making of Gunpowder, a balance of one hundred and eighteen pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, which appears to be due to them on that account.

Mr. *Loocock* reported from the Committee to consider of and report proper places of Election, and proper persons to receive the vote of Electors, and make returns thereof, in such Districts where they are not already appointed. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That the election for the District between *Savannah* river and the north fork of *Edisto* should be held at *Kelley's* old Cowpen, and the Commissioners be *George Robinson*, *John Collins*, *John Sally*, Esquires, Messrs. *Henry Peoples* and *William Robinson*, or any one or more of them. That the Committee find the places already fixed in every Parish and District within this State, except the above, and also Church Wardens or Commissioners accommodated to each place of election; and that the Committee, apprehending all or most of the Commissioners for the *Spartan* or Upper District may be absent at the time of the next election, recommend that Lieutenant-Colonel *Wofford* and Mr. *John Nuccols* may be added to the same."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the same being taken into consideration accordingly,

*Resolved*, That this House do agree with the Report of the Committee.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That in all such Districts throughout this State where Commissioners are appointed to attend and receive votes for electing members of the General Assembly, and to make returns of such elections, any one or more of the said Commissioners shall be sufficient for those purposes.

*Ordered*, That the Resolves of this House, of the 11th of *April* last, on the above subject, together with the foregoing, be forthwith printed and sent to the several Districts.

Captain *McQueen* reported that Mr. *Ward* and himself had delivered the Ordinance they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners for selling certain *East-India* Teas, imported from *Great Britain* into this State, and for applying the moneys arising therefrom to the use of the said State, and read a third time in the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be engrossed.

Mr. *Ward* presented to the House, according to order, an Ordinance for disarming persons notoriously disaffected to the cause of *America*, or who shall not associate and shall refuse to associate to defend by arms the *United States of America*, and the State of *South-Carolina* in particular, against the hostile attempts of the *British* Fleets and Armies. And the same was received and read the first time.

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance be read a second time to-morrow.

A copy of the Presentments of the Grand Jurors at a Court of Oyer and Terminer, Assize and General Delivery, begun and holden at *Ninety-Six*, for the District of *Ninety-Six*, on *Thursday*, the 30th of *May*, 1776, was presented to the House and read, with the orders of the Court thereupon, directing the following to be laid before the Legislature, viz: First, the want of places of publick worship and for schools. Second, the want of a proper vagrant law. Third, that writs are issuable from and returnable to *Charles-Town* only, and that the records are not kept in the different Districts. Fourth, the want of provision for many poor and indigent persons; and recommend that the Committees in the different Districts where there are no Parishes be empowered to assess for that purpose. Fifth, the want of publick roads through the Province in general, and the bad repair in which several are kept, and particularly the want of a road to lead from the upper parts of *Savannah River*, *Rocky River*, and *Little River*, heading the south fork of *Edisto*, and *Saltcatchee* or *Salcatchee Rivers*, to *Hort's Ferry* on *Edisto River*, and from thence to *Slann's Bridge*.

*Ordered*, That the said Presentments do lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Bacot* and Mr. *Theodore Gaillard*, Jun., be added to the Committee appointed on the 21st instant to examine the publick Treasury Accounts, and report to the House an exact and circumstantial account of the state of the Treasury, what sums have been issued, and for what particular services, arranging under distinct heads the particular services for which the moneys have been expended.

*Resolved*, That the House will proceed to the choice of a Captain and commander of the Brigantine *Comet* to-morrow morning, ten of the clock.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* do wait on the Legislative Council to request their attendance in this House to-morrow morning, ten of the clock, to join in balloting for a Captain and commander of the Brigantine *Comet*.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

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Wednesday, the 25th of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Jacob Richman*, *Henry Patrick*, and *Benjamin Screven*, Esquires, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and their seats as members.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Richman*, Mr. *Singleton*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Williams*, Mr. *Caldwell*, Mr. *Harrington*, Mr. *Robinson*, Colonel *Gervais*, and Mr. *Ward*, be a Committee to revise the list of Magistrates, and report the names of persons proper to be added thereto.

The order of the day being read, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom the Petition of *Edward Fenwick*, Esquire, was referred; and the Petition of *Edward Fenwick*, Esquire, being also read, a Petition of *John Berwick*, Esquire, was presented to the House and read, in the words following:

"That on or about the night of the 16th of *July* last, while your petitioner was called from the cares of his private concerns and bearing arms in *Charles-Town*, in defence of this State against the cruel invaders of its just rights and privileges, an armed vessel, supposed to be that commanded by Captain *Osborn*, commissioned by the Province of *East-Florida* to cruise against the *United States of America*, landed his men, and carried off by violence eight of his most valuable slaves, compelling the overseer's wife to conduct them to those houses where the best of his negroes were known to reside, to the great injury of the estate of your petitioner,—said slaves, together with a loss sustained in his crop, being, in the opinion of your petitioner, to the value of seven thousand pounds currency, at a moderate computation. Your petitioner also begs leave to represent to the House, that he is well informed that *John Moultrie*, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governour of *East-Florida*, from whence the said piratical cruiser was commissioned, and *John Stuart*, Esquire, late Superintendent of *Indian* Affairs, are possessed of certain estates or other property within this State, and the said *John Moultrie* and *John Stuart*, Esquires, having taken an active part with our enemies against these *United States*, your petitioner therefore, encouraged by some recent precedents in which individuals have been permitted to make reprisals, and to indemnify themselves for their losses, by seizing upon the property of the enemy within this State, prays that the House would take the premises into consideration, and enable your petitioner to attack and convert to his own use so much of the property or effects of the said *John Moultrie* or *John Stuart*, Esquires, or any other known enemy of this State and of the liberties of *America* in general, found within this State, as shall fully indemnify him for his great losses, or that the House would be pleased to grant your petitioner such other mode of redress as to their wisdom may seem more fit and proper."

*Ordered*, That the Petition be referred to a Committee.

And it is referred to the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*, Captain *Joiner*, Mr. *Benjamin Elliott*, Mr. *De Saussure*, Mr. *Stobo*, and Mr. *Young*.

*Ordered*, That the order of the day be discharged.

*Ordered*, That the consideration of the Report on Mr. *Fenwick's* Petition be postponed till the Committee appointed to consider Mr. *Berwick's* Petition shall have reported thereupon.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: I send you some other Petitions, which have been lately presented to me, relative to a Fort at the *Cheraw-Hill*.

"John Rutledge.

"25th September, 1776."

Read the Petitions referred to, which are preserved among the other papers of the session.

*Ordered*, That the Petitions be referred to the same Committee to whom the President's Message of the 23d instant, and other Petitions upon the same subject, were referred.

It appearing to the House that *Thomas Farr*, Jun., Esquire, Clerk to the late Commons House of Assembly, had, in pursuance of an order of the Council of Safety dated 24th of *October* last, removed the Journals, Books and other Papers belonging to the said House, to *Dorchester*, and there delivered them to the Commissioners appointed for that purpose, and taken their receipt for the same, which receipt was produced to the House:

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Farr* be discharged from any further charge of the said Journals, Books and Papers, and that the same be taken into the care of the Clerk of this House.

A member presented to the House a Certificate of an Election for the District of *Saxe-Gotha*. And he read the Certificate in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as follows:

"*South-Carolina, Saxe-Gotha District:*

"In pursuance of a letter from the Honourable *William Henry Drayton*, informing the Committee for this District that a writ of election was issued and sent up for a member in the House of General Assembly, (though the said writ never came to hand,) the electors of *Saxe-Gotha* District were duly summoned to meet at *Congarees*, on *Friday*, the 13th instant, for the purpose of electing a member for the said District; and the said election having been held, it appeared that the Honourable *William Henry Drayton* was duly and unanimously elected to represent the said District in the present General Assembly: Which proceedings are hereby certified and returned by us, the Commissioners for the District.

"Signed the 22d day of *September*, 1776.

"WILLIAM ARTHUR,
"JACOB FRIDAY,
"RALPH HUMPHREYS.

"To the Speaker of the General House of Assembly for *South-Carolina*."

After some debate, a motion was made that Mr. *Drayton* be called in to qualify.

And the question being put, the House divided: the yeas went forth. Teller for the yeas, Mr. Attorney General—32. Teller for the noes, Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*—52.

So it passed in the negative.

*Hopson Pinckney*, Esquire, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat in the House as a member for the Parish of *St. Thomas* and *St. Dennis*.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN: Colonel *Williamson* lately desired my instructions with respect to telling the men engaged in the expedition against the *Cherokees*, that such of those *Indians* as should be taken prisoners would become slaves, and the property of the captors; which notion I find prevailed in his camp, insomuch that an *Indian* woman who had been taken prisoner was sold as a slave. I send you an extract of my letter in answer to his on this subject; and, agreeable to my promise to him, recommend the giving suitable encouragement to those who shall distinguish themselves in the war against the *Cherokees*, which I doubt not you will. I wish to be enabled to assure Colonel *Williamson* soon with certainty what they may expect.

"JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"25th September, 1776."

Read the paper referred to, entitled "Extract of a Letter, 3d *September*, in answer to Colonel *Williamson*, of *August* 25th."

*Ordered*, That the Message and Extract accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee.

And it is referred to the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*, the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Colonel *Gervais*, Colonel *Pinckney*, Mr. *Neufville*, Mr. *Cantey*, and Mr. *John Waring*.

Colonel *Pinckney* reported that the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* and himself had, according to order, waited upon the Legislative Council, to desire their attendance in this House, in order to join in balloting for a Captain and commander-in-chief of the Brigantine *Comet*.

The members of the honourable the Legislative Council being introduced into this House accordingly, the members of both Houses proceeded to ballot; and the ballots being reckoned, Mr. Speaker reported, that *James Dogharty*, Esquire, was duly elected Captain and commander of the Brigantine *Comet*.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Edwards* and Captain *Joiner* do wait on the President, to acquaint him that this House and the honourable the Legislative Council have jointly, by ballot, duly elected *James Dogharty*, Esquire, Captain and commander of the armed Brigantine *Comet*, belonging to this State, and to request that his Excellency will be pleased to cause him to be sent for express, and to commissionate him accordingly.

A Memorial of the Vestry of *Saint Philip's, Charles-Town*, was presented to the House, and read, in the following words:

"That many difficulties occurred which rendered it altogether impossible for memorialists to make a just and equitable assessment for a poor-tax on the inhabitants of *Charles-Town* according to the directions of the act of Assembly, but more particularly the removal from town for several months past of great numbers of those inhabitants who were liable by law to be taxed for that purpose; and though some of them have lately returned, it is, nevertheless, now out of the power of memorialists to make an assessment, because the time limited by law for doing it is expired. That memorialists were obliged some time since to borrow a large sum of money, (exclusive of what hath been already lent by your honourable House,) in order to defray the expense of supporting the poor of this town and transient poor from the different parts of the country, and also from our sister States, who are daily applying for an increase of their monthly allowance because of the exorbitant prices that are demanded for all the necessaries of life. Memorialists therefore pray that your honourable House will take the case into your most serious consideration, and accordingly make provision for the subsistence of said poor until a tax can be legally assessed, or memorialists will be reduced to the unavoidable necessity of yielding up their trust, and leaving the poor altogether to the care of Heaven, or begging their daily bread from door to door."

*Ordered*, That the Memorial be referred to a Committee.

And it is referred to Mr. *Hall*, Mr. *John Berwick*, Mr. *Verree*, Mr. *Brown*, Mr. *Toomer*, Mr. *Josiah Smith*, Jun., and Mr. *Eveleigh*.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That Mr. Speaker do forthwith issue Writs for electing members of the present General Assembly for the following Parishes and Districts, where vacancies have happened, viz: One member for the Parishes of *St. Philip* and *St. Michael, Charles-Town*, in the room of *Cato Ash*, Esquire, deceased; one member for the Parish of *St. Andrew*, in the room of the Honourable *Thomas Fuller*, elected into the Legislative Council; one member for the Parish of *St. James, Goose-Creek*, in the room of the Honourable *John Parker*, elected into the Legislative Council; two members for the Parish of *St. James, Santee*, in the room of the Honourable *Daniel Horry*, elected into the Legislative Council, and of *Levi Durand*, Esquire, who having been returned for *Christ Church*, and also for *St. James, Santee*, had made his election for the former; one member for the Parish of *St. Helena*, in the room of the Honourable *William Moultrie*, elected into the Legislative Council; and one member for the District of *Saxe-Gotha*, in the room of the Honourable *William Henry Drayton*, elected Chief Justice of this State.

*Ordered*, That the election days for filling up the said vacancies be *Monday* and *Tuesday*, the seventh and eighth days of *October* next, and that the Writs be made returnable the ninth day of the same month.

It being suggested to the House that the Writ which had been issued in *August* last for the election of a member for the Parish of *St. Bartholomew* had been founded on a mistake,

*Ordered*, That the said Writ, and all the proceedings had thereon, be quashed.

The order of the day being read, for reading a second time an Ordinance for disarming persons notoriously disaffected to the cause of *America*, or who shall not associate, and shall refuse to associate, to defend by arms the *United States of America*, and the State of *South-Carolina* in particular, against the hostile attempts of the *British* Fleets and Armies,

*Ordered*, That the said order be discharged, and that the second reading of the Ordinance be postponed.

The Honourable Mr. *Edwards* reported, that Captain *Joiner* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President, and that his Excellency was pleased to say the request of the House should be complied with.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten of the clock.

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Thursday, the 26th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Joseph Howe*, *Francis Adams*, *Thomas Jones*, *John Jones*, and *Lachlan McIntosh*, Esquires, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and their seats as members of the House.

The Honourable Mr. *Lowndes* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *John Berwick*, Esquire, was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That inasmuch as there are several of the inhabitants of this State who have received the like injuries with Mr. *Berwick* by the depredations of the enemy, and many more may probably have the same cause of complaint during the present struggle with *Great Britain*, your Committee are of opinion that it will be most eligible and equitable to fix one general rule of retribution, that may comprehend equally all the sufferers, that the same measure of justice may be extended to all; that partial and particular remedies to individuals before a general account can be obtained and stated, would probably exclude many sufferers from the means of satisfaction, and occasion murmurings and complaints; that as the grievance complained of must necessarily be felt throughout the Continent, it is presumable the honourable the Continental Congress may make some order thereupon respecting the measures to be taken by the different States respectively, which will establish a uniformity of proceedings among them. Your Committee, to avoid any embezzlement or diminution of the estates of any persons absent from this State who are known to hold principles inimical to the liberties of *America*, recommend that this House take proper steps to secure such estates from being alienated, embezzled, or diminished, to serve as a fund hereafter, if the House think proper to make compensation in equal degree to all persons who have or shall sustain losses by the *British* forces; and that leave be given to bring in a bill for those purposes."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the said Report being read a second time, was agreed to by the House.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a Bill for the purposes mentioned in the last clause of the said Report; and that Colonel *Pinckney*, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. *Loocock*, Mr. *John Berwick*, and Mr. *Ward*, do prepare and bring in the same.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: With the advice and consent of the Privy Council, I appointed *John Colcock*, Esquire, Secretary, and *John Calvert* and *Benjamin Lord*, Messengers, to that Board, and *Thomas Farr*, Esquire, Paymaster of the Militia. I therefore desire that you will provide such allowances or salaries for them as may be reasonable and adequate to their respective services.

"John Rutledge.

"26th September, 1776."

*Ordered*, That the Message be referred to the following Committee, viz: Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. *Ward*, Mr. *McQueen*, Colonel *Garden*, and *Ralph Izard*.

Then the House proceeded to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom Mr. *Fenwick's* Petition had been referred. The first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh paragraphs being read, were agreed to by the House. The eighth paragraph being read, and a debate arising thereon, a motion was made that the House disagree to the recommendatory clause; and the question being put, resolved in the affirmative. And then the last clause of the Report was read; and after several amendments made thereto, agreed to by the House. And the Report is as followeth:

"That in *September* last, as Mr. *Fenwick* informed the Committee, he received a letter from Mr. *Stuart*, informing him that he had sent for an inventory of his slaves, in order to enable him to judge what part he would allot to Mr. *Fenwick*, in part of his lady's portion, which letter is mislaid; that Mr. *Fenwick* produced a letter, dated 23d *December*, from Mr. *Stuart*, directed to Mr. *Balingall*, wherein he tells Mr. *Balingall* that if it is agreeable to him he leaves it to him to move twenty of his hands from *Maple Cane* to Mr. *Fenwick's* plantation at *Ashepoo*; and that he (Mr. *Stuart*) proposed also to give orders to Mr. *Charles Shaw* to remove ten more from *Lady's Island*, so as to be at Mr. *Fenwick's* in *February* following; that Mr. *Fenwick* informed the Committee that he also had received a letter from Mr. *Stuart*, acquainting him that he had wrote letters to Mr. *Balingall* and Mr. *Shaw*, to the above purpose; that the letter was detained in the post-office at *Georgia* a considerable time, and taken up (opened) by Mr *Rose*, who brought it to Mr. *Fenwick* in *May* last; that Mr. *Fenwick*, in consequence, went up to Mr. *Balingall*, who acknowledged the receipt of Mr. *Stuart's* letter, but informed Mr. *Fenwick* that the effects of Mr. *Stuart* were taken out of his hands by order of the Congress, otherwise he would have complied with Mr. *Stuart's* direction. *Shaw* also declared to Mr. *Fenwick* that he would have delivered up the ten negroes mentioned in his letter, had Mr. *Stuart's* effects remained in his custody; that Mr. *Fenwick* had no bill of sale or other instrument of writing transferring the said slaves to him, but is assured from the letter received from Mr. *Stuart*, first referred to, that it was Mr. *Stuart's* intention to have given him those slaves as part of his wife's portion, and the orders given to Mr. *Balingall* he considers as an evidence of such his intention; that Mr. *Fenwick* informed the Committee that there are now brought to *Charlestown*, seized on attachment, ten of the slaves belonging to Mr. *Stuart*, from *Maple Cane*, besides a considerable number already sold; that the crop now on the ground must be lost for want of negroes to harvest it; that if the crop of the last year lying on hand, together with the indico made the present year, were put into his hands, he could by the proceeds thereof pay off the attachments on which the negroes were seized, and redeem the negroes now in the custody of the Sheriff, which would afford them the means of saving some part of the crop on the ground, which must otherwise inevitably be lost; that he will give security to apply the effects put into his hands solely to the payment of the just debts of Mr. *Stuart*, and account with any person the House will appoint for the residue of the sales. That on the above state of facts, which Mr. *Fenwick* is ready to attest upon oath, the Committee are of opinion that it appears to have been the intention of Mr. *Stuart* to have given to Mr. *Fenwick* (his son-in-law) thirty negroes in part of his wife's portion. But inasmuch as there is no deed or regular transfer for that purpose from Mr. *Stuart*, obligatory upon him, the Committee are of opinion that the presumption arising from the letters wrote by Mr. *Stuart* is not sufficient in law to vest the property of the said slaves absolutely in Mr. *Fenwick*. But as it is clear and evident, by the directions given to *Balingall* and *Shaw*, that Mr. *Stuart* intended at least to give to Mr. *Fenwick* the temporary use and service of thirty slaves to work on his plantation at *Ashepoo*, and that those persons would have put Mr. *Fenwick* into the quiet possession of them if they had not been prevented by the orders of the Congress, which dispossessed them of the power over Mr. *Stuart's* effects, that the Committee are of opinion it would be detrimental and grievous to sell the negroes of Mr. *Stuart* for the payment of his debts while there is a sufficient value in perishable commodities for that purpose on hand, the more especially as the present crop on the ground would thereby be totally lost. The Committee therefore recommend that the Parochial Committees, who are in possession of the rice and indico belonging to Mr. *Stuart*, be directed to dispose of the same, and apply the proceeds to the payment of the just and legal debts of Mr. *Stuart*, holding the residue, if any there is, in their hands, subject to the disposal of this House; and that they lodge in the hands of the Commissioners of the Treasury a faithful and exact account of such sale and payments."

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in an Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District at the next *November* Courts.

Mr. Attorney-General presented to the House, according to order, an Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District, at the next *November* Courts. And the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be read a second time.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and Mr. *Ralph Izard*, together with some member of the Legislative Council, examine and compare the engrossed Ordinance for appoint-

ing Commissioners for selling certain *East-India* Teas, imported from *Great Britain* into this State, and for applying the moneys arising therefrom to the use of the said State.

An Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District, at the next *November* Courts, was read a second time.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* and Colonel *Garden* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and Mr. Attorney-General be added to the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill appointing Commissioners to superintend the Naval affairs of this State.

Colonel *Pinckney* reported, that Mr. *Izard* and himself, with two members of the honourable the Legislative Council, had examined and compared the engrossed Ordinance they had in charge, and that they found it exact.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Edwards* and Mr. *Ralph Izard* do wait upon the President with the engrossed Ordinance, in order to have the seal affixed, and to desire to know when his Excellency will be pleased to be attended by the House, to present the said Ordinance for his assent.

Mr. *Harrington* reported from the Committee to whom the President's Message of the 23d instant and papers relative to erecting a Fort at *Cheraw Hill*, were referred; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That they, having examined the petition for and against building a stockade fort at the *Cheraws*, are of opinion that a fort in that secure part of the country is entirely useless; and are further of opinion that the keeping of guard of three hundred men in *June* and *July* last, and of fifty men in *August* and the present month, at the said place, was a measure not only unnecessary and expensive to the State, but detrimental and destructive to the crops of many of the poor inhabitants. They therefore recommend that the said guard of fifty men be immediately discharged. And whereas a quantity of gunpowder and lead was, by order of Congress, lodged in the hands of the Committee for *St. David's* Parish, for the use of the Militia, part of which powder and lead has been drawn out of their hands by orders of the commanding officer, your Committee therefore recommend that orders be given to the said commanding officer to return the said powder and lead to the aforesaid Committee."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

The Honourable Mr. *Edwards* reported, that Mr. *Izard* and himself had, according to order, waited on the President with the engrossed Ordinance and Message they had in charge; and that his Excellency was pleased to say the House should hear from him.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, eleven of the clock.

—

Friday, the 27th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journals of yesterday's proceedings.

The House being informed by a member that a cargo of Salt had arrived in this harbour yesterday, and that the time limited for the purchase of that article by certain Commissioners had expired the day before:

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *John Dawson, Edward Lightwood, John Poaug, Joseph Atkinson, William Ancrum, James Fisher*, and *Alexander Chisolme*, be, and they are hereby, appointed Commissioners to purchase the Salt now in this harbour, on board the Sloop *Margaret;* and that they have authority to allow such a liberal price for the same as may encourage the further importation thereof, and to draw upon the publick Treasury for the amount of the said purchase.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *McIntosh*, Mr. *Howe*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Robinson*, Captain *Townsend*, Captain *Leger*, and Mr. *Young*, be a Committee to consider and report to the House the most equitable way of disposing and distributing of Salt amongst the inhabitants of this State.

*Resolved*, That if any Salt Works shall hereafter be set up or established on any part of the sea-coast of this State at the expense and risk of individuals, and the same shall be destroyed or damaged by any enemy of this State, this House will indemnify the sufferer or sufferers one-half of his or their loss or damage so sustained: *Provided*, He or they shall not have sold any Salt made at such works for more than twenty-five shillings per bushel.

*Ordered*, That the foregoing Resolution be printed and made publick.

A Petition of *John Vauchier*, of the Town of *Purrysburg*, was presented to the House and read, in the following words:

"That for the term of twelve years and upwards the petitioner hath kept, at his own expense, a Ferry, with proper boats and hands for the purpose of conveying and transporting passengers, with their horses and carriages, from *Purrysburg* aforesaid to *Abercorn* and the town of *Savannah* in *Georgia;* that as far as the same hath been in the power of the petitioner he hath used every despatch and given every necessary attendance that could be expected from a man in his slender circumstances, and for the same received certain rates of ferriage as have been paid and given for a number of years; that from the great advantage that would arise by a quick communication between the two States of *South-Carolina* and *Georgia*, the petitioner is emboldened to state the same to the honourable House: and therefore humbly prays that the House will be pleased to take the same into consideration, and by some necessary law to be passed for that purpose, to vest the said ferry in the petitioner and his assigns for a term of years, so that the same be considered as a publick ferry from *Purrysburg* as aforesaid to *Abercorn* or *Savannah*, as may be most convenient to travellers, and that he by law be entitled to receive such rates of ferriage as may be regulated by the House, so that the same be equivalent to the expense he may be at; and further, that the House will be pleased to take his case fully into consideration, and grant him such relief as the same may require."

Read, also, a certificate, with thirteen names subscribed thereto, annexed to the Petition, that a publick Ferry from the Town of *Purrysburg* would be a great service to *South-Carolina* and *Georgia;* and a Letter, dated the 17th instant, subscribed by thirty-five inhabitants of the Parish of *St. Peter*, and addressed to *Phibotheos Chiffelle*, against Mr. *Vauchier's* Petition.

*Ordered*, That the said Petition and Letter be referred to the following Committee, viz: Major *Catlett*, Mr. *Brisbane*, Mr. *McPherson*, Colonel *Garden*, and Colonel *McIntosh*.

The Honourable Mr. *Lowndes* reported from the Committee to whom the President's Message of the 25th instant was referred; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That subjecting prisoners of war to a state of slavery, independent of any consideration of the illegality of such a measure, would involve this State in many difficulties, obstruct and impede a future peace, give the *Indians* a precedent that may be fatal to those of our own people who may unfortunately fall into their hands, and prevent a mutual exchange of prisoners—an object of too much consequence to be put out of our power. That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is not advisable or proper to give any encouragement to the forces now acting against the *Cherokee Indians* to expect that the property of such *Indians* as may be taken prisoners should be vested in the captors, and be made slaves; but, on the contrary, that publick declarations should be made to prevent any such expectation. Your Committee, as an encouragement to those who shall distinguish themselves in the war against the *Cherokees*, recommended the following rewards: For every *Indian* man killed, and certificate thereof given by the commanding officer, and the scalp produced as an evidence thereof in *Charles-Town*, by the forces in the pay of this State, one hundred pounds currency; for every *Indian* man prisoner, one hundred and twenty-five pounds; for every other prisoner, one hundred and ten pounds."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

The first and second clauses of the Report being read, were severally agreed to by the House.

The third clause being read, and a debate arising thereon, a motion was made that the reward for *Indian* men's scalps should be seventy-five pounds. And, the question being put, the House divided—teller for the yeas, Colonel *Pinckney*, 48; teller for the nays, Major *Cattell*, 29. So it was resolved in the affirmative.

A motion was made that the reward for taking *Indian* men prisoners should be one hundred pounds. And, the question being put, resolved in the affirmative.

A motion was then made that the reward for every other prisoner should be one hundred pounds. And, the question being put, it passed in the negative.

A motion was made that the said reward should be ninety pounds. And, the question being put, that also passed in the negative.

A motion was then made that the said reward should be eighty pounds. And, the question being put, resolved in the affirmative.

And the Report, as amended and agreed to, is as followeth:

"That subjecting prisoners of war to a state of slavery, independent of any considerations of the illegality of such a measure, would involve this State in many difficulties, obstruct and impede a future peace, give the *Indians* a precedent that may be fatal to those of our own people who may unfortunately fall into their hands, and prevent a mutual exchange of prisoners—an object of too much consequence to be put out of our power. That, in the opinion of your Committee, it is not advisable or proper to give any encouragement to the forces now acting against the *Cherokee Indians*, to expect that the property of such *Indians* as may be taken prisoners should be vested in the captors, and be made slaves; but, on the contrary, that publick declarations should be made to prevent such expectations. Your Committee, as an encouragement to those who shall distinguish themselves in the war against the *Cherokees*, recommend the following rewards, to wit: For every *Indian* man killed, upon certificate thereupon given by the commanding officer, and the scalp produced as an evidence thereof in *Charles-Town*, by the forces in the pay of this State, seventy-five pounds currency; for every *Indian* man prisoner, one hundred pounds like money; for every other prisoner, eighty pounds like money."

*Ordered*, That a Message be sent to the President, with a copy of the above Report, as agreed to by the House.

Message to the President:

"May it please your Excellency: This House having referred your Excellency's message of the 25th instant, recommending that suitable encouragement should be given to those who shall distinguish themselves in the war against the *Cherokees*, to the consideration of a Committee, who reported thereon, do herewith send your Excellency a copy of the said report as agreed to by the House."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and Colonel *Gervais* do wait on his Excellency with the said Message.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker: His Excellency the President is now in the Council Chamber, ready to receive this House with the Ordinance they have to present."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

The House accordingly attended the President in the Council Chamber. And, being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that this House having attended the President in the Council Chamber, his Excellency had been pleased to give his assent to "An Ordinance for appointing Commissioners for selling certain *East-India* Teas, imported from *Great Britain* into this State, and for applying the moneys arising therefrom to the use of the said State."

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House "An Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District at next *November* Court." Read twice in the Legislative Council.

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance be read a third time.

And the same being read accordingly,

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance do pass.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* and Colonel *Garden* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

Mr. *Hall* reported from the Committee to whom the Memorial of the Vestry of *St. Philip's* Parish was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That by inquiring, they find the annual expense of maintaining the poor of *Charles-Town* to be about fourteen thousand pounds currency; that the Vestry of *St. Philip's* Parish, who have that trust reposed in them, have been under the necessity of borrowing the sum of six thousand pounds towards supporting the said poor of *Charles-Town*, exclusive of what this House have already lent them, both which sums are expended and many accounts now unpaid; that it is at present impracticable to assess the inhabitants of *Charles-Town* for a poor-tax, the time limited by law being expired, and the removal of so many of them from town would, if it were practicable, make the tax so heavy upon those who had virtue enough to remain in town during the time of trial and danger, as to render the burthen intolerable, and by no means equitable. Your Committee, therefore, recommend that this House do lend the Vestry of *St. Philip's* a sum not exceeding fourteen thousand pounds currency, whereby they may be enabled to pay off the debt they have contracted, and to support the poor until a just and equitable tax may be levied by order of this House."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That the order of the day, for considering the Report on the Message and Papers relative to a fort at *Cheraw Hill*, be discharged; and that the consideration of the said Report be postponed.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Joseph Howe*, Mr. *Caldwell*, Mr. *Williams*, and Mr. *Robinson*, be added to the Committee on the Militia law.

The Honourable Mr. *Edwards* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina*; and the same was received, and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. Attorney-General reported from the Committee to whom was referred the President's Message respecting the Salaries of the Secretary and Messenger of the Privy Council and a Paymaster of the Militia; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, in the words following:

"That they are of opinion the following salaries or allowances to the said persons in manner hereinafter mentioned are reasonable and adequate to the respective services of such persons, that is to say: To the Secretary of the Privy Council, two thousand pounds currency, to be allowed him annually by the State for the services of that office; to the two Messengers of the Privy Council, the sum of three hundred and fifty pounds currency each, to be allowed annually by the State; and to the Paymaster of the Militia, the sum or allowance of three pounds and ten shillings, and two rations, for each day during the continuance of that office."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

It being moved and seconded, that a Message be sent to the President, requesting that his Excellency would lay before this House such Letters and Papers as he may have received relative to burning the houses and seizing and selling the goods of *Richard Pearis*,

*Ordered*, That a Message be prepared to be sent to his Excellency accordingly.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, half-past ten of the clock.

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Saturday, the 28th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Ralph Humphries, Thomas Taylor*, and *William Stroth*, Esquires, took the oath required by the Constitution, and their seats as members of the House.

Colonel *Pinckney* reported, that Colonel *Gervais* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House request that your Excellency will be pleased to lay before them such letters and papers as your Excellency may have received relative to burning the houses and seizing and selling the property of *Richard Pearis*."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and Mr. *De Saussure* do attend his Excellency with the said Message.

*Ordered*, That the second reading of the Bill for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina*, be postponed till *Thursday* next.

The House then proceeded on the order of the day, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom the President's Message of the 23d instant, and Papers accompanying the same, relative to a Fort at *Cheraw Hill*, were referred; and the first clause of the Report being read, was agreed to by the House.

A motion was made and seconded, that the further consideration of the Report be postponed; and that a Message be sent to the President, requesting that his Excellency will be pleased to lay before the House the reasons for ordering and keeping a Guard of three hundred men at the *Cheraws* in *June* and *July* last, and of fifty men in *August* and the present month, at the same place.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: It appearing to this House, from the report of a Committee, that a guard of three hundred men had been kept at the *Cheraws* in *June* and *July* last, and of fifty men in *August* and the present month, this House requires that your Excellency will be pleased to lay before them the reasons for ordering and keeping up the said guard."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and Colonel *Gervais* do carry the said Message to the President.

A motion being made, that a person now about to depart this State for *Philadelphia* be authorized to purchase a proper Vessel there, and load the same with Flour, Ship-Bread, Iron, and Steel, upon account of the State, a debate ensued; and the question being put whether Flour should be one of the articles to be so imported, it passed in the negative.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Loocock*, Mr. *Corbett*, and Mr. *Hall*, be a Committee to consider and report the quantity and different articles necessary to be imported from *Philadelphia*, under the direction of the Delegates of this State in the Continental Congress.

It being suggested to the House that the property of Colonel *Christopher Gadsden*, of the north end of *Charles-Town*, had been much injured by the Salt Works erecting thereon, and by the Stores upon the Wharf having been turned into Barracks for soldiers: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Commissioner for erecting Salt Works in *Charles-Town* be forthwith directed to desist from erecting such Works, and to cause the banks there to be immediately put into as good condition as they were when taken possession of for the publick service; and that a Message be sent to the President, requesting that his Excellency will be pleased to give directions that the stores upon the said Wharf, and which have been turned into Barracks, be forthwith evacuated and restored to their former state.

*Ordered*, That the consideration of the Reports on the Memorial of the Vestry of *St. Philip's* Parish, and the President's Message respecting Salaries for the Officers of the Privy Council, be postponed.

*Ordered*, That the Resolve of yesterday, appointing Commissioners to purchase a cargo of Salt brought in the Sloop *Margaret*, be amended by inserting the words "receive and store" after the word "purchase," in the beginning thereof, and the words "and charges," at the end.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten of the clock.

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Monday, the 30th day of September, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of last *Saturday's* proceedings.

*Michael Leitner*, Esq., took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member.

Colonel *Pinckney* reported that Colonel *Gervais* and himself had waited upon the President, and delivered the Message they had in charge.

Mr. *Loocock* reported from the Committee to consider and report the quantities and different articles necessary to be imported from *Philadelphia*, under the direction of the Delegates of this State; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, in the following words:

"That it is their opinion application should be made to our Delegates at *Philadelphia*, to endeavour to procure two frigates in the Continental establishment, to be stationed at this port, particularly during the winter, when they can be of little service to the northward, which, with our own armed vessels, may in a great measure secure our trade, by obliging the enemy to keep so many cruisers as will soon tire them out. That if our Delegates think proper to make this application, your Committee would recommend that the said frigates take in as ballast one hundred tons of bar iron, besides the following articles. But if the frigates cannot be spared of this State, then your Committee recommend that a staunch brigantine, of about one hundred and fifty tons, be procured, to mount twelve to sixteen carriage guns, be properly manned, and to bring as many supernumerary seamen as can possibly be procured, in which the said articles may be shipped, viz: thirty tons of small flat bar-iron for wagon tire; ten tons broad thick flat ditto, for axes; six tons small square iron; four tons thick square ditto, for machine or mill work; forty fagots square steel; two fagots *German* flat ditto; ten tons ploughshare moulds, half with a thick land-side, and a half for shovel ploughs; one gross mill-saw files; four gross whip and crosscut saw ditto; six gross handsaw ditto; twelve dozen *Philadelphia* made club-axes; one hundred and fifty barrels of well-baked ship-bread; (amounting to about nine thousand and five hundred pounds currency, exclusive of the brigantine.) If cotton or wool cards can be procured, a gross of each; if broad hoes to be had reasonable, twelve gross."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into immediate consideration.

And the same being taken into consideration accordingly, the first and second clauses were read to the House, and severally amended and agreed to.

While the House was in debate upon the third clause of the Report, a motion was made and seconded, that the sense of the House should be taken whether the members of the late Congress, who had been appointed to the places of emolument before the Constitution was established, have a right to sit and vote in the present General Assembly without being reelected; and the sense of the House, without a question thereon, was, that such members had an undoubted right.

The House then proceed in the consideration of the third clause of the Report. And the same being read, after several amendments made thereto, was agreed to; and the Report, as amended and agreed to, is as followeth:

"That it is their opinion application should be made to our Delegates at *Philadelphia*, to endeavour to procure two or more frigates on the Continental establishment, to be stationed at this port, particularly during the winter, when they can be of little service to the northward, which, with our armed vessels, may, in a great measure, secure our trade and protect our coasts. That if our Delegates succeed in this application, your Committee would recommend that the said frigate take in as ballast one hundred tons of bar iron, besides the articles under mentioned. But if the frigates cannot be obtained, or if they should not be allowed to bring those articles, then your Committee recommend that proper small vessels be procured to bring the said articles, of a light

draught of water, armed with carriage or swivel-guns, properly manned, and with as many supernumerary seamen as can be procured; or that the Delegates do take such other steps as they think expedient, to procure the said articles, to be sent to this State as soon as possible; and that Mr. *Archibald Gambell* be recommended to the Delegates as a proper person to assist them, and that he be desired to follow their directions in procuring the said articles and forwarding the vessel or vessels in which the same are to be brought, viz: sixty tons of small flat bar iron, for wagon tire; twenty tons broad flat thick ditto, for axes; twelve tons small square iron; eight tons thick square ditto, fit for machine or mill work; eight fagots square steel; four fagots *German* flat steel; twenty tons ploughshare moulds, half with a thick land-side, and half for shovel ploughs; twenty-four dozen *Philadelphia* made club-axes; as many millsaw, crosscut, and whipsaw, and handsaw files, and as many wool and cotton cards, as can be procured; three hundred barrels of well-baked ship-bread; and five hundred reams of printing paper."

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: According to your desire, I send herewith extracts of such parts of Colonel *Williamson's*, *Thomas's*, and *Neel's* letters to me as relate to burning the house and seizing and selling the property of *Richard Pearis*, which are all the papers I have received on that subject, except a petition from him complaining of those acts, and praying for redress.

"John Rutledge.

"30th September, 1776."

Read the extracts referred to in the Message from Colonel *Williamson's* Letter, dated 29th *July*, 1776; from Colonel *Thomas's*, dated *August* 25th; and from Colonel *Neel's*, dated *August* 27th.

*Ordered*, That the said Message and extracts be referred to the Committee upon Mr. *Pearis's* Petition, and that Mr. *Joseph Howe*, Mr. *Jeans*, Mr. *Willians*, and Mr. *Adams*, be added to the said Committee.

The Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* reported, that Colonel *Garden* and himself had delivered the Ordinance they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District at the next *November* Courts. Read a third time in the said House.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be engrossed.

It being suggested to the House, that upon a supposition that the seat of the Honourable *Thomas Heyward* became vacant in consequence of his being absent from this State as a Delegate at the Continental Congress, a new Representative for *Charles-Town* was elected in his room, and that such proceeding was irregular and invalid,

It was, therefore, moved and seconded, that the House do resolve that Mr. *Heyward* has a right to take his seat, notwithstanding the said election.

And it was resolved accordingly.

It was then debated, whether the member who had been elected in the room of Mr. *Heyward* had a right to continue sitting as a member of the House. And after some time spent in debate,

*Ordered*, That the further discussion of this subject be postponed till to-morrow morning.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a Letter which he had received from *George Gabriel Powell*, Esquire; and the same being read, is as follows:

"Sir: I understand there are charges of an extraordinary nature against me, laid before your honourable House. I humbly request, therefore, that I may be heard in my defence by a Committee, before any resolution is taken thereupon, trusting that I shall be able so to acquit myself as to stand fair in the opinion of my country, which is above all things desirable to, honourable sir, your most obedient humble servant,

"G. G. Powell.

"Charlestown, 30th September, 1776."

*Ordered*, That the consideration of the said Letter be postponed.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That all members absent from the service of this House, who reside within fifty miles of *Charles-Town*, and are able to attend, be sent for at their own expense.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk do write Letters to such members accordingly.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

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Tuesday, the 1st day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journals of yesterday's proceedings.

Major *Cattell* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *John Vauchier* was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That they have considered the Petition of said *Vauchier*, and it appears to your Committee that a quick communication between the two States of *Georgia* and *South-Carolina* will be of great utility to both countries; and as a ferry fixed at *Purysburg*, from thence to *Savannah* and *Abercorn*, in *Georgia*, may be one means to procure despatch to travellers, are of opinion that a publick ferry should be established at *Purrysburg*, from thence to *Savannah* and *Abercorn*, in *Georgia*. And as Mr. *Vauchier* has been at some expense in purchasing boats to accommodate travellers, recommend that the ferry be vested in him and his assigns for a term not exceeding seven years. And they further recommend that a law may be brought in for those purposes."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the said Report being read a second time, was agreed to by the House.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a Bill accordingly.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *De Saussure*, Mr. *Williamson*, Colonel *Garden*, Major *Huger*, and Mr. *Josiah Smith*, Jun., be a Committee to consider and report the best way of procuring and keeping a Guard upon *Bloody-Point*.

Message to the President:

"May it Please your Excellency: This House having appointed a Committee to consider and report what articles were necessary to be imported from *Philadelphia*, for the use of this State, the said Committee accordingly reported; a copy of which report, as amended and agreed to by the House, we take leave to send you herewith, and to request that your Excellency will transmit the same, and write to the Delegates for this State, to cause the several articles, and the vessels therein mentioned, to be procured and sent hither as soon as may be, and to apply to the Congress to advance the money that may be necessary upon the occasion, for which proper credit will be given by this State, in the pay of the troops' money advanced to the *Indian* Commissioner, and otherwise in the general cause of the *United Colonies*."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Williamson* and Dr. *Haig* do carry the Message to the President.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: On the 7th of *May* I was informed by a letter from the Committee of Secrecy, War and Intelligence, in *North-Carolina*, of their having received advice that the enemy, who then lay in *Cape Fear* river, had planned a descent at the mouth of *Little River*, near the borders of this Colony, in order to attempt a passage into the back country of that, by the Lake of *Waccamaw*. Having occasion to confer with the Honourable Colonel *Powell* on this subject, he urged very strongly the absolute necessity of building a stockade fort, and keeping a garrison at the *Cheraw Hill*, as a security against incursions of the disaffected about *Cross Creeks*, and for preventing or suppressing insurrections which they might occasion amongst our own people near the *North-Carolina* line—events which might be feared, especially if the intended junction between the *British* forces and the malecontents in that Province had taken place. I thought so much attention and respect due

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to the representation of a gentleman in his station, who was well acquainted with that part of the country, and had the command of a large regiment there, as to lay it before the Council for their advice, which I did. He attended them; and on considering what he offered on this head, they were unanimously of opinion that it was necessary to erect such a fort, and keep such a garrison. In consequence of which I gave orders for that purpose.

"JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"30th September, 1776."

A Petition of *Philip Will* was presented to the House, and read, in the following words:

*Ordered*, That the Petition be referred to the same Committee to whom the President's Message of the 26th past, respecting the Salaries to the Secretary and Messengers to the Privy Council and Paymaster to the Militia, was referred; and that Colonel *McIntosh*, Major *Catlett*, and Major *Huger* be added to the said Committee.

Then the House proceeded to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom the Memorial of the Vestry of the Parish of *St. Philip* was referred.

And the said Report being read, was agreed to by the House.

*Ordered*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury do advance upon loan to the Vestry of *St. Philip's* Parish a sum not exceeding fourteen thousand Pounds currency, to enable them to pay off the debt they have contracted, and to support the poor until a just and equitable tax may be levied by law.

*Resolved*, That this House will ballot for Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina*.

And the House having proceeded to ballot accordingly, it appeared that *Edward Blake*, *Thomas Savage*, *Josiah Smith*, Jun., *Thomas Corbett*, *Roger Smith*, *George Abbot Hall*, and the Honourable *Thomas Shubrick*, Esquires, had the majority of votes.

A Bill for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina*, was read a second time. And the names of the Commissioners being inserted, and several amendments made to the bill,

*Ordered*, That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Dr. *Haig* and Mr. *Hopson Pinckney* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council.

Colonel *Pinckney* presented to the House, according to order, "An Ordinance for ascertaining the manner of issuing Orders for holding General Courts-Martial for the trying, hearing, and determining of crimes and offences committed by any persons belonging to the *South-Carolina* Regiments on the Continental establishment against the rules and articles for their government." And the same was received, and ordered to be read the first time to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That the Commissioners appointed to purchase the Salt lately imported in the Sloop *Margaret*, do sell to *Francis Adams*, *Thomas Jeans*, and *Joseph Howe*, Esqs., members for the District called the *New Acquisition*, fifty bushels of the said Salt, to be sent into the said District, and sold and distributed to the inhabitants thereof at such prices and in such proportions as the said Commissioners shall direct.

*Ordered*, That Dr. *Haig* and Mr. *Hopson Pinckney* do, with some member of the Legislative Council, examine and compare the engrossed Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District at the next *November* Courts.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *William Moore* and Mr. *John James* have leave of absence from the service of this House.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow, nine of the clock.

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Wednesday, the 2d day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

Mr. *Williamson* reported, that Dr. *Haig* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President.

Mr. *Young* reported from the Committee to consider and report the most equitable way of distributing Salt amongst the inhabitants of this State; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, in the following words:

"That it is the opinion of the Committee that every person applying for Salt shall produce to the Commissioners for the sale thereof, a certificate from any two of the members of the District Committee in which such person is resident, certifying the number of persons in family; and that every family consisting of six persons shall be allowed one bushel on paying for the same, and so in proportion if a greater or less number; that the several Committees be directed to grant such certificates at the times of their stated meeting; and that no person be entitled to more than one certificate."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into immediate consideration.

And the Report being taken into consideration accordingly, and amended, was agreed to, and is as followeth:

"That it is the opinion of the Committee that every person applying for Salt shall produce to the Commissioners for the sale thereof, a certificate from any two members of the District Committee in which such person is resident, certifying the number of white persons in family; that every family consisting of six such persons shall be allowed one-half bushel on paying for the same, and so in proportion if a greater number; that the several District Committees, or any two members of such committees, be directed to grant such certificates upon application; and that no person be entitled to more than one certificate; but persons who continue inimical to this State shall not be entitled to any such certificate."

*Ordered*, That the above Resolutions respecting the sale and distribution of Salt be forthwith printed, and copies thereof delivered to the members of this House.

An Ordinance for ascertaining the manner of issuing orders for holding General Courts-Martial for the trying, hearing, and determining of crimes and offences committed by any persons belonging to the *South-Carolina* Regiments on the Continental establishment against the articles for their government, was read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be read a second time.

And the same being read accordingly,

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Dr. *Haig* and Mr. *Pinckney* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council.

Colonel *Pinckney* gave notice that he should, at the third reading of the Ordinance, move for leave to bring in a clause to be added thereto; which he read to the House for information.

Dr. *Haig* reported that Mr. *Pinckney* and himself had delivered the Bill and the Ordinance they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a Bill authorizing the President and Commander-in-Chief to call upon the Committees in the several Parishes and Districts throughout this State for such a number of Slaves as shall be thought necessary to assist at the publick works and fortifications, and to empower the said Committees to fix and determine the number to be sent by the inhabitants of their respective Districts.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*, the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, and Colonel *Pinckney*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in such a Bill.

Dr. *Haig* reported that Mr. *Pinckney* and himself, with a member of the Legislative Council, had examined the engrossed Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District at the next *November* Courts, and that they found the same truly engrossed.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Joiner* and Mr. *Howe* do attend the President with the said Ordinance, in order to have the seal affixed to the same; and to know when his Excellency will be pleased to receive this House to present the Ordinance for his assent.

The House then proceeded to consider whether the member who was elected in the room of the Honourable Mr. *Heyward* has a right to continue his seat in this House; and, also, whether the other members for *Charles-Town*, who were elected on the 9th and 10th days of *September*

last upon a mistaken supposition of vacancies, ought to continue in their seats.

After some time spent in debate, a motion was made that *Charles-Town* having chosen too great a number of members on the 9th and 10th days of *September* last, founded upon a mistake, the said election should be declared void; and, the question being put, resolved in the affirmative.

*Resolved*, That the elections on the said 9th and 10th days of *September* last for the Parishes of *St. James, Santee*, and *Prince George, Winyah*, being likewise founded on mistakes, are also declared null and void.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: Lieutenant *Dogharty* declines accepting the command of the Brigantine *Comet*.

"John Rutledge.

"2d October, 1776."

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance for ascertaining the manner of issuing orders for holding General Courts-Martial for the trying, hearing, and determining of crimes and offences committed by any persons belonging to the *South-Carolina* Regiments on the Continental establishment against the articles for their government. Read twice in the said Council.

*Ordered*, That the Report of the Committee to whom the President's Message and other papers relative to the building of a Fort at *Cheraw Hill* were referred, be recommitted; that the President's Message of yesterday, upon the same subject, and Colonel *Powell's* Letter, be referred to the same Committee; and that Major *Huger*, Major *Simons*, Mr. *Cantey*, and Captain *Roger Smith*, be added to the said Committee.

*Ordered*, That Major *Simons*, Mr. *De Saussure*, Captain *Harleston*, and Mr. *Thomas Waring*, be added to the Committee on the state of the Treasury, in the room of *Josiah Smith*, Jun., *Thomas Jones*, and *John Webb*, Esqs., whose seats have been declared vacant.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Heyward* and Captain *Savage* be added to the Committee to bring in a Bill to secure the Estates of persons absent from this State who are known to be inimical to the liberties of *America* from being alienated, embezzled, or diminished, to serve as a fund hereafter to make compensation in equal degree to all persons who have or shall sustain losses by the *British* forces, in the room of Mr. Attorney-General and *Joshua Ward*, Esq., whose seats have been declared vacant.

The House then proceeded to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom the President's Message respecting the salaries or allowances to the Secretary and Messengers of the Privy Council and a Paymaster to the Militia, was referred.

And the first clause of the Report being read, was amended and agreed to by the House.

Upon reading the second clause, a motion was made that the Messengers be allowed a salary of five hundred pounds a year each. And, the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the said clause, being amended accordingly, was agreed to.

Upon reading the third clause, a debate arose. After some time spent thereon,

*Ordered*, That the further consideration of the said clause be postponed till to-morrow.

And the said Report, so far as amended and agreed to, is as followeth:

"That the Committee are of opinion the following salaries or allowances to the persons and in the manner hereinafter mentioned are reasonable and adequate to the respective services of such persons, that is to say: To the Secretary of the Privy Council, fourteen hundred pounds currency, to be allowed him annually by the State for the services of that office; to the two Messengers of the Privy Council, the sum of five hundred pounds each, to be allowed annually by the State."

Captain *Joiner* reported that Mr. *Howe* and himself had waited upon the President with the Ordinance and Message they had in charge, and that his Excellency was pleased to say "the House should hear from him."

Colonel *Gervais* reported from the Committee to whom the Memorial of *Richard Pearis* was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read in the following words:

"That the injuries complained of by the memorialist would be matter more proper for the inquiry of the courts below, than for the consideration of this House in the ordinary course of affairs. But inasmuch as prosecutions against the parties complained of and their attendance to answer might at this juncture prove detrimental to the publick service, your Committee recommend that Colonel *Thomas* be required immediately to transmit, and lay before this or the next House, a true state of the case; and, also, that he will immediately lodge in the publick Treasury such money, bonds, or other securities, as he may have taken for the sale of Mr. *Pearis's* goods; and that the sum of seven hundred pounds be advanced by this House to the memorialist upon the security of such money, bonds, &c., to serve for his occasions until the matter can be more fully considered."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Thursday, the 3d day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Joshua Toomer*, Esq., took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member of this House.

The House, according to the order of yesterday, resumed the consideration of the third clause of the Report of the Committee on the allowances to the Secretary and Messengers of the Privy Council and a Paymaster to the Militia.

After some time spent in debate,

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee appointed to bring in a new Militia Law, to prepare and insert a clause therein ascertaining the duties and stating the pay of a Paymaster-General of the Militia.

It being suggested to the House that the place appointed on the 11th day of *April* last for the election of members of the General Assembly for the District called the *New Acquisition*, is inconvenient and improper,

*Resolved*, That the next election for the *New Acquisition* shall be held at the house of Mr. *John Carnachan*, in the said District, and not at or near Colonel *Thomas Neel's*.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Expresses be forthwith sent by the Clerk of this House into the several Parishes and Districts throughout this State, to acquaint the Church-Wardens and other persons appointed to manage elections, of the times and places where the said elections are to be held, and to deliver to them printed instructions for managing the said elections, as well as blank notices, to be filled up and posted, and other necessary papers.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina*. Read a second time in the said Council.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Commissioners for the sale of Salt be empowered to sell Salt to the owner of each wagon and horses that bring provisions from *North-Carolina*, in the same proportion as they are directed to do to the inhabitants of this State, upon affidavit of the number of white persons in their respective families.

Mr. *Harrington* gave notice that he should, on or about the 17th instant, move for an adjournment of this House.

The Honourable Mr. *Lowndes* presented to the House, according to order, an Ordinance to direct the manner of procuring Negroes to be employed in the publick service.

And the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be read a second time.

And the same being read accordingly,

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Ladson* and Mr. *McPherson* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council.

An Ordinance for ascertaining the manner of issuing orders for holding General Courts-Martial for trying, hearing, and determining of crimes and offences committed by

any persons belonging to the *South-Carolina* Regiments on the Continental establishment against the rules and articles for their government, was read a third time.

Colonel *Pinckney* moved for leave to bring in a clause which he had prepared, to be added to the Ordinance.

And the same being presented to the House, was received and read three several times and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the same be added to, and made a part of, the Ordinance.

And the same being added accordingly,

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance do pass.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Scott* and Captain *Joiner* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

A Petition of *John Thompson* and *Richard Thompson* was presented to the House, and read.

*Ordered*, That the Petition be referred to a Committee.

And it is referred to Major *Cattell*, Mr. *Charles Elliott*, and Colonel *Gervais*.

*Ordered*, That *Jacob Richman*, Esquire, have leave of absence from the service of this House, on account of the illness of his family.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Friday, the 4th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Ordered*, That the attendance of such members of this House as are Church-Wardens in any of the Parishes where elections are to be held on *Monday* and *Tuesday* next, be dispensed with on those days.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House request that your Excellency will be pleased to give directions that the stores upon Colonel *Gadsden's* wharf be forthwith evacuated and put into as good a condition as they were when taken possession of for the publick service."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *John Berwick* and Mr. *Elias Horry*, Jun., do attend his Excellency with the said Message.

Mr. *Berwick* reported that Mr. *Horry* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President.

The House proceeded to a third reading of a Bill for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina*. But it appearing, upon reading the first clause of the Bill, that the honourable the Legislative Council had struck out the name of one of the Commissioners who had been balloted for by this House, and inserted the name of another gentleman instead,

*Resolved*, That this House will immediately proceed to ballot for another Commissioner.

The House proceeded to ballot accordingly. And the ballots being reckoned, Mr. Speaker reported that *George Smith*, Esquire, had the majority of votes.

*Ordered*, That the name inserted in the Bill by the Legislative Council be struck out, and that the name of *George Smith*, Esquire, be inserted instead thereof.

Which being done accordingly,

The Bill for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina* was read a third time.

*Resolved*, That the Bill do pass; and that the title be "An Act."

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Thomas Waring* and Mr. *Keating Simons* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

Mr. *Waring* reported that Mr. *Simons* and himself had delivered the Bill they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

Mr. *De Saussure* reported from the Committee to consider and report the best way of procuring and keeping a Guard upon *Bloody-Point*. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read in the words following:

"That it appears to the Committee absolutely necessary that a guard should be kept for the protection of the southern parts of this State, and recommend that a detachment of one hundred men, one Captain, and four subalterns, be sent from either of the regiments of Regulars to do duty at the different places now guarded by the Militia of Colonel *Bull's* regiment; or otherwise, by raising an independent company of the like number of men and officers for that service."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the first clause of the Report being read, was agreed to by the House.

Upon reading the second clause,

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Message be sent to the President, requesting that his Excellency would procure, and order to be laid before the House, a state of the Army now in this State, where situate, and upon what services; and that the further proceeding in the Report be postponed till such state shall have been laid before the House.

The further proceeding in the Report was postponed accordingly.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: We request that your Excellency will be pleased to procure, and order to be laid before this House, a state of the Army now in this State, where situate, and upon what services."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Harleston* and Mr. *White* do attend the President with the Message.

Captain *Scott* reported that Captain *Joiner* and himself had delivered the Ordinance they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

Mr. *Ludson* reported that Mr. *McPherson* and himself had delivered the Ordinance they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

Mr. *Harrington* reported from the Committee to whom the second clause in the Report on the President's Message of the 23d ultimo, and the papers accompanying the same respecting the building a stockade fort at *Cheraw Hill*, was recommitted; and his Excellency's Message of the 1st instant, and Colonel *Powell's* Letter of the 30th of *September*, was committed; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read and agreed to by the House.

The third clause of the said Report being then read and amended, was also agreed to by the House.

And the Report as amended and agreed to, is as followeth:

"That they, having examined the petitions for and against building a stockade fort at *Cheraw Hill*, are of opinion that a fort in that secure part of the country is entirely useless; that they have heard Colonel *Powell* on the subject of keeping a garrison at the *Cheraws*, and on full consideration of the matter are of opinion that a garrison in that part of the country is unnecessary. And whereas a quantity of gunpowder and lead was by order of Congress lodged in the hands of the Committee of *St. David's*, for the use of the Militia, part of which powder and lead has been drawn out of their hands by orders of the commanding officer, the Committee do therefore recommend that orders be given to the said commanding officers to return such part of the said powder and lead as remains unused, to the aforesaid Committee."

Colonel *Pinckney* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill establishing a proper Oath of Qualification to be taken by the members of the General Assembly, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be read a second time.

Major *Cattell* reported from the Committee to whom was referred the Petition of *John* and *Richard Thompson*; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read in the words following:

"That the Committee, on examination into the allegations set forth in the petition, found the petitioners had been

confined two years and seven months for the non-payment of fines set upon them by the courts of justice; and on inquiring into the effects of *John Thompson*, whose fine is one thousand pounds sterling, he has sent a list of his property, annexed to this report; and he declares he is ready to make oath that it is a true state of his estate. The other petitioner, whose fine is one hundred pounds sterling, appears to the Committee not to have any property whatever. In consideration of the long and close imprisonment of the petitioners, and the ill state of health of *John Thompson*, the Committee has been induced to recommend that a resolution of this House be sent to the honourable the Legislative Council for their concurrence, and to his Excellency the President for his assent, to remit the fines laid on the said *Thompsons*, on the express condition that they shall quit the State in three months after their releasement."

Read also a paper annexed, entitled "A particular account of the property of *John Thompson*, now in his possession."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance to direct the manner of procuring Negroes to be employed in the publick service. Read twice in the said Council.

Also, an Ordinance for ascertaining the manner of issuing orders for holding General Courts-Martial for the trying, hearing, and determining of crimes and offences committed by any persons belonging to the *South-Carolina* Regiments upon the Continental establishment against the rules and articles made for their government, and for the encouragement of persons to enter into the service of this State; and the following Message, to wit:

"In the Legislative Council, the 4th day of October, 1776.

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: Upon reading a third time 'An Ordinance for ascertaining the manner of issuing 'orders for holding General Courts-Martial for the trying, 'hearing, and determining of crimes and offences committed 'by any persons belonging to the *South-Carolina* regiments 'on the Continental establishment against the rules and arti-'cles made for their government,' this House is of opinion that the following amendment is necessary to be made to the first enacting clause of the said ordinance, viz: Between the word 'State' and the word 'be,' the words 'not under the rank of a Colonel in the said service' be inserted. To which we desire the concurrence of your House; and have returned you the ordinance, to make the amendment accordingly.

"By order of the House:

"Thomas Shubrick, *President*."

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance to direct the manner of procuring Negroes to be employed in the publick service, be read a third time to-morrow.

Message to the Legislative Council:

"Honourable Gentlemen: This House concur with your Honours in the amendment proposed to the Ordinance mentioned in your Message of this date, and desire you will insert the words 'not under the rank of a Colonel in the said service,' between the word 'State' and the word 'be,' for which purpose the Ordinance is herewith returned."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Hopson Pinckney* and Mr *John Cardes* do convey the Message to the Legislative Council.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Saturday, the 5th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Resolved*, That the inhabitants in the several Parishes and Districts throughout this State do, at the time of the election of members of the General Assembly, also ballot for and elect Committees in their different Parishes and Districts, equal to the members heretofore appointed, for the purposes mentioned in the eleventh article of the Continental Association, to wit: attentively to observe the conduct of all persons touching the said Association, and also for the purposes resolved on by the Congress of this State, held in *January*, 1775, respecting the giving permission to bring suits at law, and for such other purposes as the Committees are authorized by Resolutions of Congress, or are or shall be authorized by laws of this State; that the Committees, or any three or more of the members of such Committees respectively, except the Committees for *Charles-Town*, not less than eleven of whom can do business, have authority to put the said laws and resolutions in execution, and to grant liberty for commencing suits; and that the Church Wardens, and other managers of elections of members of the General Assembly, do also manage the election of the said Committees respectively; and that the Clerk of this House do forthwith give them notice of this Resolve.

The Report of the Committee to whom the Petition of *John* and *Richard Thompson* was referred, was read and agreed to by the House, without any amendment.

*Resolved*, That the fines imposed upon *John* and *Richard Thompson*, confined in *Charles-Town* Jail, be remitted, on the express condition that they quit the State within three months.

*Ordered*, That the said Resolution be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence, and to the President for his assent.

The House then proceeded, according to the order of the day, to the third reading of "An Ordinance to direct the manner of procuring Negroes to be employed in the publick service."

The first and second sections being severally read, amended, and agreed to,

Upon reading the third section, a motion was made, and the question put, whether the words, "or to make such other just and equitable arrangement or regulation in the premises as may best suit the particular circumstances of the people, or most effectually promote the publick good," between the word "time" and the word "provided," should remain a part of the section. And it was resolved in the affirmative.

The other clauses of the Ordinance being severally read, amended, and agreed to,

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance do pass.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

*Ordered*, That Captain *McQueen* and Mr. *Ladson* do carry the same to the Legislative Council.

The Report of the Committee to whom the Memorial of *Richard Pearis* was referred, being read:

*Resolved*, That this House do agree with the Report of the Committee.

And then the House adjourned till *Monday* morning, nine of the clock.

—

Monday, the 7th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*George Dawley*, Esq., took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member.

*Resolved*, That the Speaker of this House do issue an order upon the Treasury for the sum to be advanced to *Richard Pearis*, as recommended in the Report agreed to last *Saturday*.

Mr. *Neufville* presented to the House a Memorial of divers inhabitants of *Charles-Town;* and the said Memorial was received and read, in the following words:

"That your memorialists have, for many months last past, from a zeal for the interest of their country, and for the preservation of this town in particular, constantly done every kind of militia duty therein; that they have greatly injured their fortunes, by neglecting their private concerns, by being obliged to attend to such duty, both night and day, in guarding the town, and the several batteries about the same; that they apprehend such duty may now be well done by a watch company, established under proper regulations, and that the expense incident thereto will be but little short of what is paid to the several companies now doing duty; that your memorialists are always ready and willing to step forth in defence of their country, when invaded, or otherwise required thereto. Your memorialists, therefore, humbly pray, that this honourable House will be

pleased to take the premises into consideration, and direct (if thought expedient) that one or more watch companies be immediately raised, for guarding the town, and the several batteries and outposts in and about the same. And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

Which Memorial was subscribed by two hundred and ninety-seven names.

*Ordered*, That the Memorial be referred to a Committee.

And it is referred to the Honourable Mr. *Heyward*, Mr. *Neufville*, Mr. *Anthony Toomer*, Captain *Roger Smith*, and Captain *Leger*.

The House then proceeded to read a second time a Bill establishing a proper Oath of Qualification, to be taken by the members of the General Assembly, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

The first section of the Bill being read and amended, was agreed to.

Upon reading the second section, a motion was made for an amendment thereto. A debate ensued. The question was put, and it passed in the negative. Then the said section being read through, was also agreed to.

The third section being read, was amended, and likewise agreed to.

A member then moved for leave to bring in four additional clauses to the Bill. And the same being presented to the House, were received, severally read twice, amended, and agreed to.

*Ordered*, That the said clauses be added to and made parts of the Bill.

The Bill being read through a second time,

*Ordered*, That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *William Scott* and Mr. *Simon Berwick* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council.

A member gave notice that he should to-morrow move the House for leave to bring in a bill of general amnesty.

The Honourable Mr. *Heyward* moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend an act entitled "An act to empower the Court of Admiralty to have jurisdiction in all cases of capture of ships andother vessels of the inhabitants of *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, the *British West-Indies*, *Nova-Scotia*, and *East* and *West Florida*, to establish the trial by Jury therein, and for other purposes therein mentioned, passed the 11th day of *April*, 1776."

*Ordered*, That leave be given accordingly.

Mr. *Corbett* reported from the Committee to examine the receipts of the Paymasters of the several Regiments in the service of this State, and to compare them with the paybills which are, or ought to be, lodged with the Treasury, and to order the balance, if any, to be paid into the Treasury. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read.

*Ordered*, That the said Report be recommitted, and that the Committee have it in charge to inquire and report to this House how the money paid to the Colonels, over and above their pay, by the Paymasters, and by order of the President and Council of Safety, and by the Publick Treasurers, has been disposed of; and that the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Mr. *Howe*, having suggested to the House that there is some property of *Joseph Robinson*, (commonly called Major *Robinson*,) an enemy to the *American* States, in the possession of a Committee,

*Ordered*, That the matter suggested by Mr. *Howe* be referred to a Committee appointed to bring in a bill for establishing a reprisal fund, and that Mr. *Howe* be added to the said Committee.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Tuesday, the 8th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

It being suggested to the House that there was no Pilot or Pilot Boat for the bar and harbour of *Beaufort*, nor any fund from which they could be supplied and maintained,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *De Saussure*, Captain *Joiner*, Colonel *Garden*, Captain *Savage*, and Major *Simons*, be a Committee to consider and report proper ways and means of procuring, maintaining, and regulating a Pilot Boat, to attend the bar and harbour of the Port of *Beaufort*.

Mr. *Scott* reported that Mr. *Berwick* and himself had delivered the Bill they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That the order of yesterday for leave to bring in a Bill to amend an act passed the 11th of *April* last, entitled "An act to empower the Court of Admiralty to have jurisdiction in all cases of capture of the ships and other vessels of the inhabitants of *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, the *British West-Indies*, *Nova-Scotia*, and *East* and *West Florida*, to establish the trial by Jury therein, and for other purposes therein mentioned," be discharged.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to repeal the said act, and for the like and other purposes. And that Colonel *Pinckney* and the Honourable Mr. *Heyward* do prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. *Ladson* reported that Mr. *McQueen* and himself had delivered the Ordinance they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Heyward* and Mr. *Young* do, with a member of the Legislative Council, examine and prepare the engrossed Bill for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of the State of *South-Carolina*.

The Honourable Mr. *Heyward* reported that Mr. *Young* and himself had compared and examined the engrossed Bill, and that they found it right.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Edwards* and Mr. *Capers* do wait on the President with the Bill, that the seal may be affixed thereto, and to desire to know when his Excellency will please to receive this House, to present the same for his assent.

Colonel *Pinckney*, according to order, presented to the House a Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have jurisdiction in all cases of capture of the ships and other vessels of the inhabitants and subjects of *Great Britain*, to establish the trial by Jury in the said court in cases of capture, and for other purposes therein mentioned. And the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be read a second time.

The Honourable Mr. *Edwards* reported that Mr. *Capers* and himself had attended the President with the Message they had in charge, and that his Excellency was pleased to say he would receive the House in half an hour, in the Council Chamber.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance for ascertaining the manner of issuing orders for holding General Courts-Martial for the trying, hearing, and determining of crimes and offences committed by any persons belonging to the *South-Carolina* Regiments on the Continental establishment against the rules and articles for their government. Read a third time in the said Council.

*Ordered*, That the engrossing of the said Ordinance be postponed.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance to direct the manner of procuring Negroes to be employed in the publick service. Read a third time in the said Council.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be engrossed.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a bill of general amnesty for all offences and misdemeanours against the laws of this State, antecedent to the fifth day of *August* last, the day on which the Declaration of the Independency of the States of *America* was made in this State, with an exception of State prisoners and any others which it might be injurious to the welfare of the State to include in such general amnesty. And that the Reverend Mr. *Tennent*, Colonel *Pinckney*, the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Mr. *Cannon*, and Mr. *Young*, do prepare and bring in the same.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker: His Excellency the President is now in the Council Chamber, ready to receive this House with any bills or ordinances they may have to present."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr. Speaker and the House accordingly attended his Excellency in the Council Chamber. And being returned, Mr. Speaker reported that this House having attended the President in the Council Chamber, he had presented to his Excellency the Ordinance for providing Juries for *Beaufort* District, at the next *November* Courts; and also an act for establishing a Board of Commissioners to superintend and direct the Naval affairs of *South-Carolina*. To both which his Excellency had been pleased to give his assent.

*Ordered*, That *Hopson Pinckney*, Esq., be cashier to this House.

A Petition of *Henry Drew* was presented to the House, received and read; also, a Petition of *Robert Pearis*.

*Ordered*, That both Petitions be referred to a Committee. And they are referred to the Reverend Mr. *Tennent* and Colonel *Gervais*.

Mr. *Pinckney* reported that Mr. *Cordes* and himself had delivered the Ordinance and Message they had in charge, to the Legislative Council.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten of the clock, under a fine of twenty shillings on every member who shall neglect to attend precisely at that hour, to be paid immediately.

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Wednesday, the 9th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: I herewith lay before you a letter from Brigadier-General *Howe*, it being his desire that the sentiments contained in it should be conveyed to you. Some of the matters which he recommends are anticipated by steps already taken to the same effect. I am persuaded, however, that you will pay due attention to the rest, and doubt not that the Executive power will have sanction and support of the Legislature for the execution of every measure necessary for the security and defence of the State.

"John Rutledge.

"8th October, 1776."

The Letter referred to in the Message being read, is as follows:

"Sir: The command of the military department of this State devolving upon me, I feel it my duty to lay before your Excellency, and by your means before the honourable Council and Assembly, my sentiments respecting the situation of this country, and the measures which appear to me necessary to place it in a proper state of defence. I am happy to find that the works at *Fort Moultrie*, and those requisite for establishing in case of accident a secure retreat to the garrison, are progressing so rapidly. When the fort is finished, I have no doubt of its being able to repel any attack made upon it in front; but without a considerable number of works to secure it from being assailed in reverse, in would not, in my opinion, be long maintained against any formidable attempt in that quarter. The methods best calculated to preserve it, would be to erect proper works on the point of *Sullivant's Island*, next to *Long-Island*, where it is probable the enemy would attempt to land; and by a chain of redoubts or other works from thence to the fort, be prepared to dispute the ground with them inch by inch should they effect a landing.

"I at present imagine it may be necessary to throw up some defence where Colonel *Moultrie* kept his quarter guard, but the transient view I had of the island leaves me unprepared to speak with precision either as to the number or form of the works, or the particular spots on which they ought to be erected. It is sufficient, however, that a variety of them are wanted—that a great many hands are requisite to carry them on. The number need not be ascertained, as the more there are employed, the sooner we shall finish, and that the necessity for erecting such works is absolute and immediate.

"The post at *Haddrel's* ought directly to be put in a much more respectable state than it is at present. That station would be important, even if it had no connection with *Sullivant's*. How much more so it must appear when we consider that should the enemy possess it, our soldiers on *Sullivant's* could neither retreat or be supported; indeed, circumstances that make it important multiply upon me as I write. I shall, however, suppress the expression of them, as I presume the consideration I have mentioned is alone sufficient to induce the attention of your Legislature.

"The walls of *Fort Johnson* require to be well cased with palmetto logs, without which I conceive a smart cannonade would so shock the foundation that it would not support the superstructure. But was there no danger of this, it ought not to remain as it is, as the fragments of brick, which would be shattered off by the shot, would inevitably destroy a great number of our men; and this both policy and humanity call upon us to prevent. I confess myself not pleased with the lower battery; and if we have time, after we have got over those matters more immediately wanted, I should wish for an alteration.

"I come next to an object very near my heart; I mean the preservation of this capital. The spirited conduct of its inhabitants in opposition to the encroachments of tyranny, even at a time when their property was likely to fall a sacrifice to their laudable zeal, demonstrates that they nobly prefer publick good to private considerations, however interesting, and gives them a just claim to assistance from their neighbours, though the common cause was not concerned in their safety. But, sir, when we contemplate the situation of this town, fixed at the confluence of several rivers which open a passage into the very bosom of your country, commanding almost your whole inland navigation and, if possessed by the enemy, all your exteriour traffick, with houses sufficient to barrack comfortably a great body of troops, and an harbour extensive enough to admit almost any number of ships, surrounded almost by water which the enemy would command, and approachable only by a narrow neck of land which they would fortify, it would be perhaps the most secure and noble place of arms for them imaginable, from which they could with the same body of troops execute the purposes of despotism on three different States, and the possession give their arms an eclat the influence of which might be dreadfully diffusive. It would bring upon our backs every tribe of *Indians*, and call to their banners an host of domestick insurgents. All these circumstances must make it a capital object to them, and combine to prove that the loss of this town may be reckoned among the deepest wounds the cause of freedom could receive in this department. Publick good, therefore, and private interest, unite to induce us immediately to put it into a proper state of defence. To hesitate one moment might possibly be to lose the opportunity which Providence has lent us. And all idea of expense, however great, should be lost in the importance of the object. One step towards obtaining this desirable end would be to prevent, if possible, the approach of ships to the town. And this, I conceive, may probably be effected by throwing obstructions across the channel, opposite to *Fort Moultrie*, at those places which would expose them most to the fire of the fort. I am made happy at being informed this work is begun, and trust such hands are employed as will execute it properly. I must, however, take the liberty to say, that when I consider the amazing impetus with which ships under full sail come in contact with any body that obstructs their motion, that I doubt whether any single work can be made substantial enough to be effectual. The method I should recommend would be to have one work within another, the second so near the first that it should take up the vessel if she surmounted the first difficulty, before she had time to regain her way.

"The next thing, sir, is to put the town in such a state of defence that the enemy, in case they get up with their ships, may meet with the most obstinate opposition. It gives me concern to think that it is far from being in this state at present; several of the batteries, having capital errours, require to be pulled down and rebuilt; and it will, I am persuaded, be found necessary to erect others at different places. The extempore works thrown up about the town, are by no means to be depended upon. They were executed in a hurry, and under the expectation of an immediate attack. They ought to be altered in many places, and at all to be made more effectual. As the interest of the inhabitants and good of the common cause will, I doubt not, dispose the people of this country to defend their capital to the last extremity, and as the working of a number of traverses across the

streets are not only necessary to the obstinate defence of it, but will prevent the great execution which might otherwise happen from an enfilade, the materials for building these works should directly be provided. They would at present perhaps incommode the passage of the inhabitants, so need not be immediately erected, but the necessary apparatus should be deposited at convenient places, to be ready occasionally.

"I have much to regret the exceeding weak state of the back part of your town. Assailable at many places—at none prepared to repel an attack—it requires our immediate attention. Nor am I less anxious about the neck that leads out of town. The officer we may have to deal with this winter is an officer of enterprise and resources, with judgment to discern, and a disposition to take all the advantages he cannot but observe. Should the *Neck* remain as it is, how easy it would be for an inferiour army to shut in a superiour; and it admits not of a doubt but he will, if he can, avail himself of it. To prevent this, many works are requisite; and the sooner they are undertaken, the better. I shall now, sir, proceed to some circumstances of defence, of a more general tendency; among these the building of some row-galleys appear to me as very consequential. I think it far from being improbable that they may be so constructed as to be formidable to men-of-war in their progress over your bar; and it is certain they must be so, should the ships ever get up and lay before the town. They will prevent all tenders, or other small armed vessels, from marauding those inhabitants who live upon the river, make it difficult, if not impossible, for the enemy to transport their troops by water into the country—a circumstance essentially important to the very being of this State. They will convey your troops to *Georgia* with safety and expedition, should that State require your aid, and facilitate the arrival of theirs should your exigencies make it necessary; in short, the advantages of them are so manifold that I earnestly hope they may claim your attention. As this State, and some neighbouring ones, are unhappily unequal in themselves to any formidable invasion, they must depend entirely upon the assistance they can mutually yield to each other. Every thing, therefore, which can retard the march of troops, should be removed, and every measure fallen upon which can contribute to bring them up with the utmost expedition. If *North-Carolina* and *Georgia* would join your State in establishing magazines of provisions at proper places between your countries, it would certainly prevent a great deal of delay; but this I am afraid will be a work of time.

"I beg leave, sir, to urge the absolute necessity of keeping a great number of wagons always in the publick service. Experience has taught me how difficult it is to procure them when suddenly wanted; and the time is probably at hand when the least delay may be attended with very fatal consequences.

"The great delay I have met with in marching men at the ferries of every State, and at none more particularly than in this, induces me to wish that in future they may be better provided with boats. Few, if any of them, have more than one flat, and that generally not a good one; so that it will take a whole day to get over a battalion and its baggage. I leave you, sir, to judge what may be the event of this, when the fate of a country may depend upon a single hour.

"The roads, at all times an object of publick notice, become of peculiar importance at this crisis, as upon the goodness of them an expeditious march in a great measure depends. I would urge, as a circumstance exceedingly necessary, the collecting and keeping for publick use a great number of canoes and other rowing-boats, as in a country so cut to pieces with water-courses and penetrable at such a variety of places, it is very uncertain where you may have occasion to convey your troops, or from whence to bring them. A provision of this kind, therefore, seems to be an act of necessity. Certain I am, that in the late military operations of this country, the want of them was severely felt by the General, and the service greatly injured by it.

"The short time I have been in this country renders it impossible for me to be so well acquainted with the geography of it as I wish, or as I hope soon to be; I therefore cannot undertake to point out every place where it might be necessary to erect works, or take other methods to prevent or render difficult the enemy's access. I am happy, however, in the consideration that you, sir, and many members of your Legislature, from the perfect knowledge of this country, are adequate to this; and, in the firm persuasion that it will be properly attended to. The building of barracks at those places where, in case of an invasion, we should be obliged to station troops, particularly at *Haddrel's*, is a matter that ought by no means to be neglected. The inconveniences which the soldiers suffered for want of them, and the ill effect it had upon their health, even in the summer season, make it evident that they cannot endure a winter campaign without them. I am loath to mention a provision which I am fearful it will be difficult to make: I mean of clothes and blankets for the men; but I should be wanting in attention to them not to express a wish that every method may be fallen upon to procure them.

"I know not whether the islands along your seaboard have any live stock upon them; but if they have, and are suffered to remain there, I cannot but consider them as the absolute property of the enemy. I therefore think it my duty, in the most earnest manner, to urge that they be immediately removed; indeed, I think the proprietors of these islands ought not to be suffered to occupy them at all at present, that the enemy may have no temptation to make or receive benefit by making a lodgement on them.

"There are other matters which strike me as necessary to the defence of this country, and from further observation many more may occur to me; but as I presume Government, in the recess of Assembly, will be furnished with powers to provide for contingencies, I have no occasion to trouble you with them now.

"I enter into the next object of my consideration with exceeding diffidence and anxiety, lest I should be thought to have exceeded the bounds of propriety by touching upon it at all. If, sir, unfortunately for me, that should be the case, will your Legislature do me the justice to impute it to the zeal I have for the service of this State, and kindly admit the cause to excuse the effect? The number of regular troops allotted to this country are not enough for its defence, though all the battalions were full. This, sir, militates strongly in favour of a well-regulated Militia, and I am happy to hear it is the subject of your present deliberations. But as a military system, exclusive of Militia, has been established in *Virginia*, which experience has shown to be a very good one, I presume just to hint it to you—I mean the establishing of Minute battalions. In order to do this, their State was divided into districts, and each district furnished a battalion of Minute-men. Persons of the greatest consequence and influence were appointed as officers, who inlisted the men from the body of the Militia. These men, besides attending a number of private musters, were at stated periods obliged to imbody in battalions for a specified number of days, and go through all the discipline and manœuvres of a camp. During this time they were paid and provisioned by the publick, and were at all times liable to be called into the service. I had the honour to command a great number of them the last winter; and it is but justice to them to say, that they deserved to be ranked among the best of our troops. The men of these battalions being inlisted upon the express condition of turning out occasionally, are always in expectation of, and will be always prepared for it. They are generally better armed, and will probably be better disciplined, than Militia, and may either make it unnecessary to call out the latter at all, or make a stand against the enemy while they are collecting. But whether such establishment may suit the policy of this country the wisdom of your Legislature will determine.

"Permit me, sir, again, in the most earnest manner, to urge the absolute necessity of immediately taking measures to place us in the best state of defence possible. Our private interest, and our fidelity to the common cause exact it of us. To lose the opportunity we now have, is to neglect the first and betray the latter.

"Happy should I have been had not the necessity of service deprived you of the Commander-in-Chief of the Southern department at this critical juncture, from whose indefatigable attention to his duty, and from whose spirit and abilities in the execution of it, you could not but have derived every possible benefit. I, sir, have nothing to offer you but an assurance of the most unwearied attention to the duties of my station, the utmost exertion of such abilities as I have, and that I shall, by my most strenuous efforts

in the service of your country, demonstrate the zeal and attachment I feel for the glorious cause of freedom, to which I have devoted myself.

"I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, sir, your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

"ROBERT HOWE.

"Charles-Town, 6th October, 1776."

Another Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN: I send you several Resolves of the Continental Congress, and an extract of a letter which I lately received from Mr. *Edward Rutledge*. As the men hereafter inlisted into the six battalions to be furnished from this State should, I apprehend, be engaged till the end of the war, and the bounty allowed by Congress is considerably increased, your late resolution is now inadequate. It will, therefore, be necessary that you should determine what allowance or encouragement shall be given by this State to the men who may be inlisted here agreeable to those resolves.

"JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"9th October, 1776."

The extract of a Letter from the Honourable Mr. *Edward Rutledge*, dated *Philadelphia*, 25th *September*, 1776, being read, is as followeth:

"The Congress are resolved to raise eighty-eight battalions, to continue during the war. We mean to reinlist all those who are now engaged, if they will serve. It is not intended by the resolutions that you should raise six battalions over and above what you now have, but that they should be reinlisted to serve during the war."

The Resolves of the Continental Congress of the 14th, 16th, 18th, and 19th of *September*, 1776, being read, are as follow:

"IN CONGRESS, *September* 14, 1776.—Whereas the Delegates of *South-Carolina* have represented that by an arrangement made in Congress on the 18th day of *June* last the Regiment of Artillery and two Regiments of Riflemen raised in that Province will obtain precedency over a Regiment of Rangers, though the latter was raised before either of the former; which may be attended with consequences extremely prejudicial to the service: Therefore,

"*Resolved*, That the said Regiment of Rangers, commanded by Colonel *William Thomson*, do still keep the same station it had in the Provincial arrangement, and be entitled to rank in the same way as other regiments in the Continental service.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

"IN CONGRESS, *September* 16th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That eighty-eight Battalions be inlisted as soon as possible, to serve during the present war; and that each State furnish their respective quotas in the following proportions, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *New-Hampshire*, | 3 | Battalions. |
| *Massachusetts-Bay*, | 15 | ditto. |
| *Rhode-Island*, | 2 | ditto. |
| *Connecticut*, | 8 | ditto. |
| *New-York*, | 4 | ditto. |
| *New-Jersey*, | 4 | ditto. |
| *Pennsylvania*, | 12 | ditto. |
| *Delaware*, | 1 | ditto. |
| *Maryland*, | 8 | ditto. |
| *Virginia*, | 15 | ditto. |
| *North-Carolina*, | 9 | ditto. |
| *South-Carolina*, | 6 | ditto. |
| *Georgia*, | 1 | ditto. |

"That twenty Dollars be given as a bounty to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier, who shall inlist to serve during the present war, unless sooner discharged by Congress:

"That Congress make provision for granting Lands, in the following proportions: to the Officers and Soldiers who shall so engage in the service, and continue therein to the close of the war, or until discharged by Congress, and to the representatives of such Officers and Soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy; such lands to be provided by the *United States*, and whatever expense shall be necessary to procure such land, the said expense shall be paid and borne by the States in the same proportion as the other expenses of the war, viz:

"To a Colonel, 500 acres; to a Lieutenant-Colonel, 450 acres; to a Major, 400 do.; to a Captain, 300 do.; to a Lieutenant, 200 do.; to an Ensign, 150 do.; each Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier, 100 do.:

"That the appointment of all Officers, and filling vacancies, (except General Officers) be left to the Governments of the several States, and that every State provide Arms, Clothing, and every necessary for its quota of Troops, according to the foregoing estimate: The expense of the Clothing to be deducted from the pay of the Troops, as usual:

"That all Officers be commissioned by Congress:

"That it be recommended to the several States that they take the most speedy and effectual measures for inlisting their several quotas:

"That the money to be given for Bounties be paid by the Paymaster in the Department where the Soldier shall inlist:

"That each Soldier receive pay and subsistence from the time of their inlistment."

"SEPTEMBER 18th, 1776.—That if Rations be received by the Officers or Privates in the Continental Army in money, they be paid at the rate of eight-nineteenth parts of a dollar per ration:

"That the Bounty and grants of Land offered by Congress, by a resolution of the 10th instant, as an encouragement to the Officers and Soldiers to engage to serve in the Army of the *United States* during the war, shall extend to all who are or shall be inlisted for that term: the bounty of ten dollars which any of the Soldiers have received from the Continent on account of a former inlistment, to be reckoned in part payment of the twenty dollars offered by said resolution:

"That no Officer in the Continental Army is allowed to hold more than one commission, or to receive pay but in one capacity."

"SEPTEMBER 19th, 1776.—That the Adjutants in the Continental Army be allowed the Pay and Rations of Captains, and have the rank of First Lieutenants.

"In order to prevent the Officers and Soldiers who shall be entitled to the Lands hereafter to be granted by the resolution of Congress of the 16th, from disposing of the same during the war,

"*Resolved*, That this Congress will not grant Lands to any person or persons claiming under the assignment of any officer or soldier.

"By order of the Congress:

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President*."

*Ordered*, That the Messages from the President of yesterday and this day's dates, and the several papers accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee; and they are referred to the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*, the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, the Honourable Mr. Justice *Bee*, Mr. Attorney-General, Colonel *Pinckney*, Mr. *John Waring*, Major *Simons*, Colonel *McIntosh*, Mr. *Williamson*, and Captain *Savage*.

The following gentlemen were returned duly elected members of the present General Assembly, viz: *Alexander Moultrie*, Esquire, for *Charles-Town*, in the room of *Cato Ash*, Esquire, deceased; the Honourable *Thomas Bee*, Esquire, for the Parish of *St. Andrew*, in the room of the Honourable *Thomas Fuller*, Esquire; *William Parker*, Esquire, for *St. James, Goose Creek*, in the room of the Honourable *John Parker*.

*Ordered*, That the said new-elected members have immediate notice by the Messenger to attend this House.

A Letter from *Edward Blake*, Esquire, addressed to the House, was laid before them, and read in the following words:

"October 9th, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: The Commissioners of the Navy Board, on inquiry, find that a Captain is wanted for the Brigantine *Comet*. They beg leave to recommend Captain *Stephen Seymour* and Captain *Edward Allen* as fit persons for the Legislature to make choice of.

"EDWARD BLAKE, *First Commissioner*."

*Resolved*, That this House will proceed to ballot, jointly with the honourable the Legislative Council, for a Captain of the Brigantine *Comet*.

*Ordered*, That the attendance of the members of the

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Legislative Council in this House be desired, to join in balloting for a Captain of the Brigantine *Comet*.

The Honourable Mr. *Bee* and Mr. Attorney-General attending according to order, and being called in, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and their seats as members.

*John Bull*, Esquire, also took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member for *Prince William's* Parish.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Ralph Izard* and Mr. *Thomas Waring* do examine and compare, with some member of the Legislative Council, an engrossed Ordinance to direct the manner of procuring Negroes to be employed in the publick service.

Mr. *Izard* reported that Mr. *Waring* and himself had, as ordered, examined and compared the Ordinance, and that they found it truly engrossed.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Waring* and Mr. *Izard* do attend the President with the Ordinance, in order to have the seal affixed thereto, and to desire to know when his Excellency will please to receive this House, to present the same for his assent.

Mr. *Waring* reported that Mr. *Izard* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President, and that his Excellency was pleased to say he would receive this House in ten minutes in the Council Chamber.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners appointed by this House on the 27th *September* last, to purchase a cargo of Salt arrived here in the Sloop *Margaret*, be, and they are hereby, authorized and required in like manner to purchase all other Salt that shall be imported here to the first day of *December* next, and to sell and distribute the Salt to be so purchased in the same manner and in such proportions as is directed by order of this House of the 2d instant.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of *St. David's* Parish do take into their custody the Salt now in Mr. *John Mitchell's* store at *Cheraw Hill*, paying for the same at the rate of fifty shillings currency per bushel; and that they sell and distribute the said Salt to and amongst such of the inhabitants of this State who have not lately received a dividend of the Salt in *Charles-Town* or at *Winyah* as shall apply for the same, in the proportion of one half-bushel to six white persons in a family.

A Petition of *Elizabeth Black*, widow, was presented to the House, and read, in the following words:

"That the petitioner's late husband, *Robert Black*, was late a soldier in the Second Regiment in the service of this State, and was, in the gallant defence of *Fort Moultrie*, on *Sullivan's Island*, on the 28th day of *June* last, grievously and mortally wounded, and died on the 11th day of *July* next after; that the petitioner, besides a daughter married, hath one daughter fifteen years old, another twelve years, a son of a very sickly habit of body about eight years, a daughter about six, and another son about four years old; that she hath no friends or relations in this State from whom she can expect the least assistance for the support of herself and this family, and that she is in very poor and indigent circumstances; that the petitioner having lately made application to his Excellency the President and the honourable the Privy Council, his Excellency was pleased, with the advice of that Board, to order fifty pounds to be paid her, and that she should be entitled to receive the pay of her husband until the sitting of this House; that the petitioner is very desirous of returning from this State, in which herself and children have been very sickly, to her native State, friends, and relations, in *Pennsylvania*, but is unable to bear the expense of such a journey. The petitioner therefore humbly prays that this honourable House will take the premises into consideration, and grant her such relief as to them in their wisdom shall seem meet."

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker: His Excellency the President is now in the Council Chamber, ready to receive this House with the Ordinance they have to present."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr. Speaker, with the House, accordingly attended the President in the Council Chamber. And being returned, Mr. Speaker reported, that the House having attended the President in the Council Chamber, he had presented to his Excellency "An Ordinance to direct the manner of procuring Negroes to be employed in the publick service," to which his Excellency had been pleased to give his assent.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill establishing a proper Oath of Qualification to be taken by the members of the General Assembly, to direct the method of choosing Parochial and District Committees, for authorizing the returning officers of *St. David's* Parish to hold their elections one day at the Church and one day at the Court-House, and for other purposes therein mentioned. Read a second time in the said Council.

The said Bill being read a third time,

*Resolved*, That the Bill do pass.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Harlston* and Major *Simons* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council.

A Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have jurisdiction in all cases of the capture of the ships and other vessels of the inhabitants and subjects of *Great Britain*, to establish the trial by Jury in the said court in cases of capture, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Major *Simons* and Captain *Harlston* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council.

Colonel *Gervais* reported from the Committee to whom was referred the Petition of *Henry Drew*. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read in the words following:

"That they repaired to the Jail and examined the petitioner, who they find is a prisoner of war, belonging to the Fortieth Regiment of Foot of his *Britannick* Majesty. And therefore your Committee are of opinion that his application would come more properly before General *Howe*, Commander-in-Chief, for the time being, of the Continental troops here."

The Report being read a second time,

*Resolved*, That this House do agree with the Report of the Committee.

The Reverend Mr. *Tennent* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *Robert Pearis* was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as follows:

"That they went to the common jail in *Charles-Town*, and made the best inquiry they could into the case of the said *Robert Pearis*. They found him confined, as the petition sets forth, in an upper apartment prepared for common criminals, the windows of the room without sashes or glass to keep out the weather, although so constructed as easily to admit of glass. They found that the roof of the jail was so defective as continually to leak when it rains, not only to the injury of the apartment in question, but of every other in the jail, to the manifest danger of the health of the unhappy creatures confined there, as well as to the great damage of the building. They also report that they conversed with Mr. *Pearis* on the cause of his confinement, and found him, although disposed to take an oath of neutrality, yet determined against every kind of opposition to the arms of his *Britannick* Majesty, considering himself a subject of *Great Britain*, notwithstanding the declaration of independency. They can, therefore, only recommend that Mr. *Pearis* be admitted to come down into the lower apartments of the jail, and to walk in the garden in the day time, upon his parole that he will take no advantage of this indulgence; but that in case of actual invasion, he, with other prisoners, should be confined more strictly. Your Committee was afflicted to find that not only Mr. *Pearis*, but some prisoners of war, although sick, were shut up with common criminals, and confined to the same provisions with them. And although it was not expressly committed to them, and only fell under their observation in the course of their inquiry into Mr. *Pearis's* grievances, yet common compassion for the miserable, and a regard for the honour of this State, induce them to recommend it to the House to appoint a committee to examine into the state of the jail and the

treatment of the prisoners of war, and enjoin it upon them to report thereon as speedily as possible."

The Report being read a second time,

*Resolved*, That this House do agree with the Report of the Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Reverend Mr. *Tennent*, Colonel *Gervais*, and Captain *Scott*, be a Committee to examine and report to this House the state of the Jail and the treatment of the prisoners of war.

Mr. *De Saussure* reported from the Committee to consider the best means of providing, maintaining, and regulating a Pilot-Boat and Pilot for *Beaufort*. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read in the words following:

"That not less than five Commissioners be appointed, whose power shall be to superintend the pilotage for said port, to cause a pilot-boat to be built, and for the payment of which this House do grant them a sum not exceeding three thousand pounds currency, to be paid to their order by the Treasurers. That this House do also grant to said Commissioners the sum of one thousand pounds currency per annum for a salary to a pilot; as also the sum of two hundred pounds currency per annum for keeping in repair said boat; which sums the Commissioner shall draw on the Treasury in half yearly payments."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That during the recess of the House the late and the present Clerks do, together, open the packages containing the Journals, Books, and other papers belonging to this House, and make out a catalogue or schedule thereof, to remain in the hands of the present Clerk, with the custody of the said Journals, Books, and other papers.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, eleven of the clock.

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Thursday, the 10th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

The members of the honourable the Legislative Council having been desired to attend in this House, to join in balloting for a Captain and Commander of the Brigantine *Comet*, their Honours attended accordingly. The members of both Houses then proceeded in the balloting, and the ballots being reckoned, Mr. Speaker reported that Captain *Edward Allen* was, by a majority of votes, duly elected Captain and Commander of the Brigantine *Comet*.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House having, jointly with the Legislative Council, by ballot, duly elected Captain *Edward Allen* to be Captain and Commander of the Brigantine *Comet*, armed in the service of this State, request that your Excellency will commissionate him accordingly."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Skirving* and Mr. *Ladson* do attend the President with the Message.

Petitions from *John Gray*, *John Morgridge*, and *Stephen Prosser*, prisoners in *Charles-Town* Jail, were presented to the House and read.

*Ordered*, That the said Petitions be referred to the Committee appointed yesterday to examine and report the state of the Jail and the treatment of the prisoners of war.

Colonel *Pinckney* presented to the House, according to order, a Bill for the better regulation of the Militia of this State, and for repealing all the Militia Laws and Resolves of the late Provincial Congresses respecting the Militia, heretofore made. And the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be read the second time.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House having resolved that a fort and guard at the *Cheraws* are unnecessary, request that your Excellency will be pleased to give orders to discontinue the building of the said fort, and for the discharge of the guard now there. And that such part of the powder and lead, which the Colonel of the regiment of that district had received for the use of such guard, as remains unused, be delivered to the care and custody of the Committee for *St. David's* Parish."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Skirving* and Mr. *Ladson* do carry the Message to the President.

The House then proceeded on the order of the day, to consider the Report of the Committee appointed to consider and report the best means of providing, maintaining, and regulating a Pilot-Boat and Pilot to attend the bar and harbour of *Beaufort*. And the said Report being read and debated on, was agreed to by the House.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in a Bill for the purpose therein mentioned.

*Resolved*, That the Bill for the better regulation of the Militia of this State, and for repealing all the Militia Laws and Resolves of the late Provincial Congresses respecting the Militia, heretofore made, be read a second time on *Saturday* next, and that all the members of this House who can attend be summoned.

Message from the Legislative Council, by the Clerk of that House:

"In the Legislative Council, the 10th day of October, 1776.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN: Upon reading a third time 'A Bill establishing a proper oath of qualification to 'be taken by the members of the General Assembly, direct-'ing the method of choosing Parochial Committees for autho-'rizing the returning officers of the Parish of *St. David's* to 'hold their elections one day at the Church and one day at 'the Court-House, and for other purposes therein mentioned,' this House propose the following amendment may be made to the latter end of the clause of the said Bill, which discharges the Members of the General Assembly from taking the State oath, viz: 'But instead thereof the Members 'of the General Assembly respectively, at the time of their 'taking the oath of qualification as aforesaid, shall, before 'the same Justice of the Peace, take the following oath or 'affirmation, viz: I, A B, do swear or affirm that I will, 'to the utmost of my power, support, maintain, and defend 'the Constitution of *South-Carolina* as established by Con-'gress on the 26th day of *March*, 1776, until the legislative 'authority of this State shall determine otherwise."

This House likewise propose the following clause should be made part of the said Bill:

"*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That all Church-Wardens or other persons who shall hereafter manage elections for members to represent the several Parishes and Districts respectively, within this State, shall, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, before they receive the vote from any elector who they may suspect and believe hath not taken the oath of fidelity to this State, administer the same to all and every such elector or electors; and in case of their refusal to take the said oath, he or they shall not be permitted to give his or their vote,"—to which we desire the concurrence of your House.

*Resolved*, That this House do concur with the honourable the Legislative Council in the amendment proposed in the foregoing Message.

Message to the Legislative Council:

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: This House concur with your Honours in the amendments proposed to be made to the Bill mentioned in your Message of this date, and desire your Honours will amend the Bill accordingly."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Elias Horry*, Junior, and Mr. *Benjamin Waring*, do carry the Message to the Legislative Council.

Message to the Legislative Council:

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: We herewith send to your Honours copy of a Resolve of this House to remit certain fines imposed on *John Thompson* and *Richard Thompson*, to which we desire your Honours' concurrence."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Benjamin Waring* and Mr. *Elias*

*Horry*, Junior, do carry the Message to the Legislative Council.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten of the clock.

—

Friday, the 11th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

Mr. *Skirving* reported that Mr. *Ladson* and himself had waited on the President with the Messages they had in charge, and that his Excellency was pleased to say he would issue the orders requested in the one, and commissionate Captain *Allen* as desired in the other.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this House that no person in this State, indebted to any persons subjects to the King of *Great Britain*, (the inhabitants of *Bermudas* and the *Bahama* Islands excepted,) or any attorney within this State, for any such subjects, (except as aforesaid,) ought to remit or pay, directly or indirectly, to any such subjects, (except as before excepted,) or for their use, any sum of money or merchandise whatever, until it shall be otherwise directed by laws, except attorneys for persons usually residents in this State, now in *Great Britain*, and intending to return as soon as possible to this State, and the parents and guardians of youth now residing and educating in *Great Britain*, or in any other part of *Europe*; which last-mentioned attorneys, parents, and guardians, may be at liberty to remit, for the use of their constituents, children, and wards, such sums as they shall think necessary and expedient for their support or education and maintenance.

*Resolved, also*, That it is the opinion of this House that all absentees holding estates in this State should use every means in their power forthwith to return to this State.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above Resolves be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence, and to the President for his assent.

Message to the Legislative Council:

"Honourable Gentlemen: We herewith send a copy of Resolves entered into by this House, to which we desire your Honours' concurrence."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Middleton* and Mr. *McQueen* do carry the Message to the Legislative Council.

Mr. *De Saussure* presented to the House, according to order, an Ordinance for allowing and keeping in repair a Pilot-Boat to attend the bar and harbour of *Beaufort*, and for settling and regulating the pilotage of the said harbour. And the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be read a second time.

And the same being read accordingly,

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Benjamin Waring* and Mr. *Thomas Waring* do carry the same to the Legislative Council.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners for purchasing and delivering Salt, shall, for one month after this date, deliver Salt to persons applying for it, (without certificates from Committees,) upon such persons' making oath of the number of families they apply for, and that they will distribute the Salt in the allotted proportions amongst such persons.

*Ordered*, That the Petition of *Elizabeth Black*, presented to this House on *Wednesday* last, be referred to a Committee.

And it is referred to the Reverend Mr. *Tennent*, Major *Cattell*, and Mr. *Ralph Izard*.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury, as a further encouragement to the commander and mariners belonging to the vessel called the *Revenge*, do pay and advance to the said commander and men, out of the amount of the sales of the cargo taken from on board the transport brigantine called the *Glasgow Packet*, one-sixth of the neat amount of sales of the said cargo.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above Resolve be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence, and to the President for his assent.

Message to the Legislative Council:

"Honourable Gentlemen: We herewith send copy of a Resolution this day entered into by this House, to which we desire your Honours' concurrence."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Roger Smith* and Mr. *Chiffelle* do carry the same to the Legislative Council.

The Honourable Mr. *Heyward* reported from the Committee to whom the Memorial of divers inhabitants of *Charles-Town* was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That it is their opinion leave should be given to bring in a Bill for establishing and keeping three Watch Companies in *Charles-Town*."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the same being accordingly taken into consideration and agreed to by the House,

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in such a Bill, and that the Honourable Mr. *Heyward* do prepare and bring in the same.

The Honourable Mr. *Heyward*, according to order, presented to the House a Bill for establishing and keeping three Watch Companies in *Charles-Town*; and the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have jurisdiction, in all cases of capture, of the ships and other vessels of the inhabitants and subjects of *Great Britain*, to establish the trial by Jury in the said court in cases of capture, and for the other purposes therein mentioned. Read a second time in the said Council. Also, a Bill for establishing a proper Oath of Qualification to be taken by the members of the General Assembly, directing the method of choosing Parochial and District Committees, for authorizing the returning officers for the Parish of *St. David* to hold their elections one day at the Church and one day at the Court-House, and for the purposes therein mentioned. Read a third time in that House.

*Ordered*, That the title of the Bill be "An Act;" and that the Act be engrossed.

The Reverend Mr. *Tennent* presented to the House, according to order, a bill of free and general pardon. And the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be read a second time.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk of this House do cause all the Acts and Ordinances passed by the Legislature of this State to be printed as soon as may be after their passing, for the use of the members of both Houses.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Saturday, the 12th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

Mr. *Capers* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *William Hort*, Esquire, was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That they have considered the petition of Mr. *Hort*, and are of opinion the prayer of the petition ought to be granted. But inasmuch as there are many inhabitants of this State in the same situation with Mr. *Hort*, your Committee recommend that this House enter into a resolve desiring all persons that have received damages in the like case, to make them known within six months, in order that provision may be made for the same; and that notice be given in the Gazette for that purpose."

*Ordered*, That the consideration of the Report be postponed, in order to proceed upon the order of the day.

The order of the day being read,

*Ordered*, That the Messengers do go out and summon all the absent members to give their immediate attendance.

A motion was then made, that the order of the day, for reading a second time a Bill for the better regulation of the Militia of this State, and for repealing all the Militia Laws

and Resolves of the late Provincial Congress respecting the Militia, heretofore made, be postponed.

A debate ensued; and the question being put, the House divided. Teller for the yeas, Colonel *Pinckney*—46. Teller for the noes, the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*—42. So that it was resolved in the affirmative.

*Daniel Heyward*, Jun., Esquire, took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member of this House.

Message from the Legislative Council by their Clerk:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: Upon reading your message to this House of yesterday, with the resolution which accompanied it for remitting the fine imposed upon *Richard Thompson* and *John Thompson*, we are at a loss to know what those fines were, and for what cause they were imposed, and therefore we shall be glad to be informed of the particulars of those men's cases, if your House is possessed of any information leading thereto.

"In the Legislative Council, 12th day of *October*, 1776.

"By order of the House:

"Thomas Shubrick, *Speaker*."

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* do examine and compare, with some members of the Legislative Council, an engrossed Bill for establishing an Oath of Qualification to be taken by the members of the General Assembly, directing the method of choosing Parochial and District Committees, for authorizing the returning officers for the Parish of *St. David* to hold their elections one day at the Court-House, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

The Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* reported that the Bill had been examined and compared, according to order, and that the same was truly engrossed.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* and Mr. *Daniel Heyward*, Jun., do wait on the President with the Bill, to desire that the seal may be affixed thereto, and to know when his Excellency will please to receive this House to present the same.

The Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews* reported that Mr. *Heyward* and himself had waited on the President with the Bill and Message they had in charge, and that his Excellency was pleased to say he would receive this House presently, in the Council Chamber.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Lowndes*, Colonel *Gadsden*, the Honourable Mr. Justice *Bee*, the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews*, the Honourable Mr. *Heyward*, Colonel *Pinckney*, Captain *Trapier*, Mr. Attorney-General, and the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, be a Committee to revise the Constitution or form of Government, and to report to the House such alterations or additions as may be expedient to make thereto.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in an Ordinance for opening and improving the inland navigation in this State; and that the Honourable Mr. Justice *Bee* do prepare and bring in the same.

"An Ordinance for allowing and keeping in repair a Pilot Boat to attend the Bar and Harbour of *Beaufort*, and for regulating the Pilotage of the said Harbour," was read a third time.

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance do pass.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Gadsden* and Mr. *Osborn* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council.

Colonel *Gadsden* reported that Mr. *Osborn* and himself had delivered the Ordinance they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker: His Excellency the President is now in the Council Chamber, ready to receive this House with the Bill they have to present."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr. Speaker, with the House, accordingly attended the President in the Council Chamber. And being returned, Mr. Speaker reported that this House having attended the President in the Council Chamber, he had presented an act for establishing a proper oath of qualification to be taken by the members of the General Assembly, directing the method of choosing Parochial and District Committees, for authorizing the returning officers for the Parish of *St. David* to hold their elections one day at the Church and one day at the Court-House, and for other purposes therein mentioned; to which his Excellency had been pleased to give his assent.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House "An Ordinance for allowing and keeping in repair a Pilot Boat to attend the Bar and Harbour of *Beaufort*, and for regulating the Pilotage of the said Harbour." Read a third time in that House.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be engrossed.

Message to the Legislative Council:

"Honourable Gentlemen: In answer to your message just now received, we herewith send you a Petition, and a Report of a Committee thereon, as agreed to by this House, which will inform you the particulars of the cases of *Richard* and *John Thompson*, and of the grounds of the resolution of this House with respect to those persons."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Pinckney* and Mr. *Thomas Waring* do carry the Message to the Legislative Council.

The House then proceeded on a second reading of a bill for establishing and keeping three Watch Companies. And having made some progress therein,

*Ordered*, That the further proceeding in the said Bill be adjourned till *Monday* next.

*Ordered*, That *George Robinson*, *George Pawley*, and *Francis Adams*, Esquires, have leave of absence from the service of this House to attending the approaching elections in their respective Districts.

*Resolved*, That all necessary repairs to the Publick Buildings be forthwith made, and this House will provide for the expense thereof.

And then the House adjourned till *Monday* morning, ten of the clock.

—

Monday, the 14th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of *Saturday's* proceedings.

Mr. *Neufville* reported from the Committee to examine the publick Treasury Accounts, and to report to the House an exact and circumstantial account of the state of the Treasury, what sums have been issued, and for what particular service, arranging under distinct heads the particular services for which the moneys have been expended. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

That the Commissioners of said Treasury have paid the following sums on the accounts and to the several persons under-mentioned, viz:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The First and Second Regiments, | £351,256 | 18 | 2 |
| The Third Regiment of Rangers, | 139,322 | 8 | 5 |
| The Fourth Regiment of Artillery, | 60,936 | 18 | 4 |
| The Fifth and Sixth Regiments of Riflemen, | 92,029 | 7 | 3 |
| Rice, | 27,782 | 13 | 2 |
| Flour, | 3,754 | 2 | 4 |
| *Indian* affairs, exclusive of 1,000 pounds of Gunpowder, | 12,865 | 9 | 9 |
| *North-Carolina*, for the prisoners *Dunn* and *Boote*, | 2,172 | 7 | 8 |
| Vestry of *St. Philip's* Parish, | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Brigantine *William*, | 1,167 | 10 | 6 |
| Schooner *Islington* and her cargo, | 21,865 | 17 | 5 |
| Cargo per the brigantine *Notre Dame* and disbursements for the vessel, | 29,656 | 10 | 6 |
| Firemasters for *Charles-Town*, | 105 | 0 | 0 |
| *Edward* and *John Blake*, | 6,500 | 0 | 0 |
| Voyage per the *Rebecca* from *George-Town*, | 2,687 | 4 | 4 |
| Colonel *Richardson's* expedition, | 192,379 | 11 | 4 |
| Naval Department, | 101,544 | 8 | 1 |
| Artillery Company at *Port-Royal*, | 12,256 | 1 | 0 |
| Contingencies, | 303,765 | 18 | 6 |
| Fortifications, | 53,200 | 5 | 5 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *John Scott*, son of *Jonathan*, - - - - | £2,365 | 4 | 9 |
| *Joseph Darrell*, - - - - - - - - | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| *Georgia*, - - - - - - - - - | 4,653 | 1 | 4 |
| Nitre Works, - - - £2,810 15 10 | | | |
| *William Bartey's* account, 350 0 0 | | | |
| | 3,160 | 15 | 10 |
| Continental Congress, - 6,115 17 0 | | | |
| And for payment of Continental Troops, - - 31,975 0 0 | | | |
| | 38,090 | 17 | 0 |
| Works on *Sullivant's* Island, - - - - | 49,052 | 11 | 10 |
| Commissary-General, - - - - - - | 130,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Salaries of the Clergy, - - - - - | 5,825 | 18 | 9 |
| Cargo per schooner *Peggy* at *George-Town*, - - - - - - - - - | 12,737 | 11 | 0 |
| Commissioners for buying Rifles, - - | 5,719 | 0 | 0 |
| Contingent fund for his Excellency the President, - - - - - - - - | 2,760 | 0 | 0 |
| Artillery Company at *George-Town*, and for the Fort there, - - - - - - | 7,362 | 14 | 6 |
| Militia, - - - - - - - - - - | 209,991 | 4 | 3 |
| *Peter Lepoole* and *John Burnley*, for Rice shipped on the brigantine *Liberty*, *Philip Canway* master, - - - - - | 5,227 | 13 | 4 |
| *Robert Cochran*, - - - - - - - | 951 | 10 | 6 |
| Voyage for the schooner *Little Thomas*, Captain *Nelmes*, to *Bermuda*, - - - | 548 | 11 | 9 |
| *Paul Pritchard*, - - - - - - - | 1,000 | 0 | 0 |
| *Virginia*, - - - - - - - - - | 65 | 0 | 0 |
| Commissioners for laying obstructions on the Bar, - - - - - - - - - | 5,646 | 12 | 6 |
| Commissioners for purchasing Salt, balance of this account, - - - - - | 4,935 | 3 | 0 |
| Commissioners for importing Clothes for the Troops, - - - - - - - - | 43,980 | 17 | 9 |
| Fortifications on *James Island*, - - - | 6,307 | 14 | 1 |
| Commissioners of *Fort Lyttleton*, *Port Royal*, - - - - - - - - - | 2,373 | 7 | 5 |
| Stockade Fort, and keeping a garrison at *Cheraw*, - - - - - - - - - | 7,647 | 19 | 6 |
| Captain *Darrell's* company at *Lyttleton's* Bastion, - - - - - - - - - | 2,329 | 15 | 3 |
| For the care of *John Stuart's* estate and Mr. *Stuart's* allowance, - - - - | 553 | 5 | 0 |
| Premiums for making Hemp, - - - | 550 | 12 | 8 |
| Premiums for making Linen and Thread, | 180 | 0 | 0 |
| For the use of the Hospital, - - - - | 8,389 | 5 | 6 |
| Naval Department at *George-Town*, - | 5,722 | 6 | 0 |
| *Philip Will*, Barrackmaster and Post-Rider, - - - - - - - - - | 3,108 | 1 | 3 |
| Captain *John Copithorn*, - - - - - | 355 | 15 | 0 |
| *Edward Darrell*, Commissary to the Naval Department, - - - - - - | 3,000 | 0 | 0 |
| *Tacitus Gaillard*, Quartermaster-General | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid *John Scott* the balance on a cargo per schooner *Polly*, - - - - - - | 2,695 | 0 | 0 |
| Cargo per the *Constitution*, and purchase of the said vessel, - - - - - - | 9,262 | 14 | 0 |
| Indico per the sloop *Swift*, Captain *Morgan*, - - - - - - - - - | 16,862 | 12 | 4 |
| Baron *Matzenback*. - - - - - - | 85 | 0 | 0 |
| Colonel *Williamson's* expedition against the *Indians*, - - - - - - - - | 20,039 | 0 | 0 |
| Bounty on Flour, the balance after deducting the duty received on Flour, - | 449 | 10 | 1 |
| Commissioners for carrying on Salt-Works, - - - - - - - - - | 337 | 4 | 9 |
| Commissioners for the Works at *Dorchester*, - - - - - - - - - | 3,046 | 2 | 2 |
| General *Lee*, - - - - - - - - | 487 | 10 | 0 |
| Expedition to *Savannah*, - - - - - | 1,617 | 0 | 0 |
| Cargo per schooner *Polly*, *John Bernard* master, - - - - - - - - - | 11,643 | 0 | 0 |
| | £2,069,556 | 17 | 10 |
| Balance remaining in the Treasury, 3d *October*, 1776, £6,000 of which is ordered not to be issued, - - - - - | 380,537 | 2 | 10 |
| | £2,450,104 | 0 | 8 |

The Commissioners of the Treasury have received the following sums, viz:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Of *Edward Oats*, on account of Osnaburgs sold by him, - - - - - - - | £7,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Of *Henry Peronneau* and *Benjamin Dart*, late Treasurers, - - - - - | 31,368 | 12 | 6 |
| Borrowed of *Gabriel Manigault*, - - | 15,500 | 0 | 0 |
| For Sugars per the ship *Port Henderson*, | 46,217 | 18 | 2 |
| Of *James Leakie*, on account, - - - | 1,556 | 0 | 0 |
| Of *George Abbot Hall*, from the Custom-House, - - - - - - - - - | 2,606 | 2 | 6 |
| Fines and Forfeitures to the State, - - | 581 | 6 | 8 |
| Payments on the Bonds and Notes delivered up by Messrs. *Peronneau* and *Dart*, late Treasurers, - - - - - | 8,893 | 18 | 7 |
| Transient Duties, - - - - - - - | 15 | 2 | 3 |
| Grant of the 14th *June*, 1775, - - - | 1,000,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Grant of 15th *November*, 1775, in part, - | 118,365 | 0 | 0 |
| From the Continental Congress, 288,000 Dollars, - - - - - - - - - | 468,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Grant of 6th *March*, 1776, - - - - | 750,000 | 0 | 0 |
| | £2,450,104 | 0 | 8 |

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee on the state of the Treasury, to consider and report to the House proper ways and means of supplying the Treasury, in the recess of the House, with such moneys as may be immediately wanted for the publick service, and how the moneys issued that have been counterfeited may best be called in and the counterfeiting of money in future prevented.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. Justice *Bee* and the Honourable Mr. *Heyward* be added to the said Committee.

The Reverend Mr. *Tennent* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *Elizabeth Black* was referred; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, in the following words:

"That it is their opinion that the prayer of the petition should be granted, and the sum of three hundred and fifty pounds be given the petitioner, to enable her to transport herself and family to the State of *Pennsylvania*, or to any other northern State in which she, the petitioner, shall think the health of her family may be established."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the said Report being taken into consideration accordingly, was amended and agreed to, and is as followeth:

"That it is their opinion that the prayer of the petition should be granted, and that the sum of four hundred pounds currency be given to the petitioner, to enable her to transport herself to the State of *Pennsylvania*, or to any other northern State in which she, the petitioner, shall think the health of her family may be established, in full and in lieu of all claims which she might have against the publick of this State."

The Honourable Mr. *Lowndes* reported from the Committee to whom it was referred to revise the Constitution or form of Government, and to report to the House such alterations or additions as may be expedient to make thereto; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, in the words following:

"That inasmuch as the Constitution or form of Government agreed to and resolved upon on the 26th day of *March* last, was calculated for and suited to the then situation of publick affairs and looking forward to an accommodation of differences with *Great Britain*, (an event then desired,) was temporary only: And whereas the *American* States are now constituted Independent States, and the political connection heretofore subsisting between them and *Great Britain* is dissolved, and it therefore becomes necessary, in order to perfect and perpetuate the said Constitution or form of Government, that some amendments and alterations should be made thereto, your Committee therefore humbly recommend the following:

"1. That instead of Province or Colony, the style hereafter be, the State of *South-Carolina*.

"2. That the second Resolution of the said Constitution, which requires that the Legislative Council be elected out

of the body of the Representatives of the people, be altered, and hereafter that the Legislative Council be elected either out of the body of the Representatives or from the people at large.

"3. That the fourth Resolution be altered so that no vacancies hereafter happening in the General Assembly by the election of any member into the Legislative Council be filled up by a new election.

"4. Fifth: That the number of the Privy Council be increased to nine members, including the Vice-President; four to be chosen by each House either out of the Houses respectively or from the people at large: the Quorum to consist of five.

"5. Tenth: That this Resolution shall not be construed to vacate the seat of any member who is or may be a Delegate from this State to the Continental Congress, as such.

"6. Eleventh: That when the House can possess itself of proper information so as to estimate the particular and comparative strength and property of the different parts of this State, that then the House do proceed to a reduction of the present representation in the most equal and just proportion, regard being always had to the number of white inhabitants and property of the people.

"7. Thirteenth: That the President and Commander-in-Chief, or any future President or Commander-in-Chief to be elected President at any of the stated elections hereafter, shall not be eligible to serve in the said office after the expiration of the term of their first election, for and during the full end and term of six years.

"8. Fourteenth: That in case of the sickness or absence from *Charles-Town* of the President and Commander-in-Chief, the Vice-President, being empowered thereto by the President, shall act in his stead during such sickness or absence, agreeably to a law passed 6th *April*, 1776.

"9. Sixteenth: That a Chancellor be appointed to preside in the Court of Chancery, and this clause giving power to the Vice-President and Privy Council to exercise the powers of a Court of Chancery be annulled.

"10. That the House do also appoint or direct that proper persons be empowered in the several Districts in this State to prove wills, grant administrations, and do such other matters as are incident to a Court of Ordinary, that the people of this State may avoid the great expense and trouble of coming to *Charles-Town* on every such occasion.

"11. That a Court of Appeals be also established in this State, and Judges appointed, to consist of seven persons, to have cognizance in all matters of errour; that they be elected and commissioned in the same manner the other Judges are directed to be, and liable to be removed as prescribed in the twentieth clause.

"12. Twenty-second: That the Collector and the Comptroller of the Country Duties be balloted for and appointed in the same manner as the other officers are directed to be by the twenty-second resolve.

"13. Twenty-eighth: That all Resolutions of the Continental Congress shall be of full force until altered by them.

"14. Thirty-third: That the Oath enjoined to be taken by all persons appointed to any place of trust, be amended by leaving out the words 'until an accommodation of the differences between *Great Britain* and *America* shall take place.'

"Your Committee further recommend, that in order to avoid, as much as possible, unhappy differences and jealousies amongst the inhabitants of this State with regard to religious principles, that no Ministers of the Gospel or Priest of any religious persuasion be permitted or allowed to be a member of either House."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

It being moved and seconded, that inasmuch as the fourth clause of an Act entitled "An Act for appointing a publick Treasurer and other publick Officers," passed the 20th day of *September*, 1721, incapacitating members of the Council or Commons House of Assembly from being publick Treasurer, Comptroller, or Powder-Receiver, is of force, therefore the House do resolve that the seats of the present Treasurers who are members of this House, are vacant.

After some debate thereon,

*Ordered*, That this matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Attorney-General reported from the Committee to whom the President's Message of the 8th and 9th instant, and the extracts of a Letter and Resolves of the Continental Congress accompanying the same, were referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That in order to comply with the recommendation of the Continental Congress to take the most speedy and effectual measures for inlisting our quota of troops, they are of opinion that a bounty of two dollars, over and above the Continental bounty, be given to such non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who shall inlist to serve during the present war in any of the *South-Carolina* regiments on the Continental establishment; and that in lieu of the bounty formerly given to officers for recruits, each recruiting officer be allowed, besides his pay, two dollars per day for each day he shall be actually on that service. Your Committee likewise recommend that the two regiments of Riflemen as soon as their present time of inlistment is expired, shall be put upon the same establishment with regard to pay, bounty, and clothing, as the two regiments of Infantry."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Gervais*, Mr. *Williams*, Captain *Singleton*, Captain *Patrick*, Captain *Harrington*, Major *Cattell*, and the Honourable Mr. Justice *Matthews*, be added to the Committee on the President's Message accompanied by Brigadier-General *Howe's* Letter.

The House then proceeded in the second reading of a Bill for establishing, keeping, and maintaining, three Watch companies in *Charles-Town*.

Upon reading the sixth section, a motion was made to strike out these words at the end thereof, viz: "and when the Militia of this State are called out and do actual duty, that then the officers and private men of the said Watch companies respectively shall be allowed such rations as are provided for the officers and private men of the said Militia." And the question being put, it passed in the negative.

The Bill being read the second time,

*Ordered*, That the Bill be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Major *Simons* and Mr. *Thomas Middleton*, Jun., do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council.

Mr. *Pinckney* reported that Mr. *Waring* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten of the clock.

—

Tuesday, the 15th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*William Tucker*, Esquire, was returned as duly elected a Representative of the District of *Saxe-Gotha*.

Mr. *Tucker*, attending at the door, was called in, and took the oath prescribed by the Constitution, and his seat as a member.

The House being moved that the order made on the 12th instant "for postponing the second reading of a bill for the better regulation of the Militia of this State, and for repealing all the Militia Laws and Resolves of the Provincial Congress respecting the Militia heretofore made," be discharged,

*Ordered*, That the said order be discharged.

*Ordered*, That the order of the day, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom it was referred to revise the Constitution or form of Government, and to report to the House such alterations or additions as may be expedient to make thereto, be postponed till to-morrow.

The House then proceeded upon the other order of the day, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom the President's Message of the 8th and 9th instant, with the papers accompanying the same, were referred; and the Report being taken into consideration accordingly, was amended and agreed to by the House, and is in the words following:

"That in order to comply with the recommendation of the Continental Congress to take the most speedy and effectual measures for inlisting our quota of troops, they are of opinion that a bounty of ten dollars, over and above the Continental bounty, be given to such non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who shall inlist to serve during the present war in any of the *South-Carolina* regiments, on the Continental establishment; and, that in lieu of the bounty formerly given to officers for recruits, each recruiting officer be allowed, besides their pay, two dollars per day for each day he shall be actually on that service. Your Committee likewise recommend that the Fifth Regiment of this State shall immediately, or as soon as may be, be put upon the same establishment with regard to arms, pay, bounty, and clothing, as the two regiments of Infantry are; and that the Sixth Regiment shall likewise be put upon the same establishment in the like respects as soon as the field officers of the last-mentioned regiment shall agree thereto."

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: Your message of the 11th of *April* having been notified to the Crown-officers therein described, none of them chose to leave the Province, except Mr. *Savage* and Mr. *Simpson*. The Council, therefore, did not think it advisable that they should be permitted to go, and at the time of the late invasion judged it expedient to confine all those persons: they are now restrained to their respective houses. I desire your advice in what manner they should be disposed of in future. I think it proper to acquaint you that Messrs. *James Brisbane*, *John Champney*, *Henry Mickie*, *John Tunno*, and *James Carsan*, being deemed persons whose going at large might endanger the safety of the Colony or the liberties of *America*, were, by advice of the Council, ordered to be, and now are, confined, some in *George-Town* and others in the *Cheraws* jail.

"John Rutledge.

"15th October, 1776."

*Ordered*, That the Message be taken into consideration to-morrow.

A Bill of free and general pardon and amnesty was read a second time. And the question being put, whether the Bill should be sent to the Legislative Council, it passed in the negative.

*Resolved*, That the Bill be rejected.

*Resolved*, That this House will make provision to defray the expense of a way to a temporary landing-place at low water upon Mr. *William Gibbes's* wharf.

Message to the Legislative Council:

"Honourable Gentlemen: On the 11th instant we sent you, for your concurrence therein, a resolution, 'that 'the Commissioners of the Treasury, as a further encourage-'ment to the commander and mariners belonging to the vessel 'called the *Revenge*, do pay and advance to the said com-'mander and men out of the amount of the sales of the 'cargo taken from on board the transport brigantine called 'the *Glasgow Packet*, one-sixth of the neat amount of sales 'of the said cargo;' and we now desire to know if your Honours have concurred accordingly; and if you have, that you will please to order the same to be sent to his Excellency for his assent."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Edwards* and Mr. *De Saussure* do carry the Message to the Legislative Council.

Mr. *Harrington* reported from the Committee to revise the list of Magistrates and to report the names of persons proper to be added thereto; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That they recommend the following names to be added to the list of Magistrates:

"For Charles-Town District: *Paul Townsend*, *John Colcock*, *Richard Mercer*, *William Holmes*, *Thomas Farr*, *William Nisbett*, *Charles Gaillard*, *Joseph Atkinson*, and *John Ward*, of *St. Bartholomew's* Parish.

"For George-Town District: *Benjamin Young*.

"For Cheraws District: *Philip Pledger*, *Samuel Wise*, *William Thomas*, *Thomas Powe*, *Abel Kobb*, *Robert Lide*, *Benjamin Jackson*, *Alexander McIntosh*, *Ely Kershaw*, *Daniel Du Bose*.

"For Camden District: *Robert Goodwin*, *Joseph Kirkland*, *Abijah Rambert*, *John Howe*, *Alexander Love*, *Joham Moore*, *John Wylly*, *John Cook*, *John Gabriel Guignard*.

"For Beaufort District: *Richard Wayne*.

"For Ninety-Six District: *Nicholas Eveleigh*, *Nathaniel Spragins*, *Russel Wilson*, *Benjamin Bell*, *Richard King*, *Samuel Ficklin*, *William Houseal*, *James Moore*, *William Norris*, *Thomas Leach*, *Francis Cinquefield*, *Thomas Green*, *William Moore*, *Michael Dickert*.

"For Orangeburg District: *William Robinson*, *George Pellis*, *George King*, *Charles Heatley*, *Jacob Christopher Zahn*, *Briton Williams*, *Isaac Bush*, *Jarrad Nielson*, *John Caldwell*."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the Report being taken into consideration accordingly,

*Resolved*, That this House do agree with the Report of the Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury do pay to *Elizabeth Black*, or her order, the sum of four hundred Pounds currency, for the purpose mentioned in the Report of the Committee to whom the Petition of the said *Elizabeth Black* was referred.

*Resolved*, That if any Slaves employed in the publick service shall be killed, maimed, or disabled, in such service, this House will make provision to indemnify the owner of such Slave.

*Resolved, also*, That all such Slaves as shall be taken sick whilst employed in the publick service, shall be forthwith returned to their owners, if they require it, or conveyed to a proper Hospital, and there supplied with necessary sustenance, medicines, and attendance, until they shall be able to return to work, or be sent to their respective owners.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: Having applied to Brigadier-General *Howe* for such returns of the Continental battalions lately in the pay and service of this State as you desire by your message of the 4th instant, he has furnished me with those of the first, second, fourth, and fifth, which I herewith lay before you. He has received no returns of the third and sixth, but says the former is on command; the latter is with Colonel *Williamson* on the expedition against the *Cherokee Indians*. Captain *Trapier's* Artillery company consists of forty-two matrosses. I have no late return of Captain *Harden's*, at *Beaufort*, but think he has about eighty.

"John Rutledge.

"15th October, 1776."

Captain *Roger Smith* reported from the Commissioners to whom was recommitted the Report on the state of the late Treasury, and settlement with the then Treasurers and Powder-Receiver; and he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That by the books of the late Joint Publick Treasurers, they find the following balances in favour of the publick to the 30th day of *April*, 1776:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st. | On account of the General Duty Fund | £3,970 | 8 | 9 | |
| 2d. | Fund for a Pest House | 33,383 | 17 | 0 | |
| 3d. | Fund for building an Exchange | 45,892 | 16 | 6 | |
| 4th. | Repairs of *Fort Johnston* | 1,324 | 12 | 5 | |
| 5th. | Fortification Fund | 26,718 | 18 | 3 | |
| 6th. | Tax on Negroes imported | 115,626 | 4 | 4 | |
| 7th. | Transient Duty | 4,132 | 2 | 11 | |
| 8th. | New additional duty on Flour, &c. | 3,937 | 17 | 11 | |
| | | | | | 234,986 18 1 |
| 9th. | Balance of Tax collected in 1768, a surplus | 19,510 | 6 | 0 | |
| 10th. | Received of *John Ernest Poyas*, arrears of Taxes | 224 | 2 | 2 | |
| | | | | | 19,734 8 4 |
| 11th. | Profit on the increased value of Gold and Silver | 1,749 | 0 | 3 | |
| 12th. | Received of the Powder-Receiver | 11,658 | 14 | 4 | |
| 13th. | Received Rents of the Cellars under the Exchange | 2,042 | 18 | 8 | |
| 14th. | Fines and Forfeitures | 1,108 | 17 | 1 | |
| 15th. | Received of the Commissary-General | 54 | 15 | 6 | |
| 16th. | Received of *William Harvey*, Esquire, Receiver of Country Duties at *Beaufort* | 1,901 | 12 | 8 | |
| | | | | | 18,515 18 6 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17th. Balance of Orders issued in 1755 for defence of his Majesty's rights.. | £192 | 10 | 0 | | | | |
| Ditto issued in 1757, for *Howarth's* Regiment | 3,892 | 10 | 0 | | | | |
| Ditto, 1757, for Fortifications | 370 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Ditto, 1760, for *Lyttleton's* Expedition | 218 | 15 | 0 | | | | |
| Ditto issued in 1760, for *Middleton's* Regiment | 2,290 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Ditto, 1762, for *Cherokee* Trade | 565 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Ditto, 1767 and 1768, for the Exchange, &c. | 27,322 | 10 | 0 | | | | |
| Ditto, 1770, for Court-House and Jails | 34,728 | 15 | 0 | | | | |
| New lawful Bills issued in 1770 | 14,547 | 11 | 3 | | | | |
| Of Tax Certificates from the year 1758 to 1769, both inclusive | 75,940 | 0 | 0 | | 160,067 | 11 | 3 |
| | | | | | £433,304 | 16 | 2 |

The following Balances in favour of the Joint Publick Treasurers to the 30th April, 1776:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st. On account of the fund for building the Court-Houses and Jails | £37,146 | 14 | 11 | | | |
| 2d. Advanced to pay the Watch Company | 19,264 | 19 | 1 | £56,411 | 14 | 0 |
| 3d. Deficiency of the General Tax collected in 1769 | 5,118 | 7 | 10 | | | |
| 4th. Ditto of General Tax collected in 1771 | 2,329 | 5 | 4 | 7,447 | 13 | 2 |
| 5th. Bounty on Silk Manufactory | 3,000 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 6th. Commissioners of the Markets | 5,530 | 2 | 7 | | | |
| 7th. Bounty on Flax, Linen and Thread | 201 | 7 | 0 | | | |
| 8th. Balance due from the estate of *Jacob Motte*, Esquire | 59,474 | 19 | 5 | | | |
| 9th. Advanced the Vestry and Church-Wardens of *St. Michael's* Parish | 1,500 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 10th. Advanced the Vestry and Church-Wardens of *St. Philip's* Parish | 4,000 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 11th. Bounty on Hemp | 46,099 | 9 | 6 | | | |
| 12th. Amount of Moneys advanced from the 1st *January*, 1769, to this day, per accounts | 59,751 | 10 | 9 | | | |
| 13th. Paid by order of the Commissioners for issuing the lawful Bills in 1770 | 2,298 | 15 | 10 | | | |
| 14th. Paid the Judges and Attorney-General | 66,954 | 15 | 3 | 248,811 | 0 | 4 |
| 15th. Allowed for exchanging £40,000 of new lawful Bills issued in 1752 and 1761 for the old | 250 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 16th. Burnt of the lawful Bills in 1748 | 7,604 | 10 | 0 | 7,854 | 10 | 0 |
| 17th. Five Orders burnt and destroyed which were issued in 1742 for the assistance of *Georgia* | | | | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | 320,549 | 17 | 6 |
| Balance in favour of the Publick | | | | 112,754 | 18 | 8 |
| | | | | £433,304 | 16 | 2 |

By which there appears a balance in favour of the publick of one hundred and twelve thousand seven hundred and fifty-four pounds eighteen shillings and eight pence, currency, (exclusive of thirty thousand eight hundred and eighty-two pounds twelve shillings and four pence, currency, paid the Judges and Attorney-General, which has been disallowed by the House,) which balance your Commissioners have received in the following manner:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 533 old lawful Bills of £20 | £10,660 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 1750¾ do. 10 | 17,507 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 1446¼ do. 5 | 7,231 | 5 | 0 | | | |
| 2110¼ do. 2 | 4,220 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 6191½ do. 20s | 6,191 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 4062¾ do. 10s | 2,031 | 7 | 6 | | | |
| 5529 do. 7s. 6d. | 2,073 | 7 | 6 | | | |
| 1204 do. 6s. 3d. | 376 | 5 | 0 | | | |
| 2585¼ do. 5s | 646 | 6 | 3 | | | |
| 2039 do. 2s. 6d. | 254 | 17 | 6 | 51,192 | 18 | 9 |
| 30¾ new lawful Bills of £20 | 615 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 50¼ do. 10 | 502 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| 17¾ do. 5 | 88 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| 30⅞ do. 2 | 61 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| 61 do. 20s. | 61 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 77 do. 6s. 3d. | 24 | 1 | 3 | 1,353 | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | £52,546 | 0 | 0 |

Which sum of fifty-two thousand five hundred and forty-six pounds has been since when this State was attacked by the *British* forces, burnt by order of his Excellency the President, the same being so torn and obliterated as to be wholly unpassable, and it being also difficult to remove it then out of town with the other publick money.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 new lawful Bills of £20 | £60 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 4 do. 10 | 40 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 2 do. 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 104 | 0 | 0 |
| 107¾ Tax Certificates of £50 | | | | 5,387 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 ditto *Lyttleton's* Expedition of £50 | 250 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 12¼ ditto ditto £25 | 306 | 5 | 0 | 556 | 5 | 0 |
| 10 *Middleton's* Regiment £20 | | | | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 ditto *Howarth's* Regiment £20 | £60 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| 4¾ ditto ditto £10 | 47 | 10 | 0 | 107 | 10 | 0 |
| 209¼ ditto Exchange £20 | | | | 4,185 | 0 | 0 |
| 189¾ ditto Court-Houses £10 | | | | 1,893 | 15 | 0 |
| 7 ditto Indian trade £10 | | | | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| Certificates issued by the General Assembly, Congress Bills, and Bank Notes | | | | 18,864 | 12 | 0 |
| | | | | £83,914 | 12 | 0 |
| 12 Bonds payable to the King | 11,693 | 12 | 10 | | | |
| 78 Notes payable to *Henry Peronneau* and *Benjamin Dart*, Esquires | 17,146 | 13 | 10 | 28,840 | 6 | 8 |
| | | | | £112,754 | 18 | 8 |

All which your Commissioners have paid into the hands of the Commissioners of the Treasury, and taken their receipt for the same.

Your Commissioners have also examined the accounts of the Powder-Receiver, and find that the Powder which ought to have been in the Magazine on the 8th day of *January*, 1776, amounts to thirteen thousand five hundred and thirty-seven pounds weight, after deducting one thousand one hundred pounds weight, said to be taken out of the Magazine at *Hobeau* by persons unknown; charging the said Powder at ten shillings per pound weight, amounts to £6,768 10 0

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deduct one quarter's salary of the Deputy Powder-Receiver and Watchmen, which became due previous to an order of the House to discontinue the same, | £190 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Paid Carpenter mending the door of the Magazine, | 10 | 7 | 6 | | | |
| Blacksmith mending the Lock, | 1 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | 201 | 17 | 6 |
| | | | | £6,566 | 12 | 6 |

Balance due to the publick by the Powder-Receiver being £6,566 12*s.* 6*d.* currency; which sum and balance your Commissioners have paid into the publick Treasury in the following manner, viz:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| By *Thomas Savage* and *Edward Blake's* bond, dated *October* 10th, 1776, on interest, for | £2,500 | 0 | 0 |
| By *Samuel Prioleau*, Jun., and *Samuel Prioleau's* bond of same date for | 2,200 | 0 | 0 |
| By *Samuel Prioleau* and *Samuel Prioleau*, Jun.'s, bond of same date for | 1,200 | 0 | 0 |
| By *John Gaborial* and *Timothy Crosby's* bond of same date for | 390 | 0 | 0 |
| By Cash paid, | 276 | 12 | 6 |
| | £6,566 | 12 | 6 |

For which amount your Committee have the Commissioners of the Treasury's Receipt herewith to produce.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten of the clock.

—

Wednesday, the 16th day of October, 1776.

The House met agreeable to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this House that the Commissioners of the Navy do forthwith furnish and supply Colonel *Gadsden* with all the assistance, of vessels and hands, in their power to procure, to carry on the publick work he is now about; and that a copy of this Resolution be served on the said Commissioners.

Mr. *Neufville* reported from the Committee to consider and report to the House proper ways and means of supplying the Treasury in the recess of the House with such moneys as may be immediately wanted for the publick service, and how the moneys issued that have been counterfeited may best be called in and the counterfeiting of the same prevented. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds be emitted in bills of one to ten dollars, which, with the emissions of Congress, will make an even sum of two millions; and to authorize and empower the Commissioners of the Treasury, when they shall be so ordered to do by the President, with the advice of the Privy Council, to obtain on loan from any persons disposed to lend the same, such sums as the

exigencies of the State may require, and to pay interest at the rate of six per centum per annum; that it be recommended to all Magistrates to be vigilant and attentive in apprehending and conveying to Jail every person who shall counterfeit or utter, knowing them to be counterfeit, the certificates issued by the late Houses of Assembly or the Continental or Colonial currency which hath been already or shall be hereafter issued; and that the law be duly executed for punishing of this offence."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the Report being taken into consideration accordingly, was amended and agreed to, in the following words:

"That it is their opinion, and they therefore recommend, that one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds be emitted in bills of one to ten dollars, which, with the emissions of Congress, will make an even sum of two millions; and that the Commissioners of the Treasury be authorized and empowered, when they shall be so ordered to do by the President, with the advice of the Privy Council, to obtain on loan from any persons or bodies corporate disposed to lend the same, such sums as the exigencies of the State may require, not exceeding the sum of five hundred thousand pounds currency, and to pay interest for the same at the rate of six per centum per annum. That a Message be sent to the President to desire that he will issue his Proclamation, ordering and requiring all Magistrates to be vigilant and attentive in causing to be apprehended and sent to Jail, for due trial, every person who shall be accused of counterfeiting or uttering, knowing them to be counterfeit, the certificates issued by the late Houses of Assembly or the Continental or Colonial currency, which hath been already or shall be hereafter issued."

The Honourable Mr. *Edwards* reported that Mr. *De Saussure* and himself had attended the Legislative Council with the Message they had in charge.

Message from the Legislative Council, by their Clerk:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: In answer to your Message of yesterday's date, desiring to be informed if this House had agreed to the resolution of your House of the 11th instant, 'That the Commissioners of the Treasury, as 'a further encouragement to the commander and the mariners 'belonging to the vessel called the *Revenge*, do pay and advance to the said commander and men, out of the amount 'of the sales of the cargo taken on board the transport brig-'antine called the *Glasgow Packet*, one-sixth of the net 'amount of sales of said cargo,' we acquaint you that this House, upon considering the said resolution, thought proper to reject the same.

"In the Legislative Council the 16th day of *October*, 1776.

"By order of the House:

"Thomas Shubrick, *Speaker*."

The House proceeded upon the order of the day, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom it was referred to revise the Constitution, and report what alterations or amendments may be necessary to make thereto.

And the first paragraph of the Report being read, was agreed to by the House.

The second paragraph of the Report being read, was disagreed to, and ordered to be struck out.

Upon reading the third paragraph, a debate arose; and a motion being made that the number of members of the Legislative Council be increased to twenty-one, the question was put, and it passed in the negative.

Another motion was made, that the number of members of the Legislative Council be increased to seventeen; and the question being put, it also passed in the negative.

A motion was then made, that the paragraph be altered by striking out the word "4th," and inserting in its stead the word "2d;" and also by striking out the words "so that no vacancies hereafter happening in the General Assembly by the election of any member into the Legislative Council be filled up by a new election," and inserting instead thereof the words "and that each Parish and District throughout the State shall elect one member of the Legislative Council." And the question being put, resolved in the affirmative.

An adjournment of the House being then moved for and seconded, the question was put, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

*Ordered*, That the further consideration of the Report on the Constitution be resumed to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Thursday, the 17th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

The House proceeded to a third reading of a Bill for maintaining and keeping three Watch companies in *Charles-Town*. It appearing that the Legislative Council had made several alterations and inserted several amendments in this Bill, and it being a Money Bill,

*Ordered*, That the Clerk of this House do rase all such alterations and amendments as appear to have been made by the Legislative Council, and restore the Bill to the same state in which it was sent from this House.

Which being done accordingly, the Honourable Mr. *Heyward* moved the House for leave to bring in some additional clauses to the Bill. And the same being received, were severally read three times, agreed to by the House, and ordered to be made parts of the Bill. And the Bill being read a third time,

*Resolved*, That the Bill do pass; and that the title be "An Act."

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Joshua Toomer* and Mr. *Legare* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

Mr. *Toomer* reported that Mr. *Legare* and himself had delivered the Bill they had in charge to the Legislative Council.

The House then resumed, according to the order of the day, the consideration of the Report of the Committee to whom it was referred to revise the Constitution, and report what alterations or amendments may be necessary to make thereto.

And the fourth paragraph of the said Report being read, was unanimously agreed to by the House.

The fifth paragraph being read, was also agreed to.

Upon reading the sixth paragraph, a debate arose; and a motion being made, and the question put, that the said paragraph be amended by inserting the word "taxable" between "and" and "property," resolved in the affirmative. The said paragraph being read throughout as amended, a motion was made, and the question put, that the House do agree to the paragraph as it now stands. Whereupon the House divided; and the nays went forth. Teller for the noes Colonel *Gadsden*—30; teller for the yeas Honourable Mr. *Bee*—30. So Mr. Speaker decided by voting with the yeas.

The seventh paragraph being read, was unanimously agreed to.

The eighth paragraph being read, was also agreed to by the House.

Upon reading the first clause of the ninth paragraph, for appointing a Chancellor, a debate arose; and the question being put to agree with that clause, resolved in the affirmative. The second and third clauses of the said paragraph being read, were severally agreed to.

The tenth, eleventh, and twelfth paragraphs were then read, and severally unanimously agreed to by the House.

Upon reading the thirteenth and last paragraph, a debate ensued. After some time spent therein, the question being put on a motion to agree with that part of the Report, it passed in the negative.

*Ordered*, That the preamble to the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: I send you a letter which I received from Colonel *Moultrie*, with a list of men in the Second Regiment who have been disabled in the service of this State, and doubt not that you will make suitable provision for them. "John Rutledge.

"17th October, 1776."

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen: In the month of *April* I was informed by Lieutenant-Colonel *Sumpter* that, imagin-

ing Mr. *Richbourg*, a Lieutenant in Captain *Richardson's* company, had been promoted to the command of it when he resigned his commission, (as Mr. *Richardson* assured them he would be,) he sent *Richbourg* on the recruiting service, who soon raised a considerable number of men, with which he was about to join the regiment, when he was told (which Colonel *Sumpter* did not know till a short time before) that Mr. *Blessingham* had been appointed Captain instead of *Richardson*. Having laid this matter before the Council, they were of opinion that the number of companies in the regiment being fixed by Congress, could not be increased but by the legislative authority. It was evident, however, that discharging these men would have been injurious to the country; they were therefore formed into an independent company, as the only expedient for keeping them together, but have hitherto done duty with the Sixth Regiment. It would save considerable expense to the publick, and appears to me expedient, to add this company to that regiment, and the two independent companies of Artillery at *Beaufort* and *George-Town* to the Fourth Regiment. I therefore recommend this subject to your consideration.

"JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"17th October, 1776."

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House a Bill for maintaining and keeping three Watch companies in *Charles-Town*; read a third time in that House.

*Ordered*, That the Bill be engrossed.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Friday, the 18th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Trapier* and Mr. *Keating Simons* do, with some member of the Legislative Council, examine and compare with the originals an engrossed Ordinance for allowing and keeping in repair a Pilot Boat, to attend the bar and harbour of *Beaufort*, and for settling and regulating the pilotage of the said harbour; and an engrossed act for establishing and keeping three Watch companies in *Charles-Town*.

Captain *Trapier* reported that the Ordinance and Act they had in charge had been examined and compared according to order, and were found truly engrossed.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Trapier* and Mr. *Simons* do wait on the President, to desire that the seal may be affixed to the said Ordinance and Act, and to know when his Excellency will please to receive this House, to present the same for his assent.

The House then proceeded on the order of the day, to consider the Preamble to the Report of the Committee that were appointed to revise the Constitution, and report such alterations or amendments as might be necessary to make thereto. And the said Preamble being read, was agreed to by the House. And the Report, as amended by the House and agreed to, is as followeth:

"That inasmuch as the Constitution or form of Government, agreed to and resolved upon on the 26th day of *March* last, was calculated for and suited to the then situation of publick affairs, and looking forward to an accommodation of differences with *Great Britain* (an event then desired) was temporary only: And whereas the *American* States are now constituted independent States, and the political connection heretofore subsisting between them and *Great Britain* dissolved, and it therefore becomes necessary, in order to render more perfect and to perpetuate the said Constitution and form of Government, that some amendments should be made thereto, your Committee therefore humbly recommend the following:

"I. That instead of Province or Colony, the style hereafter be, the State of *South-Carolina*.

"II. That the second article of the Constitution be altered, and that each Parish and District throughout this State shall elect one member of the Legislative Council.

"III. That the number of the Privy Council, mentioned in the fifth article of the Constitution, be increased to nine members, including the Vice-President; four to be chosen by each House, either out of the Houses respectively or from the people at large. The quorum to consist of five.

"IV. That the tenth article of the Constitution shall not be construed to vacate the seat of any member who is or may be a Delegate from this State to the Continental Congress, as such.

"V. That when the House can possess itself of proper information, so as to estimate the particular and comparative strength and taxable property of the different parts of the State, that then the House do proceed to a reduction of the present representation, in the most equal and just proportion, regard being always had to the number of white inhabitants and taxable property of the people.

"VI. That no future President or Commander-in-Chief that shall serve for two years, shall be eligible to serve in the said office after the expiration of the said term until the full end and term of six years.

"VII. That in case of the sickness or absence from *Charles-Town* of the President and Commander-in-Chief, the Vice-President, being empowered thereto by the President, shall act in his stead during such sickness or absence, agreeable to the law passed the 6th of *April* last.

"VIII. That a Chancellor be appointed to preside in the Court of Chancery; and that the sixteenth article of the Constitution, giving power to the Vice-President and Privy Council to exercise the powers of a Court of Chancery, be annulled. That the House do also appoint or direct, that proper persons be empowered in the several Districts in this State, to prove wills, grant administrations, and do such other matters as are incident to a Court of Ordinary, that the people of this State may avoid the great expense and trouble of coming to *Charles-Town* on every such occasion. That a Court of Appeals be also established in this State, and Judges appointed, to consist of not less than five persons, to have cognizance in all matters of errour. That they be elected and commissioned in the same manner the other Judges are directed to be, and liable to be removed as in the twentieth clause.

"IX. That the Collectors and Comptrollers of Country Duties be balloted for and appointed in the same manner as the other officers are directed to be by the twenty-second article of the Constitution.

"X. That all Resolutions of the Continental Congress shall be of full force until altered by them.

"XI. That the oath enjoined to be taken by all persons appointed to any place of trust, be amended, by leaving out the words 'until an accommodation of differences between *Great Britain* and *America* shall take place.'"

*Ordered*, That the said Report, as agreed to by the House, be forthwith printed.

The House being moved for leave to bring in a Bill to comprise all the alterations and amendments recommended in the said Report,

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in such a Bill. And that the same Committee who made the Report do prepare and bring in the same.

*Ordered*, That the President's two Messages of yesterday be referred to a Committee. And they are referred to the Honourable Mr. *Heyward*, Major *Huger*, and Major *Simons*.

A Bill to empower the Court of Admiralty to have jurisdiction in all cases of capture of the ships and other vessels of the inhabitants and subjects of *Great Britain*, to establish the trial by Jury in the said court in cases of capture, and for the other purposes therein mentioned, was read a third time.

*Resolved*, That the Bill do pass; and that the title be "An Act."

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Verree* and Mr. *Macpherson* do carry the Bill to the Legislative Council for their concurrence.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN: I send you a letter just received by express from Colonel *Williamson*, and congratulate you most heartily upon the success of our arms, and those of *North-Carolina*, against the *Cherokee Indians*. If time will admit your considering what steps should be taken for the defence and security of the back settlements against *Indian* incursions, I shall be glad of your advice on that subject; if not, I will (with your approbation) give

orders for such as shall appear most effectual for that purpose. "JOHN RUTLEDGE.

"18th October, 1776."

Read the Letter referred to in the above Message. [Which was, immediately after the reading thereof, returned to his Excellency the President, and therefore could not be entered in this place.]

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. SPEAKER: His Excellency the President is now in the Council Chamber, ready to receive this House with the Bill and Ordinance they have to present."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr. Speaker, with the House, accordingly attended the President in the Council Chamber. And being returned, Mr. Speaker reported that this House having attended the President in the Council Chamber, he had presented to his Excellency an Ordinance for allowing and keeping in repair a Pilot-Boat, to attend the bar and harbour of *Beaufort*, and for settling and regulating the pilotage of the said harbour; and also an act for establishing and keeping three Watch companies in *Charles-Town*. To both of which he had been pleased to give his assent.

A Petition of *Thomas Lamar* was presented to the House and read, in the words following:

"That the petitioner has undertaken to act in the capacity of Post-rider from the upper parts of *Savannah* river, near *Augusta*, to *Charles-Town*, since the 28th of *June* last. That he has been down seven times since, and always brought despatches from the Commissioner of *Indian* Affairs, and other gentlemen, to the President, on publick service. That the petitioner has waited in *Charles-Town* for his Excellency's answers, by which means he has been detained for some days at a great expense, and has never received any consideration for such services. That the petitioner is willing to engage for a moderate compensation to continue to ride twice in every month, and to carry all despatches on the service of the State. The petitioner prays for an allowance for his past services, or a fixed sum by the year, as to the honourable House shall seem meet," &c.

*Ordered*, That the Petition be referred to a Committee.

And it is referred to the Honourable Mr. *Edwards*, Colonel *Gervais*, and Mr. *Gibbes*.

A Petition of *Quintin Pooler* was presented to the House and read.

*Ordered*, That the Petition do lie on the table.

The Honourable Mr. *Heyward* reported from the Committee to whom were referred the President's two Messages of yesterday's date. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That it is their opinion Captain *Richbourg's* independent company [should be added to the Sixth Regiment. And that the Artillery company at *Georgetown* be augmented to one hundred men, and added, together with the Artillery company] at *Beaufort*, to the Fourth Regiment. That the Third and Fourth Regiments be augmented to six hundred men each, and that a Colonel be appointed to each of the said regiments. That Sergeant *John Young*, of Captain *McDonald's* company, who lost his right leg in the engagement on *Sullivant's Island*, the 28th of *June*, be allowed ninety pounds per annum, to be paid quarterly. That *George Mason*, of Captain *Francis Huger's* company, who lost his leg in the said engagement, be allowed eighty pounds per annum, to be paid quarterly. That *James Sims*, of Captain *Harleston's* company, who lost his right leg in the service of this State, be allowed fifty pounds per annum, to be paid quarterly. That *Robert Wade*, of Captain *Motte's* company, who was wounded in his right arm by a shell in the aforesaid engagement, which has rendered it entirely useless, be allowed fifty pounds per annum, to be paid quarterly. That *Thomas Smith*, of Captain *John Blake's* company, who lost the two middle fingers of his right hand in the aforesaid engagement, be allowed twenty pounds per annum, to be paid quarterly. And there be immediately advanced to each of the said persons the first quarterly payment of his annuity."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the same being taken into consideration accordingly,

*Resolved*, That this House do agree with the Report of the Committee.

*Ordered*, That Major *Simons*, Mr. *Cannon*, and Mr. *Toomer*, be a Committee to receive the names of candidates for the command of the three Watch companies to be raised for *Charles-Town*; that they do sit this afternoon, and that they give publick notice thereof.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That a Message be sent to his Excellency the President, to desire that he will write to our Delegates at the Continental Congress, and state to them our particular circumstances, and the great difficulty we have in recruiting our quota of men within the State. That in order to comply with the recommendation of the Continental Congress to take the most speedy and effectual means to recruit our quota of men, we had voted ten dollars additional bounty, over and above the Continental bounty, to every recruit who should inlist in either of our regiments on the Continental establishment to serve during the war, besides clothing to the value of twenty-five pounds currency annually; but that we had received accounts from Captain *Adam McDonald*, one of our recruiting officers, that he had been absolutely forbid to recruit in the States of *Virginia* and *North-Carolina*, by the supreme authority in those States; that such prohibition will entirely disable us from completing our regiments to the full establishment, will be prejudicial to this State in particular and the Continent in general, as it will incapacitate us from affording that assistance to our sister States that we desire to give, and lay us under the necessity of requiring of them greater assistance, should we be again attacked, than we should otherwise have occasion for; and that our Delegates do use such means as to them shall seem proper, to get the said prohibition withdrawn.

Colonel *Pinckney* moved the House for leave to bring in an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners to stamp and sign one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds currency in dollars, and for empowering the President and Commander-in-Chief for the time being, with the advice of the Privy Council, to borrow on loan any sum or sums not exceeding five hundred thousand Pounds currency, at the rate of six pounds per centum per annum.

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in such a Bill.

And then the House adjourned until five of the clock, in the afternoon.

—

Five o'clock, P. M.

The House met according to adjournment.

Major *Simons* reported from the Committee to receive the names of candidates for Captains of the three Watch companies. And he read the list of candidates in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read.

*Ordered*, That the List be affixed to the wainscot for the perusal of the members.

A Message being sent to the Legislative Council, to desire the attendance of its members in the General Assembly, in order to ballot jointly with the members of this House for the Captains of the three Watch companies, their Honours attended accordingly. The members of both Houses then proceeded to ballot for the said three Captains. And the ballots being reckoned, Mr. Speaker reported that *John McCall*, Jun., and *John Brewton*, Esquire, having the votes of a majority of the members present, were duly elected Captains of two of the said companies.

The members of both Houses then proceeded to vote for a Captain of the third Watch company. And the ballots being cast up, Mr. Speaker reported that *John Lining*, Esq., was duly elected Captain of the third Watch company.

The Honourable Mr. *Edwards* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *Thomas Lamar* was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That in the opinion of the Committee it will be very beneficial to the publick service at this juncture, to encourage a post-rider from the upper parts of *Savannah* river, as by that means intelligence will be frequently received of the disposition of the *Creek* nation, and despatches for *Ninety-*

*Six* and Colonel *Williamson* may be regularly conveyed from Colonel *Hammond's*, where the petitioner will carry them from *Charles-Town*. The Committee recommend that upon his engaging to go twice in every month from this day to the 28th *June*, 1777, he shall be allowed three hundred pounds currency for his services."

*Ordered*, That the Report be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Colonel *Pinckney*, according to order, presented to the House an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners to stamp and sign one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds currency in dollars, and for empowering the President and Commander-in-Chief for the time being, with the advice of the Privy Council, to borrow on loan any sum or sums not exceeding five hundred thousand Pounds currency, at the rate of six pounds, like money, per centum per annum.

And the same was received and read the first time.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be read a second time. And the same being read accordingly,

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Roger Smith* and Colonel *Pinckney* do carry the Ordinance to the Legislative Council.

Major *Cattell* reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *Philip Will* was referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That the Committee are of opinion that the Barrack-master of *Charles-Town* should be allowed by this State the sum of six hundred pounds for the services of that officer, or appointment from the 5th day of *March* last until the present time; and also in future, the annual sum of one thousand pounds, to be paid him yearly, from such time as this House shall allow the same, in recompense for the future services of that office, and all such deputies as he shall employ in the same."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into immediate consideration.

And the same being taken into consideration accordingly, was amended and agreed to, in the words following:

"That the Committee are of opinion that the Barrack-master of *Charles-Town* should be allowed by this State at the rate of one thousand pounds currency per annum, from the 5th day of *March* last, to be paid him in equal moieties half yearly."

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners to stamp and sign one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds currency, in dollars, and for empowering the President and Commander-in-Chief for the time being, with the advice of the Privy Council, to borrow on loan any sum or sums not exceeding five hundred thousand Pounds currency, at the rate of six pounds, like money, per centum per annum. Read twice in that House.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be read a third time; and the same being read accordingly,

*Resolved*, That the Ordinance do pass.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be sent to the Legislative Council for their concurrence; and that Colonel *Pinckney* and Mr. *Ralph Izard* do carry the same.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury do advance and pay to the Commissioners for the High-Roads on *Charles-Town* Neck, or any of them, the arrears due for repairing the said roads, amounting to three hundred and fifty Pounds, to be hereafter assessed upon the inhabitants of *Charles-Town*.

The House then took under consideration the President's Message of the 15th instant relative to the Crown Officers, and certain persons confined in *Georgetown* and *Cheraws* Jails; and came to the following Resolution upon the first parts thereof, to wit:

"That such of the Crown Officers as choose to depart the State, may be conveyed to *Europe*, or the *West Indies*, at the publick expense; and that such others of them as decline going shall be allowed such liberty as the President and Privy Council may think not inconsistent with the safety of the State."

*Ordered*, That the consideration of the latter part of the said Message be postponed till to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine of the clock.

—

Saturday, the 19th day of October, 1776.

The House met according to adjournment. Read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House have resolved to make provision for defraying the expense of repairing the Publick Buildings, and desire that your Excellency will give orders that they may be repaired accordingly."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House being informed that Captain *Adam McDonald* had been absolutely forbid to recruit in the States of *Virginia* and *North-Carolina*, by the supreme authority in those States, we request that your Excellency will be pleased to write to our Delegates at the Continental Congress, and state to them our particular circumstances, and the great difficulty we have in recruiting our quota of men within this State; that, in order to comply with the recommendation of the Continental Congress to take the most speedy and effectual means to recruit our quota of men, we had voted ten dollars additional bounty, over and above the Continental bounty, to every recruit who should inlist in either of our regiments on the Continental establishment to serve during the war, besides clothing to the value of twenty-five pounds currency, annually; but that we had received accounts from Captain *Adam McDonald*, one of our recruiting officers, that he had been absolutely forbid to recruit in the States of *Virginia* and *North-Carolina*, by the supreme authority in those States; that such prohibition will entirely disable us from completing our regiments to the full establishment, will be prejudicial to this State in particular, and the Continent in general, as it will incapacitate us from affording that assistance to our sister States that we desire to give, and lay us under the necessity of requiring of them greater assistance, should we be again attacked, than we should otherwise have occasion for; and that our Delegates do use such means as to them shall seem proper to get the said prohibition withdrawn."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House, being informed that the trade of this place is subject to many inconveniences by the delay attending vessels being obliged to call at *Fort Johnson* and *Fort Moultrie*, both in going out and coming in, request your Excellency will give orders that, in future, vessels coming in may only be obliged to call at *Fort Moultrie*, and going out at *Fort Johnson*, and may be allowed to pass by some proper signal from the fort they first pass."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Ladson* and Mr. *Young* do attend the President with the three foregoing Messages.

The Clerk of the Legislative Council brought from that House an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners to stamp and sign one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds currency, in dollars, and for empowering the President and Commander-in-Chief for the time being, with the advice of the Privy Council, to borrow on loan any sum or sums not exceeding five hundred thousand Pounds currency, at the rate of six pounds, like money, per centum per annum. Read a third time in that House.

*Ordered*, That the Ordinance be engrossed.

*Ordered*, That the Honourable Mr. *Hayward* and Mr. *Ladson* do, with a member of the Legislative Council, examine and compare the Ordinance with the original draught.

The Honourable Mr. *Heyward* reported that Mr. *Ladson* and himself, with a member of the Legislative Council, had examined and compared the Ordinance, and that they found the same truly engrossed.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Ladson* and Mr. *Young* do attend

the President with the said engrossed Ordinance, in order to have the seal affixed thereto, and to desire to know when his Excellency will receive this House to present the same for his assent.

Mr. *Ladson* reported that Mr. *Young* and himself having attended the President with the Ordinance, and the three several Messages they had in charge, his Excellency was pleased to say he would acquaint the House when he should be ready to receive them to present the Ordinance, and that he would issue the necessary Orders requested in the several Messages.

*Resolved*, That a reward of five hundred Pounds currency be offered to informers for every person they shall inform against for counterfeiting or uttering, knowing them to be counterfeit, the certificates issued by the late Houses of Assembly, or the Continental or Colonial currency, which already hath been, or hereafter shall be, issued, to be paid upon conviction of such offenders. And that this House will provide for the payment of such rewards.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House request that your Excellency will be pleased to issue your Proclamation, ordering and requiring all Magistrates to be vigilant and attentive in causing to be apprehended and conveyed to jail for due trial, every person who shall be accused of counterfeiting or uttering, knowing them to be counterfeit, the certificates issued by the late Houses of Assembly, or the Continental or Colonial currency, which hath been already, or shall be hereafter issued. And promising a reward of five hundred pounds to informers against such offenders for every person they shall inform against, upon conviction of the offender; for the payment of which reward this House will provide."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

Message from the President, by the Clerk of the Legislative Council:

"Mr. SPEAKER: His Excellency the President is now in the Council Chamber, ready to receive this House with the Ordinance they have to present."

And then the Messenger withdrew.

Mr. Speaker, with the House, accordingly attended the President in the Council Chamber. And being returned, Mr. Speaker reported that this House having attended the President in the Council Chamber, he had presented to his Excellency an Ordinance for appointing Commissioners to stamp and sign one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds currency in dollars, and for empowering the President and Commander-in-Chief, for the time being, with the advice of the Privy Council, to borrow, on loan, any sum or sums not exceeding five hundred thousand Pounds currency, at the rate of six pounds, like money, per centum per annum; to which his Excellency had been pleased to give his assent.

Colonel *Pinckney* reported from the Committee to whom the President's Message of the 8th instant, with Brigadier-General *Howe's* letter, were referred. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That in the opinion of the Committee the State is obliged to General *Howe* for his attention to its defence; and that although it has not been in their power to examine every particular place where it may be necessary to erect fortifications, yet they think it evident that some other works on *Sullivant's Island* and *Haddrel's Point* are absolutely necessary. The Committee likewise think that the casing the brick work at *Fort Johnson* with palmettos is proper. They also warmly recommend the speedy procuring, arming, and manning some row-galleys as a measure of very great importance. In a country so extensive as ours, it is impossible for the Committee to point out every part where it may be necessary to erect works of defence; and they are of opinion the publick service will be best promoted by giving the Executive power the sanction and support of this House for the execution of every measure necessary for the security and defence of this State, and that the House do come to a resolution for that purpose. The Committee likewise recommend the procuring of some wagons, and beg leave to mention that Major *Simons* has offered his services in getting some from *Philadelphia*, which he will deliver here at the original cost. The Committee are also of opinion that the cattle and stock should be removed from *Bull's Island*, *Caper's Island*, *Kayawah Island*, the *Hunting Islands*, *Dawfuskee Island*, and *South Island*. The Committee likewise recommend that six battalions of Minute-men, of five hundred rank and file each, should be raised for the defence of this State, and that each battalion should be divided into ten companies, and officered by a Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, ten Captains, ten Lieutenants, ten Ensigns, an Adjutant, and a Quartermaster. The Committee cannot conclude their report without desiring that it may be recommended to the President to use every means in his power to procure us a quantity of ammunition, and a number of good muskets, with bayonets and iron ramrods, large cannon, some light field-pieces, and a few mortars and howitzes, with shells."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into immediate consideration.

The Report was taken into consideration accordingly. And the first paragraph thereof being read, was agreed to by the House.

The second paragraph being read, was, after some debate, ordered to be struck out.

The third paragraph being read and amended, a debate ensued; and the question being put that the House do agree thereto, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

The fourth paragraph being read, was amended and agreed to.

The fifth paragraph being read, was also agreed to by the House.

A motion was then made and seconded, that another paragraph be added to the said Report, which being agreed to, the following was accordingly added, viz:

"The Committee recommend that his Excellency be desired to give directions to the Attorney-General to prosecute all such Commissioners of the high-roads and keepers of publick ferries in this State as neglect their duty."

And the paragraph being agreed to, the Report, as amended and agreed to by the House, is as followeth:

"That in the opinion of the Committee the State is obliged to General *Howe* for his attention to its defence, and that although it has not been in their power to examine every particular place where it may be necessary to erect fortifications, yet they think it evident that some other works on *Sullivant's Island* and *Haddrel's Point* are absolutely necessary. The Committee likewise think that the casing the brick-work at *Fort Johnson* is proper. They also warmly recommend the speedy procuring, arming, and manning some row-galleys, as a measure of very great importance. In a country so extensive as ours, it is impossible for the Committee to point out every part where it may be necessary to erect works of defence; and they are of opinion the publick service will be best promoted by giving the Executive power the sanction and support of this House for the execution of every measure necessary for the security and defence of the State, and that the House do come to a resolution to that purpose. The Committee are of opinion that the cattle and stock should be removed from *Bull's Island*, *Caper's Island*, *Kayawah Island*, the *Hunting Islands*, *Dawfuskee Island*, *Pinckney's Island*, *Carlton Island*, *South Island*, *Cole's Island*, *Folly Island*, and *Murphy's Island*. The Committee likewise recommend that leave be given to bring in a bill for establishing six battalions of Minute-men, of five hundred rank and file each, to be raised for the defence of this State; and that each battalion should be divided into ten companies, and officered by a Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, ten Captains, ten Lieutenants, ten Ensigns, an Adjutant, and a Quartermaster. The Committee cannot conclude their report without desiring that it may be recommended to the President to use every means in his power to procure us a quantity of ammunition, and a number of muskets, with bayonets and iron ramrods, large cannon, some light field-pieces, and a few mortars and howitzers with shells. The Committee recommend that his Excellency be desired to give directions to the Attorney-General to prosecute all such Commissioners of the high-roads and keepers of publick ferries in this State as neglect their duty."

*Ordered*, That a Message be prepared to be sent with

a copy of the foregoing Report to the President; also, in answer to his Excellency's Message of the 18th instant, with Colonel *Williamson's* Letter; and also, to acquaint his Excellency of the election of the Captains for the three Watch companies in *Charles-Town*.

The following Message was accordingly prepared, viz:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: In answer to your Excellency's message of the 18th instant, accompanied with a letter from Brigadier-General *Howe* to your Excellency, and also, to your Excellency's message of the 18th instant, with Colonel *Williamson's* letter, we acquaint your Excellency that the House referred the former message and letter to the consideration of a Committee, a copy of whose report thereupon, as agreed to by the House, we herewith send you. And as to the latter, the House have not now time to consider what steps should be taken for the security and defence of the back settlers against *Indian* incursions, therefore desire that your Excellency will, with the advice of the Privy Council, give orders for such as shall appear most effectual for that purpose; and that your Excellency may remain assured of the sanction and support of this House in every measure necessary for the security and defence of the State. We also think it proper to acquaint your Excellency that the Legislative Council and this House jointly have voted *John McCall*, *John Brewton*, and *John Lining*, Esqs., proper persons to be commissioned as Captains of the Watch companies in *Charles-Town*, and request that your Excellency will give them commissions accordingly."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Resolved, unanimously*, That the thanks of this House be returned to Colonel *Andrew Williamson*, and the officers and men under his command, employed in the late expedition against the *Cherokee Indians*, for their spirited conduct and services to the State upon that expedition; and that Mr. Speaker do forward the same.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: Your Excellency's messages of the 17th instant having been referred to a Committee, they made a report thereon, to which the House agreed; a copy of which report we herewith send your Excellency."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Pinckney* and Captain *Roger Smith* do carry the said Message and the two preceding ones to the President.

The House then proceeded, according to the order of the day, to consider the latter part of the President's Message of the 15th instant.

And the same having been considered accordingly,

*Resolved*, That such of the several persons mentioned in the President's Message of the 15th instant to be in the Jails at *George-Town* and the *Cheraws*, and also such of those confined in *Charles-Town* Jail, on suspicion of being inimical to this country, as shall take the oath of fidelity to this State, shall be forthwith discharged; that such of them as choose to go off the State may be sent off at the expense of the publick; and that such others of them as decline going shall be allowed such liberty as the President and Privy Council may think not inconsistent with the safety of the State.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above Resolve, and also of the Resolve of this House of yesterday, relative to the late Crown Officers, be sent to the President.

Upon motion, *Ordered*, That a Message be prepared to be sent to the President, desiring that his Excellency will recall all the Militia commissions given by the late Governours, and grant new ones to the officers holding such, preserving to them the rank according to the dates of such old commissions.

Message to the President:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: This House having taken into consideration your Excellency's message of the 15th instant, with respect to the Crown Officers and other persons therein mentioned to be confined, came to several resolutions thereupon, copies whereof we herewith send your Excellency. And it being represented to us that several of the Militia officers have no other commissions than those granted by the late Governours, under which it will be highly improper for them to act, we therefore desire your Excellency will recall the old and grant new commissions to such officers, preserving to them their rank, according to the dates of the old commissions."

*Ordered*, That the Message be engrossed, and that Mr. Speaker do sign the same.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Garden* and Mr. *John Berwick* do carry the Message to the President.

Colonel *Pinckney* reported that Captain *Smith* and himself had delivered the three Messages they had in charge to the President.

The Reverend Mr. *Tennent* reported from the Committee to examine into the state of the Jail and the treatment of the prisoners of war. And he read the Report in his place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Clerk's table, where the same was read, and is as followeth:

"That they had attended at the Jail, and made what inquiry they could. They found that the roof of the Jail is so deficient that the inhabitants of it are thereby much exposed. They also found that through want of proper apartments and other inconveniences, the prisoners of war are exposed to a treatment which if continued will not be reputable to this State. They therefore beg leave to recommend that leave be given to bring in an ordinance to establish a Board of Commissioners, to consist of five members, to superintend the repairing and keeping in repair the Jail in *Charles-Town*, as also to superintend from time to time and examine into the treatment of prisoners, and to order such things with respect to the premises as may be reasonable, and reputable to the justice and humanity of this State."

*Resolved*, That the Report be taken into consideration immediately.

And the same being considered accordingly, and agreed to by the House,

*Ordered*, That leave be given to bring in an Ordinance for the purposes recommended in the Report.

Colonel *Garden* reported that Mr. *Berwick* and himself had delivered the Message they had in charge to the President.

It appearing to the House that the late commander and mariners of the armed vessel called the *Revenge* had received no more than two-sixth parts of the net amount of sales of the cargo taken by them on board the transport Brigantine *Glasgow Packet*, and that the other four-sixth parts had been paid into the Treasury, as the share of the State,

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury do advance and pay to Captain *Pickering*, late commander, and the mariners late belonging to the said armed vessel, one-sixth part of the four-sixths of the net amount of the said sales so paid into the Treasury, as a further encouragement for their gallant behaviour in the taking the said Brigantine *Glasgow Packet*.

*Resolved*, That the sum of two thousand Pounds be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury to *Thomas Farr*, Esquire, Paymaster to the Militia, for his past services in that office, and as acting Commissary, and for auditing the Militia accounts from the first day of *November* last; and that this House will make proper and adequate provision for his future services.

Mr. *John Vinyard*, one of the Messengers, having laid before the House an account amounting to fifty-two pounds, currency, which he had been obliged to advance to special Messengers sent by order of the House to members who had refused to pay the same,

*Ordered*, That the Commissioners of the Treasury do pay to and reimburse Mr. *John Vinyard*, one of the Messengers of this House, the sum of fifty-two pounds, currency, by him advanced for carrying letters to members by order of the House.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That this House will make such provision for the Surgeons of the several Continental Regiments raised by this State as to make their pay, including the Continental pay, amount to three pounds, currency, per day; and that a Surgeon's Mate be allowed to the Third

Regiment (of Rangers,) who shall have the same pay as the Surgeon's Mates in the regiments of Infantry are allowed.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That a daily pay of one pound, currency, be allowed and paid to the person acting as Gunner, Barrackmaster and Storekeeper in *Fort Lyttleton*, at *Beaufort*, for those several services.

The House then took into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom the Petition of *Thomas Lamar* was referred.

And the said Report was agreed to by the House.

*Ordered*, That (as there may be some matters which the President ought to be acquainted with, and which may have been omitted to be communicated to him) the Clerk of this House do attend his Excellency, with the Journals thereof, whenever the same may be required.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk of this House do supply Brigadier-General *Howe* with copies of such Orders and Resolutions of this House as respect the Military department, and as he shall require.

And then the House adjourned till to-morrow evening, six of the clock.

—

Sunday Evening, six o'clock, October 20th, 1776.

Mr. Speaker adjourned the meeting of the House till to-morrow.

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MARYLAND CONVENTION.

*Proceedings of the Convention of the Province of* Maryland, *held at the City of* Annapolis, *on* Wednesday, *the 14th of* August, 1776.

At a Convention of the Delegates chosen by the several Counties and Districts, and by the City of *Annapolis* and Town of *Baltimore*, of the Province of *Maryland*, at the City of *Annapolis*, on *Wednesday*, the 14th of *August*, 1776, were present:

For St. Mary's County—*Richard Barnes, Ignatius Fenwick.*

Charles County—*John Dent, Thomas Semmes, John Parnham.*

Calvert County—*Benjamin Mackall, Charles Grahame, William Fitzhugh, John Mackall.*

Prince George's County—*Walter Bowie, Luke Marbury, Osborn Sprigg, Thomas Sim Lee.*

Anne Arundel County—*Rezin Hammond, B. T. B. Worthington, Charles Carroll,* Barrister, *Samuel Chase.*

Frederick County, Lower District—*Thomas S. Wootton, Jonathan Wilson, William Bayly,* Jr., *Elisha Williams.*

Middle District—*Adam Fischer, Upton Sheredine, Christopher Edelen, David Schriver.*

Upper District—*Samuel Beall, John Stull, Henry Schnebely.*

Baltimore County—*Charles Ridgely, Thomas Cockey Deye, John Stevenson, Peter Shepherd.*

Baltimore Town—*John Smith, Jeremiah T. Chase.*

Harford County—*Jacob Bond, Henry Wilson,* Jr., *John Love, John Archer.*

Cecil County—*Joseph Gilpin, Patrick Ewing, David Smith.*

Talbot County—*Matthew Tilghman.*

The Convention proceeded to the choice of a President; and the Hon. *Matthew Tilghman*, Esq., was unanimously elected.

The Convention appointed Mr. *Gabriel Duvall* Clerk.

*Ordered*, That he qualify himself as such, by taking oath that he will honestly, diligently, and faithfully discharge the office of Clerk to the Convention of *Maryland*, and that he will not disclose or reveal the secrets thereof.

Mr. *Allen Quynn* was appointed Messenger, and Mr. *Robert Reynolds* Doorkeeper.

*Ordered*, That they severally qualify themselves as such, by taking the oath of office and secrecy, as above directed to be taken by the Clerk.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Committee of Elections be appointed, and that they be directed to inspect the returns thereof, and report whether the elections have been made agreeable to the directions of the last Convention.

And Mr. *Gilpin*, Mr. *S. Chase*, Mr. *Worthington*, Mr. *Wootton*, and Mr. *Carroll*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

Mr. *William Paca*, a Delegate returned for the City of *Annapolis*, and Mr. *Nathaniel Potter*, Mr. *William Richardson*, and Mr. *Richard Mason*, Delegates returned for *Caroline* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to draw for a sum not exceeding thirty thousand Pounds, of the Bills of Credit now remaining in the hands of the Treasurer, appropriated to the calling in and cancelling the Bills of Credit issued by the Convention in *July*, 1775, and that they apply the same, or any part thereof, to the use of the publick, as occasion may require; and that this Convention will make such provision for calling in and cancelling the said former emission as may be necessary.

Certificates of the qualification of the Clerk, Messenger, and Doorkeeper, were produced and filed.

Mr. *Nicholas Harwood* and Mr. *John Johnson* were appointed Assistant Clerks to the Convention.

*Ordered*, That they qualify as such, by taking the usual oath.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, August 15, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Robert Goldsborough*, Mr. *James Murray*, Mr. *John Eanalls*, and Mr. *Joseph Eanalls*, Jun., Delegates returned for *Dorchester* County; Mr. *Gustavus Scott*, Mr. *George Scott*, Mr. *William Horsey*, and Mr. *Henry Lowes*, Delegates returned for *Somerset* County; Mr. *Peter Chaille*, Mr. *Smith Bishop*, Mr. *Samuel Handy*, and Mr. *John Purnell Robins*, Delegates returned for *Worcester* County; and Mr. *Pollard Edmondson* and Mr. *John Gibson*, Delegates returned for *Talbot* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

Mr. *Samuel Chase* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee of Elections, which was read in the following words:

"The Committee of Elections beg leave to report, that by the Return of the election for *Saint Mary's* County, *Richard Barnes, Ignatius Fenwick, George Plater*, and *Jeremiah Jordan*, Esquires, were elected agreeable to the resolve and direction of the last Convention.

"That by the Return for *Charles* County, the same was partly held at the place directed by the last Convention, and partly at another place, by the unanimous consent of the voters, and that *Robert T. Hooe, John Dent, Thomas Semmes*, and *John Parnham*, Esquires, were elected for the said County.

"That by the Return for *Calvert* County, *Benjamin Mackall, Charles Grahame, William Fitzhugh*, and *John Mackall*, Esquires, were duly elected agreeable to the resolve and direction of the last Convention.

"That *Walter Bowie, Luke Marbury, Osborn Sprigg*, and *Thomas Sim Lee*, Esquires, are returned by *Jeremiah Magruder, Humphrey Belt*, and *Thomas Boyd*, as duly elected for *Prince George's* County.

"That the inhabitants of the County agreed, that every taxable bearing arms, being an inhabitant of the County, had an undoubted right to vote for Representatives at this time of publick calamity; that the Judges appointed declined to act, and that they appointed the Judges who made the return aforesaid.

"That by the Return of the election for *Anne Arundel* County, *Rezin Hammond, Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Charles Carroll*, Barrister, and *Samuel Chase*,

Esquires, were elected agreeable to the resolve and direction of the last Convention.

"That for the Lower District of *Frederick* County, *Thomas Sprigg Wootton*, *Jonathan Wilson*, *William Bayly*, Jun., and *Elisha Williams*, Esquires, are returned by judges appointed by the Committee of that District, duly elected by a majority of voters, resident of the District, who had armed in defence of the country.

"That by the Return for the Middle District of *Frederick* County, *Adam Fischer*, *Upton Sheredine*, *Christopher Edelen*, and *David Schriver*, Esquires, were elected agreeable to the resolve and direction of the last Convention.

"That by the Return for the Upper District of *Frederick* County, *Samuel Beall*, *Samuel Hughs*, *John Stull*, and *Henry Schnebely*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return from *Baltimore* County, *Charles Ridgely*, *Thomas Cockey Deye*, *John Stevenson*, and *Peter Shepherd*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return from *Baltimore-Town*, *John Smith* and *Jeremiah Townly Chase*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return from *Harford* County, *Jacob Bond*, *Henry Wilson*, Jun., *John Love*, and *John Archer*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return from *Cecil* County, *Joseph Gilpin*, *Patrick Ewing*, *David Smith*, and *Benjamin Brevard*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return from *Talbot* County, *Pollard Edmondson*, *John Gibson*, *Matthew Tilghman*, and *James Lloyd Chamberlaine*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return from *Caroline* County, *Nathaniel Potter*, *William Richardson*, *Richard Mason*, and *Henry Dickinson*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return from the City of *Annapolis*, *William Paca* and *Charles Carroll* of *Carrollton*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return for *Dorchester* County, *Robert Goldsborough*, *James Murray*, *John Ennalls*, and *Joseph Ennalls*, Jun., Esquires, were duly elected.

"That by the Return for *Somerset* County, *Gustavus Scott*, *George Scott*, *William Horsey*, and *Henry Lowes*, Esquires, were duly elected.

"Signed per order of the Committee:

"NICHOLAS HARWOOD, *Clerk*."

On motion the question was put, That for the future, the name of every gentleman who may make a motion in the House be inserted in the entry that may be made in consequence thereof? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Sprigg, | Mr. Ridgely, |
| Dent, | Lee, | Deye, |
| Semmes, | Hammond, | Stevenson, |
| Parnham, | Worthington, | Shepherd, |
| B. Mackall, | Carroll, | Bond, |
| Fitzhugh, | Wootton, | H. Wilson, |
| J. Mackall, | J. Wilson, | Love, |
| Bowie, | Bayly, | Archer, |
| Marbury, | Williams, | Ewing. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. Joseph Ennalls, |
| Grahame, | Schriver, | Potter, |
| S. Chase, | J. Smith, | Richardson, |
| Paca, | J. T. Chase, | Mason, |
| Fischer, | Gilpin, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Sheredine, | D. Smith, | George Scott, |
| Beall, | Edmondson, | Horsey, |
| Stull, | Goldsborough, | Lowes. |
| Schnebely, | John Ennalls, | |

Certificates of the qualification of Mr. *Harwood* and Mr. *Johnson* were produced and filed.

On reading a Letter from *William Rogers*, *William Bordley*, and *John Page*, Esquires, appointed Judges by the last Convention for holding the election for *Kent* County, setting forth that they were prevented from carrying on the election for the said County by a number of people not qualified to vote by the resolves of the last Convention, on motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the election for the said County be carried on and continued by the said Judges on *Thursday*, the 22d instant, agreeable to the resolves and directions of the last Convention.

*Resolved*, That all friends to *America*, and the interest, peace, and happiness of this Province, are required, if necessary, to be aiding and assisting to the Judges of Election for *Kent* County, in the execution of their office, and this Convention will support and maintain the said Judges in the discharge of their duty.

The yeas and nays being required on the above Resolutions, they were as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Fischer, | Mr. Gibson, |
| Fenwick, | Sheredine, | Goldsborough, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Murray, |
| Semmes, | Schriver, | John Ennalls, |
| Parnham, | Beall, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| B. Mackall, | Stull, | Potter, |
| Grahame, | Schnebely, | Richardson, |
| J. Mackall, | J. Smith, | Mason, |
| Marbury, | J. T. Chase, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Lee, | Bond, | George Scott, |
| Worthington, | H. Wilson, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | Love, | Lowes, |
| S. Chase, | Gilpin, | Chaille, |
| Paca, | Ewing, | Bishop, |
| Wootton, | D. Smith, | Handy, |
| J. Wilson, | Edmondson, | Robins. |
| Bayly, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. Shepherd, |
| Bowie, | Deye, | Archer, |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | Sprigg. |
| Williams, | | |

*Ordered*, That the President transmit a copy of the above Resolutions to the Judges of Election for *Kent* County.

On reading a second time the Report of the Committee of Elections, on motion of Mr. *Paca*, the question was put, that the Delegates of *Charles* County were duly elected? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Wootton, | Mr. Stevenson, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | Shepherd, |
| B. Mackall, | Bayly, | J. Smith, |
| Grahame, | Williams, | J. T. Chase, |
| Fitzhugh, | Fischer, | Bond, |
| J. Mackall, | Sheredine, | H. Wilson, |
| Bowie, | Edelen, | Love, |
| Marbury, | Shriver, | Archer, |
| Sprigg, | Beall, | Gilpin, |
| Hammond, | Stull, | Gibson, |
| Worthington, | Schnebely, | Bishop, |
| Carroll, | Ridgely, | Robins. |
| Paca, | Deye, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Lee, | Mr. John Ennalls, | Mr. George Scott. |
| S. Chase, | Joseph Ennalls, | Horsey, |
| Edmondson, | Potter, | Lowes, |
| Goldsborough, | Richardson, | Chaille, |
| Murray, | Mason, | Handy. |

In progression, on reading the Report from the Committee of Elections, on motion of Mr. *S. Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the election for *Prince George's* County, not being held agreeable to the directions of the last Convention, is void, and that an election for the said County be held by the Judges appointed by the last Convention, agreeable to the resolve and direction of the said Convention, on *Thursday*, the 22d instant, at the Court-House of the County, and that the members returned be discharged from further attendance in this Convention.

The yeas and nays being required, they were as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. D. Smith, |
| Fenwick, | Edelen, | Edmonson, |
| Dent, | Shriver, | Gibson, |
| Semmes, | Beall, | Goldsborough, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | Murray, |
| B. Mackall, | Schnebely, | John Ennalls, |
| Grahame, | Ridgely, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Potter, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Richardson, |
| Worthington, | Shepherd, | Mason, |
| Carroll, | Smith, | Gustavus Scott, |
| S. Chase, | J. T. Chase, | George Scott, |
| Paca, | Bond, | Horsey, |
| Wootton, | H. Wilson, | Lowes, |
| J. Wilson, | Love, | Chaille, |
| Bayly, | Archer, | Bishop, |
| Williams, | Gilpin, | Handy, |
| Fischer, | Ewing, | Robins. |

NEGATIVE.

Mr. Rezin Hammond.

*Resolved*, That the election for the Lower District of *Frederick* County, not being held agreeable to the directions of the last Convention, is void, and that an election for the said District be held by the Judges appointed by the last Convention, on *Thursday*, the 22d instant, agreeable to the resolve and direction of the said Convention, and that the members returned be discharged from further attendance in this Convention.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

Mr. *George Plater*, a Delegate returned for *St. Mary's* County, and Mr. *Benjamin Brevard*, a Delegate returned from *Cecil* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

*Ordered*, That the four Independent Companies immediately proceed to *Elizabeth-Town*, in the *Jerseys*, and put themselves under the command of Colonel *Smallwood*, subject to the further orders of the Congress.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety take such measures as they may think best to expedite their march, and to supply them with carriages and provisions on their march, and that the said companies be deducted from the number of the Militia required by Congress of this Colony to compose the Flying-Camp.

Upon reading a remonstrance from the Judges appointed by the last Convention to hold the election of Delegates for *Worcester* County, and it appearing to this Convention from the said remonstrance, and the acknowledgment of the Delegates attending, that the election for the said County was held contrary to the resolves of the last Convention, ascertaining and declaring the qualifications of voters:

*Resolved*, That said election is null and void, and that an election for the said County be held by the Judges aforesaid, agreeable to the resolves of the last Convention, on the 27th day of *August*, at the Court-House of the said County, and that the members now attending be discharged from further attendance.

*Resolved*, That all friends to *America*, and to the interest, peace, good order, and happiness of this Province, are required, if necessary, to be aiding and assisting to the Judges of the Election of Delegates for *Worcester* County in the execution of their office, and this Convention will support and maintain the said Judges in the discharge of their duty, and such friends who shall give such aid and assistance as shall be necessarily required.

*Resolved*, That the hours for sitting for despatch of the publick business during this session, be from nine o'clock in the morning until one in the afternoon, and from three till six.

*Ordered*, That the following Rules be observed during this session:

"That no member of the House use any reviling speeches, or name any member by his proper name, but shall use some other distinction, as the gentleman who spoke last, or the like.

"That none shall deliver his opinion, or speak to any debate, unless he shall stand up in his place, and reverently direct his speech to the President.

"That no member speak above once on any debate without license of the House, declared by the President; and if two persons or more shall rise up together, the President shall appoint who shall speak first; and no member shall interrupt any other until the gentleman speaking hath ended.

"That no person come into the Convention, while the same is sitting, with sword or other weapon, upon penalty of such fine as shall be imposed on them by the President, not exceeding twenty shillings.

"That if any member be absent at the hours and place appointed, after the President and fourteen of the members are met, according to the order for sitting, he shall be fined, according to the discretion of the President, not exceeding five shillings for any offence, unless upon such excuse as the President shall admit.

"All misdemeanours which shall happen in the House shall be censured or fined in the House.

"That if any member of the Convention depart without leave of the House, such member shall forfeit all his preceding allowances due to him for his attendance this session.

"That no question be determined the day on which it is debated, if any three members desire the determination to be postponed to another day.

"That no question be determined (except for adjournment from day to day) unless forty-five members with the President be present."

On motion, the question was put, That the Reverend Mr. *Lendrum* be desired to read Prayers before the Convention, at nine o'clock in the morning, during this session, and that Mr. *Paca* wait on Mr. *Lendrum* for that purpose? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Murray, |
| Fenwick, | S. Chase, | John Ennalls, |
| Dent, | Paca, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Semmes, | Sherediine, | Richardson, |
| Parnham, | Edelen, | Mason, |
| B. Mackall, | Beall, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Grahame, | Stull, | George Scott, |
| Fitzhugh, | J. T. Chase, | Horsey, |
| Hammond, | Edmondson, | Lowes. |
| Worthington, | Goldsborough, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. J. Mackall, | Mr. Stevenson, | Mr. Archer, |
| Fischer, | Shepherd, | Gilpin, |
| Schriver, | J. Smith, | Ewing, |
| Schnebely, | Bond, | D. Smith, |
| Rutgely, | H. Wilson, | Brevard, |
| Deye, | Love, | Gibson. |

Mr. *Fischer* has leave of absence.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, August 16, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Fischer*. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *R. T. Hooe*, a Delegate returned for *Charles* County, appeared and took his seat in the House.

The Council of Safety laid before the Convention the Declaration of Congress, that the *United Colonies* are free and independent States, which was received after the rising of the last Convention, and thereupon

*Ordered*, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

The Petition of sundry freeholders and freemen of *Kent* County, praying that the proceedings on the late election for the said County may be rendered void, and that at a new election every Associator resident of the County one year, and twenty-one years of age, might be enabled to vote, was read and rejected.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be directed to purchase of the Managers of the Gun Manufactory of *Dorchester* County, all the Muskets they have by them, both finished and unfinished, and that they indemnify the said Managers for the money they have expended on the said Muskets and Manufactory.

*Ordered*, That the Guns taken by the guard under the command of Major *Follin* be delivered to the order of the Council of Safety.

On motion of Mr. *Parnham*,

*Resolved*, That the Militia for the Flying-Camp be entitled to Pay and Rations from the time they march from home to enter into actual service, or from the dates of the commissions of their respective officers, where they have not entered into actual service: That the Pay and Rations be advanced to this State, and the Continent charged therewith.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety direct such of the Militia as have been raised for the Flying-Camp, and can be armed and equipped, to march with all expedition to the *Jerseys*.

The Committee of Elections report to the House, that *Turbutt Wright*, *James Kent*, *Solomon Wright*, and *William Bruff*, Esquires, are returned by *John Seney*, *Basil Warfield*, and *Vachel Downes*, appointed by the freemen of *Queen Anne's* County Judges of the Election, as duly elected Delegates for the said County. Thereupon the Convention taking the same into consideration,

*Resolved*, That the election of Delegates for *Queen Anne's* County, not being held agreeable to the directions of the last Convention, is void; and that an election for the said County be held by the Judges appointed by the last Convention, agreeable to the directions and resolves of the said Convention, at the house of Mr. *George Hanson*, on *Monday*, the 26th instant—and that the Members returned be discharged from further attendance.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety advance eight hundred dollars to *Lodwick Weltner*, Major of the *German* Battalion, to furnish the Companies raised in this Colony with Arms, Blankets, and all necessary accoutrements, he to be accountable to the Congress, to whom the said money be charged.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the Brigadier-General of the Flying-Camp, if acting in conjunction with the Regular Troops of this Colony, be subject to the command of Colonel *Smallwood*.

On motion, the question was put, That the appointment of Military Officers be by ballot? Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, That Captain *Rezin Beall* be Brigadier-General of the Militia of *Maryland* to compose a part of the Flying-Camp? The previous question was called for and put, whether the above question be now put? Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That no Military Officer be appointed, unless by a majority of the House, consisting of forty-five Members with the President.

The Convention proceeded to the choice of a Brigadier-General for the Flying-Camp in the room of General *Dent*, who had resigned, when *Rezin Beall*, Esq., was elected.

On motion of Mr. *Gustavus Scott*,

*Resolved*, That the seat of every Member of this House who shall hereafter accept a commission in the Flying-Camp, shall be thereby vacated.

The Convention proceeded to the choice of a Colonel for the Battalion raised on the *Eastern-Shore* for the Flying-Camp, in the room of *James Kent*, Esquire; when *William Richardson*, Esquire, was elected.

*William Whitely*, Esquire, was then elected Lieutenant-Colonel of the said Battalion.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, August 17, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Richardson*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *Gustavus Scott*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to examine and adjust the several claims on the Treasury.

And Mr. *J. Smith*, Mr. *Hooe*, Mr. *Grahame*, Mr. *Worthington*, and Mr. *Sheredine*, were elected by a ballot a Committee for that purpose.

Mr. *Charles Carroll* of *Carrollton*, a Delegate returned for the City of *Annapolis*, appeared and took his seat in the House.

On motion of Mr. *Plater*,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Thomas Gassaway*, Jun., be added to the signers of the Bills of Credit.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Delegate be elected for *Caroline* County in the room of Mr. *William Richardson*, whose seat is vacated by his acceptance of a Colonel's commission in the Flying-Camp; that the said election be held on the 26th of this month at *Melvill's* Warehouse in said County, by *Foster Goldsborough*, *Jeremiah Colston*, and *John White*, Esquires, or any two or one of them; and that the said election be held and made agreeable to the directions and resolves of the last Convention.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Robert Campbell* be appointed Adjutant to the *Eastern-Shore* Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention took into consideration the Resolution of Congress declaring the *United Colonies* free and independent States; and thereupon,

*Resolved*, *unanimously*, That this Convention will maintain the freedom and independency of the *United States*, with their lives and fortunes.

Doctor *John Hindman* was appointed Surgeon to the *Eastern-Shore* Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp.

On reading a Petition from *Thomas Harwood*, of *Anne Arundel* County,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to receive proposals relating to the establishment of Manufactories, and report their opinion thereon.

And Mr. *Gilpin*, Mr. *Lowes*, Mr. *Ridgely*, Mr. *Ewing*, and Mr. *Beall*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to examine and report the state of the Accounts and Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Loan Office.

And Mr. *Grahame*, Mr. *Barnes*, and Mr. *Carroll* of *Carrollton*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That the Committee of Claims report to the Convention the number and denominations of the Bills of Credit emitted by Resolutions of the Convention in *July*, 1775, which have been exchanged by the Treasurers of this State for Bills of Credit emitted by Resolution of the Convention in *December* last; also the number and denominations of the former Bills of Credit now remaining in the hands of the said Treasurers.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a Declaration and Charter of Rights, and a plan of Government, agreeable to such rights as will best maintain peace and good order, and most effectually secure happiness and liberty to the people of this State.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the President apply to Congress for the sum of ten thousand Pounds, to reimburse in part the expense incurred in this State for the Continent.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem*. Convention met.

Mr. *James Lloyd Chamberlaine*, a Delegate returned for *Talbot* County, appeared and took his seat in the House.

On motion, the question was put, That the nomination of the Committee for preparing a Bill of Rights, and a form of Government, be postponed until there is a full representation of this State in Convention? Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, That all questions to be agitated in this House be determined *viva voce*, and that balloting on any question whatsoever be exploded, as it has a tendency to deceive the good people of this State, and to conceal the conduct of their Representatives from them? An amendment was proposed to be inserted after the word "exploded," in these words: "except in the appointment of Committees;" on which amendment the question was put, and resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Plater, | Schriver, | Gibson, |
| Hooe, | Beall, | Chamberlaine, |
| Dent, | Stull, | Goldsborough, |
| Semmes, | Schnebely, | Murray, |
| Parnham, | Shepherd, | John Ennalls, |
| B. Mackall, | J. Smith, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Grahame, | J. T. Chase, | Potter, |
| Worthington, | H. Wilson, | Mason, |
| Carroll, barrister, | Archer, | Gustavus Scott, |
| S. Chase, | Gilpin, | George Scott, |
| Paca, | Ewing, | Horsey, |
| Carroll of Car., | D. Smith, | Lowes. |
| Sheredine, | Brevard, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. Bond, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Love. |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | |

The question was then put, That all questions to be agitated in this House be determined *viva voce*, and that balloting on any question whatsoever be exploded, except in the appointment of Committees, as it has a tendency to deceive the good people of this State, and to conceal the conduct of their Representatives from them? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Carroll of Car., | Mr. Shepherd, |
| Dent, | Sheredine, | J. T. Chase, |
| Parnham, | Edelen, | Bond, |
| B. Mackall, | Schriver, | D. Smith, |
| Grahame, | Beall, | Edmondson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Stull, | Gibson, |
| Hammond, | Schnebely, | Murray, |
| Worthington, | Ridgely, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Carroll, barrister, | Deye, | Mason, |
| S. Chase, | Stevenson, | Horsey. |
| Paca, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Archer, | Mr. John Ennalls, |
| Fenwick, | Gilpin, | Potter, |
| Hooe, | Ewing, | Gustavus Scott, |
| J. Smith, | Brevard, | George Scott, |
| H. Wilson, | Chamberlaine, | Lowes. |
| Love, | Goldsborough, | |

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a Committee to prepare a Declaration and Charter of Rights, and a form of Government for this State; and Mr. President, Mr. *Carroll*, Barrister, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Carroll* of *Carrollton*, Mr. *Plater*, Mr. *Samuel Chase*, and Mr. *Goldsborough*, were elected a Committee for that purpose.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Captain *Thomas Bourke's* Company of the Flying-Camp be added to, and compose part of, Colonel *Richardson's* Battalion.

Convention adjourns till *Monday* morning, at nine o'clock.

—

Monday, August 19, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*, except Mr. *Hammond*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

On reading a Memorial from the Officers of Colonel *Josias Carvil Hall's* Battalion,

*Resolved*, That the Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns, belonging to that part of the Flying-Camp allotted to be raised by this State, are entitled to and shall receive Pay and Rations from the date of their respective warrants, in lieu of all recruiting expenses, provided such officers have or shall obtain commissions; or from the dates of their commissions, where no warrants have been previously issued.

A Petition from *Thomas Wilson*, of the City of *Annapolis*, praying a remission of the fine set upon him by the Committee of Observation for *Anne Arundel* County, for not having enrolled in some company of Militia, was read and referred to the consideration of the Committee of Observation for *Anne Arundel* County aforesaid.

A Petition from *Thomas French*, late Sheriff, and *George French*, present High Sheriff of *Frederick* County, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Council of Safety laid before the Convention an inventory of sundry articles taken out of a small sloop, drifted ashore in this State from the *British* fleet under the command of Lord *Dunmore*, and now stored by order of Major *Price*; which was read.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to take the subject matter into consideration, and report in what manner such articles, and prizes of the like nature, are to be disposed of.

And Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Gustavus Scott*, and Mr. *Hooe*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the Council of Safety be directed to advance the sum of ten Pounds to Mr. *James Hopkins*, to enable him to construct a machine according to proposals communicated to this House.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the Resolution of *Saturday*, respecting the Declaration of Independence, be published in the *Maryland Gazette*.

The Council of Safety laid before the Convention sundry Papers and Depositions relative to the Reverend *John Scott*, and several Depositions taken by *George Plater* and *John Hall*, Esquires, relative thereto; thereupon it is

*Ordered*, That a Committee be appointed to take the same into consideration, and report their opinion thereon.

And Mr. *Samuel Chase*, Mr. *Jeremiah Townley Chase*, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Worthington*, Mr. *Ridgely*, and Mr. *Chamberlaine*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

On reading the Depositions laid before the Convention by the Council of Safety against *Isaac Costin*,

*Ordered*, That the same be taken into consideration on *Monday*, the second of *September* next.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem*. Convention met.

Sundry Depositions against *William B. Townsend*, of *Worcester* County, and *Joseph Wheland*, Jun., *John Evans*, *Robert Howith*, and *Basil Clarkson*, of *Dorchester* County, were read and referred to the Committee appointed to consider of the several Depositions and Papers relative to the Reverend Mr. *Scott*.

A Petition from *Abraham Lingenfelter*, *David Aspaugh*, and *Henry Barnes*, languishing prisoners in *Frederick* County Jail, and sundry Petitions from *William Field*, *Robert Field*, *Jeremiah Field*, *Joseph Field*, *Seymour York*, *Robert Turner*, *Samuel Devinny*, *Stephen Cessney*, and *Frederick Craft*, now confined in *Frederick-Town*, *Frederick* County, were read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Mackall* has leave of absence.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow, three o'clock in the afternoon.

—

Tuesday, August 20, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *B. Mackall*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Hammond* appeared in the House. Mr. *Jeremiah Jordon*, a Delegate returned from *St. Mary's* County, appeared and took his seat in the House.

The Convention proceeded to elect a Surgeon to Colonel *Thomas Ewing's* Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp; when Dr. *John Dorsey* was elected.

A Petition from *Thomas Watkins*, and others, inhabitants of *Anne Arundel* County, praying to be permitted to form themselves into an Independent Militia Company, was read and rejected.

A Memorial from *Charles Dashiell*, of *Somerset* County, and a Petition from *George Dashiell* and *William Dashiell*, of said County, were read and ordered to lie on the table.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, August 21, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That three persons be appointed a Board to continue the books of accounts of the expenditure, loan, or disposition of all publick moneys, by or under the authority of the Convention, or Council of Safety, opened by the late Board, with power to audit, examine, and adjust all accounts and sums of money due from or to this State, and that they transmit the same, with the respective balances struck, to this Convention when sitting, and in their recess to the Council of Safety, for their examination and control.

That the said Commissioners, before they enter upon the execution of their trust, take an oath or affirmation, carefully and accurately to audit, examine, and adjust all accounts and sums of money due from or to this State, and that they will not allow any claim against the publick but what they in their judgment and conscience shall deem just and right; that they will keep just and true accounts, and will transmit the same, with the respective balances struck, to the Convention, or in their recess to the Council of Safety, for their examination and control; and that the said Commissioners will keep secret all such matters or things as come before them in the execution of their said trust, they shall be enjoined to keep secret by the Convention or Council of Safety.

*Resolved*, That there be a Clerk to the said Board of Commissioners, and that the said Clerk be allowed ten shillings for every day he shall attend such service, and that he take an oath before he enters on the execution of his office, that he will faithfully and truly enter all accounts, and make all such entries as he shall be directed by the said Commissioners, and shall also take the oath of secrecy as above directed to be taken by the Commissioners.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *John Davidson*, Mr. *Thomas Brooke Hodgkin*, and Mr. *William Wilkins*, be appointed Commissioners for the said Board, that any two of them have power to act, and that each of them be allowed ten shillings per day for their trouble for every day they shall attend such service.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire how far the Resolve of the last Convention of the 6th of *July*, for raising two Companies of Rifflemen and four

Companies of *Germans*, has been complied with, and into the expenditure of the money advanced for the raising those Companies, and report the same to this Convention.

And Mr. *Ridgely*, Mr. *Love*, Mr. *Archer*, Mr. *Stull*, and Mr. *Sheredine*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

Mr. *Potter* and Mr. *Mason* have leave of absence.

Mr. *John Muir* was appointed Clerk to the Board of Accounts.

Mr. *H. Wilson* has leave of absence.

The Committee appointed to report on the establishment of Manufactories bring in and deliver to Mr. President the following Report:

"Your Committee appointed to examine and price the linen brought in and delivered by *John Archer* and *James Harris*, do report, that they have brought in the following pieces, viz:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. 1 containing | 22 | yards, at | 4*s.* 3*d.* per yard. |
| 4 | 45½ | " | 4*s.* 3*d.* " |
| 2 | 52 | " | 3*s.* 9*d.* " |
| 6 | 52 | " | 3*s.* 9*d.* " |
| 3 | 42½ | " | 3*s.* 3*d.* " |
| 5 | 55 | " | 3*s.* 3*d.* " |

"All which is submitted to the honourable House.

"Signed per order of the Committee:

"JOHN JOHNSON, *Clerk*."

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow, three o'clock in the afternoon.

—

Thursday, August 22, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Potter*, Mr. *Mason*, and Mr. *H. Wilson*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

The Committee for that purpose appointed bring in and deliver to Mr. President a report relating to the establishment of Manufactories; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

To prevent confusion and discontent among the officers in the Regular and Militia service of this State respecting rank, on motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*,

*Resolved*, That all officers in the Regular service, when acting in conjunction with the Militia, by detachment or otherwise, shall take rank and command of all officers of the Militia of the same denomination, without regard to the date of their respective commissions, and not otherwise; but this regulation shall not affect the resolve of *Friday* last, relative to Colonel *Smallwood's* taking command of the Brigadier appointed to the Flying-Camp.

The Proceedings of the Council of Safety were laid before the Convention and ordered to lie on the table.

A Petition from part of the Independent Company of Regular Troops lately commanded by Captain *Rezin Beall*, praying that their Third Lieutenant should be appointed Captain of the company, was read and rejected. Mr. *Bennett Bracco* was then appointed Captain, Mr. *John Halkerston* First Lieutenant, Mr. *Daniel Jenifer Adams* Second Lieutenant, and Mr. *Thomas Beall* Third Lieutenant of said company.

On reading a second time the report from the Committee appointed to receive proposals relating to the establishment of Manufactories, the Convention took the same into consideration; and thereupon,

*Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced out of the publick Treasury to *Thomas Harwood*, of *Anne Arundel* County, to enable him to carry on a Stocking Manufactory, he giving bond with good security to repay the same in one year from the date of his bond, in good merchantable thread or yarn stockings, at such prices as the Convention, or in their recess the Council of Safety, shall adjudge.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow, three o'clock in the afternoon.

Friday, August 23, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Samuel Hughs*, a Delegate returned for the upper district of *Frederick* County, appeared and took his seat in the House.

Mr. President communicated to the Convention a Letter from the Secretary of the Board of War, of the 6th day of this instant, relative to prisoners of war, and officers of the troops raised in this State for the Continental service; which was read. Thereupon,

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to a Committee to report a list of such Prisoners and of such Officers, their rank, and dates of commissions, and the time for which their men were inlisted.

And Mr. *Sheredine*, Mr. *Hughs*, and Mr. *Edelen*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

A Letter from Mr. *Stone*, of the 21st of this instant, with Resolutions of Congress of the 26th of *June* and 17th of *August*, were laid before the Convention by the President, and read.

*Ordered*, That a Committee be appointed to take the same into consideration, and report their opinion thereon to the Convention.

And Mr. *Fitzhugh*, Mr. *Plater*, and Mr. *Carroll* of *Carrollton*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the appointment of Commanders for the vessels and armed boats ordered to be fitted out by the last Convention, be made by the Council of Safety.

A Memorial from *James Cunningham*, relative to a Sloop drifted ashore in this State from the *British* fleet under the command of Lord *Dunmore*, was read, and referred to the Committee appointed to report how captures shall be disposed of.

Mr. *Thomas Sprigg Wootton* and Mr. *William Bayly*, Jun., Delegates returned for the lower district of *Frederick* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

The Convention appointed *John Hall*, Esquire, Judge of the Court of Admiralty, in the room of *William Hayward*, Esquire, who resigned.

A Petition from *Robert Long*, of *Baltimore* County, was read and rejected.

The Committee of Elections report to the Convention, that by the Return from the lower district of *Frederick* County, *Thomas Sprigg Wootton*, *Jonathan Wilson*, *William Bayly*, Jun., and *Elisha Williams*, Esquires, were duly elected for the said district, agreeable to the resolve of the last Convention.

Mr. *Semmes* has leave of absence for a few days; Mr. *Sheredine* till *Thursday* next, Mr. *Ridgely* till *Tuesday* next, and Mr. *Stevenson* and Mr. *Shepherd* till *Monday* next.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, August 24, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Semmes*, Mr. *Sheredine*, Mr. *Ridgely*, Mr. *Shepherd*, and Mr. *Stevenson*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

*Ordered*, That the Commissions of the Officers of the Independent Company of Militia for the Flying-Camp bear date respectively from the time they completed the number of men required by the officers of the battalions for the Flying-Camp.

Convention adjourns till *Monday*, three o'clock in the afternoon, and from thence till *Tuesday*, nine o'clock in the morning.

—

Tuesday, August 27, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*. The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

Mr. *Jonathan Wilson* and Mr. *Elisha Williams*, Delegates returned for the lower district of *Frederick* County, and Mr. *Thomas Ringgold*, a Delegate returned for *Kent* County, appeared and took their seats in the House. Mr. *Henry Wilson* and Mr. *Stevenson* appeared in the House.

Mr. *Plater* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Declaration and Charter of Rights; which was read, and ordered to be printed for the consideration of the Members.

*Brice T. B. Worthington*, *Charles Carroll*, Barrister, and *Samuel Chase*, Esquires, having informed the Convention that they, having received instructions from their constituents enjoining them, in framing of a Government for this State, implicitly to adhere to points in their opinion incompatible with good government and the publick peace and happiness, were obliged, extremely against their inclinations, to resign their seats, and that they resigned accordingly.

*Resolved*, That the seats of the said *Brice T. B. Worthington*, *Charles Carroll*, Barrister, and *Samuel Chase*, Esquires, are vacated by such resignation.

A Petition from sundry free voters of *Anne Arundel* County, praying that a new election of Delegates for said County might be ordered, was read.

*Ordered*, That the same be taken into consideration on *Thursday* next.

Convention appointed Mr. *Thomas Beall* Second Lieutenant of Captain *Bennett Bracco's* independent company of Regular troops, in the room of Mr. *Daniel Jenifer Adams*, and Mr. *Colmore Williams* Third Lieutenant of said company.

Mr. *Parnham* has leave of absence till *Monday* next.

*Ordered*, That three persons be added to the Committee of Elections; and Mr. *Grahame*, Mr. *Fitzhugh*, and Mr. *Paca*, were elected by ballot to be of the said Committee.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Depositions of Captain *James Disney*, Lieutenant *Samuel Godman*, Lieutenant *Joseph Burgess*, and Mr. *Thomas Harwood*, relative to the late election for *Anne Arundel* County, be taken before some Magistrate as speedily as possible, after due notice to Mr. *Rezin Hammond* and some of the petitioners against the said election.

Mr. *Dent* has leave of absence for a few days.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met. Mr. *Fischer* appeared in the House.

A Remonstrance from *George Davy*, of *Frederick* County, was read, and referred to the Committee appointed to receive proposals relating to the establishment of Manufactories.

The Committee of Elections report to the Convention, that by the Return for *Kent* County, *Thomas Ringgold*, *William Ringgold* of *Eastern Neck*, *Joseph Earle*, and *Thomas Smyth*, Esquires, are duly elected Delegates for the said County, agreeable to the resolves and directions of the last Convention.

On motion of Mr. *Paca*,

*Resolved*, That an election of three Delegates for *Anne Arundel* County be held on *Wednesday*, the 4th of *September* next, at the City of *Annapolis*, by *John Weems*, *Thomas Dorsey*, and *Thomas Watkins*, Esquires, or by any two or one of them, according to the resolves of the last Convention, and that the said Judges give due notice thereof, by setting up advertisements in the most publick places in the said County.

Proposals from *Valentine Reintzel* and *Anthony Gossler*, of *Frederick* County, for raising a Company of Riflemen, was read and unanimously rejected.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, August 28, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday except Mr. *Parnham*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Ridgely* and Mr. *Shepherd* appeared in the House.

A Petition from the inhabitants of the City of *Annapolis* to be reinstated in their former right of voting for Representatives for *Anne Arundel* County, and proposals from *Elisha Winters* to take the *Frederick* Gun-lock factory, were read and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *T. Ringgold*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into and report what progress has been made in the different manufactories erected or about to be erected in this State, in pursuance of the sundry proposals made to and accepted by the Conventions and Councils of Safety, and into the expenditure of all publick moneys advanced to the undertakers of publick and private manufactories, and to issue summonses for all such persons to attend them as they may judge necessary, and to consider of the proposals this day made by *Elisha Winters*, and report thereon.

And Mr. *T. Ringgold*, Mr. *J. Smith*, Mr. *Grahame*, Mr. *Hooe*, and Mr. *Chamberlaine*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

Mr. *Paca* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to consider of the several Depositions and Papers relative to the Reverend Mr. *Scott*; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *Goldsborough*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into and report the state and condition of the log Jail in *Frederick* Town, how the money granted for building the same has been expended, and in what manner the prisoners contained therein are treated, and also to inquire into and report the state and condition of the County Jail; and Mr. *Edelen*, Mr. *Wootton*, and Mr. *Hughs*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

Mr. *William Ringgold* and Mr. *Joseph Earle*, Delegates returned for *Kent* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

The Report relative to the Reverend Mr. *Scott* was read a second time; and it being represented to the House that Mr. *Scott* was not desirous of being heard, but was ready to submit to the determination of the Convention, the said Report was taken into consideration, and, on motion of Mr. *J. T. Chase*, the question was put, That the said *John Scott* be committed to the custody of the Sheriff of *Frederick* County, and there safe kept until the further order of the Convention or supreme power of this State be known therein, and that the said *John Scott* pay into the hands of the Treasurer of the *Western Shore* the sum of five hundred pounds, common money, to be applied towards defraying his proportionable part of the expenses of the war incurred, or to be incurred, during the present contest between *Great Britain* and the *United States*? Carried in the negative.

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Stevenson, | Mr. T. Ringgold, |
| Jordan, | Shepherd, | W. Ringgold, |
| Grahame, | J. Smith, | Earle, |
| J. Mackall, | Paca, | Edmondson, |
| Hammond, | Carroll, | Gibson, |
| J. Wilson, | Bond, | Chamberlaine, |
| Williams, | H. Wilson, | Goldsborough, |
| Fischer, | Love, | Murray, |
| Edelen, | Archer, | John Ennalls, |
| Schriver, | Gilpin, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Beall, | Ewing, | George Scott, |
| Hughs, | D. Smith, | Horsey. |
| Deye, | Brevard, | |

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Bayly, | Mr. Ridgely, |
| Hooe, | Stull, | J. T. Chase. |
| Wootton, | Schnebely, | |

The question was then put, That the said Reverend *John Scott* is a disaffected person, and has a dangerous influence in *Somerset* County; that he be removed from the said County to *Frederick* County, and that he give bond to the Council of Safety in the sum of one thousand pounds sterling, with good security, not to depart the said County, without leave of the Convention, or Council of Safety, and that he will not correspond upon publick matters with any person whatever? Resolved in the affirmative.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, August 29, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Grahame*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Reverend *John Scott* be discharged from his recognizance, and from any further

attendance on this Convention, on his giving bond agreeable to the resolve of yesterday; and that he be allowed a fortnight to settle his affairs, and to remove himself and family to *Frederick;* but the said *John Scott* is not to return to *Somerset* County, nor hold any conversation or correspondence with any inhabitant thereof upon publick affairs during that time.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk make out and deliver to Mr. *Scott* a copy of the Resolution respecting him.

Mr. *Fenwick* has leave of absence.

A Petition from *Conrad Theodore Wederstrandt*, and a Petition of *John Wells*, of *Baltimore* County, for a sum of money to enable him to carry on a Linen Manufactory, were read and ordered to lie on the table.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Petition against *Anne Arundel* County election, being read,

*Ordered*, That the same be referred for consideration till *Tuesday* next.

Mr. *Edmondson*, Mr. *Gibson*, and Mr. *Shriver*, have leave of absence for a few days.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the persons now confined in the log Jail in *Frederick* County, be removed to the publick Jail thereof, and be permitted to occupy the upper story, and to have the use of the prison yard in common with the debtors, until the further order of this Convention, and that the guard be continued.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk make out and transmit a copy of the above Resolution to the Committee of Observation for the Middle District of *Frederick* County.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow, three o'clock in the afternoon.

—

Friday, August 30, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Gibson*, Mr. *Schriver*, Mr. *Fenwick*, and Mr. *Hammond*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Sheredine*, Mr. *Potter*, Mr. *Mason*, and Mr. *Semmes* appeared in the House.

Mr. *Walter Bowie*, Mr. *Benjamin Hall*, Mr. *Osborn Sprigg*, and Mr. *Luke Marbury*, Delegates returned for *Prince George's* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

The Committee of Elections report to the Convention, that *Walter Bowie*, *Benjamin Hall*, *Osborn Sprigg*, and *Luke Marbury*, Esqrs., are duly elected Delegates for *Prince George's* County; and that *Thomas Johnson*, Esq., is duly elected a Delegate for *Caroline* County.

Mr. *Thomas Ringgold* has leave of absence till *Monday* next, Mr. *Fitzhugh* till *Tuesday* next, and Mr. *Chamberlaine* for a few days.

A Petition from the Trustees of the Poor of *Frederick* County for a sum of money, to be advanced them out of the publick Treasury, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Johnson* appeared and took his seat in the House.

On reading a second time the Petition of *Thomas French*, late Sheriff, and *George French*, present Sheriff of *Frederick* County,

*Ordered*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the truth of the facts therein set forth; and Mr. *Sheredine*, Mr. *Wootton*, and Mr. *Beall*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

A Petition from *Samuel Sharpe*, of *Talbot* County, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, *Resolved*, That two persons be added to the Committee appointed to prepare a Declaration and Charter or Rights and a form of Government for this State.

And Mr. *Johnson* and Mr. *Hooe* were elected by ballot to be of the said Committee.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Mr. *Frederick Green* be added to the signers of Bills of Credit.

Mr. *Horsey* has leave of absence for a few days.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, August 31, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Fitzhugh*, Mr. *Ringgold*, and Mr. *Edmondson*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Hammond* appeared in the House.

Mr. *D. Smith* has leave of absence till *Monday* week.

On reading a second time the Petition of *Samuel Sharpe*, setting forth that he had, on the seventeenth day of *December* last, become security for a certain *Isaac Atkinson*, in a bond taken to *Matthew Tilghman*, Esquire, then President of the Convention, in the sum of one thousand pounds currency, for the said *Isaac Atkinson's* future good behaviour; and that the said *Isaac Atkinson* had since fled from this State and joined the enemies thereof, and now assists the *British* Fleet and Army in waging war against the *United States of America*, and praying of this House to have the said bond put in suit; and that as the estate of the said *Isaac Atkinson* was daily wasting, they would also direct the said estate to be put under the care and direction of such person or persons as the House could confide in; and it appearing to this Convention that the said *Isaac Atkinson* hath for some time past absented himself from his home, and hath, as is reported and generally believed, joined the enemies of this State; it is therefore

*Resolved*, That *William Hayward*, Esquire, of *Talbot* County, take into his custody the real and personal estate of the said *Isaac Atkinson* within this State, he first giving bond to the President of this Convention in the penalty of two thousand pounds, conditioned that he will well and truly preserve and keep all the estate of the said *Isaac Atkinson* which shall come to his hands without waste or embezzlement, and return an inventory and appraisement on the oath of two freeholders, within six weeks after his taking the said estate into his possession, and shall render a true and just account, and dispose of the said estate and all profits therefrom arising in such manner as shall be hereafter directed by this Convention, or by law of this State, and that he will deliver in upon oath to the said appraisers the whole of the said estate which shall come to his hands.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to purchase and store thirty thousand bushels of Salt in such of the Islands in the *West-Indies* as they may think proper, and by proper opportunities to import the same into this State, to be sold out on the publick account.

The Committee appointed to receive proposals relative to the establishment of Manufactories, and report their opinion thereon, bring in and deliver to Mr. President the following Report:

"Your Committee of Manufactories have considered the Petition of *John Wells*, and are of opinion that it will not be of general and publick utility to grant the said Petition. All which is submitted to the honourable Convention.

"Signed by order of the Committee:

"NICHOLAS HARWOOD, *Clerk*."

Which was read; and the question was put, That the House concur therewith? Carried in the negative.

The Petition was then read, and the Convention taking the same into consideration,

*Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds be advanced by the Council of Safety to *John Wells*, of *Baltimore* County, he giving bond with good security to repay the same in linen, at such price as the Convention, upon view thereof and inspection of a bill of costs of the same, shall think proper to allow; the said *John Wells* to deliver one-third thereof within six months, and one-third within nine months, and the remaining third within twelve months from the date of his bond, or to repay the said sum with interest at six per centum within one year, if the Convention shall so order.

On motion, leave given to bring in an Ordinance for the division of *Frederick* County into three distinct and separate Counties.

On reading and considering the Petition of *Conrard Theodore Wederstrandt*, respecting an action commenced by him against *Edward Meadows*, Esquire, Commander of the *Tartar* man-of-war, in the Provincial Court,

*Resolved*, That the said action, from the peculiar circumstances of the case, shall not abate by the death of either party, but that a trial of the same may be had, and judgment rendered, and all after process issue, as if both parties were living, without any regard to the death of either party:

and if such death shall happen either before or after such trial, or judgment, or process, such death shall not be pleadable by the special bail in such action in discharge of himself.

Mr. *Wootton* brings in and delivers to Mr. President an Ordinance for the division of *Frederick* County into three distinct and separate Counties; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Jordan* has leave of absence for a few days.

Convention adjourns till *Monday*, three o'clock in the afternoon.

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Monday, September 2, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*, except Mr. *Horsey*, Mr. *Chamberlaine*, Mr. *D. Smith*, Mr. *Jordan*, Mr. *J. Smith*, and Mr. *Bowie*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

Mr. *Dent* appeared in the House. Mr. *Turbutt Wright* and Mr. *James Kent*, Delegates returned for *Queen Anne's* County, and Mr. *Thomas Smyth*, a Delegate returned for *Kent* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

The Committee of Elections report to the Convention, that by the Return for *Queen Anne's* County, *Turbutt Wright*, *James Kent*, *William Bruff*, and *Solomon Wright*, Esquires, are duly elected Delegates for said County.

Mr. *Chase* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to examine the Papers and Depositions laid before the Convention relative to the conduct of *Isaac Costin;* which was read in the words following, to wit:

"By the Committee appointed to examine the papers and depositions laid before this Convention, relative to the conduct of *Isaac Costin*.

"Your Committee beg leave to report, that they have examined the said papers and depositions, from which it appears, that about the middle of *June* last, *Isaac Costin*, with many others, went to their neighbours' houses, to inform them that *Job Ingram* and *Barkley Townsend* had come express from *Lewistown*, to let the people of *Somerset* County know that a large number of men were coming from *Lewistown* to compel them to assent to independency. That *Costin* persuaded them to assemble at *Merumsco Dams* to oppose it, and that in consequence of the said report, *Isaac Costin*, with about two hundred people, did assemble at *Merumsco Dams* for the declared purpose of opposing independency.

"Your Committee further report, that about the 20th of *June* last, *Isaac Costin*, in company with several persons, some of whom were armed, damned the Whigs and Rebels, that the company huzzaed for King *George* the Third, and said they would wash the shirtmen's shirts for them.

"Your Committee further report, that some time in the month of *September* or *October* last, the said *Isaac Costin* went with *Levin Townsend* on board the man-of-war at *Norfolk*, and on their returning to their company, he strongly solicited and endeavoured to induce them to inlist under Lord *Dunmore*, by offering them a guinea and a crown advance and standing pay, a gun, bayonet, &c., and a suit of regimentals each. That the said *Isaac Costin* highly approved of the proposition of *Levin Townsend* to fit out a privateer to cruise in the bay, and agreed to act as his Lieutenant, and to proceed up *Pocomoke* River to take the Committee of *Worcester* County prisoners, and to carry them to Lord *Dunmore*.

"All which is humbly submitted to the consideration of the honourable Convention.

"Signed per order of the Committee:

"JOHN JOHNSON, *Clerk*."

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the several Depositions and Papers relative to the conduct of the said *Isaac Costin*, was then read, and referred till *Monday*, the 16th instant.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Tuesday, September 3, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Parnham*, Mr. *James Smith*, Mr. *T. Ringgold*, and Mr. *Bowie*, appeared in the House.

On reading propositions from *Abraham Boyd*, of *Prince George's* County,

*Resolved*, That a Company of Militia, to be composed of not less than fifty men, be immediately enrolled, and proper officers commissioned thereto, and that a warrant issue by the Council of Safety to *Abraham Boyd* for enrolling the said Company; which shall be employed, paid, and continued for the same time as the Militia lately raised in this State for the Flying Camp, the said Company finding their own arms and blankets.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

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*Post Meridiem*. Convention met.

Mr. *Fitzhugh* appeared in the House. Mr. *Solomon Wright* appeared and took his seat in the House.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Petition against the election of Delegates for *Anne Arundel* County, being read, the same was withdrawn at the request of the petitioners.

Mr. *Lowes* has leave of absence.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

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Wednesday, September 4, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Lowes*, Mr. *William Ringgold*, Mr. *Earle*, and Mr. *Turbutt Wright*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Peter Chaille*, Mr. *Samuel Handy*, and Mr. *Josiah Mitchell*, Delegates returned for *Worcester* County, appeared and took their seats in the House.

Mr. *Thomas Ringgold*, from the Committee appointed to inquire into the state and condition of Manufactories, brings in and delivers to Mr. President the following Report:

"In obedience to a resolve of the honourable Convention, your Committee for inquiring into the state and condition of manufactories, beg leave to report, That not having had time to inquire into the propriety of the particular charges made in an account lately exhibited by the Commissioners of the gun-lock factory at *Fredericktown*, beg leave to defer their opinion thereon until they have an opportunity of making the necessary inquiries, and until proper vouchers are produced. Nevertheless, upon a general view of the account, your Committee are enabled to report to your honourable House, that the sum of twelve hundred pounds, common money, has been advanced; that one thousand and seventy-six pounds nine shillings and eight pence has been laid out and expended, and that no more than to the amount of eighty-two pounds nineteen shillings and seven pence has been returned in work, valued, in the opinion of your Committee, at high prices, and only thirty-eight gun-locks have been produced; that from the best information the expense of continuing the factory on the publick account will be very great, and under its present circumstances no returns can be expected in any degree adequate to it. Your Committee are therefore of opinion that the proposals of *Elisha Winters*, of *Chestertown*, ought to be accepted on the following terms, viz:

"That the present buildings shall be finished, and such other additional buildings erected as shall be thought necessary for the carrying on the factory, and for the accommodation of *Elisha Winters's* family and the hands employed in the said factory; that some convenient works shall be erected for the grinding and boring bayonets, ramrods, and files, and other materials, and the stream of water that runs near the works shall be conveyed thereto, if to be done at a moderate expense, and with the consent of the proprietors of the land who will be affected by it; that the whole amount of the ground, buildings and other improvements, together with the value of the tools on hand, shall be ascertained, and that *Elisha Winters* shall pay interest thereon at the rate of six per centum from the first day of *October* next, by way of rent yearly; that the materials on hand shall be valued, and the amount deducted out of the work to be received of him.

"That the said *Elisha Winters* shall pay by way of hire yearly for the servants that have been bought on the pub-

lick account, in proportion to the cost of each respective servant, and the time he has to serve, to victual and clothe them at his own expense, to pay their levy and the necessary expense of a physician in case of sickness.

"And your Committee are of opinion, that the said ground, buildings and other improvements, tools and servants, shall remain under rent and hire respectively, on the above terms, after the expiration of the first year, if the said *Elisha Winters* shall continue to merit the confidence of the future Legislature or governing power of this State for the time being.

"And your Committee are further of opinion, that so long as the said *Elisha Winters* continues to be a tenant to the publick, he ought to furnish monthly at least one hundred and twenty-five good substantial muskets, well fitted with bayonets, steel ramrods, and strong neat mounting, and good double bridle locks, and swivels for slings, at four pounds five shillings common money for each; and if it should be in his power to make more than that number, your Committee think he ought to deliver, and the publick to receive them on the same terms; and whenever he shall discontinue to rent and hire as aforesaid, your Committee are of opinion, that the said *Elisha Winters* ought to deliver up the said buildings and improvements in good order, and tools of the same kind and value of those that may be delivered to him, and the servants that may remain alive and in servitude as well clothed as he receives them.

"And if it should so happen that the said *Elisha Winters* should choose to purchase the whole property, that he shall have a right to do it on paying the sum on which he is to pay interest as aforesaid, and the then value of the servants in proportion to their cost and the time they may have to serve respectively, in good muskets fitted as aforesaid, in monthly deliveries of at least one hundred and twenty-five per month, and at the price aforesaid; and if it should be in his power to make more, that he ought to deliver and the publick ought to receive them.

"Your Committee beg leave further to report to your honourable House, that upon inquiry they find that the said *Elisha Winters* has delivered muskets over and above the quantity stipulated to be delivered to this time by his present subsisting contract with the publick, and that the said contract ought not to be binding on the said *Elisha Winters* longer than the commencement of a contract that may be entered into in consequence of this report.

"And your Committee are further of opinion, that such gun barrels as shall hereafter be furnished by *Henry Hollingsworth*, of *Cecil* County, in consequence of his present or a future contract, ought to be delivered by him at his works to the said *Elisha Winters*, to be accounted for at the rate of twenty shillings common money per barrel.

"All which your Committee beg leave to submit to the consideration of your honourable House.

"Signed per order of the Committee:

"JOHN JOHNSON, *Clerk*."

Which was read; and thereupon the Convention taking the same into consideration, the question was put, That the House concur therewith? Carried in the negative.

The Committee of Elections report to the Convention, that by the Return from *Worcester* County, *Samuel Handy*, *Peter Chaille*, *Smith Bishop*, and *Josiah Mitchell*, Esqs., are duly elected Delegates for said County.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Council of Safety advance a month's pay to the officers and privates of Captain *Abraham Boyd's* Company.

A Memorial from Captain *William Stone*, of *Baltimore* County, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Handy* has leave of absence.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow, three o'clock in the afternoon.

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Thursday, September 5, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Handy*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Edmondson*, Mr. *Gibson*, and Mr. *Schriver*, appeared in the House.

Mr. *Sheredine* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to take into their consideration the Letter from the Secretary of the Board of War, of the 6th of *August* last; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Shepherd* has leave of absence till *Monday* next.

The Convention appointed Captain *Peter Mantz* Major to Colonel *Griffith's* Battalion of Militia for the Flying-Camp.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, September 6, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Shepherd*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Lowes*, Mr. *T. Wright*, Mr. *W. Ringgold*, and Mr. *Earle*, appeared in the House.

Mr. *Joseph Ennalls* has leave of absence.

Whereas, the time limited by law for the receipts and inspection of Tobacco at the publick warehouses is expired, and it being represented to this Convention, that, in order to promote the interest of the good people of this State, it is immediately necessary that the inspectors should continue to receive, inspect, and deliver out, all Tobacco that may be brought to the said warehouses:

*Resolved*, That the several inspectors of this State shall continue to receive and inspect all Tobaccoes brought to the said warehouses on or before the 10th day of *November* next, and the inspectors shall also at any time deliver out the Tobaccoes already inspected, or so to be inspected, for exportation, without any oath being previously taken by the master or any other officer of the ship or vessel in which the same shall be exported, or the skipper of the craft to whom the said Tobacco shall be delivered, in consequence of the act of Assembly for the inspection of Tobacco, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

That any person or persons, who might act as inspector or inspectors at any warehouse, on qualifying him or themselves as such, may, on taking the oath of inspector, be and continue inspector or inspectors until the 10th day of *November* next.

That where any persons have been chosen by the Vestries to be inspectors, and could not act as such without a warrant from the Governour for the time being, the Council of Safety, or other executive branch of the government of this State for the time being, may authorize any person so chosen to act as inspector.

That in any case where no person hath been chosen to be inspector according to the said act for the inspection of Tobacco, the Council of Safety, or other executive branch of the government of this State for the time being, may appoint and commission such good substantial planter as they may think fit and proper, residing in the neighbourhood where he is to act, and being well skilled in Tobacco, to act as inspector; and so may they, where there shall otherwise be no inspector at any warehouse because of refusal or refusals to act, or the person or persons who might act being out of this State: *Provided*, Every such person to be appointed inspector be first recommended as such by at least twenty reputable planters, and none of the said inspectors shall continue such by virtue of the said appointments, beyond the said 10th day of *November*, and that every of them, before they act as inspector, take the oath of office.

That the publick shall not be liable in any event for the Tobacco which may be carried to any of the warehouses before the said 10th day of *November*, nor shall any inspector be liable to make good any such, if the same shall happen to be destroyed by enemies, or be otherwise lost without the negligence of the inspector.

That no inspector, who shall act in virtue of these resolutions, shall be entitled to any salary or allowance, other than two shillings and six pence currency for every hogshead of Tobacco he shall inspect, which shall be paid to him at the time of his delivering his note for such Tobacco: And there shall also be paid to the several inspectors for warehouse rent, at the time of delivering out such Tobacco, one shilling per hogshead, to be accounted for by them to the proprietor of the warehouse, or the publick respectively.

*Ordered*, That one hundred and eighty copies of the above Resolutions be immediately printed, and transmitted to the several Counties of this State.

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On reading a second time the Ordinance for the division of *Frederick* County, on motion, the question was put, That the consideration thereof be postponed till the next session of Convention? Carried in the negative.

NEGATIVE.

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| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. Ridgely, |
| Semmes, | Wootton, | Deye, |
| Paraham, | Bayly, | Stevenson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Williams, | J. Smith, |
| J. Mackall, | Sheredine, | H. Wilson, |
| Bowie, | Edelen, | Love, |
| Hall, | Beall, | Archer, |
| Sprigg, | Hughs, | Brevard, |
| Marbury, | Stull, | T. Ringgold, |
| Hammond, | Schnebely, | Johnson. |

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Hoe, | Mr. W. Ringgold, | Mr. Goldsborough, |
| Dent, | Earle, | Murray, |
| Carroll, | T. Smyth, | Gus. Scott, |
| J. Wilson, | T. Wright, | Geo. Scott, |
| Fischer, | S. Wright, | Lowes, |
| Schriver, | Edmondson, | Mason, |
| Boud, | Gibson, | Chaille. |
| Ewing, | | |

The Convention then proceeded to take the same into consideration; which was agreed to, as follows:

Whereas, it appears to this Convention, that the erecting two new Counties out of *Frederick* County will conduce greatly to the ease and convenience of the people thereof:

*Resolved*, That after the 1st day of *October* next, such part of the said County of *Frederick* as is contained within the bounds and limits following, to wit: beginning at the place where the temporary line crosses the *South Mountain*, and running thence by a line on the ridge of the said mountain to the river *Patowmack*, and thence with the lines of the said County so as to include all the lands to the westward of the line running on the ridge of the *South Mountain* as aforesaid to the beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a new County, by the name of *Washington* County.

*Resolved*, That after the 1st day of *October* next, such part of the said County of *Frederick* as is contained within the bounds and limits following, to wit: beginning at the east side of the mouth of *Rock Creek* on *Patowmack* River, and running with the said river to the mouth of *Monoccacy*, then with a straight line to *Par's Spring*; from thence with the lines of the County to the beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a new County, by the name of *Montgomery* County.

*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of the said Counties of *Washington* and *Montgomery* shall have, hold, and enjoy, all such rights and privileges as are held and enjoyed by the inhabitants of any County in this State.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *Joseph Sprigg, Joseph Smith, John Barnes, Andrew Rench, Daniel Hughs, William Yates*, and *Conrad Hogmire*, shall be and are hereby appointed Commissioners for *Washington* County; and they, or the major part of them, shall be and are hereby authorized and required to buy and purchase in fee a quantity of land not exceeding four acres, at or adjoining such place as a majority of voters within the limits of the said County, qualified as this Convention shall hereafter direct, the election to be held at the place heretofore appointed for the choosing of Delegates in this Convention, (the said Commissioners giving ten days' notice of the place and time of voting,) for the purpose of building thereon a Court-House and Prison for the said County; and shall cause the said land to be laid out by the Surveyor of *Frederick* County with good and sufficient boundaries, and a certificate thereof to be returned and recorded in the records of the said County; and the said Commissioners, or a major part of them, shall draw their order on the Sheriff of *Washington* County to pay such sum as shall be agreed upon for the said land, and the Sheriff is hereby directed and required to pay the said order out of the money hereafter mentioned, to be collected by him for that purpose; and such payment for the land shall invest the Justices of *Washington* County and their successors with an estate in fee simple therein for the use of the said County forever; and if the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, and the owner of the said land, shall differ about the value of the said land, in such case the Commissioners, or the major part of them, shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to order the Sheriff of *Washington* County to summon twelve freeholders upon the said land, who shall be empannelled and sworn as a jury, to inquire the value of the said land; and the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, shall draw their order on the Sheriff of *Washington* County to pay the said valuation, and the said Sheriff is hereby directed to pay the said order out of the money hereafter mentioned, to be by him collected for that purpose; and upon his payment of the said order the fee simple in the said land shall be invested as aforesaid in the Justices of *Washington* County and their successors for the use of the said County forever.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *Nathan Magruder, John Murdock, Henry Griffith, Thomas Cramphin*, Junior, *Zadock Magruder, Allen Bowie*, and *John Wilson*, be and are hereby appointed Commissioners for *Montgomery* County; and they, or a major part of them, shall be, and they are hereby authorized and required to buy and purchase in fee a quantity of land not exceeding four acres, at or adjoining such place as a majority of the voters within the limits of the said County, qualified as this Convention shall hereafter direct; the election to be held at the place heretofore appointed for the choosing of Delegates in Convention, (the said Commissioners giving ten days' notice of the time and place aforesaid,) for the purpose of building thereon a Court-House and Prison for the said County; and shall cause the said land to be laid out by the Surveyor of *Montgomery* County, with good and sufficient boundaries, and a certificate thereof to be returned and recorded in the records of the said County; and the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, shall draw their order on the Sheriff of *Montgomery* County, to pay such sum as shall be agreed upon for the said land, and the Sheriff is hereby directed and required to pay the said order out of the money hereafter mentioned to be collected by him for that purpose; and such payment for the land aforesaid shall invest the Justices of *Montgomery* County and their successors with an estate in fee simple therein for the use of the said County forever; and if the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, and the owner of the said land shall differ about the value of the said land, in such case the Commissioners, or the major part of them, shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to order the Sheriff of *Montgomery* County to summon twelve freeholders upon the said land, who shall be empannelled and sworn as a Jury, to inquire the value of the said land; and the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, shall draw their order upon the Sheriff of *Montgomery* County to pay the said valuation; and the said Sheriff is hereby directed to pay the said order out of the money hereafter mentioned to be by him collected for that purpose; and upon his payment of the said order, the fee simple in the said land shall be invested, as aforesaid, in the Justices of *Montgomery* County, and their successors, for the use of the said County forever.

*Resolved*, That the Justices of *Washington* and *Montgomery* Counties, or the major part of them, respectively, be and they are hereby authorized to contract and agree for a convenient place in each of the said Counties to hold the Courts for the said Counties; and to contract and agree for a convenient place in each of the said Counties for their books, papers, and other records, and also for a fit building for the custody of the prisoners; and the said Courts shall be held, and records kept, at such places respectively, until the Court-House and Prison for the said Counties respectively shall be erected and built; and the charge and expense of such places shall be defrayed by the said Counties respectively, and assessed with the publick and County levy.

*Resolved*, That the Justices of the said Counties respectively shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and required to assess and levy, on the *taxable* inhabitants of the said Counties respectively, with the publick and County levy, as much money as will pay for the purchase or valuation of the land aforesaid, together with the Sheriff's salary of such per centum as may be hereafter allowed for collection of the same; which said sum shall be collected by the Sheriffs of the said Counties respectively, from the inhabitants of the said Counties respectively, in the same manner as other publick and County levies may be by law hereafter collected; and the said money, when collected, shall be paid by the Sheriffs to such person or persons as the Commissioners aforesaid, or the major part of them, shall order and direct.

*Resolved*, That the Justices of *Washington* County shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and required to assess

and levy, by three equal assessments, in the years seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, and seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, with their publick and County levy, any sum not exceeding thirteen hundred pounds, common money, in and upon the inhabitants of *Washington* County, together with the Sheriff's salary of such a per centum as may be hereafter allowed for collection of the same; which said sum, so to be assessed and levied, shall be collected by the Sheriff of *Washington* County from the inhabitants thereof, in the same manner as other publick and County levies shall be hereafter by law collected; and the said money, when collected, shall be paid by the said Sheriff to the Commissioners of *Washington* County aforesaid, and shall be by them applied towards building the Court-House and Prison in the said County.

*Resolved*, That the Justices of *Montgomery* County shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and required to assess and levy, with the publick and County levy, by three equal assessments, in the years seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, and seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, any sum not exceeding thirteen hundred pounds common money, together with the Sheriff's salary of such a per centum as may hereafter be allowed for collecting the same; which said money, so to be assessed and levied, shall be collected by the Sheriff of *Montgomery* County, from the inhabitants of the said County, in the same manner as other publick and County levies are by law collected; which said money, when collected, shall be paid by the said Sheriff to the Commissioners of *Montgomery* County aforesaid, and applied by them towards building the Court-House and Prison aforesaid for the said County.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of the said Counties respectively, or the major part of them, shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and required to contract and agree for the building of the said Court-House and Prison on the land to be purchased as aforesaid.

*Resolved*, That all causes, pleas, process, and pleadings which now are or shall be depending in *Frederick* County Court before the 1st day of *December* next, shall and may be prosecuted as effectually as they might have been had these resolves never been made; and in case any deeds or conveyances of land in *Washington* County or *Montgomery* County have been, or shall be, before the division aforesaid, acknowledged according to law in *Frederick* County, the enrollment and recording thereof within the time limited by law, either in the County Court of *Frederick* County, or in the County Court of *Washington* or *Montgomery* County, shall be good and available, the division aforesaid notwithstanding.

*Resolved*, That executions or other legal process upon all judgments had and obtained, or to be had and obtained, on actions already commenced, or to be commenced before the 1st day of *December* next, in *Frederick* County Court, against any inhabitant of *Washington* or *Montgomery* County, be issued and enforced in the same manner as if these resolves had not been made; which said writs shall be directed to the Sheriff of the said Counties respectively; and the said Sheriffs are hereby authorized and directed to serve and return the same to *Frederick* County Court, with the body or bodies of the person or persons, if taken, against whom such writ or writs shall issue for that purpose; and during the attendance of the Sheriff of *Washington* or *Montgomery* County, at *Frederick* County Court, he shall have a power to confine in *Frederick* County Jail, if he shall think it necessary, such persons as he shall have in execution; but after his attendance shall be dispensed with by the said Court, he shall then, in a reasonable time, remove such persons as he shall have in execution to his County Jail, there to be kept till legally discharged.

That the publick and County levy now assessed or levied, or to be levied and assessed, by the Justices of *Frederick* County Court, at their Levy Court for the present year, shall and may be collected and received by the Sheriff of *Frederick* County, as well of the inhabitants of *Frederick* as of *Washington* and *Montgomery* Counties aforesaid, and collected, accounted for, and applied, in such manner as the said publick and County levy would have been collected, accounted for, and applied, had these resolves never been made.

*Resolved*, That the County Court of *Washington* County shall begin and be held yearly on the fourth *Tuesdays* of those months in which other County Courts are held, and shall have equal power and jurisdiction with any County Court in this State.

*Resolved*, That the County Court of *Montgomery* County shall begin and be held yearly on the second *Tuesdays* of those months in which other County Courts are held, and shall have equal power and jurisdiction with any County Court in this State.

Mr. *Ridgely* has leave of absence till *Tuesday* next.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

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Saturday, September 7, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Joseph Ennalls* and Mr. *Ridgely*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Chamberlaine* and Mr. *Horsey* appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, that the question be put on the following:

Whereas, it has been the uniform rule and practice of former Conventions of this State, to delegate members to General Congress from their own body, being the representatives of the people of this State; and as a departure therefrom may introduce and intrude on this community men unworthy of confidence into the most important and highest trusts, dangerous to the safety and welfare of *America*, especially at this critical conjuncture, That no person whatsoever, except a Delegate of the people in Convention, be chosen or qualified to serve this State as a member of the General Congress?

The previous question was called for and put, whether the above question be now put? Carried in the negative.

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Hooe, | Beall, | Gibson, |
| Dent, | Hughs, | Chamberlaine, |
| Semmes, | Stull, | Goldsborough, |
| Parnham, | Schnebely, | Murray, |
| Bowie, | T. Smyth, | John Ennalls, |
| Hall, | Chase, | Potter, |
| Sprigg, | H. Wilson, | Mason, |
| Marbury, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| Paca, | Ewing, | Gust. Scott, |
| Carroll, | T. Ringgold, | Geo. Scott, |
| Wootton, | W. Ringgold, | Horsey, |
| J. Wilson, | Earle, | Lowes, |
| Bayly, | J. Smith, | Chaille, |
| Sheredine, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Edelen, | Kent, | |

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Willliams, | Mr. Love, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Archer, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Brevard, |
| Hammond, | Bond, | S. Wright. |

Mr. *Stevenson* and Mr. *T. Smyth* have leave of absence till *Tuesday* next, and Mr. *W. Ringgold* till *Monday* next.

On motion of Mr. *Paca*, the question was put, That *Thomas Stone*, Esq., be and he is hereby empowered to represent this State in Congress, in as full and ample manner as the Delegates heretofore appointed might or could do, until the said Delegates or any two or more of them shall attend, or this Convention make further order therein? Carried in the negative.

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Marbury, | Mr. J. Smith, |
| Plater, | Hammond, | Chase, |
| Hooe, | Wootton, | Bond, |
| Dent, | Bayly, | Love, |
| Semmes, | Williams, | Archer, |
| Parnham, | Sheredine, | Gilpin, |
| Fitzhugh, | Hughs, | Brevard, |
| J. Mackall, | Schriver, | Kent, |
| Bowie, | Schnebely, | S. Wright, |
| Hall, | Deye, | Edmondson. |
| Sprigg, | | |

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Paca, | Mr. W. Ringgold, | Mr. Potter, |
| Carroll, | Earle, | Mason, |
| J. Wilson, | T. Smyth, | Johnson, |
| Edelen, | T. Wright, | Gus. Scott, |
| Beall, | Gibson, | Geo. Scott, |
| Stull, | Chamberlaine, | Horsey, |
| H. Wilson, | Goldsborough, | Lowes, |
| Ewing, | Murray, | Chaille, |
| T. Ringgold, | John Ennalls, | Mitchell. |

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to prepare and

report resolutions to prevent Non-Associators from endangering the peace of this State.

And Mr. *Johnson*, Mr. *Parnham*, Mr. *Chase*, Mr. *Paca*, and Mr. *Hooe*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

Convention adjourns till *Tuesday*, three o'clock in the afternoon.

—

Tuesday, September 10, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*, except Mr. *Parnham*, Mr. *J. Mackall*, Mr. *Bowie*, Mr. *Hall*, Mr. *Stevenson*, Mr. *T. Ringgold*, Mr. *W. Ringgold*, Mr. *T. Smith*, Mr. *Gibson*, Mr. *Potter*, and Mr. *Mason*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

Mr. *John Hall* and Mr. *Samuel Chase*, Delegates returned for *Anne Arundel* County, appeared and took their seats in the House. Mr. *D. Smith*, Mr. *Shepherd*, and Mr. *B. Mackall*, appeared in the House.

The Committee of Elections report to the Convention, that by the Return for *Anne Arundel* County it appears that *John Hall*, *Brice Thomas Beale Worthington*, and *Samuel Chase*, Esquires, are duly elected Delegates for said County.

The President laid before the Convention a Letter and several Resolutions from the honourable the President of the Congress, of the 3d day of this instant, which were read; and thereupon the Convention taking the same into consideration,

*Resolved*, That the Commanding Officers of the several Battalions of Militia in *Prince George's*, *Frederick*, *Anne Arundel*, *Baltimore*, *Harford*, *Cecil*, *Kent*, *Queen Anne's*, and *Caroline* Counties, be requested to call their Battalions together as soon as possible, and that the Field-Officers of the said Counties, respectively, select companies of volunteers as follows, to wit: *Prince George's* one, *Frederick* three, that is, one in each District thereof, *Anne Arundel* two, *Baltimore* two, *Harford* two, *Cecil* three, *Kent* two, *Queen Anne's* two, and *Caroline* one; that each Company consist of sixty-eight privates, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, and one fifer, under the command of a Captain, two Lieutenants, and an Ensign.

That each Company be armed out of the arms belonging to the Battalions of their Counties respectively, which shall be appraised and borrowed, or paid for, at the election of the owner, by the Council of Safety: That if arms cannot be procured from the Militia, any of the Field-Officers may impress and appraise arms necessary to equip each Company, which shall be paid for by the Council of Safety.

That to encourage the immediate march of the Militia, a bounty of three pounds and one month's pay be advanced by the Council of Safety to each non-commissioned officer and private.

That the Field-Officers of each Battalion recommend the Commissioned Officers for each Company to this Convention, or in their recess to the Council of Safety, for their approbation; which officers so to be recommended shall be made known to the Militia before their enrollment.

That the Committees of Observation of any of the said Counties or Districts, where there shall be no Field-Officers to any Battalion therein, be required to carry the above requisition into execution in their respective Counties and Districts.

That the Convention, or in their recess the Council of Safety, form the said Companies of Volunteers into Battalions, and appoint the Field-Officers.

That the Council of Safety take every measure in their power to furnish and equip the said Companies with all necessaries, to expedite and to prepare carriages and provisions for their march.

That the said Companies be enrolled until the first day of *December* next, unless sooner discharged by Congress, and receive Continental pay from the day of enrollment.

That the Companies of Militia so to be raised be enrolled in the Counties and Districts where they are directed to be raised as aforesaid, and not of inhabitants of other Counties or Districts.

That if any Company of Militia shall offer themselves, they shall be allowed to go into the service under their present officers; or if the present officers of any Company, with a considerable number of their Company, offer to go and shall be able to fill up the number by enrollment of others, such Company may march under such officers.

That a warrant issue to Captain *Andrew Hines*, of *Frederick* County, to enroll a company of men for the Flying-Camp service, on the same terms as the other Militia, and that commissions issue to him and other proper commissioned officers by the Council of Safety.

That the President transmit copies of the above to each of the said Counties and Districts by express; and that money be advanced by the Council of Safety to such person in each of the said Counties and Districts as they shall think proper, to discharge the bounty, the month's pay, and the purchase of arms, as above directed.

On motion, the question was put, That the Committees of Observation for the several Counties and Districts in this State, and the several Committees of Correspondence, and Committees for licensing suits, do continue to act with the powers heretofore vested in them until the 1st day of *December* next?

Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. Earle, |
| Plater, | Edelen, | T. Wright, |
| Hooe, | Schriver, | S. Wright, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Edmondson, |
| Semmes, | Hughs, | Chamberlaine, |
| B. Mackall, | Stull, | Murray, |
| Fitzhugh, | Schnebely, | John Ennalls, |
| Sprigg, | Shepherd, | Johnson, |
| Marbury, | J. Smith, | Gust. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | J. T. Chase, | Geo. Scott, |
| Paca, | H. Wilson, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | Love, | Lowes, |
| J. Wilson, | Gilpin, | Chaille, |
| Bayly, | Ewing, | Mitchell. |
| Williams, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. J. Hall, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. Archer, |
| Hammond, | Bond, | Brevard. |
| Wootton, | D. Smith, | |

Mr. *Chamberlaine* brings in and delivers to Mr. President, a Report from the Committee to whom the several Papers relative to the conduct of *Joseph Wheland*, Jun., *John Evans*, *Robert Howith*, and *John Price*, were referred; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

A Petition from *Job Greene*, of *Baltimore* Town; a Petition from *Thomas Deale*, Sheriff of *Anne Arundel* County; a Petition from a majority of *Castle-Haven* company of Militia, in *Dorchester* County, against the conduct of their Captain; and a Petition from several prisoners of war in *Frederick* County Jail, praying to be removed to the log Jail, were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Plater*, from the Committee for that purpose appointed, brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Constitution and form of Government for this State; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, September 11, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *B. Hall*, Mr. *Gibson*, Mr. *Potter*, Mr. *T. Ringgold*, Mr. *W. Ringgold*, Mr. *T. Smith*, and Mr. *Bowie*, appeared in the House.

On motion, the question was put, That the consideration of the Declaration and Charter of Rights and form of Government for this State, be postponed till *Monday* fortnight? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. J. Wilson, | Mr. T. Wright, |
| Plater, | Williams, | S. Wright, |
| Hooe, | Sheredine, | Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Gibson, |
| B. Mackall, | Schriver, | Chamberlaine, |
| Fitzhugh, | Beall, | Goldsborough, |
| B. Hall, | Hughs, | Murray, |
| Sprigg, | Stull, | John Ennalls, |
| Marbury, | Schnebely, | Potter, |
| Hammond, | J. T. Chase, | Johnson, |
| J. Hall, | T. Ringgold, | Gust. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | W. Ringgold, | Geo. Scott, |
| Paca, | Earle, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | T. Smith, | Mitchell. |
| Wootton, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Bayly, | Mr. H. Wilson, | Mr. D. Smith, |
| Deye, | Love, | Brevard, |
| Shepherd, | Archer, | Lowes, |
| J. Smith, | Ewing, | Chaille. |
| Bond, | | |

Mr. *Fischer* has leave of absence.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

On motion, That the Deputies appointed to Congress, and now attending this Convention, or any three of them, immediately repair to Congress, and in conjunction with *Thomas Stone*, Esq., represent this State in such manner as is prescribed by the nomination and appointment heretofore made? The previous question was called for and put, whether the above question be now put? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. T. Wright, |
| Plater, | Schriver, | S. Wright, |
| Hoe, | Beall, | Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Stull, | Gibson, |
| Semmes, | Schnebely, | Chamberlaine, |
| B. Mackall, | J. T. Chase, | Goldsborough, |
| B. Hall, | H. Wilson, | Murray, |
| Sprigg, | Love, | John Ennalls, |
| Marbury, | Archer, | Potter, |
| J. Hall, | Ewing, | Johnson, |
| S. Chase, | D. Smith, | Gust. Scott, |
| Paca, | Brevard, | Geo. Scott, |
| Carroll, | T. Ringgold, | Horsey, |
| Wootton, | W. Ringgold, | Lowes, |
| J. Wilson, | Earle, | Chaille, |
| Bayly, | T. Smith, | Mitchell. |
| Sheredine, | | |

NEGATIVE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. J. Smith, |
| Bowie, | Deye, | Bond. |
| Hammond, | Shepherd, | |

The main question was then put, and resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. *Sheredine* and Mr. *Stull* have leave of absence.

Mr. *Ridgely* and Mr. *Stevenson* appeared in the House.

The Field-Officers of the *Severn* Battalion recommend to the Convention *Elijah Robosson* as Captain, *Samuel Barber* as First Lieutenant, *Vachel Gaither* as Second Lieutenant, and *Nicholas Worthington*, Jun., as Ensign, who have engaged to raise a full Company: Thereupon it is ordered, that the Council of Safety issue warrants agreeable to the said recommendation, and commissions upon making up a full Company; and the said Council of Safety are hereby authorized to advance the bounty money to said *Elijah Robosson*, he giving his receipt for the same.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to contract for one thousand Pikes, not less than twelve feet in length.

Mr. *Goldsborough*, Mr. *Ewing*, Mr. *Lowes*, Mr. *Beall*, Mr. *George Scott*, and Mr. *Williams*, have leave of absence.

On motion of Mr. *Hughs*,

*Resolved*, That the qualification of voters in *Washington* County for the purpose of fixing on the most convenient place for a Court-House and Prison in said County, be the same as of voters for Representatives in this Convention.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Reverend *John Scott* be allowed another week from this day to settle his affairs, and to remove himself and family to *Frederick* County, under the condition and restrictions of a former resolve upon this subject.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, September 12, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Sheredine*, Mr. *Fischer*, Mr. *Beall*, Mr. *Stull*, and Mr. *Hughs*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Parnham* and Mr. *Mason* appeared in the House.

A Petition from *William Hopper*, Sheriff of *Caroline* County, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Convention appointed Mr. *George Cook* Commander of the Ship *Defence*, Mr. *Henry Auchinleck* First Lieutenant, Mr. *John Burnell* Second Lieutenant, and Mr. *James Codray* Master of the said Ship.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to sell the Schooner *Resolution*, after removing her military and other stores, and her sails, rigging, anchors, and cables.

*Resolved*, That no Merchant Vessel belonging to any inhabitant of this State, sail from this State without license from the Council of Safety, or the Committee of Observation for the County from which the vessel shall sail, and that no such license be granted before the Captain of such vessel shall make oath, or affirmation (if a Quaker,) as to the contents of his cargo, and that he will use his best endeavours to prevent such cargo, and every part thereof, from being landed in any part of the dominions of the King of *Great Britain*, or otherwise going into the hands of the enemies of *America;* and further shall give bond with good security, that he will not land such cargo, or any part thereof, in any port, island, or territory, subject to the King of *Great Britain*, nor sell or dispose of the said cargo, or any part thereof, to the enemies of *America;* and the owners of the cargo shall also make oath, or affirmation (if a Quaker,) that the said cargo, and no part thereof, belongs to, or is for the use or benefit of any inhabitant of *Great Britain, Ireland*, or any of the dominions subject to the King of *Great Britain*.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met, and took into consideration the Report of the Committee on the conduct of *Joseph Wheland*, Jun., *John Evans*, *Robert Howith*, and *John Price;* and the aforesaid *Joseph Wheland* having admitted the charge as reported against him,

*Resolved*, That the said *Joseph Wheland* be confined in the log Jail in *Frederick* County until he make ample restitution unto *John White*, of *Dorchester* County, for his Sloop, which he caused to be destroyed, the value thereof to be ascertained by the Committee of Observation for *Dorchester* County, and give such security as the Council of Safety of this State, or the Executive power for the time being, shall judge necessary for his future good behaviour.

*Resolved*, That the aforesaid *John Evans* and *John Price* give bond with good security, each in the sum of fifty pounds, current money, and that the aforesaid *Robert Howith* give bond in the sum of twenty, pounds current money, payable to the Honourable *Matthew Tilghman*, Esq., for their future good behaviour, and that they be committed to the Jail of *Anne Arundel* County until they severally give the security aforesaid; but after giving the same, that they be discharged.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the several Inspectors within this State shall permit all Tobaccoes inspected by private inspectors, according to contract prior to the resolutions of this Convention regulating the inspection of Tobacco, to be taken out of the warehouses, without inspecting the same, or making any charge against the proprietor of such Tobacco, other than one shilling per hogshead for warehouse rent.

Mr. *Gilpin* and Mr. *Brevard* have leave of absence.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

—

Friday, September 13, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Johnson*, Mr. *S. Chase*, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Williams*, Mr. *George Scott*, and Mr. *Lowes*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Jordan* and Mr. *Hughs* appeared in the House.

On reading a second time the Petition from a majority of *Castle-Haven* Company,

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to the Council of Safety.

On reading a second time the Report from the Committee to whom the Letter from the Secretary of the Board of War of the 6th of *August* last, was referred,

*Ordered*, That the Clerk transmit to the Secretary of the Board of War an accurate list of all the prisoners of war in this State, as reported by the Committee aforesaid.

The Petition from the Trustees of the Poor of *Frederick* County was read a second time and rejected.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

*Resolved*, That the Money levied on the inhabitants of *Baltimore* County, and collected by the Sheriff thereof, for the purpose of repaying the money appropriated by way of

loan to the use of the said County for clearing and opening roads by act of Assembly, be applied in discharge of the County charges of those persons by whom the said money was paid, and in such proportions as the same was by them respectively paid, and that the said Sheriff cease to collect the residue of the money levied for the purpose above recited: and that the Justices of *Baltimore* County Court forbear to levy any further sum of money on the inhabitants of the said County, according to the said act of Assembly, for the purpose aforesaid, until the further order of this Convention or General Assembly of this State.

On motion of Mr. *T. Ringgold*, the question was put, That the restriction laid on the price of Salt, by the resolve of Convention of the 6th of *July* last, and the bounty given by the said resolve, be taken off, and that no future limitations ought to be made by this or a future Convention, or by any Committee of Observation of this State, on the price of any Salt that may be imported into this State on or before the 1st day of *May* next, any thing in the said or any other resolve to the contrary notwithstanding? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Hughs, | Mr. T. Smith, |
| Hooe, | Schnebely, | T. Wright, |
| Dent, | Shepherd, | Kent, |
| Semmes, | J. Smith, | Edmondson, |
| Jordan, | J. T. Chase, | Gibson, |
| B. Mackall, | H. Wilson, | Chamberlaine, |
| B. Hall, | Love, | Goldsborough, |
| Sprigg, | Archer, | Murray, |
| Marbury, | Gilpin, | John Ennalls, |
| Carroll, | Ewing, | Potter, |
| J. Wilson, | D. Smith, | Horsey, |
| Bayly, | Brevard, | Chaille, |
| Edelen, | T. Ringgold, | Mitchell. |
| Schriver, | Earle, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Wootton, | Mr. Bond, |
| Parnham, | Ridgely, | W. Ringgold, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | S. Wright, |
| Bowie, | Stevenson, | Gus. Scott. |
| J. Hall, | | |

*Ordered*, That the above Resolution be inserted in the *Maryland Gazette* and *Baltimore* Town papers four weeks successively.

Mr. *Gustavus Scott* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to consider of the disposition of Captures; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, September 14, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Gilpin*, Mr. *Ewing*, Mr. *Brevard*, Mr. *T. Wright*, Mr. *Kent*, Mr. *Goldsborough*, and Mr. *Marbury*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

It being represented to this Convention, that in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy three, an act of Assembly passed, directing the Justices of *Talbot* County to levy on the inhabitants of that County forty-five pounds of tobacco per tax, to be paid at three annual payments, for the purposes of purchasing land and building a house thereon for the reception of the poor of that County; that in consequence thereof there was levied, at *November* Court, seventeen hundred and seventy-four, the quantity of fifteen pounds of tobacco per poll, which has been collected and paid into the hands of trustees appointed to carry the said act into execution, and there remains unexpended; that at *November* Court, seventeen hundred and seventy five, the further sum of fifteen pounds of tobacco was levied by the Justices of the said County, now to be collected by the Sheriff, which cannot at this time be done without distressing the inhabitants thereof:

*Resolved therefore*, That the Sheriff of *Talbot* County shall forbear to collect any of the tobacco so levied on the inhabitants of that County at *November* Court, seventeen hundred and seventy-five, and that the trustees appointed for carrying the said act of Assembly into execution, are hereby requested to pay all money or tobacco which they may have received or shall hereafter receive in virtue of the said act, into the hands of the trustees of the said County, to be applied by them to the relief and support of the poor of the said County.

Mr. *Hughs* brings in and delivers to Mr. President the following Report, to wit:

"Your Committee to inquire into the expenditure of the money appropriated for the building a log Jail in *Frederick* County, beg leave to report, that one hundred and seventy-nine pounds five shillings and two pence farthing has been expended on the same, as per account rendered to your Committee; and that there remains in the hands of the supervisors of the said building the sum of twenty pounds fourteen shillings and nine pence three farthings. That the log Jail is completed agreeable to the direction of a resolve in *December* last, all to three stoves. Your Committee are of opinion that the said log Jail is by no means proper for the reception of prisoners of war, having no yard or other necessary convenience. All which is submitted to the honourable House.

"Signed by order of the Committee,

"JOHN JOHNSON, *Clerk*."

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Convention adjourns till *Monday* morning, nine o'clock.

—

Monday, September 16, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*, except Mr. *Hughs*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

Mr. *Worthington*, Mr. *Bruff*, Mr. *J. Mackall*, and Mr. *Fenwick*, appeared in the House.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention took into consideration the Report relative to the conduct of *Isaac Costin*; and after hearing the evidence produced, as well against as in behalf of the said *Isaac Costin*, were of opinion, that he hath shewed himself inimical to the cause of *American* freedom; therefore *Resolved*, That the said *Isaac Costin* enter into bond with good security to the President of this Convention, in the penalty of two hundred pounds, common money, for his future good behaviour, and thereupon be discharged on paying the charges of his prosecution.

Mr. *Hooe* and Mr. *Semmes* have leave of absence.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Tuesday, September 17, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Hooe*, Mr. *Semmes*, and Mr. *Worthington*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Chamberlaine* has leave of absence.

On motion, *Resolved*, That three persons be added to the Committee appointed to examine and report the state of the Accounts and Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Loan Office; and Mr. *T. Ringgold*, Mr. *J. Smith*, and Mr. *Worthington*, were elected by ballot to be of the said Committee.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, That the question be put on the following:

As the establishing a Bill of Rights and the formation of a new Government on the authority of the people only, are matters of the utmost importance to the good people of this State, and their posterity; and as the Bill of Rights and form of Government reported to this Convention by the Committee chosen for that purpose, have been referred for consideration to *Monday*, the 30th instant, occasioned by the necessary attendance in Congress of several of the representatives of the people; in order therefore that the fullest consideration may be had thereon,

*Resolved*, That the said Bill of Rights and form of Government be immediately printed for the consideration of the people at large, and that twelve copies thereof be sent without delay to each County in this State.

The previous question was called for by Mr. *Gustavus Scott*, and put, whether the above question be now put? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. W. Ringgold, |
| B. Mackall, | Ridgely, | S. Wright, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Bruff, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Edmondson, |
| Bowie, | Shepherd, | Gibson, |
| B. Hall, | Bond, | Potter, |
| Marbury, | H. Wilson, | Mason, |
| Hammond, | Love, | Chaille, |
| J. Hall, | Archer, | Mitchell. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. J. Wilson, | Mr. Earle, |
| Plater, | Bayly, | T. Smyth, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Murray, |
| Parnham, | J. Smith, | John Ennalls, |
| Sprigg, | J. T. Chase, | Gust. Scott, |
| Carroll, | T. Ringgold, | Horsey. |
| Wootton, | | |

The main question was then put, and resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Bayly, | Mr. W. Ringgold, |
| B. Mackall, | Schriver, | S. Wright, |
| Fitzhugh, | Ridgely, | Bruff, |
| J. Mackall, | Deye, | Edmondson, |
| Bowie, | Stevenson, | Gibson, |
| B. Hall, | Shepherd, | John Ennalls, |
| Marbury, | Bond, | Potter, |
| Hammond, | H. Wilson, | Mason, |
| J. Hall, | Love, | Chaille, |
| J. Wilson, | Archer, | Mitchell. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Wootton, | Mr. Earle, |
| Plater, | Edelen, | T. Smyth, |
| Dent, | J. Smith, | Murray, |
| Parnham, | J. T. Chase, | Gust. Scott, |
| Sprigg, | T. Ringgold, | Horsey. |
| Carroll, | | |

Mr. *Fitzhugh* brings in and delivers to Mr. President, a Report from the Committee appointed to take into their consideration the Resolution of Congress of the 17th of *August* last, and report their opinion thereon; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Convention proceeded to the choice of a member of the Council of Safety, in the room of *Thomas Bedingfield Hands*, Esquire, who had resigned his seat as a Member of that Board; and *Nicholas Thomas*, Esquire, was elected.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be requested to take the necessary steps to provide Paper for printing a further sum of money for the use of this State.

On motion of Mr. *Parnham*, That the House be adjourned to the 30th instant, and all the Members absent as well as present requested to give punctual attendance on that day, and that no itinerant charges for going and returning be allowed to any of the Members,

It was moved that the question, consisting of two parts, be separated; upon which the question was put, That the same be divided into two questions? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Wootton, | Mr. Earle, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | T. Smyth, |
| Plater, | Bayly, | S. Wright, |
| Jordan, | J. Smith, | Bruff, |
| Marbury, | Chase, | Mason, |
| Hammond, | Archer, | Gust. Scott, |
| J. Hall, | T. Ringgold, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | W. Ringgold, | Mitchell. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. Love, |
| Parnham, | Schriver, | Edmondson, |
| B. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Gibson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Murray, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | John Ennalls, |
| Bowie, | Shepherd, | Potter, |
| B. Hall, | Bond, | Chaille. |
| Sprigg, | H. Wilson, | |

The question was then put, That the House be adjourned to the 30th instant, and all the Members absent as well as present requested to give punctual attendance on that day? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Schriver, | Gibson, |
| Parnham, | Ridgely, | Murray, |
| B. Mackall, | Deye, | John Ennalls, |
| Fitzhugh, | Stevenson, | Potter, |
| J. Mackall, | Shepherd, | Mason, |
| Bowie, | Bond, | Chaille, |
| B. Hall, | H. Wilson, | Mitchell, |
| Sprigg, | Love, | Gust. Scott, |
| Bayly, | Archer, | Horsey. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. W. Ringgold, |
| Plater, | Wootton, | Earle, |
| Jordan, | J. Wilson, | T. Smyth, |
| Marbury, | J. Smith, | S. Wright, |
| Hammond, | J. T. Chase, | Bruff. |
| J. Hall, | T. Ringgold, | |

On motion of Mr. *J. T. Chase*,

*Resolved unanimously*, That no itinerant charges for going and returning be allowed any of the Members.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the Council of Safety be directed to discharge *Henry Green*, of Captain *Gurby's* Company, and one *Robinson*, of the Flying-Camp, who are sick at *Philadelphia*.

Convention adjourns till *Monday*, the 30th instant, and from thence from day to day till

—

Wednesday, October 2, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Tuesday*, the 17th of *September* last, except Mr. *Jordan*, Mr. *B. Mackall*, Mr. *B. Hall*, Mr. *Wootton*, Mr. *Schnebely*, Mr. *Ridgely*, Mr. *D. Smith*, Mr. *Earle*, Mr. *Murray*, Mr. *Mason*, and Mr. *Chaille*.

Mr. *Worthington*, Mr. *S. Chase*, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Williams*, Mr. *Fischer*, Mr. *Sheredine*, Mr. *Beall*, Mr. *Gilpin*, Mr. *Ewing*, Mr. *Brevard*, Mr. *T. Wright*, Mr. *Kent*, Mr. *Joseph Ennalls*, and Mr. *Dickinson*, appeared in the House.

A Petition from *Thomas Grey*, of *Battle Creek*, in *Calvert* County, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Declaration and Charter of Rights, and form of Government for this State, being read,

*Ordered*, That the same be referred for consideration till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, October 3, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *B. Hall*, Mr. *Ridgely*, Mr. *Mason*, Mr. *George Scott*, Mr. *Lowes*, Mr. *Chaille*, and Mr. *Bishop*, appeared in the House.

On motion, *Ordered*, That *William Bartlett Townsend* be discharged from confinement, on giving security for his appearance before this Convention when called on.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Smallwood* and General *Beall* immediately, and so monthly thereafter, make Returns to this Convention, or in their recess to the Council of Safety, of the number of forces under their command respectively, and of their state and condition.

*Resolved*, That the President be requested immediately to transmit a copy of the above to Colonel *Smallwood* and General *Beall*, respectively.

Captain *John Watkins*, of the Third Independent Company of Regulars, resigned his commission, which was accepted by the Convention.

Mr. *Solomon Long* was appointed Captain of the said Company; Mr. *Ely Dorsey*, First Lieutenant; and Mr. *Dixon Quinton*, Second Lieutenant.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem*. Convention met.

A Memorial from Captain *Abraham Boyd*, of *Prince George's* County, was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*,

*Resolved*, That every Company of Militia in this State be exercised only once a fortnight, and that every Battalion of Militia be exercised in Battalion at such times and places as the Field-Officers of the Battalion shall appoint, not oftener than once in every two months, nor seldomer than once in every three months, the day of exercise in Battalion being accounted as the day of exercise for that fortnight, any former resolve of Convention to the contrary notwithstanding.

A Petition from *Robert Cowell* and *Nicholas Reilly*, setting forth that they had, on the 25th day of *September* last, been convicted of felony and received sentence of death before *Baltimore* County Court, and praying this Convention to grant them pardon, was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *Sheredine*, the question was put, That this Convention on to-morrow morning resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Declaration and Charter of Rights, and form of Government for this State? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. J. Smith, |
| Parnham, | Fischer, | J. T. Chase, |
| Fitzhugh, | Sheredine, | Bond, |
| J. Mackall, | Edelen, | H. Wilson, |
| Bowie, | Schriver, | Love, |
| B. Hall, | Beall, | Archer, |
| Sprigg, | Ridgely, | Ewing, |
| Hammond, | Deye, | Brevard, |
| J. Wilson, | Stevenson, | John Ennalls. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. T. Ringgold, | Mr. Potter, |
| Fenwick, | W. Ringgold, | Dickinson, |
| Plater, | T. Smyth, | Gust. Scott, |
| Worthington, | T. Wright, | Geo. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | Kent, | Horsey, |
| Paca, | Bruff, | Lowes, |
| Carroll, | Edmondson, | Bishop, |
| Bayly, | Gibson, | Mitchell. |
| Gilpin, | Joseph Ennalls, | |

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, October 4, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *Bond*, the question was put, That the Journals and Proceedings of this Convention, from the meeting thereof until this day, be immediately printed, and that two copies be delivered to every Member of this House; and that for the future the Journals and Proceedings of the Convention shall be printed weekly and delivered as aforesaid? Carried in the negative.

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. Joseph Ennalls, |
| Plater, | Edelen, | Potter, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Mason, |
| Parnham, | J. Smith, | Dickinson, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Gust. Scott, |
| Sprigg, | Gilpin, | Geo. Scott, |
| Worthington, | T. Ringgold, | Horsey, |
| S. Chase, | W. Ringgold, | Lowes, |
| Paca, | T. Smyth, | Chaille, |
| Carroll, | T. Wright, | Bishop, |
| Bayly, | Bruff, | Mitchell. |
| Fischer, | John Ennalls, | |

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. Archer, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Ewing, |
| Hammond, | Shepherd, | Brevard, |
| J. Wilson, | Bond, | Kent, |
| Williams, | H. Wilson, | Edmondson, |
| Schriver, | Love, | Gibson. |
| Ridgely, | | |

It appearing to this House that *Robert Browne*, the proprietor of the warehouse on the land of the late *Charles Brown*, on *Wye* River, in *Queen Anne's* County, hath refused to let the said warehouse for the purpose of carrying into execution a resolve of this House of the 6th of *September* last,

*Resolved*, That the Inspector immediately take possession of the said warehouse for the purpose aforesaid, and the Committee of Observation of said County are hereby required, if it should be necessary, to be aiding and assisting in enforcing this resolution, and for that purpose to call in the force of the County, or any part thereof.

*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of this State may discharge their Publick Dues, Deputy Commissaries' and Attorneys' fees, in inspected Tobacco, in the same manner they might have done before the 10th day of *June* last, by acts of Assembly, and that the several Sheriffs shall be obliged to receive the same until the 20th day of *November* next, or until the further order of this Convention, and the said Deputy Commissaries and Attorneys, and all persons who are entitled to any publick dues, are hereby obliged to receive the said Tobacco from the Sheriffs in payment of their several claims.

The order of the day, that the Convention will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Declaration and Charter of Rights, and form of Government for this State, being read, the same was referred till *Tuesday* next.

On motion of Mr. *Samuel Chase*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a scheme for the emission of Bills of Credit for the defence of this State, and such other purposes as shall be directed by the Convention or the Legislature of this State, and Mr. *S. Chase*, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Carroll*, Mr. *J. Hall*, Mr. *Worthington*, and Mr. *T. Ringgold*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem*. Convention met. Mr. *D. Smith* and Mr. *Grahame* appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to import at the expense and risk of this State, as speedily as possible, Blankets and other coarse Woollens and Linens proper for Soldiers' Clothing, Duck proper for Tents, Tin for Camp-Kettles, Medicine, and other necessaries for supplying the Troops raised or to be raised by this State, and a quantity of Sail Duck, to the amount in the whole of twenty-five thousand pounds, current money; five thousand stand of Arms, five thousand good Gun-locks, six brass Field-pieces of four pounders, four six and four eight inch Howitzers, twenty tons Powder, and forty tons of Lead. That for this purpose they export, at the risk of this State, Tobacco, Wheat, Flour, or other commodities of the growth thereof, and draw on either of the Treasurers to defray the expense thereof, for any sum not exceeding sixty-five thousand pounds, current money.

The President laid before the Convention a Letter from the Honourable the President of Congress of the 24th, and several Resolutions of Congress of the 16th, 18th, and 19th, of *September* last, which were read: and thereupon

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to take the said Letter and Resolutions into their consideration and report their opinion thereon.

And Mr. *S. Chase*, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *J. Hall*, Mr. *Carroll*, Mr. *Plater*, Mr. *Fitzhugh*, and Mr. *Gustavus Scott*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the Letter from the President of Congress, of the second of this instant, be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

Mr. *Paca* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee to whom the several Papers and Depositions relative to the conduct of *William Bartlett Townsend* were referred; which was read.

*Ordered*, That the same be taken into consideration on *Tuesday*, the 15th instant.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, October 5, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *Bond*,

*Resolved*, That the Journal and Proceedings of this Convention, from the meeting thereof until the adjournment, be immediately printed, and that two copies be delivered to every Member of this House.

On motion of Mr. *Paca*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to revise and correct the Proceedings for the press.

And Mr. *Fitzhugh*, Mr. *Bond*, and Mr. *Deye*, were elected by ballot a Committee for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. *T. Ringgold*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety fit and load the Schooner *Resolution*, and send her out on a voyage to sea at the expense and risk of this State, the former order of this Convention to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. *Ridgely*, from the Committee appointed to receive proposals relating to the establishment of Manufactories, and report their opinion thereon, brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report on the Petition of *Jacob Myers*, of *Frederick* County; which was read, and thereupon the Convention taking the same into consideration,

*Resolved*, That the sum of three hundred pounds be advanced out of the publick Treasury to the said *Jacob Myers*, he giving bond with good security to repay the same in Wire manufactured by him, in the following payments, to wit: one hundred and fifty pounds thereof in *September* next, and the remaining one hundred and fifty pounds in *March* then next following, at such prices as the Convention shall think proper to set on the same.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the

Letter from the President of the Congress of the 2d of this instant, being read, the same was referred till *Wednesday*, the 6th of *November* next.

Convention adjourns till *Monday* morning, nine o'clock.

—

Monday, October 7, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read. Mr. *Johnson* and Mr. *Stull* appeared in the House.

The Convention appointed *Norman Bruce* Colonel, *William Blair* Lieutenant-Colonel, *William Shields* First Major, *Samuel Shaw* Second Major, and *Joseph M'Killip* Quartermaster, of the Thirty-Fifth Battalion of Militia of this State.

On motion of Mr. *T. Wright*,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Johnson* be added to the Committee appointed to consider of the Letter and Resolutions of Congress of the 16th, 18th, and 19th of *September* last.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem*. Convention met. Mr. *Wootton* appeared in the House.

A Petition from *Thomas Scott*, now confined in *Frederick* County Jail, under sentence of death for murder, praying to be reprieved; a Petition from *John Drury*, Senior, *John Drury*, Jun., *George Brewer*, *Francis Drury*, *William Carpenter*, *Ignatius Moore*, and *Nicholas Moore*, praying reparation of the loss they sustained by being driven from their habitations on *St. George's Island* by the *British* fleet under the command of Lord *Dunmore*; and a Petition from *Roger Jones* and *John Jones*, of *Dorchester* County, setting forth that they were possessed of two negro men slaves, to wit: *Roger Jones* of a negro man slave named *Kit*, and *John Jones* of a negro man slave named *Robin*; that the said negro men slaves were indicted before the last *Dorchester* County *August* Court, for the murder of a certain *John Woolford*, late of the same County, and thereof were convict; and also that the said negro *Kit* was at the same court indicted and found guilty of feloniously stealing a certain schooner vessel, and recommending the aforesaid negroes *Robin* and *Kit* to the clemency and mercy of this House,—were severally read and ordered to lie on the table.

The Convention proceeded to elect a Judge of the Court of Admiralty, in the room of *John Hall*, Esq., who resigned that office; and *John Rogers*, Esq., was elected.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*,

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Committee of *Talbot* County to deliver four pieces of Cannon, the property of *William Molleson*, and lent them by Captain *Nichols*, to Mr. *Thomas Contee*, attorney in fact of the said *William Molleson*.

On motion of Mr. *Bond*, the question was put on the following:

"Whereas, by a resolution of the 10th of *September* last, the several Committees of this State are continued to act with powers heretofore vested in them until the 1st day of *December* next, and as the said resolve cannot be fully complied with, occasioned by the resignation of several members of the said Committees: therefore,

"*Resolved*, That Committees of Observation and Licensing Suits be chosen as directed by resolves of Convention of the 26th of *July*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and continued for one year, or until superseded by the future regulations of this State;"

And carried in the negative.

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Schriver, | John Ennalls, |
| Parnham, | Beall, | Potter, |
| Grahame, | Stull, | Mason, |
| Bowie, | J. Smith, | Dickinson, |
| B. Hall, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| Sprigg, | D. Smith, | Geo. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | T. Ringgold, | Horsey, |
| Paca, | W. Ringgold, | Lowes, |
| J. Wilson, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Sheredine, | S. Wright, | |

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Wootton, | Mr. Fischer, |
| J. Mackall, | Bayly, | Ridgely, |
| Hammond, | Williams, | Deye, |
| Mr. Stevenson, | Mr. Archer, | Mr Bruff, |
| Shepherd, | Ewing, | Gibson, |
| Bond, | Brevard, | Bishop. |
| H. Wilson, | Kent, | |

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Tuesday, October 8, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Hooe* appeared in the House.

A Petition from a majority of Captain *Richard Chew's* Company of Militia, of Colonel *John Weems's* Battalion, against their Captain, was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, the question was put on the following:

"As delegating Members to the General Congress who are not representatives of the people of this State, is erecting or constituting a power inconsistent with, and dangerous to, the rights and liberties of the good people of this State,

"*Resolved*, That no person whatsoever, except a Delegate of the people in Convention, be chosen or qualified to serve in this State as a Member of the General Congress;"

And carried in the negative.

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Fenwick, | Edelen, | Gibson, |
| Plater, | Schriver, | Chamberlaine, |
| Hooe, | Beall, | John Ennalls, |
| Dent, | Stull, | Jos. Ennalls, |
| Parnham, | J. Smith, | Potter, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | Gilpin, | Dickinson, |
| J. Hall, | Ewing, | Johnson, |
| Worthington, | D. Smith, | Gust. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | T. Ringgold, | Geo. Scott, |
| Paca, | W. Ringgold, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | T. Smyth, | Lowes, |
| J. Wilson, | T. Wright, | Chaille, |
| Bayly, | Kent, | Bishop, |
| Fischer, | Bruff, | Mitchell. |

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Grahame, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. H. Wilson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Ridgely, | Love, |
| J. Mackall, | Deye, | Archer, |
| Bowie, | Stevenson, | Brevard, |
| Hammond, | Shepherd, | S. Wright. |
| Wootton, | Bond, | |

On motion of Mr. *H. Wilson*, That the Deputies from this State to the Continental Congress be each allowed the sum of ten pounds, common money, and no more, per week, during their attendance in Congress? An amendment was proposed to insert twelve pounds ten shillings, instead of ten pounds; on which amendment the question was put, and resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. S. Chase, | Mr. Gilpin, |
| Fenwick, | Paca, | Ewing, |
| Plater, | Carroll, | Brevard, |
| Dent, | J. Wilson, | T. Wright, |
| Grahame, | Bayly, | Kent, |
| Fitzhugh, | Fischer, | S. Wright, |
| J. Mackall, | Sheredine, | Bruff, |
| Bowie, | Edelen, | Potter, |
| Sprigg, | Beall, | Mason, |
| J. Hall, | Stull, | Dickinson, |
| Worthington, | J. T. Chase, | Lowes. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Hooe, | Mr. Bond, | Mr. Chamberlaine, |
| B. Hall, | H. Wilson, | John Ennalls, |
| Hammond, | Love, | Jos. Ennalls, |
| Wootton, | Archer, | Gust. Scott, |
| Williams, | D. Smith, | Geo. Scott, |
| Schriver, | T. Ringgold, | Horsey, |
| Ridgely, | W. Ringgold, | Chaille, |
| Deye, | Edmondson, | Bishop, |
| Stevenson, | Gibson, | Mitchell. |
| Shepherd, | | |

The question was then put, That the Deputies from this State to the Continental Congress be each allowed the sum of twelve pounds ten shillings, common money, per week, and no more, from the time they leave home until their return? And resolved in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. *T. Ringgold*, the question was put, That the Members of the present and future Conventions of this State be allowed ten shillings per day for their attendance, besides the usual itinerant charges, any resolve of a former Convention to the contrary notwithstanding.

*

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Hooe, | Mr. Bayly, | Mr. Love, |
| Bowie, | Williams, | Archer, |
| B. Hall, | Sheredine, | Ewing, |
| Sprigg, | Ridgely, | D. Smith, |
| Hammond, | Deye, | T. Ringgold, |
| Worthington, | Stevenson, | W. Ringgold, |
| Wootton, | Bond, | Gibson, |
| J. Wilson, | H. Wilson, | John Ennalls. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Fenwick, | Beall, | Chamberlaine, |
| Plater, | Stull, | Jos. Ennalls, |
| Dent, | Shepherd, | Potter, |
| Parnham, | J. Smith, | Mason, |
| Grahame, | J. T. Chase, | Dickinson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| J. Mackall, | Brevard, | Geo. Scott, |
| J. Hall, | T. Smyth, | Horsey, |
| S. Chase, | T. Wright, | Lowes, |
| Paca, | Kent, | Chaille, |
| Carroll, | S. Wright, | Bishop, |
| Fischer, | Bruff, | Mitchell. |
| Edelen, | | |

The order of the day, that the Convention will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Declaration and Charter of Rights and form of Government for this State, being read, the same was referred till to-morrow.

Mr. *T. Ringgold* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the emission of Bills of Credit for the defence of this State, and such other purposes as shall be directed by the Convention or Legislature of this State; and Mr. *S. Chase* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee to whom were referred the Letter and Resolutions of Congress of the 16th, 18th, and 19th of *September* last; which were read and ordered to lie on the table.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met. Mr. *Hughs* appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *Bond*, That a Committee of Observation and Licensing Suits for *Harford* County be chosen as directed by a resolve of Convention in *July*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and that Messrs. *Amos Garret*, *Thomas Johnson*, and *Thomas Bond*, Jun., or any two of them, be judges of the said election, and that the said election be held at the Court-House of the said County on the 26th day of this instant; the said Committees to continue until the first day of *December* next, or until superseded by future regulations of this State? The previous question was called for and put, whether the above question be now put? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Grahame, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. Brevard, |
| Fitzhugh, | Stevenson, | T. Wright, |
| J. Mackall, | Shepherd, | Kent, |
| Hammond, | Bond, | Bruff, |
| J. Hall, | H. Wilson, | Gibson, |
| Paca, | Love, | Horsey, |
| Wootton, | Archer, | Geo. Scott, |
| Williams, | Ewing, | Chaille. |
| Ridgely, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. S. Wright, |
| Fenwick, | Edelen, | Edmondson, |
| Hooe, | Schriver, | Chamberlaine, |
| Dent, | Beall, | John Ennalls, |
| Parnham, | Hughs, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Bowie, | Stull, | Potter, |
| B. Hall, | J. Smith, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | J. T. Chase, | Dickinson, |
| Worthington, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| S. Chase, | D. Smith, | Gust. Scott, |
| Carroll, | T. Ringgold, | Lowes, |
| J. Wilson, | W. Ringgold, | Bishop, |
| Bayly, | T. Smyth, | Mitchell. |
| Fischer, | | |

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, October 9, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Marbury* appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *Wootton*,

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners for *Montgomery* County have the line which divides *Frederick* and *Montgomery* Counties laid off and marked by the Surveyor of *Frederick* County, at least ten days before the election for fixing on the place for building a Court-House and Prison for said County; and that the qualification of voters for the purpose of fixing on the most convenient place for a Court-House and Prison in the said County, be the same as of voters for Representatives in this Convention.

Mr. *Murray* appeared in the House.

*Ordered*, That no person who has refused or neglected to subscribe the Association (unless from religious principles) be permitted to come within the doors of this House during the sitting of the Convention.

The Convention took into consideration the Report from the Committee appointed to consider of the Letter and Resolutions of Congress of the 16th, 18th, and 19th of *September* last, and thereupon came to the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the eight Battalions required by Congress to be raised by this State, exceeds its just quota, being, as they presume, founded on a calculation of white and black inhabitants of both sexes and of all ages, whereas the quotas of men to be raised by the several States, ought to be in proportion to the number of white inhabitants only in each State respectively.

That this State ought not to comply with the proposed terms of granting lands to the officers and soldiers, because there are no lands belonging solely and exclusively to this State; the purchase of lands might eventually involve this State in an expense exceeding its abilities, and an engagement by this State to defray the expense of purchasing land, according to its number of souls, would be unequal and unjust.

That this State, desirous of exerting the most strenuous efforts to support the liberties and independence of the *United States*, will therefore use its utmost endeavours to raise the eight Battalions required (including the troops already raised and in the service of the *United States*) as soon as possible.

That for this purpose this State will give a bounty of ten dollars to each non-commissioned officer and soldier who will inlist in the service of the *United States* for the war, in lieu of the hundred acres of land offered to them by Congress.

That four Commissioners be appointed to repair to the camps in the *Jerseys* and *New-York*, and there obtain a list of such of the officers in the Regular Troops and Flying-Camp from this State, now in the service of the *United States*, as are willing to engage in the service during the war; and also inlist or cause to be inlisted all or every of the said Regular Troops or Flying-Camp Militia in the service of the *United States* during the war, continuing the regular battalion and forming the independent companies into a battalion, and filling both up according to the Continental establishment; and also forming such of the Flying-Camp Militia as shall inlist as aforesaid, into battalions; and the said Commissioners, or any three of them, may also fill up such of the blank commissions sent to this Convention by Congress, as may be immediately necessary for the officering of the said corps; but in filling up the said commissions they are required not to introduce into the corps of the now Regulars, any officer other than such as are of those Regulars, nor into the corps which may be formed of the Flying-Camp Militia, any officer not now an officer in the said Regulars or Flying-Camp; and the Commissioners are also required to leave some of the offices vacant, that cadets of merit may be provided for; which list of the officers so to be obtained, as well as a list of the appointments which shall be made as aforesaid, the said Commissioners shall return to this Convention, or in their recess, to the Council of Safety. That the Commissioners exert their utmost endeavours to procure the inlistment of the Regular Troops and Militia from this State in the Continental service, and make report of the state and condition of the forces from this State now in camp.

That the Commissioners be furnished with money sufficient to advance the bounty of ten dollars as aforesaid.

That the Council of Safety, in the recess of Convention, be empowered to issue warrants for the inlistment of such number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, and also to appoint and commission such Field and Commission

Officers as may be necessary to make up the said eight Battalions.

That the said Commissioners, or any three or two of them, are empowered to receive of Congress any sum not exceeding thirty-six thousand one hundred and twenty Pounds, in dollars, at seven shillings and six pence per dollar, on account of this State, to be applied in the said bounties.

That the Commissioners be instructed to consult with, and take advice from, his Excellency General *Washington*, respecting the promotion or appointment of Officers in Colonel *Smallwood's* Regiment, and the appointments to be made in the Battalion to be formed of the Independent Companies and Flying-Camp of this State.

That the Officers to whom warrants issued for the enrollment of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates for the two last Battalions directed by the Convention to be raised for the Flying-Camp, immediately return lists of the men by them enrolled in pursuance of those warrants, to the Council of Safety, and forbear any further enrollment; that such of the Companies as are full or nearly full, be equipped and marched as soon as may be, and such of the Companies as are not nearly full be discharged; and that the bounty money not expended be returned.

That the said Commissioners be allowed each twelve pounds ten shillings, common money, per week, from the time they leave home until their return.

The Convention then proceeded to elect the Commissioners aforesaid, and *James Lloyd Chamberlaine*, *Benjamin Rumsey*, *Thomas Contee*, and *John Hanson*, Jun., Esquires were elected.

*Ordered*, That the President prepare a Letter to the President of Congress, and transmit a copy of the above Resolutions therein.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Letter from the President of Congress of the 2d instant, was read and referred till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, October 10, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *John Mackall*, the question was put on the following: "As the people have a right and ought to know the conduct and behaviour of their Representatives, *Resolved*, That on all questions to be determined in this Convention by a Committee of the Whole House, the yeas and nays shall be taken when called for by any member of the House, and seconded, any custom or usage of Parliament, Assemblies, or former Conventions to the contrary notwithstanding," and carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Fischer, | Mr. Deye, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Bond. |
| Hammond, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. Kent, |
| Fenwick, | Edelen, | S. Wright, |
| Plater, | Schriver, | Bruff, |
| Hooe, | Beall, | Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Hughs, | Gibson, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | Chamberlaine, |
| Grahame, | Stevenson, | Murray, |
| Bowie, | J. Smith, | John Ennalls, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Sprigg, | H. Wilson, | Potter, |
| Marbury, | Love, | Mason, |
| J. Hall, | Archer, | Dickinson, |
| Worthington, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| S. Chase, | Ewing, | Gust. Scott, |
| Paca, | D. Smith, | Geo. Scott, |
| Carroll, | Brevard, | Horsey, |
| Wootton, | T. Ringgold, | Lowes, |
| J. Wilson, | W. Ringgold, | Chaille, |
| Bayly, | T. Smyth, | Mitchell. |
| Williams, | T. Wright, | |

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Declaration and Charter of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *Worthington* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Worthington* reported that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; but, not being able to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will, in the afternoon, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met. Mr. *Jordan* appeared in the House.

According to order, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *Worthington* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Worthington* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; but, not having had time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will to-morrow morning resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, October 11, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

A Petition from sundry inhabitants, on behalf of themselves and other freeholders and inhabitants of that part of *Prince George's* County which lies on the western side of the eastern branch of *Patowmack* River, praying that that part of *Prince George's* County which lies to the westward of the eastern branch of *Patowmack* River aforesaid, may be annexed to the lower district of *Frederick*, now *Montgomery* County, and to have their Court-House and other publick buildings erected in *George-town*, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *Paca*,

*Resolved*, That the several Vessels lately drifted on the shores of this State from Lord *Dunmore's* fleet, or otherwise made captures of, be raised up, appraised, and fitted out for the use of this State, or exposed to sale, at the discretion of the Council of Safety; the cargoes of the said vessels to be also exposed to sale, and the moneys arising from the sale of the said vessels and cargoes, be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore*, subject to the disposal of this or a future Convention or Legislature.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *Worthington* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Worthington* reported that the Committee had according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; but not having had time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will in the afternoon resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

The order of the day, that the Convention will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government of this State, being read,

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, October 12, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Edmondson*, Mr. *Shepherd*, Mr. *T. Smyth*, Mr. *T. Ringgold*, Mr. *Paca*, and Mr. *W. Ringgold* have leave of absence for a few days.

The Convention appointed *Edward Cockey*, Colonel; *Joshua Stevenson*, Lieutenant-Colonel; *Micajah Merryman*, First Major; *Stephen Cromwell*, Second Major, and *John Robert Hollyday*, Quartermaster, of the *Gunpowder* Upper Battalion of Militia in *Baltimore* County.

Mr. *Ridgely* and Mr. *Hughs* have leave of absence for a few days.

On motion of Mr. *J. Hall*,

*Resolved*, That the several Companies of the Flying-Camp that have been raised under the resolve of Convention for raising two additional Battalions, be distributed into the four Battalions for the Flying-Camp heretofore raised, in such manner as the Commissioners appointed to repair to camp and attend the new inlistment may think proper.

On reading a Letter from the Reverend *John Scott* to the President,

*Resolved*, That on the said Reverend *John Scott's* giving bond, with two or more good and sufficient securities, in the penalty of one thousand pounds sterling, payable to the President of the Council of Safety for the time being, conditioned that he will not go on the *Eastern-Shore* in *Maryland* or *Virginia*, and that he will not correspond upon publick matters with any person whatsoever, the said *John Scott* be permitted to reside in any part of the *Western-Shore* of *Virginia*, or in *Frederick* County in this State, and that on his giving such bond, and the same being approved by this Convention or the Council of Safety, his bond dated the 29th day of *August* last shall be void, as to any matter or thing thereafter to be done by the said *John Scott*; and that for the purpose of giving such new bond, the said *John Scott* be permitted to come to *Annapolis*.

Mr. *Bowie* has leave of absence till *Tuesday* next.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

Mr. *Sheredine* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to inquire into the truth of the facts set forth in the Petition of the present and late Sheriffs of *Frederick* County; which was read and concurred with; and thereupon

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the inhabitants of *Frederick* County to pay their publick levies without delay.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, being read,

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on *Monday* next resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the same.

Convention adjourns till *Monday* morning, nine o'clock.

—

Monday, October 14, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*, except Mr. *Bowie*, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Wootton*, Mr. *Ridgely*, Mr. *Shepherd*, Mr. *T. Ringgold*, Mr. *W. Ringgold*, Mr. *T. Smyth*, Mr. *Edmondson*, and Mr. *Chamberlaine*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

On motion of Mr. *Parnham*,

*Resolved*, That this Convention will enter on no new business (except from evident necessity) until they have finished the consideration of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government.

On motion of Mr. *Parnham*, the question was put, That for the expediting the Bill of Rights and form of Government the House shall sit, while that business is transacting, every evening till eight o'clock? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. Love, |
| Jordan, | Edelen, | Archer, |
| Hooe, | Schriver, | Gilpin, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Ewing, |
| Parnham, | Hughs, | D. Smith, |
| Sprigg, | Stull, | Brevard, |
| Marbury, | Deye, | Murray, |
| J. Wilson, | Stevenson, | John Ennalls, |
| Bayly, | J. Smith, | Jos. Ennalls, |
| Williams, | J. T. Chase, | Dickinson, |
| Fischer, | H. Wilson, | Horsey. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. S. Chase, | Mr. Johnson, |
| Plater, | Carroll, | Gust. Scott, |
| Grahame, | T. Wright, | Geo. Scott, |
| Fitzhugh, | Kent, | Lowes, |
| J. Hall, | Potter, | Chaille, |
| Worthington, | Mason, | Mitchell. |

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *T. Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will to-morrow morning resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider further of the same.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Tuesday, October 15, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Shepherd*, and Mr. *W. Ringgold*, appeared in the House.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will to-morrow morning resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, October 16, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Bowie* appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of the Loan Office put no bonds in that office in suit before the first day of *January* next because of the non-payment of interest thereon, and that they advertise in the *Maryland Gazette*, and *Goddard's* and *Dunlap's* papers printed in *Baltimore* Town, that no further indulgence will be given.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will in the afternoon resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to draw for a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand Pounds of the Bills of Credit now remaining in the hands of the Treasurers, appropriated for calling in and exchanging the Bills of Credit issued by the Convention in *July*, seventeen hundred and seventy-five, and that they apply the same or any part thereof to the use of the publick as occasion may require, and that this Convention will make such provision for calling in and exchanging the said former emission as may be necessary.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met. Mr. *Edmondson* and Mr. *T. Smyth* appeared in the House.

A Petition from *Basil Clarkson*, praying to be released from *Anne Arundel* County Jail, was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On reading a Letter from *Samuel Purviance*, Jun., Chairman of the Committee of Observation for *Baltimore* County, respecting the conduct of *Francis Sanderson*, the same was taken into consideration, and the said *Francis Sanderson* called before the Convention; and on the examination of several witnesses, and hearing him in his defence,

On motion of Mr. *Paca*, the question was put, That the said *Francis Sanderson* is guilty of delivering sentiments tending to discourage the *American* opposition to the hostile attempts of *Great Britain:* That therefore he be reprimanded at the bar of this House by the President; that he give bond in the penalty of one thousand pounds, with good security, to be approved of by the Committee of *Baltimore* County, to the President, conditioned that he will not hereafter speak or do any matter or thing in prejudice or discouragement of the present opposition; that he pay all the expenses incurred on account of his being apprehended, guarded, and brought to this Convention, and that thereupon he be discharged? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Hughs, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Fenwick, | Stull, | Murray, |
| Plater, | Deye, | Gibson, |
| Jordan, | Stevenson, | John Ennalls, |
| Grahame, | Shepherd, | Joseph Ennalls, |
| Fitzhugh, | J. Smith, | Potter, |
| J. Mackall, | Bond, | Mason, |
| B. Hall, | H. Wilson, | Dickinson, |
| Sprigg, | Love, | Johnson, |
| Hammond, | Archer, | Gust. Scott, |
| J. Hall, | Gilpin, | Geo. Scott, |
| Worthington, | Ewing, | Horsey, |
| Paca, | D. Smith, | Lowes, |
| Carroll, | Brevard, | Chaille, |
| J. Wilson, | W. Ringgold, | Bishop, |
| Fischer, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Beall, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Bowie, | Mr. Marbury, | Mr. Sheredine, |
| Hooe, | Bayly, | Edelen, |
| Dent, | Williams, | Kent. |
| Parnham, | | |

*Francis Sanderson* was then called to the bar of the House, and reprimanded accordingly.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, October 17, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners appointed to repair to the camps obtain a list of the Cadets now in the *Maryland* Troops at the camps in *New-York* and the *Jerseys*, and return the same to this Convention, or, in their recess, to the Council of Safety; and also return the names of such Non-Commissioned Officers in the said Troops as may be recommended by their superiour Officers as men of merit.

Whereas this Convention hath been informed that *William Sluby*, Merchant, of *Chestertown*, in *Kent* County, hath lately, in a publick manner, delivered sentiments and opinions with an intention to disunite and disaffect the good people of this State in their present opposition to the hostile attempts of *Great Britain* against the *United States:* therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Observation of the said County summon *James Claypole*, of the said Town, to appear before them as a witness against said *Sluby*, and make inquiry into the truth of the said information, and report the facts arising thereon to this Convention, or, in their recess, to the Council of Safety; and if they shall judge it necessary, take the said *Sluby* into custody, and send him, under a guard of four of the Militia, to this Convention or the Council of Safety as aforesaid, to be dealt with as the nature of his offence may require.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk transmit a copy of the above Resolution to the Committee of Observation for *Kent* County.

On reading and considering the Petition of *John White*, of *Dorchester* County, setting forth that his Sloop had been taken by a certain *Joseph Whyland*, and carried to Lord *Dunmore's* fleet, where she had been stripped of her sails and rigging, and burned; but that the sails and rigging had been since taken in a vessel belonging to the enemy, and were now in the possession of a certain Major *Follin*, of *Dorchester* County, and praying that the sails and rigging aforesaid might be restored to him; thereupon,

*Resolved*, That the said Major *Follin* deliver to the said *John White* the sails and rigging of his Sloop, he first ascertaining, by oath or other sufficient proof, that the sails and rigging in the possession of Major *Follin* are the same which were taken from his Sloop.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to make Captain *John Fulford* an allowance for his services in superintending the Fortifications at the City of *Annapolis*, over and above his pay as Captain of the Artillery Company, in proportion to what they may be of opinion he hath or shall deserve.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon; but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will, on to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Mr. *Joseph Ennalls* has leave of absence.

On motion of Mr. *Lowes*,

*Ordered*, That the Petition of *Basil Clarkson* be referred to the Council of Safety.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, October 18, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Joseph Ennalls*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Parnham* has leave of absence.

Mr. *Ridgely* appeared in the House.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to hear and determine on the case of *William Bartlet Townsend*, of *Worcester* County, and to pass such judgment thereon as in their discretion they may think fit.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon; but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, October 19, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Parnham*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That every Member who asks for leave of absence shall give his reasons for asking such leave, and that they be entered on the Journal.

Mr. *T. Wright* has leave of absence till *Wednesday* next, on account of particular private business. Mr. *Fischer* has leave of absence for a few days. Mr. *Hughs* has leave of absence, his private affairs requiring his attendance at home.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *Worthington* in the chair. After some

time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Worthington* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Mr. *S. Wright* has leave of absence on account of his bad state of health. Mr. *Mason* has leave of absence on account of the sickness of his family.

Convention adjourns till *Monday* morning, nine o'clock.

—

Monday, October 21, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*, except Mr. *Fischer*, Mr. *T. Wright*, Mr. *S. Wright*, Mr. *Mason*, Mr. *Dickinson*, Mr. *Hughs*, and Mr. *Sprigg*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

Mr. *Dent* has leave of absence.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *Worthington* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Worthington* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Mr. *Earle* appeared in the House.

On reading and considering the Petition of sundry inhabitants of *Washington* County, setting forth, that by a late resolve of Convention the election for fixing the place for the Court-House of *Washington* County was to be held at *Hagar's-town*, which would be so distant from many of the inhabitants of the said County that it would be very inconvenient for them to attend, and praying that the election might be held for one or more days at *Skipton* or *Old-town*; thereupon the question was put, That for the ease and convenience of the inhabitants of the upper part of *Washington* County, the election for fixing the place for the Court-House of the said County shall be held two days at *Skipton*, beginning on the 6th day of *November*, and that *Andrew Bruce*, *Lemuel Barret*, and *Thomas Warren*, or any two of them, be Judges of the said election, and give due notice thereof to the inhabitants of the said County; and that the Judges appointed to hold the election at *Hagar's-town*, and those appointed to hold the election at *Skipton*, meet together as soon as conveniently may be at *Hagar's-town*, and there examine the said polls, and declare the said election according as the majority of voters may appear to be on both the said polls? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. Kent, |
| Fenwick, | Stevenson, | Gibson, |
| Plater, | Shepherd, | Murray, |
| Jordan, | J. Smith, | Potter, |
| Hooe, | J. T. Chase, | Johnson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Bond, | Gust. Scott, |
| B. Hall, | H. Wilson, | Geo. Scott, |
| Carroll, | Love, | Horsey, |
| J. Wilson, | Archer, | Lowes, |
| Bayly, | Gilpin, | Chaille, |
| Williams, | Ewing, | Bishop, |
| Sheredine, | Brevard, | Mitchell, |
| Edelen, | W. Ringgold, | Edmondson, |
| Schriver, | T. Smyth, | Earle. |

NEGATIVE.

Mr. Stull, Mr. Beall.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Tuesday, October 22, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Dent*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

A Petition from *William Richardson*, setting forth that he, at the time of the alarming appearance of a hostile fleet under the direction of Lord *Dunmore*, on the 13th of *July* last, observed a Sloop drifting towards the shore, within about a mile and a half of his dwelling-house, and a barge from the fleet rowing towards her, which soon scuttled the said Sloop; that he went off with his own negroes, intending to board her and save everything on board the said Sloop he possibly could; and he accordingly saved and brought away a mainsail, topsail, and gib, a quantity of old iron, thirty-six pair of iron hinges, and fifty-three cow hides; and that all the said articles were sent for and taken away by Captain *Uriah Forrest;* and praying to be authorized to receive a moiety of the said articles procured by him as aforesaid,—was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *Worthington* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Worthington* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon; but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, October 23, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On reading the Petition of *Jane Conn*, wife of *Hugh Conn*, a Private in Captain *Fulford's* Company of Artillery,

*Ordered*, That the said *Hugh Conn* be discharged from the service of this State, on his procuring an effective man in his stead.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to give a Bounty of twenty dollars to each able seaman, and ten dollars to each landsman, who shall inlist to serve in the Marine service of this State during the war, or until discharged by the supreme authority of this State; and that the Council of Safety may also order any vessel now fitting, or which shall be fitted under the resolutions of Convention, on such cruise as they may think fit. And further, the Council of Safety may retain any men who shall voluntarily offer and subscribe articles for a cruise only, without any bounty or wages; and any prizes which may be made, as to those who go on bounty and wages, shall be divisible according to the resolutions of Congress, two-thirds to the publick, and one-third to the crew; but as to those who shall enter for the cruise without bounty or wages, the division shall be one-half to the publick and one-half amongst the crew, according to the common practice of privateers.

The Convention having received information that a number of the inhabitants of *Caroline* County had marched down into *Dorchester* County, and committed sundry depredations in the said County, by entering the houses of the inhabitants thereof, and in a violent manner taking and carrying away their Salt, and that sundry of the inhabitants of *Dorchester* County had joined with them in committing such unwarrantable depredations and outrages,

*Ordered*, That the Committees of *Caroline* and *Dorchester* Counties make immediate inquiry into the causes of the said disorders; and, if they judge it necessary, to send under a sufficient guard to this Convention, or in their recess to the Council of Safety, such persons as shall appear to them to have been most active therein; and that the Committees of *Caroline* and *Dorchester* Counties do apply to Brigadier-General *Hooper*, to order out such part of the Militia under his command as they may judge necessary to bring the said offenders to justice.

Mr. *John Ennalls* has leave of absence.

Whereas justice may in many instances require that in-

dividuals of this State, inlisted in the service of the Continent or of this State, should be discharged, it is therefore

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety may discharge any such person, either absolutely or conditionally, on such terms as to them may seem proper.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *Worthington* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Worthington* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem*. Convention met. Mr. *Sprigg* appeared in the House.

*Resolved*, That three Companies of Artillery, each company to consist of ninety-two Privates, four Sergeants, four Corporals, one Drummer, and one Fifer, commanded by one Captain, one Captain-Lieutenant, and two Lieutenants, be immediately raised; one of the said Companies to be stationed at *Baltimore* Town, and the remaining two Companies to be stationed at the City of *Annapolis*. That the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates be inlisted in the service of this State for the war: That the Officers receive the pay and rations established by the Convention from the date of their commissions; that the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates receive their pay and rations from the day of their inlistment: That to encourage the speedy enrollment of the said Companies, each Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier shall, during their continuance in the service of this State, be annually clothed at the expense of this State, and for that purpose shall be entitled to receive a coat, waistcoat, and breeches, of coarse cloth, two white linen shirts, two pair of stockings, two pair of shoes, and a hat, and they shall not be compelled to march to any place out of this State.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety issue warrants to Recruiting Sergeants for the inlistment of men to serve in the Artillery Companies, according to resolutions of this day, and that such Sergeants may inlist any men already enrolled in any Company of Camp Militia not under marching orders.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, October 24, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *John Ennalls*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *T. Wright* appeared in the House.

The Petition of *William Richardson* was read a second time and referred to the Council of Safety.

Mr. *Dickinson* appeared in the House.

On reading a Letter from *Robert Peter* and *Thomas Richardson*, of the 16th instant, to *Thomas Johnson*, Esq., and by him communicated to the Convention, relative to the Ferry over *Patowmack* River,

*Ordered*, That the Clerk be directed to give notice to the said *Robert Peter* and *Thomas Richardson* to attend this Convention on *Friday*, the 1st of *November* next, and to bring with them the ferrymen of the said River, that an inquiry may be made into the facts set forth in the said Letter.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, October 25, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Marbury* and Mr. *Schriver* have leave of absence on account of particular private business.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Mr. *Carroll* has leave of absence till *Wednesday* next, on account of the indisposition of his family; Mr. *T. Smyth* has leave of absence for a few days on account of particular private business.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, October 26, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Marbury*, Mr. *Carroll*, Mr. *Schriver*, and Mr. *T. Smyth*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *J. Smith* and Mr. *Ridgely* have leave of absence on account of particular private business.

Whereas many young men under twenty-one years of age, seized of lands and tenements within this State, have entered, and others so seized may enter, into the service of this State or the *United States* in arms, and by the laws now in being they cannot devise their lands or tenements, it is therefore

*Resolved*, That any last will of any young man in the service aforesaid, made after he hath, or shall have, accomplished the age of sixteen years, shall, in case he hath died or shall die whilst in service as aforesaid, be of the same force and effect, to all intents and purposes, as if he was of the full age of twenty-one years at the time of his making the same will.

Mr. *Bishop* has leave of absence on account of the indisposition of his brother.

The President laid before the Convention a Letter from the Committee of Observation for *Kent* County, relative to the conduct of Mr. *William Sluby;* which was read.

*Ordered*, That the same be entered on the Journal; and it follows in these words:

"Chester-Town, October 23, 1776.

"Gentlemen: Enclosed is a report of the facts relative to Mr. *Sluby's* case, as they arose on the examination of Mr. *Claypoole*, and two others who were summoned by the Committee at the request of Mr. *Sluby*. The Committee sat two days on the business, for want of time to finish the examination the first day. Mr. *Claypoole* was absent in the country the second day of our sitting, so that Mr. *Sluby* had not an opportunity of cross-examining him. The Committee are of opinion that nothing appeared against Mr. *Sluby* which would justify the exercise of the power of sending him under a guard to the Convention.

"Signed by order: John Combs, *Clerk Com.*

"P. S. The reason Mr. *Sluby* did not cross-examine Mr *Claypoole* on the first day is, that after Mr. *Claypoole* had delivered his testimony, the Chairman was called off on necessary business.

"To the honourable the Convention at the City of *Annapolis*."

Mr. *Mason* appeared in the House.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on *Monday* resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

On motion of Mr. *J. Hall*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be authorized and empowered to make out commissions for Captain *Thomas Watkins*, and also for his First and Second Lieutenants and Ensign, *Levin Lawrence*, *Thomas Todd*, and *John Iams*, Jun., as Captain, First, Second, and Third Lieutenants of a Company of Matrosses to be stationed in the City of *Annapolis*, and that they, or either of them, have power to inlist all the men of said Company that are willing to inlist as Matrosses, and to discharge such of them as are not willing to inlist after the 1st of *December*, and inlist others, so that the said Company may be completed to the number of ninety-two Privates, besides Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers.

Convention adjourns till *Monday* morning, nine o'clock.

—

Monday, October 28, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on *Saturday*, except Mr. *Ridgely*, Mr. *J. Smith*, Mr. *Bishop*, and Mr. *Kent*.

The Proceedings of *Saturday* were read.

Mr. *Dent*, Mr. *Parnham*, and Mr. *S. Wright*, appeared in the House.

Mr. *Lowes* has leave of absence on account of sickness.

Mr. *Sheredine* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to inquire how far the resolves of the last Convention of the 6th of *July*, for raising two Companies of Riflemen and four Companies of *Germans*, have been complied with, and into the expenditure of the money advanced for the raising those companies; which was read in the words following, to wit:

"In obedience to the order of the honourable Convention, the Committee appointed to inquire how far the resolves of the Convention of the 6th of *July* last, for raising two companies of Riflemen and four companies of *Germans*, have been complied with, and into the expenditure of the money advanced for raising those companies, beg leave to report, That the Committee of Observation for *Harford*, *Baltimore*, and *Frederick* Counties, recommended officers for the several companies agreeable to the resolves of the said Convention; that the Rifle Company and four companies of *Germans* for *Frederick* and *Baltimore* Counties have some time since marched for their place of destination; that the company of Riflemen for *Harford* County is not yet complete, having not more than fifty men.

"They further beg leave to report, that the sum of fifteen hundred and twenty dollars appears to have been advanced by the Delegates in Congress on account of the *German* Battalion to Colonel *George Stricker*, out of which, by an account rendered to the second day of *September*, the sum of four hundred and twenty-four pounds ten shillings has been paid to the different Captains of those companies, which leaves a balance in Colonel *Stricker's* hands of one hundred and forty-five pounds ten shillings: that the sum of eight hundred dollars appears to have been advanced by the Council of Safety to Major *Ludowick Weltner*, and by his account rendered, he has paid to the different Captains of the *German* companies for their use and for arms and blankets, three hundred and eleven pounds ten shillings; there remains a balance in his favour of eleven pounds ten shillings: that the sum of eight hundred and sixty dollars appears to have been advanced by said Council to Captain *William Heiser* of the *German* Battalion, and by an account rendered by him to the 8th of *September*, the further sums of seventy pounds by Colonel *Stricker*, and thirty-seven pounds ten shillings by Major *Weltner;* that by the said account Captain *Heiser* has paid for bounty, inlisting, subsistence, and blankets, eight hundred and sixty-four pounds eight shillings and seven pence; and that a balance appears to remain due in his favour of two hundred and thirty-four pounds eight shillings and seven pence: that the sum of eight hundred and sixty dollars appears to have been advanced to Captain *Henry Fister* of said battalion, and by his account rendered to *September* the eighth, the further sum of fifty-two pounds ten shillings by Colonel *Stricker*, and one hundred and thirty-seven pounds ten shillings by Major *Weltner;* that he has paid as bounty and inlisting money, and for the subsistence of his company, six hundred and thirty-nine pounds seven shillings and four pence, and a balance appears to remain in his favour of one hundred and twenty-seven pounds seven shillings and four pence: that the sum of eight hundred and sixty dollars appears to have been advanced to Captain *Philip Graybill* of said battalion, with the additional advance of one hundred pounds by the Council of Safety, and the further sum of one hundred and twenty-two pounds twelve shillings and six pence by Colonel *Stricker*, and thirty-seven pounds ten shillings by Major *Weltner*, and that no account appears to have been rendered by him of the expenditure of the said money: that the sum of eight hundred and sixty dollars appears to have been advanced to Captain *William Keeports* of said battalion by said Council, and the further sums of two hundred and one pounds seventeen shillings and six pence by Colonel *Stricker*, and thirty-seven pounds ten shillings by Major *Weltner*, and no account appears of the expenditure of those sums: that the sum of eight hundred and sixty dollars was advanced to Captain *Thomas Beall* of the Rifle company for *Frederick* County, and by accounts rendered by himself and officers, the sum of two hundred and fifty-one pounds five shillings has been expended in raising the said company, and that a balance remained in the hands of said officers of seventy-one pounds five shillings, at the time of rendering the said accounts: that the sum of eight hundred and sixty dollars appears to have been advanced to Captain *Smith* of the Rifle company for *Harford* County, and no account appears of the expenditure of the same, but your Committee are informed that one hundred and sixty dollars of the said sum has been returned to the Council of Safety. The Committee beg leave to observe that Captains *Heiser* and *Fister*, in their accounts rendered, have charged ten shillings per man for inlisting, and the same sum per man for subsistence of their companies per week: that the accounts rendered by some of the officers of said companies are so confused, and others giving in no accounts at all, puts it out of the power of the said Committee to report so accurate a state of the expenditure of the several sums advanced as they could wish.

"All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable House.

"Signed by order: JOHN STULL, *Chairman*."

Ordered to lie on the table.

The order of the day, that the Convention will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, was read, and referred till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Tuesday, October 29, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Lowes*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Ridgely* and Mr. *Fischer* appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to issue warrants to Recruiting Sergeants for the inlistment of non-commissioned officers and privates in the Continental service, as a part of the eight Battalions for this State, agreeable to the resolutions of this Convention, and that any freeman enrolled for the Flying-Camp service be permitted to inlist.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Delegate be elected for *Kent* County, in the room of Mr. *Thomas Ringgold*, deceased; that the election be held on the 14th day of *November* next, at *Chester-town* in said County, by *John*

*Page*, *William Rogers*, and *William Bordley*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, and that the said election be held and made agreeable to the directions and resolves of the last Convention.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into their consideration the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, but not having had time to come to a conclusion, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the same.

Mr. *Bowie* and Mr. *Hooe* have leave of absence for a few days, on account of particular private business.

This Convention being informed that in the Constitution or form of Government agreed to by the Delegates of *Virginia*, a claim is made by them injurious to the inhabitants of this State,

*Ordered*, That the same be read. And the same was read as follows, to wit:

"The territories contained within the charters erecting the Colonies of *Maryland*, *Pennsylvania*, *North* and *South-Carolina*, are hereby ceded, released, and forever confirmed to the people of those Colonies respectively, with all the rights of property, jurisdiction, and government, and all other rights whatsoever, which might at any time hereafter have been claimed by *Virginia*, except the free navigation and use of the rivers *Patowmack* and *Pocomoke*, with the property of the *Virginia* shores or strands, bordering on either of the said rivers, and all improvements which have been or shall be made thereon. The western and northern extent of *Virginia* shall in all other respects stand as fixed by the charter of King *James* the First, in the year one thousand six hundred and nine, and by the publick treaty of peace between the Courts of *Great Britain* and *France* in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three; unless by act of Legislature, one or more Territories shall hereafter be laid off, and Governments established westward of the *Alleghany* Mountains. And no purchase of lands shall be made of the *Indian* natives, but on behalf of the publick by authority of the General Assembly."

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take the same into consideration.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, October 30, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Bowie* and Mr. *Hooe*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *J. Smith* and Mr. *Marbury* appeared in the House.

The Council of Safety having laid before the Convention a Letter from *John Rogers*, Esquire, enclosing a resignation of his commission as Judge of the Court of Admiralty, the Convention proceeded to appoint another in his stead, and *Benjamin Nicholson*, Esquire, was appointed.

On motion of Mr. *J. Hall*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to write to their agents in the foreign *West-Indies* for such warlike stores or other necessaries as have been heretofore ordered by this Convention, to the amount of twenty-five thousand pounds, currency, to be paid for in paper money by drafts on the Treasury here, instead of exporting country produce to that value, any former order to the contrary notwithstanding; and that the said sum of money be deemed and taken as part of the sixty-five thousand pounds heretofore appropriated for the purchase of military stores and other articles necessary for the defence and protection of this State.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met. Mr. *Carroll*, Mr. *Kent*, Mr. *Bishop*, and Mr. *Schriver*, appeared in the House.

The Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on that part of the Constitution of *Virginia* which was referred to their consideration; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken the same into consideration, and had come to several resolutions thereon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the table, where the same were again twice read, amended, and agreed to as follow:

*Resolved unanimously*, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the State of *Virginia* hath not any right or title to any of the territory, bays, rivers, or waters, included in the charter granted by his Majesty *Charles* the First to *Cæcilius Calvert*, Baron of *Baltimore*.

*Resolved unanimously*, That it is the opinion of this Convention that the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the territory, bays, rivers, and waters, included in the said charter, belongs to this State; and that the river *Patowmack*, and almost the whole of the river *Pocomoke*, being comprehended in the said charter, the sole and exclusive jurisdiction over the said river *Patowmack*, and also over such part of the river *Pocomoke* as is comprehended in the said charter, belongs to this State; and that the river *Patowmack* and that part of *Chesapeake Bay* which lies between the Capes and the south boundary of this State, and so much thereof as is necessary to the navigation of the rivers *Patowmack* and *Pocomoke*, ought to be considered as a common highway, free for the people of both States, without being subject to any duty, burthens, or charge, as hath been heretofore accustomed.

*Resolved unanimously*, That it is the opinion of this Convention, that the very extensive claim of the State of *Virginia* to the back lands hath no foundation in justice, and that if the same or any like claim is admitted, the freedom of the smaller States and the liberties of *America* may be thereby greatly endangered; this Convention being firmly persuaded, that if the dominion over those lands should be established by the blood and treasure of the *United States*, such lands ought to be considered as a common stock, to be parcelled out at proper times into convenient, free and independent Governments.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the Declaration of Rights and form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken the same into consideration, and had come to several resolutions thereon, which they directed him to report, as the Declaration of Rights, but not having had time to go through the form of Government, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will on to-morrow resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the form of Government for this State.

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, That the question be put on the following: "As the Bill of Rights formerly printed for the consideration of the Members of the Convention has been materially altered by a Committee of the Whole House, and it is of infinite importance to the inhabitants of this State that the said Bill of Rights should be maturely considered before it is passed by the Convention, and that each Member should have a copy before him, in order to judge of, and offer such amendments or alterations as he may think proper,

"*Resolved*, That the Bill of Rights as reported by a Committee of the Whole House be immediately printed for the consideration and use of the Members of this Convention, before the same is taken into consideration."

An amendment was proposed to strike out all that part of the motion before the word "Resolved;" on which amendment the question was put, and resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sprigg, | Mr. Carroll, |
| Fenwick, | Marbury, | J. Wilson, |
| Jordan, | Hammond, | Bayly, |
| Dent, | J. Hall, | Fischer, |
| Parnham, | Worthington, | Sheredine, |
| Grahame, | S. Chase, | Edelen, |
| B. Hall, | Paca, | Beall, |

*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Stull, | Mr. Earle, | Mr. Mason, |
| J. Smith, | T. Wright, | Dickinson, |
| J. T. Chase, | Kent, | Johnson, |
| H. Wilson, | Bruff, | Gust. Scott, |
| Love, | S. Wright, | Geo. Scott, |
| Gilpin, | Edmondson, | Horsey, |
| Ewing, | Gibson, | Chaille, |
| D. Smith, | Murray, | Bishop, |
| Brevard, | Potter, | Mitchell. |
| W. Ringgold, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. Shepherd, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Stevenson, |
| Williams, | Deye, | Bond. |

The question was then put, That the Bill of Rights, as reported by a Committee of the Whole House, be immediately printed for the consideration and use of the Members of this Convention, before the same is taken into consideration? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Parnham, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. Archer, |
| Grahame, | Ridgely, | Ewing, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Brevard, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Kent, |
| Hammond, | Shepherd, | Bruff, |
| Bayly, | J. T. Chase, | S. Wright, |
| Williams, | Bond, | Johnson. |
| Fischer, | Love, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Fenwick, | J. Hall, | Gibson, |
| Jordan, | Edelen, | Murray, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Potter, |
| B. Hall, | Stull, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | J. Smith, | Dickinson, |
| Marbury, | H. Wilson, | Gust. Scott, |
| Worthington, | Gilpin, | Geo. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | D. Smith, | Horsey, |
| Paca, | W. Ringgold, | Chaille, |
| Carroll, | Earle, | Bishop, |
| J. Wilson, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |

On motion of Mr. *Parnham*,

*Resolved*, That all and every action, suit, process, and proceeding, which were depending in the *March* and *August* courts of *St. Mary's* and *Charles* Counties, and which have been discontinued by reason of the said courts not being held, shall be revived and continued to the next *November* courts to be held in the said Counties, and shall stand and remain in the same state and condition as they would have been, had the said courts been regularly held.

On motion, *Resolved*, That three persons be appointed a Committee to prepare and report Instructions for Recruiting Sergeants, and that Mr. *Earle*, Mr. *Gust. Scott*, and Mr. *J. T. Chase*, be a Committee for that purpose.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, October 31, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *Chaille*, the following Resolution was entered into:

Whereas it is represented to this Convention, that the Committee of Observation for *Worcester* County hath declined to act, whereby Merchants who have Vessels to clear out of *Sinnepuxen Inlet* or *Pocomoke River* are put to great trouble and inconvenience; it is therefore

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *Robert Done*, *John Shelby*, *Joshua Mitchell*, and *John Dennis*, or any two or more of them, of *Worcester* County, may clear out any Vessel, in like manner and on the same conditions and terms as the Committee of Observation for *Worcester* County aforesaid might or could have done by virtue of any resolution of Convention.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to employ some fit and trusty person or persons, to purchase and salt up, at the expense of this State, a quantity of Pork, not exceeding two thousand five hundred barrels, and a quantity not exceeding five hundred casks of Beef, and to draw on either of the Treasurers of this State for the necessary sums to defray the expense thereof.

The Convention took into consideration the Report of the Declaration of Rights, from the Committee of the Whole, which follows in these words, to wit:

"THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

"The Parliament of *Great Britain*, by a declaratory act, having assumed a right to make laws to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever, and in pursuance of such claim endeavoured by force of arms to subjugate the *United Colonies* to an unconditional submission to their will and power, and having at length constrained them to declare themselves Independent States, and to assume government under the authority of the People; Therefore we, the Delegates of *Maryland*, in free and full Convention assembled, taking into our most serious consideration the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State, for the surer foundation and more permanent security thereof, Declare,

"1. That all Government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.

"2. That the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof.

"3. That the inhabitants of *Maryland* are entitled to the common law of *England*, and the trial by jury, according to the course of that law, and to the benefit of such of the *English* statutes as existed at the time of their first emigration, and which by experience have been found applicable to their local and other circumstances, and of such others as have been since made in *England* or *Great Britain*, and have been introduced, used, and practised by the courts of law or equity; and also to all acts of Assembly in force on the first of *June*, seventeen hundred and seventy-four, except such as may have since expired, or have been, or may be altered by acts of Convention, or this Declaration of Rights; subject nevertheless to the revision of, and amendment or repeal by, the Legislature of this State; and the inhabitants of *Maryland* are also entitled to all property derived to them from or under the charter granted by his Majesty *Charles* the First, to *Cæcilius Calvert*, Baron of *Baltimore*.

"4. That all persons entrusted with the Legislative or Executive powers of Government, are the trustees and servants of the publick, and as such accountable for their conduct; wherefore, whenever the ends of Government are perverted, and publick liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new Government; the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

"5. That the right in the people to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all free Government; for this purpose elections ought to be free and frequent, and every man having property in, a common interest with, and an attachment to, the community, ought to have a right of suffiage.

"6. That the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial powers of Government, ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other.

"7. That no power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, unless derived from the Legislature, ought to be exercised or allowed.

"8. That freedom of speech, and debates, or proceedings in the Legislature, ought not to be impeached in any other court or judicature.

"9. That a place for the meeting of the Legislature ought to be fixed, the most convenient to the members thereof, and to the depository of the publick records, and the Legislature ought not to be convened or held at any other place but from evident necessity.

"10. That for the redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening, and preserving the laws, the Legislature ought to be frequently convened.

"11. That every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances, in a peaceable and orderly manner.

"12. That no aid, charge, tax, burthen, fee, or fees, ought to be set, rated, or levied, under any pretence, without the consent of the Legislature.

"13. That the levying taxes by the poll is grievous and oppressive, and ought to be abolished; that paupers whose estates do not exceed thirty pounds currency value ought not to be assessed for the support of Government, but every other person in the State ought to contribute his proportion of publick taxes for the support of Government according to his actual worth in real or personal property within this

State; yet fines, duties, or taxes, may properly and justly be imposed or laid with a political view for the good government and benefit of the community.

"14. That sanguinary laws ought to be avoided, as far as is consistent with the safety of the State; and no law to inflict cruel and unusual pains and penalties ought to be made, in any case, or at any time hereafter.

"15. That retrospective laws, punishing facts committed before the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are oppressive, unjust, and incompatible with liberty; wherefore no *ex post facto* law ought to be made.

"16. That no law to attaint particular persons of treason or felony, ought to be made in any case, or at any time hereafter.

"17. That every freeman for every injury done to him in his goods, lands, or person, ought to have remedy by the course of the law of the land, and ought to have justice and right, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, according to the law of the land.

"18. That the trial of facts where they arise is one of the greatest securities of the lives, liberties, and estate of the people.

"19. That in all criminal prosecutions, every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him, to have a copy of the indictment or charge in due time (if required) to prepare for his defence, to be allowed counsel, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have process for his witnesses, to examine the witnesses for and against him on oath, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent he ought not to be found guilty.

"20. That no man ought to be compelled to give evidence against himself in a court of common law, or in any other court, but in such cases only as have been usually practised in this State.

"21. That no freeman ought to be taken, or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties, or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, or deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.

"22. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted by the courts of law.

"23. That all warrants without oath, or affirmation of a person conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, to search suspected places, or to seize any person, or his property, are grievous and oppressive; and all general warrants to search suspected places, or to apprehend all persons suspected, without naming or describing the place, or any person in special, are illegal, and ought not to be granted.

"24. That there ought to be no forfeiture of any part of the estate of any person for any crime except murder or treason against the State, and then only on conviction and attainder.

"25. That a well-regulated militia is the proper and natural defence of a free Government.

"26. That standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without consent of the Legislature.

"27. That in all cases and at all times the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and control of, the civil power.

"28. That no soldier ought to be quartered in any house in time of peace without the consent of the owner, and in time of war in such manner only as the Legislature shall direct.

"29. That no person except regular soldiers, mariners, and marines in the service of this State, or militia when in actual service, ought in any case to be subject to, or punishable by, martial law.

"30. That the independency and uprightness of Judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people; wherefore the Chancellor and all Judges and Justices ought to hold commissions during good behaviour, removable only for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law, or by a vote of the Legislature. That salaries liberal, but not profuse, ought to be secured to the Chancellor and the Judges, during the continuance of their commissions, and reasonable salaries, or fees, allowed to the officers: no Chancellor or Judge ought to hold any other office, civil or military, or receive fees or perquisites of any kind.

"31. That a long continuance in the first executive departments of power or trust is dangerous to liberty; a rotation, therefore, in those departments is one of the best securities of permanent freedom.

"32. That no person holding a place of profit, or receiving any part of the profits thereof, or receiving the profits or any part of the profits arising on any agency for the supply of clothing or provisions for the Army or Navy, or holding any office under the *United States* or any of them, or a minister or preacher of the Gospel of any denomination, or any person employed in the regular land service, or marine, of this or the *United States*, ought to have a seat in the Legislature or the Council of this State.

"33. That no person ought to hold at the same time more than one office of profit, nor ought any person in publick trust to receive any present from any foreign Prince or State, or from the *United States*, or any of them, without the approbation of this State.

"34. That as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to him, all persons professing the Christian religion are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty; wherefore no person ought by any law to be molested in his person or estate on account of his religious persuasion or profession, or for his religious practice, unless under colour of religion any man shall disturb the good order, peace, or safety of the State, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure others in their natural, civil, or religious rights; nor ought any person to be compelled to frequent or maintain, or contribute, unless on contract, to maintain any place of worship, or ministry; but the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property now belonging to the Church of *England*, ought to remain to the Church of *England* forever. And all acts of Assembly lately passed for collecting moneys for building or repairing particular churches or chapels of ease, shall continue in force and be executed, unless the Legislature shall by act supersede or repeal the same; but no County Court shall assess any quantity of tobacco or sum of money hereafter, on the application of any vestrymen or church-wardens; and every incumbent of the Church of *England* who hath remained in his parish and performed his duty shall be entitled to receive the provision and support established by the act entitled 'An act for the support of the clergy of the Church of *England* in this Province,' till the next *November* court to be held for the County in which his parish shall lie, or partly lie, or for such time as he hath remained in his parish and performed his duty.

"35. That every gift, sale, or devise of lands to any minister, publick teacher, or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order, or denomination, or to or for the support, use, or benefit of, or in trust for, any minister, publick teacher, or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order, or denomination; and every gift or sale of goods or chattels, to go in succession, or to take place after the death of the seller or donor, to or for such support, use, or benefit; and also every devise of goods or chattels to, or to or for the support, use, or benefit of, any minister, publick teacher, or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order, or denomination, without the leave of the Legislature, shall be void; except always any sale, gift, lease, or devise of any quantity of land not exceeding two acres, for a church, meeting, or other house of worship, and for a burying-ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed, or used only for such purpose, or such sale, gift, lease, or devise shall be void.

"36. That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this State, and such oath of office as shall be directed by this Convention or the Legislature of this State, and a declaration of a belief in the Christian religion.

"37. That the City of *Annapolis* ought to have all its rights, privileges, and benefits, agreeable to its charter and the acts of Assembly confirming and regulating the same; subject, nevertheless, to such alterations as may be made by this Convention or any future Legislature.

"38. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved.

"39. That monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit of a free Government, and the principles of commerce, and ought not to be suffered.

"40. That no title of nobility or hereditary honours ought to be granted in this State.

"41. That the subsisting resolves of this and the several Conventions held for this Colony ought to be in force as laws, unless altered by this Convention or the Legislature of this State.

"42. That this Declaration of Rights, or the form of Government to be established by this Convention, or any part of either of them, ought not to be altered, changed or abolished by the Legislature of this State, but in such manner as this Convention shall prescribe and direct."

In progression on reading the Declaration of Rights, the question was put, That the third article thereof be concurred with? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Bayly, | Mr. Bruff, |
| Fenwick, | Sheredine, | S. Wright, |
| Jordan, | Edelen, | Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Gibson, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | Murray, |
| B. Hall, | J. Smith, | Potter, |
| Sprigg, | J. T. Chase, | Mason, |
| Marbury, | Gilpin, | Dickinson, |
| Hammond, | D. Smith, | Johnson, |
| J. Hall, | Brevard, | Gust. Scott, |
| Worthington, | Ringgold, | Geo. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | Earle, | Horsey, |
| Paca, | T. Wright, | Chaille, |
| Carroll, | Kent, | Mitchell. |
| J. Wilson, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. H. Wilson, |
| J. Mackall, | Deye, | Love, |
| Williams, | Stevenson, | Archer, |
| Fischer, | Shepherd, | Ewing. |
| Schriver, | Bond, | |

In progression on reading the Declaration of Rights, on motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That instead of the sixth article, the following be substituted, "That the legislative, executive, and judicial powers of Government, or any two of them, ought not to be vested in the same man or body of men?" Carried in the negative.

The question was then put, that the sixth article be concurred with? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Parnham, | Mr. Sheredine, | Mr. H. Wilson, |
| Graham, | Schriver, | Love, |
| Fitzhugh, | Beall, | Archer, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Ewing, |
| Hammond, | Deye, | Brevard, |
| Worthington, | Stevenson, | Ringgold, |
| J. Wilson, | Shepherd, | Earle, |
| Bayly, | J. Smith, | Kent, |
| Williams, | J. T. Chase, | Edmondson, |
| Fischer, | Bond, | Gibson. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. Potter, |
| Fenwick, | Carroll, | Mason, |
| Plater, | Edelen, | Dickinson, |
| Jordan, | Stull, | Johnson, |
| Dent, | Gilpin, | Gust. Scott, |
| B. Hall, | D. Smith, | Geo. Scott, |
| Sprigg, | T. Wright, | Horsey, |
| Marbury, | Bruff, | Chaille, |
| J. Hall, | S. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| S. Chase, | Murray, | |

In progression on reading the Declaration of Rights, on motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, the question was put, That the latter part of the thirteenth article, which follows in these words, "yet fines, duties, or taxes may properly and justly be imposed or laid with a political view, for the good government and benefit of the community," be struck out? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. Shepherd, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Bond, |
| Bayly, | Deye, | Love. |
| Williams, | Stevenson, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. J. Wilson, | Mr. T. Wright, |
| Fenwick, | Fischer, | Kent, |
| Plater, | Sheredine, | Bruff, |
| Jordan, | Edelen, | S. Wright, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Edmondson, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | Gibson, |
| Grahame, | J. Smith, | Murray, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Potter, |
| Sprigg, | H. Wilson, | Mason, |
| Marbury, | Archer, | Dickinson, |
| Hammond, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| J. Hall, | Ewing, | Gust. Scott, |
| Worthington, | D. Smith, | Geo. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | Brevard, | Horsey, |
| Paca, | Ringgold, | Chaille, |
| Carroll, | Earle, | Mitchell. |

Adjourned till three o'clock.

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

Mr. *Murray* has leave of absence on account of the sickness of his family.

In progression on reading the Declaration of Rights, on motion of Mr. *Earle*, the question was put, That in the nineteenth article the words "or affirmation" be inserted after the word "oath?" Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. Love, |
| J. Mackall, | Deye, | Archer, |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | Gilpin, |
| J. Wilson, | Shepherd, | Ewing, |
| Bayly, | J. Smith, | Brevard, |
| Williams, | Bond, | Earle, |
| Fischer, | H. Wilson, | Edmondson. |
| Schriver, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. S. Chase, | Mr. S. Wright, |
| Fenwick, | Paca, | Potter, |
| Plater, | Carroll, | Mason, |
| Jordan, | Sheredine, | Bruff, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Dickinson, |
| Parnham, | Beall, | Johnson, |
| Grahame, | Stull, | Gust. Scott, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Geo. Scott, |
| Sprigg, | D. Smith, | Horsey, |
| Marbury, | Ringgold, | Chaille, |
| J. Hall, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Worthington, | Kent, | |

The order of the day, that the Convention will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the form of Government for this State, being read, the same was referred till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, November 1, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Murray*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Sheredine* has leave of absence for a few days.

Mr. *Bowie* appeared in the House.

The Convention being informed that Mr. *Robert Peter* and Mr. *Thomas Richardson* were attending, in consequence of an order of the 24th of *October* last,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to take the Deposition of *John House*, relating to the facts contained in their Letter of the 16th of *October* to Mr. *Johnson*, and by him communicated to this House; and that Mr. *Gust. Scott*, Mr. *J. T. Chase*, and Mr. *T. Wright*, be a Committee for that purpose.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the Declaration of Rights; and on motion of Mr. *Paca*, That in the thirtieth article the words "removable only for misbehaviour on conviction in a court of law, or by a vote of the Legislature," be struck out, and the following inserted: "and the said Chancellor and Judges shall be removed for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law, and may be removed by the Governour upon the address of the General Assembly," an amendment was proposed by Mr. *Ewing*, that the word "shall" be inserted instead of the word "may;" on which amendment the question was put, and carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. Love, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Archer, |
| Bowie, | Deye, | Ewing, |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | Brevard, |
| Worthington, | Shepherd, | Kent, |
| J. Wilson, | Bond, | Edmondson, |
| Williams, | H. Wilson, | Gibson. |
| Fischer, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. Earle, |
| Fenwick, | Carroll, | T. Wright, |
| Plater, | Bayly, | S. Wright, |
| Jordan, | Sheredine, | Potter, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Mason, |
| Parnham, | Beall, | Dickinson, |
| Grahame, | Stull, | Johnson, |
| B. Hall, | J. Smith, | Gust. Scott, |
| Sprigg, | J. T. Chase, | Geo. Scott, |
| Marbury, | Gilpin, | Horsey, |
| J. Hall, | D. Smith, | Chaille, |
| S. Chase, | Ringgold, | Mitchell. |

An amendment was then offered as an addition to the first words proposed to be inserted, as follows: "Provided that two-thirds of all the members of each House concur in such address;" upon which the question was put, and resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Kent, |
| Fenwick, | Sheredine, | Gibson, |
| Plater, | Edelen, | Potter, |
| Jordan, | Beall, | Mason, |
| Dent, | Stull, | Dickinson, |
| Grahame, | J. Smith, | Johnson, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Gust. Scott, |
| Sprigg, | Ringgold, | Geo. Scott, |
| Marbury, | Earle, | Chaille, |
| S. Chase, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Paca, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Parnham, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. Archer, |
| Fitzhugh, | Fischer, | Gilpin, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Ewing, |
| Bowie, | Deye, | D. Smith, |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | Brevard, |
| J. Hall, | Shepherd, | S. Wright, |
| Worthington, | Bond, | Edmondson, |
| J. Wilson, | H. Wilson, | Horsey, |
| Bayly, | Love, | Schriver. |

The question was then put on the proposition so amended, and resolved in the affirmative.

In the same article, on motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, the question was put, That the words "that salaries liberal, but not profuse, ought to be secured to the Chancellor and the Judges during the continuance of their commissions" be struck out, and the words, "that a liberal salary ought to be secured to the Chancellor during his continuance in office, and that the Judges be paid *per diem* for their services during their term of sitting," be inserted? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. Shepherd, |
| J. Mackall, | Schriver, | Bond, |
| Bowie, | Ridgely, | Ewing. |
| Hammond, | Deye, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. T. Wright, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | Kent, |
| Plater, | Bayly, | Bruff, |
| Jordan, | Sheredine, | S. Wright, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Edmondson, |
| Parnham, | Beall, | Gibson, |
| Grahame, | J. Smith, | Potter, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | Archer, | Dickinson, |
| Marbury, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| J. Hall, | D. Smith, | Gust. Scott, |
| Worthington, | Brevard, | Geo. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | Ringgold, | Chaille, |
| Paca, | Earle, | Mitchell. |

On motion of Mr. *J. Hall*,

*Resolved*, That the words "in such manner and at such time as the Legislature shall hereafter direct, upon consideration of the circumstances of this State," be inserted in the thirtieth article, after the words "their commissions," and that the words "and reasonable salaries or fees allowed to the officers," be struck out.

The order of the day, that this Convention will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the form of Government for this State, being read, the same was referred till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Saturday, November 2, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Sheredine*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *T. Smyth* appeared in the House.

Mr. *Ringgold* and Mr. *H. Wilson* have leave of absence for a few days on account of particular private business. Mr. *Shepherd* and Mr. *Ewing* have leave of absence on account of sickness.

In progression on reading the Declaration of Rights, on motion of Mr. *Gust. Scott*, the question was put, That after the words "on contract to maintain," in the thirty-fourth article, the following be inserted: "any particular place of worship, or any particular ministry; yet the Legislature may, in their discretion, lay a general and equal tax for the support of the Christian religion, leaving to each individual the power of appointing the payment over of the money collected from him, to the support of any particular place of worship or minister, or for the benefit of the poor of his own denomination, or the poor in general of any particular county;" and that the words "any place of worship or ministry" be struck out? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. J. Hall, | Mr. S. Wright, |
| Fenwick, | Worthington, | Edmondson, |
| Plater, | S. Chase, | Gibson, |
| Jordan, | Paca, | Potter, |
| Dent, | Carroll, | Mason, |
| Parnham, | J. Wilson, | Dickinson, |
| Grahame, | Bayly, | Johnson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Edelen, | Gust. Scott, |
| J. Mackall, | J. T. Chase, | Geo. Scott, |
| Bowie, | Earle, | Horsey, |
| B. Hall, | T. Smyth, | Chaille, |
| Sprigg, | T. Wright, | Bishop, |
| Marbury, | Kent, | Mitchell. |
| Hammond, | Bruff, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Williams, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. Love, |
| Fischer, | Stevenson, | Archer, |
| Schriver, | Shepherd, | Gilpin, |
| Beall, | J. Smith, | Ewing, |
| Stull, | Bond, | D. Smith, |
| Ridgely, | H. Wilson, | Brevard. |

On motion of Mr. *Williams*, the question was put, That the following be an article in the Declaration of Rights: "That the practitioners of the law being suffered to take, receive, or demand exorbitant fees for their services, or any other than are provided by an act of Assembly, or may hereafter be provided by an act of the Legislature of this State, is injurious and oppressive to the good people thereof, and ought to be prevented?" Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Fischer, | Mr. Deye, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Stevenson. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Kent, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | Bruff, |
| Plater, | Edelen, | S. Wright, |
| Jordan, | Beall, | Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Stull, | Gibson, |
| Parnham, | J. Smith, | Potter, |
| Grahame, | J. T. Chase, | Mason, |
| Bowie, | Archer, | Dickinson, |
| B. Hall, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| Sprigg, | Ewing, | Gust. Scott, |
| Marbury, | D. Smith, | Geo. Scott, |
| Hammond, | Brevard, | Horsey, |
| J. Hall, | Earle, | Chaille, |
| Worthington, | T. Smyth, | Bishop, |
| S. Chase, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Paca, | | |

Mr. *Jordan* has leave of absence on account of the sickness of his family.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

In progression on reading the Declaration of Rights, on motion of Mr. *Earle*, That the following be inserted as an article therein? "That all persons who, from religious scruples, esteem it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion, may be allowed to make their solemn appeal or affirmation in all civil and criminal cases, in such manner as their religious principles have induced them to point out for the attestation of the truth." The previous question was called for and put, Whether the above question be now put? Carried in the negative.

It was then moved by Mr. *Johnson*, that the following be inserted as an article in the Declaration of Rights: "That the manner of administering an oath to any person ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession, or denomination of which such person is one, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being; and that the people called Quakers, those called Dunkers, and those called Menonists, holding it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion, ought to be allowed to make their solemn affirmation, in the manner that Quakers have been heretofore allowed to affirm, and to be of the same avail as an oath, in all such cases as the affirmation of Quakers hath been allowed and accepted within this State, instead of an oath. And further, on such affirmation, warrants to search for stolen goods, or the apprehension or commitment of offenders, ought to be granted, or security for the peace awarded, and Quakers, Dunkers, or Menonists, ought also, on their solemn affirmation as aforesaid, to be admitted as witnesses in all criminal cases not capital." To which an amendment was proposed by Mr. *S. Chase*, to strike out the latter part of the proposed article, which follows in these words: "And Quakers, Dunkers, or Menonists, ought also on their solemn affirmation as

aforesaid, to be admitted as witnesses in all criminal cases not capital." On which amendment the question was put, and carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Sprigg, | Mr. Geo. Scott, |
| Fenwick, | Marbury, | Horsey, |
| Dent, | S. Chase, | Chaille, |
| Parnham, | T. Wright, | Bishop, |
| Grahame, | Dickinson, | Mitchell. |
| Bowie, | Gust. Scott, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. D. Smith, |
| Fitzhugh, | Beall, | Brevard, |
| J. Mackall, | Stull, | Earle, |
| Hammond, | Ridgely, | T. Smyth, |
| J. Hall, | Deye, | Kent, |
| Worthington, | Stevenson, | Bruff, |
| Paca, | J. Smith, | S. Wright, |
| Carroll, | J. T. Chase, | Edmondson, |
| J. Wilson, | Love, | Gibson, |
| Bayly, | Archer, | Potter, |
| Williams, | Gilpin, | Mason, |
| Fischer, | Ewing, | Johnson. |
| Edelen, | | |

The question was then put on the whole article, and resolved in the affirmative.

The order of the day, that the Convention will resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the form of Government for this State, being read, the same was referred till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Sunday, November 3, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Ringgold*, Mr. *H. Wilson*, Mr. *Shepherd*, Mr. *Jordan*, Mr. *Potter*, Mr. *J. Mackall*, Mr. *B. Hall*, Mr. *Sprigg*, Mr. *Hammond*, and Mr. *J. Wilson*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *T. Wright*, That the following be inserted as an article in the Declaration of Rights: "That if the *Eastern* or *Western-Shore* shall hereafter judge it for their interest and happiness to separate from the other, their right so to do is hereby acknowledged." An amendment was proposed by Mr. *Ewing*, to be inserted after the words "that if," in the words following; "a majority of qualified voters in elections in every County on." Upon which amendment the question was put, and resolved in the affirmative. The question on the article so amended was then moved for, and the previous question called for and put, Whether the said question be now put? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Archer, | Mr. S. Wright, | Mr. Geo. Scott, |
| Earle, | Edmondson, | Horsey, |
| T. Smyth, | Gibson, | Chaille, |
| T. Wright, | Mason, | Bishop, |
| Kent, | Dickinson, | Mitchell. |
| Bruff, | Gust. Scott, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. Deye, |
| Plater, | Carroll, | Stevenson, |
| Dent, | Bayly, | J. Smith, |
| Parnham, | Williams, | Bond, |
| Grahame, | Fischer, | Love, |
| Fitzhugh, | Edelen, | Gilpin, |
| Bowie, | Schriver, | Ewing, |
| Marbury, | Beall, | D. Smith, |
| J. Hall, | Stull, | Brevard, |
| Worthington, | Ridgely, | Johnson. |

The Convention having gone through the Declaration of Rights, paragraph by paragraph, the same was amended, and agreed to as follows:

"THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

"The Parliament of *Great Britain*, by a declaratory act, having assumed a right to make laws to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever, and in pursuance of such claim endeavoured by force of arms to subjugate the *United Colonies* to an unconditional submission to their will and power, and having at length constrained them to declare themselves Independent States, and to assume government under the authority of the People: Therefore we, the Delegates of *Maryland*, in free and full Convention assembled, taking into our most serious consideration the best means of establishing a good Constitution in this State, for the surer foundation, and more permanent security thereof, Declare,

"1. That all Government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole.

"2. That the people of this State ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and police thereof.

"3. That the inhabitants of *Maryland* are entitled to the common law of *England*, and the trial by jury, according to the course of that law, and to the benefit of such of the *English* statutes as existed at the time of their first emigration, and which by experience have been found applicable to their local and other circumstances, and of such others as have been since made in *England* or *Great Britain*, and have been introduced, used, and practised by the courts of law or equity; and also to all acts of Assembly in force on the first of *June*, seventeen hundred and seventy-four, except such as may have since expired, or have been, or may be altered by acts of Convention, or this Declaration of Rights; subject nevertheless to the revision of, and amendment or repeal by, the Legislature of this State; and the inhabitants of *Maryland* are also entitled to all property derived to them from or under the charter granted by his Majesty *Charles* the First, to *Cæcilius Calvert*, Baron of *Baltimore*.

"4. That all persons invested with the Legislative or Executive powers of Government, are the trustees of the publick, and as such accountable for their conduct; wherefore, whenever the ends of Government are perverted, and publick liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new Government; the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

"5. That the right in the people to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all free Government; for this purpose elections ought to be free and frequent, and every man having property in, a common interest with, and an attachment to, the community, ought to have a right of suffrage.

"6. That the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial powers of Government, ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other.

"7. That no power of suspending laws, or the execution, of laws, unless by or derived from the Legislature, ought to be exercised or allowed.

"8. That freedom of speech, and debates, or proceedings, in the Legislature, ought not to be impeached in any other court or judicature.

"9. That a place for the meeting of the Legislature ought to be fixed, the most convenient to the members thereof, and to the depository of the publick records, and the Legislature ought not to be convened or held at any other place but from evident necessity.

"10. That for the redress of grievances, and for amending, strengthening and preserving the laws, the Legislature ought to be frequently convened.

"11. That every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances, in a peaceable and orderly manner.

"12. That no aid, charge, tax, burthen, fee, or fees, ought to be set, rated, or levied, under any pretence, without the consent of the Legislature.

"13. That the levying taxes by the poll is grievous and oppressive, and ought to be abolished; that paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of Government, but every other person in the State ought to contribute his proportion of publick taxes for the support of Government according to his actual worth in real or personal property within this State; yet fines, duties, or taxes may properly and justly be imposed or laid with a political view for the good government and benefit of the community.

"14. That sanguinary laws ought to be avoided, as far as is consistent with the safety of the State; and no law to inflict cruel and unusual pains and penalties ought to be made in any case, or at any time hereafter.

"15. That retrospective laws, punishing facts committed before the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are oppressive, unjust, and incompatible with liberty; wherefore no *ex post facto* law ought to be made.

"16. That no law to attaint particular persons of treason or felony, ought to be made in any case, or at any time hereafter.

"17. That every freeman for any injury done to him in his person or property, ought to have remedy by the course of the law of the land, and ought to have justice and right, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, according to the law of the land.

"18. That the trial of facts where they arise, is one of the greatest securities of the lives, liberties, and estate of the people.

"19. That in all criminal prosecutions, every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him, to have a copy of the indictment or charge in due time (if required) to prepare for his defence, to be allowed counsel, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have process for his witnesses, to examine the witnesses for and against him on oath, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent he ought not to be found guilty.

"20. That no man ought to be compelled to give evidence against himself in a court of common law, or in any other court, but in such cases as have been usually practised in this State, or may hereafter be directed by the Legislature.

"21. That no freeman ought to be taken, or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties, or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, or deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.

"22. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted by the court of law.

"23. That all warrants without oath or affirmation, to search suspected places, or to seize any person, or property, are grievous and oppressive; and all general warrants to search suspected places, or to apprehend suspected persons, without naming or describing the place, or the person in special, are illegal, and ought not to be granted.

"24. That there ought to be no forfeiture of any part of the estate of any person for any crime except murder or treason against the State, and then only on conviction and attainder.

"25. That a well-regulated Militia is the proper and natural defence of a free Government.

"26. That standing armies are dangerous to liberty, and ought not to be raised or kept up without consent of the Legislature.

"27. That in all cases and at all times the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and control of, the civil power.

"28. That no soldier ought to be quartered in any house in time of peace without the consent of the owner, and in time of war in such manner only as the Legislature shall direct.

"29. That no person except regular soldiers, mariners and marines in the service of this State, or Militia when in actual service, ought in any case to be subject to, or punishable by, martial law.

"30. That the independency and uprightness of Judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people; wherefore the Chancellor and all Judges ought to hold commissions during good behaviour; and the said Chancellor and Judges shall be removed for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law, and may be removed by the Governour upon the address of the General Assembly, provided that two-thirds of all the members of each House concur in such address. That salaries liberal, but not profuse, ought to be secured to the Chancellor and the Judges, during the continuance of their commissions, in such manner and at such time as the Legislature shall hereafter direct, upon consideration of the circumstances of this State: no Chancellor or Judge ought to hold any other office, civil or military, or receive fees or perquisites of any kind.

"31. That a long continuance in the first executive departments of power or trust, is dangerous to liberty; a rotation therefore in those departments is one of the best securities of permanent freedom.

"32. That no person ought to hold at the same time more than one office of profit, nor ought any person in publick trust to receive any present from any foreign Prince, or State, or from the *United States*, or any of them, without the approbation of this State.

"33. That as it is the duty of every man to worship God in such manner as he thinks most acceptable to Him, all persons professing the Christian religion are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty; wherefore no person ought by any law to be molested in his person or estate on account of his religious persuasion or profession, or for his religious practice, unless under colour of religion any man shall disturb the good order, peace, or safety of the State, or shall infringe the laws of morality, or injure others in their natural, civil, or religious rights; nor ought any person to be compelled to frequent or maintain, or contribute, unless on contract, to maintain any particular place of worship, or any particular ministry; yet the Legislature may in their discretion lay a general and equal tax for the support of the Christian religion, leaving to each individual the power of appointing the payment over of the money collected from him, to the support of any particular place of worship or minister; or for the benefit of the poor of his own denomination, or the poor in general of any particular county; but the churches, chapels, glebes, and all other property now belonging to the Church of *England*, ought to remain to the Church of *England* forever. And all acts of Assembly lately passed for collecting moneys for building or repairing particular churches or chapels of ease, shall continue in force and be executed, unless the Legislature shall by act supersede or repeal the same; but no County court shall assess any quantity of tobacco or sum of money hereafter, on the application of any vestrymen or church wardens; and every incumbent of the Church of *England* who hath remained in his parish and performed his duty, shall be entitled to receive the provision and support established by the act entitled 'An act for the support of the Clergy of the Church of *England* in this Province,' till the *November* court of this present year, to be held for the County in which his parish shall lie, or partly lie, or for such time as he hath remained in his parish and performed his duty.

"34. That every gift, sale, or devise of lands to any minister, publick teacher, or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or to any religious sect, order or denomination, or to or for the support, use or benefit of, or in trust for, any minister, publick teacher or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order or denomination; and every gift or sale of goods or chattels, to go in succession, or to take place after the death of the seller or donor, to or for such support, use or benefit; and also every devise of goods or chattels to, or to or for the support, use or benefit of any minister, publick teacher or preacher of the Gospel, as such, or any religious sect, order or denomination, without the leave of the Legislature, shall be void; except always any sale, gift, lease or devise of any quantity of land not exceeding two acres, for a church, meeting, or other house of worship, and for a burying-ground, which shall be improved, enjoyed, or used only for such purpose, or such sale, gift, lease, or devise shall be void.

"35. That no other test or qualification ought to be required on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this State, and such oath of office as shall be directed by this Convention or the Legislature of this State, and a declaration of a belief in the Christian religion.

"36. That the manner of administering an oath to any person ought to be such as those of the religious persuasion, profession or denomination of which such person is one, generally esteem the most effectual confirmation by the attestation of the Divine Being; and that the people called Quakers, those called Dunkers, and those called Menonists, holding it unlawful to take an oath on any occasion, ought to be allowed to make their solemn affirmation in the manner that Quakers have been heretofore allowed to affirm, and to be of the same avail as an oath in all such cases as the affirmation of Quakers hath been allowed and accepted within this State instead of an oath. And further on such affirmation warrants to search for stolen goods or the apprehension or commitment of offenders ought to be granted, or security for the peace awarded; and Quakers, Dunkers, or Menonists, ought also on their solemn affirmation as aforesaid to be admitted as witnesses in all criminal cases not capital.

"37. That the City of *Annapolis* ought to have all its rights, privileges, and benefits, agreeable to its charter and the acts of Assembly confirming and regulating the same; subject, nevertheless, to such alterations as may be made by this Convention or any future Legislature.

"38. That the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved.

"39. That monopolies are odious, contrary to the spirit of a free government, and the principles of commerce, and ought not to be suffered.

"40. That no title of nobility or hereditary honours ought to be granted in this State.

"41. That the subsisting resolves of this and the several Conventions held for this Colony ought to be in force as laws, unless altered by this Convention or the Legislature of this State.

"42. That this Declaration of Rights, or the form of Government to be established by this Convention, or any part of either of them, ought not to be altered, changed or abolished, by the Legislature of this State, but in such manner as this Convention shall prescribe and direct."

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider further of the form of Government for this State; Mr. *T. Wright* in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Wright* reported, that the Committee had, according to order, taken into consideration the form of Government for this State, and had come to several resolutions thereon, which they had directed him to report; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered them in at the table, where they were again read, and are as follow:

"THE CONSTITUTION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

"1. That the Legislature consist of two distinct branches, a Senate and a House of Delegates, which shall be styled the General Assembly of *Maryland*.

"2. That the House of Delegates shall be chosen in the following manner: All freemen, residents of this State, above twenty-one years of age, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the County in which they offer to vote, or having property in this State above the value of thirty pounds, current money, and having resided in the County in which they offer to vote one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage in the election of Delegates for such County; and all freemen so qualified shall, on the first Monday of *October*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year thereafter, assemble in the Counties in which they are respectively qualified to vote, at the Court-Houses in the said Counties, or at such other place as the Legislature shall direct; and when assembled, or the major part of such of them as do assemble, shall elect, *viva voce*, four Delegates for each County, of the most wise, sensible, and discreet of the people, residents in the County for which they are to be chosen one whole year next preceding the time of election, above twenty-one years of age, and having in the State real and personal property above the value of five hundred pounds, current money.

"3. That the Sheriff of each County, or, in case of sickness, his Deputy, (summoning two Justices of the County, who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace,) shall be judge of the election, and may adjourn from day to day, if necessary, till the same be finished, so that the whole election shall be concluded in four days; and shall make his return thereof, under his hand, to the Chancellor of this State for the time being.

"4. That all persons qualified by the charter of the City of *Annapolis* to vote for Burgesses, shall, on the same first *Monday* of *October*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year for ever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two Delegates, qualified agreeable to the said charter; that the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the said city, or any three of them, be judge of the election, appoint the place in the said city for holding the same, and may adjourn from day to day as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid.

"5. That all persons inhabitants of *Baltimore* Town, and having the same qualifications as electors in the County, shall, on the same first *Monday* of *October*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year for ever thereafter, at such place in the said town as the said judges shall appoint, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two Delegates, qualified as aforesaid.

"6. That the Commissioners of the said town, or any three or more of them, for the time being, shall be judges of the said election, and may adjourn as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid; but the inhabitants of the said town shall not be entitled to vote for Delegates for *Baltimore* County, unless they have a freehold of fifty acres of land in the County without the limits of the said town.

"7. That on refusal, death, disqualification, resignation, or removal out of the State, of any Delegate, or on his becoming Governour, or member of the Council, a warrant of election shall issue by the Speaker for the election of another in his place, of which ten days' notice at least, excluding the day of notice and the day of election, shall be given.

"8. That not less than a majority of the Delegates, with their Speaker, (to be chosen by them by ballot,) constitute an House for the transacting any business other than that of adjourning.

"9. That the House of Delegates shall judge of the elections and qualifications of Delegates.

"10. That the House of Delegates may originate all money bills, propose bills to the Senate or receive those offered by that body, and assent, dissent, or propose amendments; that they may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into all complaints, grievances, and offences, as the grand inquest of this State, and may commit any person for any crime to the publick jail, there to remain till he be discharged by due course of law; they may expel any member for a great misdemeanour, but not a second time for the same cause; they may examine and pass all accounts of the State, relating either to the collection or expenditure of the revenue, or appoint Auditors to state and adjust the same; they may call for all publick or official papers and records, and send for persons, whom they may judge necessary, in the course of their inquiries, concerning affairs relating to the publick interest, and may direct all office bonds (which shall be made payable to the State) to be sued for any breach of duty.

"11. That the Senate may be at full and perfect liberty to exercise their judgment in passing laws, and that they may not be compelled by the House of Delegates and the publick distress, either to reject a money bill which the emergency of affairs may require, or to assent to some other act of legislation, in their conscience and judgment injurious to the publick welfare; the House of Delegates shall not on any occasion, or under any pretence, annex to, or blend with, a money bill any matter, clause, or thing, not immediately relating to, and necessary for the imposing, assessing, levying, or applying the taxes or supplies, to be raised for the support of Government, or the current expenses of the State; and to prevent altercation about such bills, it is declared, that no bill imposing duties or customs for the mere regulating of commerce, or inflicting fines for the reformation of morals, or to enforce the execution of the laws, by which an incidental revenue may arise, shall be accounted a money bill; but every bill assessing, levying, or applying taxes or supplies for the support of Government, or the current expenses of the State, or appropriating money in the Treasury, shall be deemed a money bill.

"12. That the House of Delegates may punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a contempt in their view, by any disorderly or riotous behaviour, or by threats to, or abuse of their members, or by any obstruction to their proceedings; they may also punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a breach of privilege, by arresting on civil process, or by assaulting any of their members, during their sitting, or on their way to, or return from, the House of Delegates, or by any assault of, or obstruction to their officers, in the execution of any order or process, or by assaulting or obstructing any witness, or any other person, attending on, or on their way to or from, the House, or by rescuing any person committed by the House; and the Senate may exercise the same power, in similar cases.

"13. That the Treasurers (one for the *Western* and another for the *Eastern-Shore*) and the Commissioners of the Loan Office may be appointed by the House of Delegates during their pleasure, and in case of refusal, death, resignations, disqualification, or removal out of the State of any of the said Commissioners or Treasurers, in the recess of the General Assembly, the Governour, with the advice of the Council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the next General Assembly.

"14. That the Senate be chosen in the following manner: All persons, qualified as aforesaid to vote for County Delegates, shall on the first *Monday* of *September*, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year forever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two persons for their respective Counties, qualified as aforesaid to be elected County Delegates, to be Electors of the Senate; and the Sheriff of each County, or in case of sickness his Deputy, (summoning two Justices of the County who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace,) shall hold and be judge of the said election, and make return thereof as aforesaid.

"15. That the said Electors of the Senate meet at the City of *Annapolis*, or such other place as shall be appointed for convening the Legislature, on the third *Monday* in *September*, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year forever thereafter, and they, or any twenty-four of them so met, shall proceed to elect, by ballot, either out of their own body, or the people at large, fifteen Senators, (nine of whom to be residents on the *Western*, and six to be residents on the *Eastern-Shore*,) men of the most wisdom, experience and virtue, above twenty-five years of age, residents of the State above three whole years next preceding the election, and having therein real and personal property above the value of one thousand pounds, current money.

"16. That the Senators shall be balloted for at one and the same time, and out of the gentlemen, residents of the *Western-Shore*, who shall be proposed as Senators, the nine, who shall on striking the ballots appear to have the greatest numbers in their favour, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected; and out of the gentlemen, residents of the *Eastern-Shore*, who shall be proposed as Senators, the six who shall, on striking the ballots, appear to have the greatest numbers in their favour, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected; and if two or more, on the same Shore, shall have an equal number of ballots in their favour, by which the choice shall not be determined on the first ballot, then the Electors shall again ballot before they separate, in which they shall be confined to the persons who, on the first ballot, shall have had an equal number; and they who shall have the greatest number in their favour on the second ballot shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected: and if the whole number should not thus be made up, because of an equal number on the second ballot still being in favour of two or more persons, then the election shall be determined by lot, between those who have equal numbers; which proceedings of the Electors shall be certified under their hands and returned to the Chancellor for the time being.

"17. That the Electors of Senators shall judge of the qualifications and elections of members of their body, and on a contested election shall admit to a seat, as an elector, such qualified person, as shall appear to them to have the greatest number of legal votes in his favour.

"18. That the Electors immediately on their meeting, and before they proceed to the election of Senators, take such oath or affirmation of support and fidelity to this State, as this Convention or the Legislature shall direct, and also an oath or affirmation 'to elect without favour, affection, partiality, 'or prejudice, such persons for Senators as they in their judg-'ment and conscience believe best qualified for the office.'

"19. That in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the State, of any Senator, or on his becoming Governour, or a member of the Council, the Senate shall immediately thereupon, or at their next meeting thereafter, elect by ballot, in the same manner as the Electors are above directed to choose Senators, another person in his place, for the remainder of the said term of five years.

"20. That not less than a majority of the Senate, with their President, (to be chosen by them by ballot,) shall constitute an House for the transacting any business, other than that of adjourning.

"21. That the Senate shall judge of the elections and qualification of Senators.

"22. That the Senate may originate any other, except money bills, to which their assent or dissent only shall be given, and may receive any other bills from the House of Delegates, and assent, dissent or propose amendments.

"23. That the General Assembly meet annually, on the first *Monday* of *November*, and if necessary oftener.

"24. That each House shall appoint its own officers, and settle its own rules of proceeding.

"25. That a person of wisdom, experience, and virtue, shall be chosen Governour on the second *Monday* of *November*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the second *Monday* in every year forever thereafter, by the joint ballot of both Houses, to be taken in each House respectively, deposited in a conference room, the boxes to be examined by a joint committee of both Houses, and the numbers severally reported, that the appointment may be entered; which mode of taking the joint ballot of both Houses shall be adopted in all cases. But if two or more shall have an equal number of ballots in their favour, by which the choice shall not be determined on the first ballot, then a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be confined to the persons who on the first ballot shall have had an equal number; and if the ballots should again be equal between two or more persons, then the election of the Governour shall be determined by lot between those who have equal numbers.

"26. That the Senators and Delegates, on the second *Tuesday* of *November*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and annually on the second *Tuesday* of *November* forever thereafter, elect by joint ballot in the same manner as Senators are directed to be chosen, five of the most sensible, discreet, and experienced men, above twenty-five years of age, residents in the State above three years next preceding the election, and having therein a freehold in lands and tenements above the value of one thousand pounds, current money, to be the Council to the Governour, whose proceedings shall be always entered on record, to any part whereof any member may enter his dissent, and their advice, if so required by the Governour, or any member of the Council, shall be given in writing, and signed by the members giving the same respectively; which proceedings of the Council shall be laid before the Senate, or House of Delegates, when called for by them, or either of them. The Council may appoint their own Clerk, who shall take such oath or affirmation of support and fidelity to this State as this Convention or the Legislature shall direct, and of secrecy, in such matters as he shall be directed by the Board to keep secret.

"27. That the Delegates to Congress from this State shall be chosen annually, or superseded in the mean time by the joint ballot of both Houses of Assembly, and that there be a rotation in such manner that at least two of the number be annually changed, who shall not be eligible for two years then next to come; and that no person who holds any office of profit in the gift of Congress shall be eligible to sit in Congress, but if appointed to any such office his seat shall be thereby vacated: that no person unless above twenty-five years of age, and a resident in this State more than five years next preceding the election, and having real and personal estate in this State above the value of one thousand pounds, current money, shall be eligible to sit in Congress.

"28. That the Senators and Delegates, immediately on their annual meeting, and before they proceed to any business, and every person hereafter elected a Senator, or Delegate, before he acts as such, shall take such oath of support and fidelity to this State as aforesaid, and before the election of the Governour, or members of the Council, shall take an oath 'to elect, without favour, affection, partiality, or preju-'dice, such person, as Governour, or member of the Council, 'as they, in their judgment and conscience, believe best 'qualified for the office.'

"29. That the Senate and Delegates may adjourn themselves respectively; but if the two Houses should not agree on the same time, but adjourn to different days, then shall the Governour appoint and notify one of those days or some day between, and the Assembly shall then meet and be held accordingly, and he shall, if necessary, by advice of the Council, call them before the time to which they shall in any manner be adjourned, on giving not less than ten days notice thereof, but the Governour shall not adjourn the Assembly otherwise than as aforesaid, nor prorogue or dissolve it at any time.

"30. That no person unless above twenty-five years of age, a resident in this State above five years next preceding the election, and having in the State real and personal property above the value of five thousand pounds, current money, one thousand pounds whereof at least to be of freehold estate, shall be eligible as Governour.

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"31. That the Governour shall not continue in that office longer than three years successively, nor be eligible as Governour until the expiration of four years, after he shall have been out of that office.

"32. That upon the death, resignation, or removal out of this State of the Governour, the first-named of the Council, for the time being, shall act as Governour, and qualify in the same manner, and shall immediately call a meeting of the General Assembly, giving not less than fourteen days notice of the meeting, at which meeting a Governour shall be appointed in manner aforesaid, for the residue of the year.

"33. That the Governour, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, may imbody the Militia, and when embodied shall alone have the direction thereof, and shall also have the direction of all the regular land and sea forces under the laws of this State; but he shall not command in person unless advised thereto by the Council, and then only so long as they shall approve thereof; and may alone exercise all other the executive powers of Government, where the concurrence of the Council is not required, according to the laws of this State, and grant reprieves or pardons for any crime, except in such cases where the law shall otherwise direct; and may, during the recess of the General Assembly, lay embargoes to prevent the departure of any shipping, or the exportation of any commodities, for any time not exceeding thirty days in any one year, summoning the General Assembly to meet within the time of the continuance of such embargo, and may also order and compel any vessel to ride quarantine, if such vessel, or the port from which she shall have come, shall, on strong grounds, be suspected to be infected with the plague; but the Governour shall not, under any pretence, exercise any power or prerogative, by virtue of any law, statute, or custom of *England* or *Great Britain*.

"34. That the Members of the Council, or any three or more of them, when convened, shall constitute a Board for the transacting of business; that the Governour for the time being shall always be the President of the Council, and as such entitled to a vote on all questions in which they shall be divided in opinion; and in the absence of the Governour the first named of the Council shall act as Vice-President, and as such shall also vote in all cases where the members disagree in their opinion.

"35. That in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the State, by any person chosen a member of the Council, the members thereof, immediately thereupon, or at their next meeting thereafter, shall elect by ballot another person, qualified as aforesaid, in his place, for the residue of the year.

"36. That the Council shall have power to make the great seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Chancellor for the time being, and affixed to all laws, commissions, grants, and other publick testimonials, as has been heretofore practised in this State.

"37. That no Senator, Delegate of the Assembly, or Member of the Council, shall be capable of holding any office of profit in this State, during the time he shall act as Senator, Delegate of the Assembly, or Member of the Council; nor shall any Governour be capable of holding any other office of profit in this State while he acts as such.

"38. That every Governour, Senator, Delegate to Congress or Assembly, and Member of the Council, before he acts as such, shall take an oath, 'That he will not receive 'directly or indirectly, at any time, any part of the profits of 'any office, held by any other person during his acting in 'his office of Governour, Senator, Delegate to Congress or 'Assembly, or Member of the Council, or the profits, or any 'part of the profits arising on any agency, for the supply of 'clothing or provisions for the Army or Navy.'

"39. That if any Senator, Delegate of the Assembly, or Member of the Council, shall hold or execute any office of profit, or receive directly or indirectly, at any time, the profits or any part of the profits of any office exercised by any other person, during his acting as Senator, Delegate of the Assembly, or Member of the Council, his seat, on conviction in a court of law, by the oath of two credible witnesses, shall be void, and he shall suffer the punishment for willful and corrupt perjury, or be banished this State forever, or disqualified forever from holding any office or place of trust or profit, as the court may adjudge.

"40. That the Chancellor, all Judges, the Attorney-General, Clerks of the General Court, the Clerks of the County Courts, the Register of the Land Office, and the Register of Wills, shall hold their commissions during good behaviour, removable only for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law.

"41. That there be a Register of Wills appointed for each County, who shall be commissioned by the Governour, on the joint recommendation of the Senate and House of Delegates, and that upon the death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County, by any Register of Wills in the recess of the General Assembly, the Governour, with the advice of the Council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the General Assembly.

"42. That Sheriffs shall be elected annually in each County by ballot, that is to say, two persons for the office of Sheriff for each County, the one of whom having the majority of votes, or if both have an equal number, either of them, at the discretion of the Governour, to be commissioned by the Governour for the said office; no person to continue in the said office more than three successive years, or be capable of being again elected during four years afterwards: bond with security to be taken every year as usual, and no Sheriff shall be qualified to act before the same is given. In case of death, refusal, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County, before the expiration of the year, the other person chosen as aforesaid, shall be commissioned by the Governour to execute the said office for such residue of the year as shall be unexpired; the said person giving bond with security as aforesaid, and in case of his death, refusal, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County, before the expiration of the year, the Governour, with the advice of his Council, may nominate and commission a fit and proper person to execute the said office for such residue of the year as shall be then unexpired; the said person giving bond and security as aforesaid; the election shall be held at the same time and place appointed for the election of Delegates, and the Justices there summoned to attend for the preservation of the peace shall be judges thereof, and of the qualification of candidates, who shall appoint a clerk to take the ballots: all freemen above the age of twenty-one years, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the County in which they offer to ballot, and residing therein, and all freemen above the age of twenty-one years, and having property in the State above the value of thirty pounds, current money, and having resided in the County in which they offer to ballot one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage; no person to be eligible to the office of Sheriff for a County but an inhabitant of the said County, above the age of twenty-one years, and having real and personal property in the State above the value of

the Justices aforesaid shall examine the ballots, and the two candidates properly qualified, having in each County the majority of legal ballots, shall be declared duly elected for the office of Sheriff for such County, and returned to the Governour and Council, with a certificate of the number of ballots for each of them.

"43. That the Judges of the General Court and Justices of the County Courts may appoint the Clerks of their respective courts; and in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the State, of the Clerk of the General Court, in the vacation of the said court; and in case of the refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County of any of the said County Clerks in the vacation of the County Court of which he is Clerk, the Governour with the advice of the Council may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office respectively, to hold the same until the meeting of the next General Court or County Court, as the case may be.

"44. That the Governour for the time being, with the advice and consent of the Council, may appoint the Chancellor, and all Judges and Justices, the Attorney-General, Naval officers, officers in the regular land and sea service, officers of the militia, Registers of the Land Office, Surveyors, and all other civil officers of Government, (Assessors, Constables, and Overseers of the Roads only excepted,) and may also suspend or remove any civil officer who has not a commission during good behaviour, and may suspend any militia officer for one month, and may also suspend or remove any regular officer in the land or sea service; and

the Governour may remove or suspend any militia officer in pursuance of the judgment of a Court-Martial.

"45. That all civil officers, of the appointment of the Governour and Council, who do not hold commissions during good behaviour, shall be appointed annually in the third week of *November;* but if any of them shall be reappointed, they may continue to act without any new commission or qualification; and every officer, though not reappointed, shall continue to act until the person who shall be appointed and commissioned in his stead shall be qualified.

"46. That the Governour, and every member of the Council, before they act as such, shall respectively take an oath, 'that he will not, through favour, affection, or partiality, 'vote for any person to office, and that he will vote for such 'person as in his judgment and conscience he believes best 'qualified for the office; and that he has not made, nor will 'make, any promise or engagement to give his vote or in-'terest in favour of any person.'

"47. That there be two Registers of the Land Office, one upon the *Western*, and one upon the *Eastern-Shore;* that short extracts of the grants and certificates of the land on the *Western* and *Eastern-Shores* respectively be made in separate books, at the publick expense, and deposited in the offices of the said Registers, in such manner as shall hereafter be provided by the General Assembly.

"48. That every Chancellor, Judge, Register of Wills, Commissioner of the Loan Office, Attorney-General, Sheriff, Treasurer, Naval Officer, Register of the Land Office, Register of the Chancery Court, and every Clerk of the Common Law Courts, Surveyor, and Auditor of Publick Accounts, before he acts as such, shall take an oath, 'that 'he will not, directly or indirectly, receive any fee or reward 'for doing his office of but what is or shall be 'allowed by law, nor will directly or indirectly receive the 'profits or any part of the profits of any office held by any 'other person, and that he does not hold the same office in 'trust or for the benefit of any other person.'

"49. That if any Governour, Chancellor, Judge, Register of Wills, Attorney-General, Register of the Land Office, Commissioner of the Loan Office, Register of the Chancery Court, or any Clerk of the Common Law Courts, Treasurer, Naval Officer, Sheriff, Surveyor, or Auditor of Publick Accounts, shall receive directly or indirectly, at any time, the profits or any part of the profits of any office, held by any other person, during his acting in the office to which he is appointed, his election, appointment, and commission, on conviction in a court of law, by the oath of two credible witnesses, shall be void, and he shall suffer the punishment for willful and corrupt perjury, or be banished this State forever, or disqualified forever, from holding any office or place of trust or profit, as the court may adjudge.

"50. That if any person shall give any bribe, present, or reward, or any promise, or any security for the payment or delivery of any money, or any other thing, to obtain or procure a vote, to be Governour, Senator, Delegate to Congress or Assembly, member of the Council, or Judge, or to be appointed to any of the said offices, or to any office of profit or trust, now created or hereafter to be created in this State, the person giving and the person receiving the same, on conviction in a court of law, shall be forever disqualified to hold any office of trust or profit in this State.

"51. That every person appointed to any office of profit or trust shall, before he enters on the execution thereof, take the following oath, to wit: 'I, A B, do swear, That I will 'be true and faithful to the State of *Maryland*, and the 'government thereof, as by the Convention of *Maryland* 'established, and that I will, to the utmost of my power, 'support, maintain, and defend the said State and govern-'ment thereof; and that I will use my utmost endeavours to 'disclose and make known to the Governour, the Council, 'or some of the Judges or Justices of this State for the time 'being, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies or attempts 'which I shall know to be against this State and the govern-'ment thereof; and I do declare, that no King, Prince, or 'State, hath, or ought to have, any power, jurisdiction, 'superiority, or authority, within this State.' And shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion.

"52. That there be a Court of Appeals, composed of persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, whose judgment shall be final and conclusive in all cases of appeal from the General Court, Court of Chancery, and Court of Admiralty: That one person of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed Chancellor: That three persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed Judges of the court now called the Provincial Court; and that the same court be hereafter called and known by the name of *The General Court;* which Court shall sit on each Shore for determining the business of each Shore respectively.

"53. That the style of all laws run thus: 'Be it enacted by the General Assembly of *Maryland:*' That all publick commissions and grants run thus: 'The State of *Maryland*, &c.,' and shall bear test by the Governour with the seal of the State annexed: That all writs shall run in the same style, and be tested, sealed, and signed as usual: That all indictments shall conclude, 'Against the peace, government and dignity of the State.'

"54. That all penalties and forfeitures, heretofore going to the King or Proprietary, shall go to the State, save only such as the General Assembly may abolish or otherwise provide for.

"55. That this form of Government, and the Declaration of Rights, and no part thereof, shall be altered, changed, or abolished, unless a bill so to alter, change, or abolish the same, shall pass the General Assembly and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly after a new election of Delegates, in the first session after such new election.

"56. That to introduce the new Government, an election be held for the Electors of the Senate on the third *Monday* of *November* in this present year, and that the Electors of the Senate meet at *Annapolis* on the first *Monday* of *December* in this present year, and there choose Senators, and that an election be held on the third *Monday* of *December* for Delegates to serve in General Assembly, and for Sheriffs; and that the said elections be made by such persons in the same manner and under the same qualifications as such elections are herein before directed to be made at the periodical times beforementioned; the returns of all which first elections shall be made to the Council of Safety for the time being, and the General Assembly shall meet at *Annapolis* on the day of , and shall in their then session, or in such future session as they shall think proper, choose a Governour and Council for the residue of the year in the manner before directed: and for filling in the first instance only all the offices in the disposition of the Governour with the advice of the Council, the House of Delegates may also propose to the Senate a list of all officers in the appointment of the Governour with the advice of the Council, and on the Senate concurring therein, or in the recommendation of any of the persons therein mentioned, such persons so recommended shall be commissioned by the Governour; but if the Senate shall not concur in the recommendation of any of the persons proposed as aforesaid, then shall a joint ballot of both Houses be taken in manner aforesaid for persons to be recommended for such offices, and the persons in whose favour such ballot shall pass shall be commissioned as aforesaid."

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

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Monday, November 4, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Barnes*, Mr. *J. Mackall*, Mr. *B. Mackall*, Mr. *B. Hall*, Mr. *Sprigg*, Mr. *Hammond*, Mr. *S. Chase*, Mr. *J. T. Chase*, and Mr. *J. Wilson*, appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *Gustavus Scott*, That all civil officers now in commission for this State under the old form of Government, shall continue to act in their respective departments until others shall be appointed and commissioned in their stead by the Legislature, or Executive power of this State, and qualified to act? An amendment was proposed in the words following, "and that the County courts assess the County charges as usual." On which amendment the question was put, and resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr Fitzhugh, | Mr. J. Wilson, |
| Fenwick, | J. Mackall, | Edelen, |
| Plater, | Marbury, | Beall, |
| Dent, | Worthington, | Stull, |
| Parnham, | Face, | J. Smith, |
| Grahame, | Carroll, | Archer, |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Ewing, | Mr. Bruff, | Mr. Gustavus Scott, |
| D. Smith. | S. Wright, | George Scott, |
| Brevard, | Edmondson, | Horsey, |
| Earle, | Gibson, | Chaille, |
| T. Smyth, | Mason, | Bishop, |
| T. Wright, | Dickinson, | Mitchell. |
| Kent, | Johnson, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Bayly, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. Bond, |
| Williams, | Deye, | Love, |
| Fischer, | Stevenson, | Gilpin. |
| Schriver, | | |

The question was then put on the motion so amended, and resolved in the affirmative.

*Ordered*, That the same be published in the *Maryland Gazette*, and *Baltimore* papers.

The Convention took into consideration the Report of the form of Government for this State from the Committee of the Whole, and in progression on reading the same, on motion of Mr. *Bayly*, the question was put, That the second article thereof he struck out? Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *T. Wright*, the question was then put, That the word "five" be inserted instead of the word "thirty" in the second article? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. Ewing, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Brevard, |
| Bowie, | Deye, | T. Wright, |
| Marbury, | Stevenson, | Kent, |
| Hammond, | Bond, | Bruff, |
| J. Wilson, | Love, | S. Wright. |
| Bayly, | Archer, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Fischer, | Mr. Edmondson, |
| Fenwick, | Edelen, | Gibson, |
| Plater, | Schriver, | Mason, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Dickinson, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | Johnson, |
| B. Mackall, | J. Smith, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Grahame, | J. T. Chase, | George Scott, |
| J. Hall, | Gilpin, | Horsey, |
| Worthington, | D. Smith, | Chaille, |
| S. Chase. | Earle, | Bishop, |
| Paca, | T. Smyth, | Mitchell. |
| Carroll, | | |

On motion of Mr. *Bayly*, the question was then put, That the words "or paying taxes for the support of Government," be inserted in the second article instead of the words "or having property in the State above the value of thirty pounds currency?" Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Bayly, | Mr. Gilpin, |
| Parnham, | Williams, | Ewing, |
| Fitzhugh, | Ridgely, | D. Smith, |
| J. Mackall, | Deye, | Brevard, |
| Bowie, | Stevenson, | T. Wright, |
| Marbury, | Bond, | Kent, |
| Hammond, | Love, | Bruff, |
| J Wilson, | Archer, | S. Wright. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. Mason, |
| Fenwick, | Schriver, | Dickinson, |
| Plater, | Beall, | Johnson, |
| B. Mackall, | Stull, | Gustavus Scott, |
| J. Hall, | J. Smith, | George Scott, |
| Worthington, | J. T. Chase, | Horsey, |
| S. Chase, | Earle, | Chaille, |
| Paca, | T. Smyth, | Bishop, |
| Carroll, | Edmondson, | Mitchell. |
| Fischer, | Gibson, | |

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the word "third" be inserted in the second article, between the word "every" and the word "year?" Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was then put, That the word "second" be inserted in the same place? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Johnson, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Plater, | Earle, | George Scott, |
| Grahame, | T. Smyth, | Horsey, |
| J. Hall, | T. Wright, | Chaille, |
| Worthington, | Edmondson, | Bishop, |
| S. Chase, | Mason, | Mitchell. |
| Paca, | Dickinson, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Marbury, | Mr. Schriver, |
| Parnham, | Hammond, | Beall, |
| B. Mackall, | Bayly, | Stull, |
| Fitzhugh, | Williams, | Ridgely, |
| J. Mackall, | Fischer, | Deye, |
| Bowie, | Edelen, | Stevenson, |
| Mr. J. Smith, | Mr. Gilpin, | Mr. Kent, |
| J. T. Chase, | Ewing, | Bruff, |
| Bond, | D. Smith, | S. Wright, |
| Love, | Brevard, | Gibson. |
| Archer, | | |

On motion of Mr. *Earle*, the question was put, That the words "by ballot" be inserted in the second article, instead of the words "*viva voce*?" Carried in the negative.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

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*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

In progression on reading the form of Government, on motion of Mr. *J. Hall*, the question was put, That the following be an addition to the fourth article: "but the inhabitants of the said City shall not be entitled to vote for Delegates for *Anne Arundel* County, unless they have a freehold of fifty acres of land in the County distinct from the City?" Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Beall, | Mr. Earle, |
| Dent, | Stull, | Kent, |
| Parnham, | Ridgely, | S. Wright, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Edmondson, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Gibson, |
| Bowie, | Bond, | Dickinson, |
| Hammond, | Love, | George Scott, |
| J. Hall, | Archer, | Horsey, |
| J. Wilson, | Gilpin, | Chaille, |
| Williams, | D. Smith, | Mitchell. |
| Schriver, | Brevard, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. S. Chase, | Mr. J. T. Chase, |
| Plater, | Paca, | Ewing, |
| B. Mackall, | Carroll, | T. Smyth, |
| Grahame, | Bayly, | Bruff, |
| B. Hall, | Fischer, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | Edelen, | Johnson, |
| Marbury, | J. Smith, | Gustavus Scott. |
| Worthington, | | |

On motion of Mr. *J. T. Chase*, That the following be inserted as an addition to the fifth article: "but if the said inhabitants of the Town shall so decrease, as that the number of persons having right of suffrage therein shall have been, for the space of seven years successively, less than one half of the number of voters in some one County in this State, such Town thenceforward shall cease to send two Delegates or Representatives to the House of Delegates, until the said Town shall have one half of the number of voters in some one County in this State. And in case the inhabitants of the said Town shall so increase, as that the number of persons having right of suffrage therein shall be equal to the number of voters in any one County in this State, that then the said Town shall send four Representatives to the House of Delegates;" it was moved and agreed, that the proposition consisting of two parts should be separated. The question was then put on the first part, which follows in these words: "but if the said inhabitants of the Town shall so decrease, as that the number of persons having right of suffrage therein shall have been, for the space of seven years successively, less than one half of the number of voters in some one County in this State, such Town thenceforward shall cease to send two Delegates or Representatives to the House of Delegates, until the said Town shall have one half of the number of voters in some one County in this State?" and resolved in the affirmative.

An amendment was then proposed to the latter part, to insert the words "the largest" instead of the words "any one?" Upon which amendment the question was put, and resolved in the affirmative.

The question was then put on the latter part so amended, and carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. Gilpin, |
| Grahame, | Deye, | Ewing, |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | Brevard, |
| J. Wilson. | J. Smith, | Johnson. |
| Schriver, | Archer, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Kent, |
| Fenwick, | Bayly, | Bruff, |
| Plater, | Williams, | S. Wright, |
| B. Mackall, | Edelen, | Edmondson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Beall, | Gibson, |
| J. Mackall, | Stull, | Dickinson, |
| Bowie, | Bond, | Gustavus Scott, |
| B. Hall, | Love, | George Scott, |
| Sprigg, | D. Smith, | Horsey, |
| Marbury, | Earle, | Chaille, |
| J. Hall, | T. Smyth, | Bishop, |
| Worthington, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| S. Chase, | | |

In progression on reading the form of Government, the question was put, That the eighteenth article thereof be concurred with? Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the words "or affirmation," in the twenty-sixth article, be struck out? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. Mason, |
| Fenwick, | Carroll, | Dickinson, |
| Dent, | J. Smith, | Johnson, |
| Parnham, | J. T. Chase, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Grahame, | D. Smith, | George Scott, |
| B. Hall, | Earle, | Horsey, |
| Sprigg, | T. Wright, | Chaille, |
| Marbury, | Kent, | Mitchell. |
| S. Chase, | Bruff, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Hammond, | Mr. Stull, | Mr. Gilpin, |
| J. Wilson, | Ridgely, | Ewing, |
| Bayly, | Deye, | Brevard, |
| Williams, | Stevenson, | T. Smyth, |
| Fischer, | Bond, | S. Wright, |
| Edelen, | Love, | Edmondson, |
| Schriver, | Archer, | Gibson. |
| Beall, | | |

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Tuesday, November 5, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

In progression on reading the form of Government, on motion of Mr. *D. Smith*, the question was put, That the words "a native of the *United States of America*" be inserted in the thirtieth article, after the word "unless?" Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Worthington, | Mr. Love, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | Archer, |
| Dent, | Bayly, | Ewing, |
| Parnham, | Williams, | D. Smith, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Kent, |
| Bowie, | Deye, | Bruff, |
| B. Hall, | Stevenson, | S. Wright, |
| Marbury, | Bond, | Gibson. |
| Hammond, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Schriver, | Mr. Mason, |
| B. Mackall, | Beall, | Dickinson, |
| Grahame, | Stull, | Johnson, |
| Fitzhugh, | J. Smith, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Sprigg, | J. T. Chase, | George Scott, |
| S. Chase, | Gilpin, | Horsey, |
| Paca, | Brevard, | Chaille, |
| Carroll, | Earle, | Bishop, |
| Fischer, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Edelen, | Edmondson, | |

On motion, *Resolved*, That the determination of every question be according as the majority of members shall appear to be on taking the yeas and nays of those who vote on the question, if the yeas and nays shall be taken on such question.

On motion of *Gustavus Scott*, the question was put, That the words "to Congress or," be inserted in the first line of the thirty-seventh article of the form of Government, after the word "Delegate," instead of the words "or the?" Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That no Delegate, Senator, or Member of the Council, after he is qualified as such, shall hold any office of profit during the time for which he is elected? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. J. Wilson, | Mr. Ewing, |
| Plater, | Bayly, | D. Smith, |
| B. Mackall, | Williams, | Brevard, |
| Grahame, | Fischer, | T. Wright, |
| Fitzhugh, | Edelen, | Bruff, |
| J. Mackall, | Schriver, | S. Wright, |
| Bowie, | Beall, | Gibson, |
| B. Hall, | Stull, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | Ridgely, | Dickinson, |
| Marbury, | Deye, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | Horsey, |
| J. Hall, | Bond, | Chaille, |
| Worthington, | Love, | Bishop, |
| S. Chase, | Gilpin, | Mitchell. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. J. Smith, | Mr. T. Smyth, |
| Dent, | J. T. Chase, | Kent, |
| Parnham, | Archer, | Johnson, |
| Paca, | Earle, | George Scott. |
| Carroll, | | |

Adjourned till three o'clock.

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the rank of the Officers of the Companies of Matrosses lately ordered to be raised, be reserved to be hereafter settled by the Convention or Council of Safety, without any respect to the dates of their commissions.

On motion for an appointment of Lieutenants for the Company of Matrosses to be stationed at *Baltimore* Town, and Mr. *James Smith*, Mr. *Larkin Dorsey*, and Mr. *Robert Wilmott*, being recommended,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *James Smith* be appointed First Lieutenant, Mr. *Larkin Dorsey* Second Lieutenant, and Mr. *Robert Wilmot* Third Lieutenant, of said Company.

On reading the forty-second article of the form of Government, the question was put, That the blank for the qualification of Sheriffs be filled up with "one thousand Pounds, current money?" Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. S. Chase, | Mr. D. Smith, |
| Plater, | Paca, | Earle, |
| Dent, | Carroll, | T. Smyth, |
| Parnham, | J. Wilson, | T. Wright, |
| B. Mackall, | Edelen, | Dickinson, |
| B. Hall, | Beall, | Johnson, |
| Sprigg, | Stull, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Marbury, | J. Smith, | George Scott, |
| J. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Horsey. |
| Worthington, | Gilpin, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. Kent, |
| Grahame, | Deye, | Bruff, |
| Fitzhugh, | Stevenson, | S. Wright, |
| J. Mackall, | Bond, | Gibson, |
| Bowie, | Love, | Mason, |
| Hammond, | Archer, | Chaille, |
| Bayly, | Ewing, | Bishop, |
| Williams, | Brevard, | Mitchell. |
| Schriver, | | |

On motion of Mr. *T. Wright*, the question was then put, That in the said article the word "annually" be struck out, and the words "every third year" inserted? Resolved in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. *Bayly*, That in the said article the words "*viva voce*" be inserted instead of the words "by ballot?" Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the Governour, with the advice of the Council, shall have the appointment of Sheriffs? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Marbury, | Mr. T. Smyth, |
| Fenwick, | S. Chase, | Johnson, |
| B. Hall, | Carroll, | Gustavus Scott. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Edelen, | Mr. Brevard, |
| Parnham, | Schriver, | Earle, |
| B. Mackall, | Beall, | T. Wright, |
| Grahame, | Stull, | Kent, |
| Fitzhugh, | Ridgely, | Bruff, |
| J. Mackall, | Deye, | S. Wright, |
| Bowie, | Stevenson, | Edmondson, |
| Sprigg, | J. Smith, | Gibson, |
| Hammond, | J. T. Chase, | Mason, |
| J. Hall, | Bond, | Dickinson, |
| Worthington, | Love, | George Scott, |
| J. Wilson, | Archer, | Horsey, |
| Bayly, | Gilpin, | Chaille, |
| Williams, | Ewing, | Bishop, |
| Fischer, | D. Smith, | Mitchell. |

On motion of Mr. *Bayly*, the question was put, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government: "That Militia companies choose their own officers, and battalions their field officers; that Justices of the Peace, Clerks of the Counties, and Surveyors, be chosen by the people who are qualified to vote for Representatives of each County annually?" Carried in the negative.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government: "That every person who shall offer to vote for Delegates, or for the Senate, or for the Sheriff, shall (if required by any three persons qualified to vote) before he be admitted to poll, take such oath or affirmation of support and fidelity to this State, as this Convention or the Legislature shall direct?" Resolved in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government: "That a Justice of the Peace may be eligible as a Senator, Delegate, or Member of the Council, and may

continue to act as a Justice of the Peace?" Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Bruff, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | S. Wright, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Gibson, |
| Parnham, | Beall, | Mason, |
| Grahame, | Stull, | Dickinson, |
| Bowie, | J. Smith, | Johnson, |
| B. Hall, | Love, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Sprigg, | Gilpin, | George Scott, |
| Marbury, | Earle, | Horsey, |
| J. Hall, | T. Smyth, | Chaille, |
| S. Chase, | T. Wright, | Bishop, |
| Paca, | Kent, | Mitchell. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. B. Mackall, | Mr. Fischer, | Mr. Bond, |
| Fitzhugh, | Schriver, | Archer, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Ewing, |
| Hammond, | Deye, | D. Smith, |
| Bayly, | Stevenson, | Brevard, |
| Williams, | J. T. Chase, | Edmondson. |

On motion of Mr. *Bruff*, the question was put, That the words "officers of the Militia" in the forty-third article of the form of Government, be struck out? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. T. Wright, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Kent, |
| Hammond, | Bond, | Bruff, |
| J. Wilson, | Archer, | S. Wright, |
| Williams, | Ewing, | Gibson, |
| Fischer, | D. Smith, | Chaille, |
| Schriver, | Brevard, | Bishop. |
| Ridgely, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. T. Smyth, |
| Fenwick, | Carroll, | Edmondson, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | Mason, |
| Parnham, | Beall, | Dickinson, |
| B. Mackall, | Stull, | Johnson, |
| Grahame, | J. Smith, | Gustavus Scott, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | George Scott, |
| Sprigg, | Gilpin, | Horsey, |
| Marbury, | Earle, | Mitchell. |
| S. Chase, | | |

On motion of Mr. *Bond*,

*Resolved*, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government: "That all civil officers hereafter to be appointed for the several Counties of this State, shall have been residents of the County respectively for which they shall be appointed six months next before their appointment, and shall continue residents of their County respectively during their continuance in office."

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government: "That no Field-Officer of the Militia shall be eligible as a Senator, Delegate, or Member of the Council?" Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Ridgely, | Mr. T. Wright, |
| J. Mackall, | Deye, | Kent, |
| Marbury, | Stevenson, | Bruff, |
| S. Chase, | Bond, | S. Wright, |
| Williams, | Love, | Edmondson, |
| Fischer, | Archer, | Gibson, |
| Edelen, | Ewing, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Schriver, | D. Smith, | Horsey. |
| Beall, | Brevard, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. T. Smyth, |
| Fenwick, | Carroll, | Mason, |
| Dent, | J. Wilson, | Dickinson, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | Johnson, |
| B. Mackall, | J. Smith, | George Scott, |
| Grahame, | J. T. Chase, | Chaille, |
| B. Hall, | Gilpin, | Bishop, |
| Sprigg, | Earle, | Mitchell. |
| Hammond, | | |

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Wednesday, November 6, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the Memorial of Captain *William Stone* be taken into consideration on *Saturday* next, that summonses issue for his witnesses, and that he be allowed counsel if he shall think proper.

In progression on reading the form of Government, on motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the words, "every Senator, Delegate of Assembly," be inserted in the first line of the forty-sixth article, after the word "Governour"? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Plater, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. Bond, |
| Fitzhugh, | Fischer, | Archer, |
| J. Mackall, | Edelen, | Ewing, |
| Hammond, | Schriver, | Earle, |
| Worthington, | Beall, | T. Wright, |
| S. Chase, | Ridgely, | S. Wright, |
| J. Wilson, | Deye, | Edmondson. |
| Bayly, | Stevenson, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Gibson, |
| Fenwick, | Stull, | Mason, |
| Dent, | J. Smith, | Dickinson, |
| Parnham, | J. T. Chase, | Johnson, |
| B. Mackall, | Love, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Grahame, | Gilpin, | George Scott, |
| Bowie, | D. Smith, | Horsey, |
| B. Hall, | Brevard, | Chaille, |
| Sprigg, | T. Smyth, | Bishop, |
| Marbury, | Kent, | Mitchell. |
| Paca, | | |

On motion of Mr. *S. Wright*, the question was put, That the words "and every Judge and Justice" be inserted in the said article between the word "Council" and the word "before"? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. Ewing, |
| Plater, | Fischer, | D. Smith, |
| B. Mackall, | Edelen, | Brevard, |
| Fitzhugh, | Schriver, | Earle, |
| J. Mackall, | Beall, | T. Smyth, |
| Hammond, | Ridgely, | T. Wright, |
| Worthington, | Deye, | S. Wright, |
| S. Chase, | Stevenson, | Edmondson, |
| J. Wilson, | Bond, | Gibson. |
| Bayly, | Archer, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Dickinson, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | Johnson, |
| Grahame, | J. Smith, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Bowie, | J. T. Chase, | George Scott, |
| B. Hall, | Love, | Horsey, |
| Sprigg, | Gilpin, | Chaille, |
| Marbury, | Kent, | Bishop, |
| Paca, | Mason, | Mitchell. |

On motion of Mr. *Fitzhugh*, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government, "That lawyers' fees ought to be ascertained and limited by law;" the previous question was called for by Mr. *Parnham*, and put, Whether the above question be now put? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. B. Mackall, | Mr. Fischer, | Mr. Bond, |
| Fitzhugh, | Schriver, | Archer, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | Horsey, |
| Hammond, | Deye, | Chaille, |
| Bayly, | Stevenson, | Bishop. |
| Williams, | | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. T. Smyth, |
| Fenwick, | J. Wilson, | T. Wright, |
| Plater, | Edelen, | Kent, |
| Dent, | Beall, | Bruff, |
| Parnham, | Stull, | S. Wright, |
| Grahame, | J. Smith, | Edmondson, |
| Bowie, | J. T. Chase, | Gibson, |
| B. Hall, | Love, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | Gilpin, | Dickinson, |
| Marbury, | Ewing, | Johnson, |
| Worthington, | D. Smith, | Gustavus Scott, |
| S. Chase, | Brevard, | George Scott, |
| Paca, | Earle, | Mitchell. |

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met. Mr. *Sheredine* appeared in the House.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*,

*Resolved*, That the words "or ought to have" be struck out of the article.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*, the question was put, That instead of the oath prescribed by the fifty-first article, the following be inserted, "I, A B, do swear, that I do not hold myself bound in allegiance to the King of *Great Britain*, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of *Maryland*?" Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Hammond, | Mr. Sheredine, |
| Fenwick, | J. Hall, | Schriver, |
| Plater, | Worthington, | Ridgely, |
| Fitzhugh, | Carroll, | Deye, |
| J. Mackall, | Fischer, | Stevenson, |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Bond, | Mr. Mason, | Mr. Horsey, |
| T. Smyth, | Dickinson, | Chaille, |
| T. Wright, | Johnson, | Bishop, |
| Edmondson, | Gustavus Scott, | Mitchell. |
| Gibson, | George Scott, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Dent, | Mr. Paca, | Mr. Gilpin, |
| Parnham, | J. Wilson, | Ewing, |
| B. Mackall, | Bayly, | D. Smith, |
| Grahame, | Edelen, | Brevard, |
| Bowie, | Stull, | Earle, |
| B. Hall, | J. Smith, | Kent, |
| Sprigg, | J. T. Chase, | Bruff, |
| Marbury, | Love, | S. Wright. |
| S. Chase, | Archer, | |

On motion of Mr. *S. Wright*,

*Resolved*, That the following be added to the fifty-third article of the form of Government: "*Provided*, That nothing in this form of Government which relates to the *Eastern-Shore* particularly shall at any time hereafter be altered, unless for the alteration and confirmation thereof at least two-thirds of the members of each branch of the General Assembly shall concur."

On motion of Mr. *Gustavus Scott*, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government: "That the electors of the Senate immediately on their meeting, and before they proceed to the election of Senators, take such oath of support and fidelity to this State, as this Convention or the Legislature shall direct, and also an oath, 'to elect 'without favour, affection, partiality, or prejudice, such per-'sons for Senators as they in their judgment and conscience 'believe best qualified for the office;'" an amendment was proposed by Mr. *Bayly*, to insert the words "or affirmation" after the words "such oath." On which amendment the question was put, and carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fitzhugh, | Mr. Stull, | Mr. Ewing, |
| J. Mackall, | Ridgely, | D. Smith, |
| Hammond, | Deye, | Brevard, |
| J. Wilson, | Stevenson, | Earle, |
| Bayly, | J. Smith, | Kent, |
| Fischer, | Bond, | S. Wright, |
| Edelen, | Love, | Edmondson, |
| Schriver, | Archer, | Gibson, |
| Beall, | Gilpin, | Chaille. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Marbury, | Mr. Bruff, |
| Fenwick, | J. Hall, | Mason, |
| Plater, | Worthington, | Dickinson, |
| Dent, | S. Chase, | Johnson, |
| Parnham, | Carroll, | Gustavus Scott, |
| B. Mackall, | Sheredine, | George Scott, |
| Grahame, | J. T. Chase, | Horsey, |
| Bowie, | T. Smyth, | Bishop, |
| B. Hall, | T. Wright, | Mitchell. |
| Sprigg, | | |

The question was then put on the article, and resolved in the affirmative.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Letter from the President of Congress of the 2d of *October* last, was read, and referred till *Saturday* next.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Thursday, November 7, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday. The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On the application of Mrs. *Chamier* for leave to visit her husband, now in General *Howe's* camp,

*Resolved*, That Mr. President be requested to write to the honourable the President of the Congress, to grant a passport for Mrs. *Chamier* to go to the *American* camp, with a recommendation to his Excellency General *Washington* to grant his permission for Mrs. *Chamier* to visit her husband, on giving her parole of honour not to say or do any thing to the injury of the *United States*, or any of them.

On motion of Mr. *Dickinson*,

*Resolved*, That the Sheriffs of *Dorchester* and *Caroline* Counties pay into the hands of the Commissioners named in the act of Assembly entitled "An Act for the division of *Dorchester* and *Queen Anne's* Counties, and for erecting a new one by the name of *Caroline*," or the major part of the said Commissioners, all Money and Tobacco which they have respectively received, or may or ought to receive, on or for the two assessments already made by virtue of the said act, for building a Court-House and Prison in *Caroline* County; and the said Commissioners, or the major part of them, are hereby empowered and required to lend out all money which they shall so receive on interest, for the use of *Caroline* County aforesaid, on good and sufficient security. And the Justices of *Caroline* County aforesaid, are hereby directed not to make any assessment on the taxable inhabitants of *Caroline* County aforesaid, in this present year, by virtue of the said act.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That the act of Assembly, entitled "An Act for the more effectual preservation of the breed of wild Deer," passed in *December* session, 1773, be repealed, and that no prosecution be hereafter had or commenced for any breach committed of the same act, and that no prosecution already begun for any breach of the said act be further prosecuted.

Mr. *Turbutt Wright* has leave of absence.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That all Justices of the Peace and other officers, who were such of *Frederick* County, shall continue, and may exercise the same power and authority as if the resolutions of this Convention for dividing *Frederick* County into three Counties had not passed; and the Justices of the County Court of *Frederick*, to be held in the month of *November*, in this present year, or by adjournment, shall have cognizance of, and may proceed to hear and determine, all causes, matters, and things, criminal and civil, although the same have arisen or shall arise in *Washington* or *Montgomery* County, in the same manner, and as fully, as the same court might or could have done if the said resolutions had never been made; and the Justices aforesaid may appoint Constables and Overseers of the Highways as well in the said Counties of *Washington* and *Montgomery*, as in *Frederick* County.

That the County Court for each of the said Counties of *Washington* and *Montgomery* shall be first held, as for separate and distinct Counties, in the month of *March* next; and where any defendant against whom any original writ or process shall, after the 1st day of *December* next, issue, resides in *Washington* or *Montgomery* County, the writ or process shall issue out of *Frederick* County Court, directed to the Sheriff of the County where the defendant resides, if such County shall then have a Sheriff qualified to act in that County separately, and if not, to the Sheriff of *Frederick* County, and shall be returnable and returned to the next *March* court to be held for the County where the defendant resides.

That the Justices of *Frederick* County Court aforesaid, may, at their *November* court aforesaid, assess and levy on the taxable inhabitants of *Washington* and *Montgomery* Counties, separately and respectively, such money or tobacco as the Justices of the same Counties might respectively have assessed at their *November* courts in this year, had the same been held.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*, the question was put, That no poll be taken to fix or ascertain the place for building a Court-House and Prison in *Montgomery* County, until the expiration of twenty days at least after the first meeting of the General Assembly? Resolved in the affirmative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Beall, | Mr. S. Wright, |
| Fenwick, | Stull, | Edmondson, |
| Dent, | J. T. Chase, | Gibson, |
| Grahame, | Archer, | Mason, |
| J. Hall, | Gilpin, | Dickinson, |
| Worthington, | Ewing, | Johnson, |
| S. Chase, | D. Smith, | George Scott, |
| Paca, | Earle, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | T. Smyth, | Chaille, |
| Fischer, | Kent, | Bishop, |
| Edelen, | Bruff, | Mitchell. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Parnham, | Mr. Marbury, | Mr. Ridgely, |
| Fitzhugh, | Hammond, | Deye, |
| J. Mackall, | J. Wilson. | J. Smith, |
| Bowie, | Bayly, | Bond, |
| Sprigg, | Williams, | Brevard. |

Adjourned till three o'clock.

—

*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

On reading and considering the Petition of *Thomas Wilson*, of the City of *Annapolis*, praying a remission of the

fine set upon him by the Committee of Observation for *Anne Arundel* County,

*Resolved*, That the same be granted.

In progression on reading the form of Government, on motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That all that part of the fifty-sixth article which follows in these words be struck out: "And for filling in the first instance only all the offices in the disposition of the Governour with the advice of the Council, the House of Delegates may also propose to the Senate a list of all officers in the appointment of the Governour with the advice of the Council, and on the Senate concurring therein, or in the recommendation of any of the persons therein mentioned, such persons so recommended shall be commissioned by the Governour; but if the Senate shall not concur in the recommendation of any of the persons proposed as aforesaid, then shall a joint ballot of both Houses be taken in manner aforesaid, for persons to be recommended for such offices, and the persons in whose favour such ballot shall pass shall be commissioned as aforesaid?" Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Carroll, | Mr. Earle, |
| Plater, | J. Smith, | Kent, |
| B. Hall, | J. T. Chase, | Dickinson, |
| Marbury, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| S. Chase, | D. Smith, | George Scott, |
| Paca, | Brevard, | Chaille. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Bayly, | Mr. Archer, |
| Dent, | Williams, | Ewing, |
| Parnham, | Fischer, | T. Smyth, |
| B. Mackall, | Edelen, | Bruff, |
| Grahame, | Schriver, | S. Wright, |
| Fitzhugh, | Beall, | Edmondson, |
| J. Mackall, | Stull, | Gibson, |
| Bowie, | Ridgely, | Mason, |
| Sprigg, | Deye, | Gustavus Scott, |
| Hammond, | Stevenson, | Horsey, |
| J. Hall, | Bond, | Bishop, |
| Worthington, | Love, | Mitchell. |
| J. Wilson, | | |

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Friday, November 8, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *T. Wright*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Hooe* and Mr. *Shepherd* appeared in the House.

*Resolved*, That the Privates to be inlisted agreeable to the resolve of this Convention, be by their voluntarily subscribing an engagement in the following words, that is to say: "We, whose names are hereto subscribed, do voluntarily inlist ourselves soldiers to serve as such during the present war between *Great Britain* and *America*, unless sooner discharged by order of the Congress; hereby subjecting ourselves to such rules and regulations as are or shall be made by the Congress for regulating and governing the forces in the pay of the *United States*." And that the Recruiting Sergeants who are or shall be appointed in each County by the Council of Safety, after they have inlisted ten men, shall report the same to such proper and fit person or persons appointed by the Council of Safety in the Counties where the said Recruiting Sergeants may reside, who shall muster and pass the said men; and the said Recruiting Sergeants shall immediately return two copies of his muster-roll, certified by the said person or persons, to the Council of Safety or Executive power.

That the Commissioned Officers receive the pay and rations established by the Congress from the date of their commissions, and that the Non-Commissioned Officers receive their pay and rations from their appointment, and until their appointment, to receive their pay and rations as Privates from the time of their inlistment.

That the Recruiting Sergeants shall be allowed twenty shillings, common money, for every man that shall be certified in the muster roll as effective; and shall also be allowed fifteen pence per day, common money, in lieu of rations, for each effective man that he shall inlist, and shall pass as aforesaid.

Mr. *Earle* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to prepare Instructions for Recruiting Sergeants; which was read, considered, and agreed to as follows:

"*Instructions for inlisting men for the service of the United States of America, agreeable to the Resolve of the Convention of the State of Maryland.*

"1. You are not to inlist any man who is not able-bodied, healthy, and active. Hearty, robust young men, who are connected by birth or family to the *American* States, are to be preferred.

"2. You will have great regard to moral character, so briety in particular.

"3. You are not to inlist any imported servant or apprentice without the leave of the master or mistress.

"4. You will use all diligence in inlisting men, and when you have inlisted ten men, you are to report to some one or more of the persons appointed in your County to inspect the men you do inlist, who will reject such as do not answer to your instructions.

"5. You shall be allowed twenty shillings, common money, for every man you inlist, who shall be passed on inspection as effective, in lieu of pay and expenses, besides fifteen pence, common money, per day, in lieu of rations, for every man who shall be so passed, until they are received from you by order of this State."

On motion of Mr. *Earle*, the following Resolution was made:

Whereas the time limited by this Convention for the receipts and inspection of Tobacco is nearly expired:

*Resolved*, That the resolution of this Convention of the 6th of *September* last, relative to the inspection of Tobacco, shall continue in force, and the Inspectors shall continue to exercise all the powers thereby given, until the General Assembly of this State shall otherwise provide.

Mr. *Gustavus Scott* and Mr. *George Scott* have leave of absence on account of particular private business. Mr. *Gibson*, Mr. *Earle*, and Mr. *D. Smith*, have leave of absence on account of sickness.

*Resolved*, That nine persons, five of whom to be on the *Western* and four on the *Eastern-Shore*, be elected by ballot a Council of Safety, and be and continue such until the General Assembly shall make further order therein, and until that time, they or any four or more of them, having taken the oath prescribed by the *December* Convention, shall have and exercise the like and same powers as the present Council of Safety had or might exercise under the resolutions of the several Conventions heretofore held for this Colony; and that the said Council may convene the General Assembly before the tenth day of *February* next, if in their judgment it shall be necessary.

On reading the Resolution for the appointment of a Council of Safety, it was proposed by Mr. *Fitzhugh*, that the words "by ballot," be struck out, and "viva voce" inserted; on which the question was put, and carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Worthington, | Mr. Stull, |
| B. Mackall, | J. Wilson, | Ridgely, |
| Fitzhugh, | Bayly, | Deye, |
| J. Mackall, | Williams, | Stevenson, |
| Bowie, | Sheredine, | Shepherd, |
| Marbury, | Edelen, | D. Smith, |
| Hammond, | Beall, | Gibson. |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. J. Smith, | Mr. S. Wright, |
| Plater, | J. T. Chase, | Edmondson, |
| Hooe, | Love, | Mason, |
| Dent, | Archer, | Dickinson, |
| B. Hall, | Gilpin, | Johnson, |
| Sprigg, | Ewing, | Gust. Scott, |
| J. Hall, | Brevard, | Geo. Scott, |
| S. Chase, | T. Smyth, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | Kent, | Bishop, |
| Fischer, | Bruff, | Mitchell. |

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Electors of the Senate shall be entitled to the same itinerant charges and per diem allowance as Members of Convention.

On motion of Mr. *S. Chase*, the question was put, That the following be inserted as an article in the form of Government: "That no person who refused (unless from religious principles) and did not subscribe the Association on or before the fourth day of *July* last, shall at any time hereafter be qualified to hold any office of profit or trust in this State, unless by act of the General Assembly?" Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Marbury, | Mr. Beall, |
| Hooe, | J. Hall, | Stull, |
| Dent, | Worthington, | J. T. Chase, |
| Farnham, | S. Chase, | Gilpin, |
| Bowie, | Bayly, | D. Smith, |
| B. Hall, | Sheredine, | Kent. |
| Sprigg, | Edelen, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. Gibson, |
| Plater, | Stevenson, | Mason, |
| Fitzhugh, | Shepherd, | Dickinson, |
| J. Mackall, | Bond, | Johnson, |
| J. Wilson, | Love, | Gust. Scott, |
| Williams, | Archer, | Geo. Scott, |
| Fischer, | Brevard, | Horsey, |
| Schriver, | T. Smyth, | Bishop, |
| Ridgely, | S. Wright, | Mitchell. |

The Convention having gone through the form of Government paragraph by paragraph, and made several additions and amendments, the same was agreed to as follows:

"THE CONSTITUTION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT, AGREED TO BY THE DELEGATES OF MARYLAND IN FREE AND FULL CONVENTION ASSEMBLED.

"1. That the Legislature consist of two distinct branches, a Senate, and a House of Delegates, which shall be styled The General Assembly of *Maryland*.

"2. That the House of Delegates shall be chosen in the following manner: All freemen, above twenty-one years of age, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the County in which they offer to vote, and residing therein, and all freemen, having property in this State above the value of thirty pounds, current money, and having resided in the County in which they offer to vote one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage in the election of Delegates for such County; and all freemen so qualified shall, on the first *Monday* of *October*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year thereafter, assemble in the Counties in which they are respectively qualified to vote, at the Court-House in the said Counties, or at such other place as the Legislature shall direct; and when assembled, they shall proceed to elect, *viva voce*, four Delegates for their respective Counties, of the most wise, sensible, and discreet of the people, residents in the County where they are to be chosen one whole year next preceding the election, above twenty-one years of age, and having in the State real or personal property above the value of five hundred pounds, current money; and upon the final casting of the polls, the four persons who shall appear to have the greatest number of legal votes, shall be declared and returned duly elected for their respective County.

"3. That the Sheriff of each County, or in case of sickness, his Deputy, (summoning two Justices of the County, who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace,) shall be judge of the election, and may adjourn from day to day, if necessary, till the same be finished, so that the whole election shall be concluded in four days; and shall make his return thereof, under his hand, to the Chancellor of this State for the time being.

"4. That all persons, qualified by the charter of the City of *Annapolis* to vote for Burgesses, shall, on the same first *Monday* of *October*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year forever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two Delegates, qualified agreeable to the said charter; that the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the said City, or any three of them, be judges of the election, appoint the place in the said City for holding the same, and may adjourn from day to day as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid: but the inhabitants of the said City shall not be entitled to vote for Delegates for *Anne Arundel* County, unless they have a freehold of fifty acres of land in the County, distinct from the City.

"5. That all persons, inhabitants of *Baltimore* Town, and having the same qualifications as electors in the County, shall, on the same first *Monday* of *October*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the same day in every year forever thereafter, at such place in the said Town as the judges shall appoint, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two Delegates, qualified as aforesaid: but if the said inhabitants of the Town shall so decrease, as that the number of persons having right of suffrage therein shall have been for the space of seven years successively less than one half of the number of voters in some one County in this State, such Town thenceforward shall cease to send two Delegates or Representatives to the House of Delegates, until the said Town shall have one half of the number of voters in some one County in this State.

"6. That the Commissioners of the said Town, or any three or more of them, for the time being, shall be judges of the said election, and may adjourn as aforesaid, and shall make return thereof as aforesaid; but the inhabitants of the said Town shall not be entitled to vote for or be elected Delegates for *Baltimore* County, neither shall the inhabitants of *Baltimore* County, out of the limits of *Baltimore* Town, be entitled to vote for or be elected Delegates for the said Town.

"7. That on refusal, death, disqualification, resignation, or removal out of this State, of any Delegate, or on his becoming Governour, or Member of the Council, a warrant of election shall issue by the Speaker, for the election of another in his place, of which ten days' notice at least, excluding the day of notice and the day of election, shall be given.

"8. That not less than a majority of the Delegates, with their Speaker, (to be chosen by them by ballot,) constitute a House for the transacting any business, other than that of adjourning.

"9. That the House of Delegates shall judge of the elections and qualifications of Delegates.

"10. That the House of Delegates may originate all money bills, propose bills to the Senate or receive those offered by that body, and assent, dissent, or propose amendments; that they may inquire, on the oath of witnesses, into all complaints, grievances, and offences, as the grand inquest of this State, and may commit any person for any crime to the publick Jail, there to remain till he be discharged by due course of law; they may expel any member for a great misdemeanour, but not a second time for the same cause; they may examine and pass all accounts of the State, relating either to the collection or expenditure of the revenue, or appoint Auditors to state and adjust the same; they may call for all publick or official papers and records, and send for persons, whom they may judge necessary, in the course of their inquiries, concerning affairs relating to the publick interest, and may direct all office bonds (which shall be made payable to the State) to be sued for any breach of duty.

"11. That the Senate may be at full and perfect liberty to exercise their judgment in passing laws, and that they may not be compelled by the House of Delegates, either to reject a money bill which the emergency of affairs may require, or to assent to some other act of legislation, in their conscience and judgment injurious to the publick welfare; the House of Delegates shall not on any occasion, or under any pretence, annex to, or blend with a money bill, any matter, clause, or thing, not immediately relating to, and necessary for the imposing, assessing, levying, or applying the taxes or supplies, to be raised for the support of Government, or the current expenses of the State; and to prevent altercation about such bills, it is declared, that no bill imposing duties or customs for the mere regulation of commerce, or inflicting fines for the reformation of morals, or to enforce the execution of the laws, by which an incidental revenue may arise, shall be accounted a money bill; but every bill assessing, levying, or applying taxes or supplies for the support of Government, or the current expenses of the State, or appropriating money in the Treasury, shall be deemed a money bill.

"12. That the House of Delegates may punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a contempt in their view, by any disorderly or riotous behaviour, or by threats to, or abuse of their members, or by any obstruction to their proceedings; they may also punish, by imprisonment, any person who shall be guilty of a breach of privilege, by arresting on civil process, or by assaulting, any of their members, during their sitting, or on their way to or return from the House of Delegates, or by any assault of, or obstruction to their officers, in the execution of any order or process, or by assaulting or obstructing any witness, or any other person attending on, or on their way to or from, the House, or by rescuing any person committed by the House; and the Senate may exercise the same power, in similar cases.

"13. That the Treasurers (one for the *Western* and another for the *Eastern-Shore*) and the Commissioners of the Loan Office may be appointed by the House of Dele-

gates during their pleasure; and in case of refusal, death, resignations, disqualification, or removal out of the State, of any of the said Commissioners or Treasurers, in the recess of the General Assembly, the Governour, with the advice of the Council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the next General Assembly.

"14. That the Senate be chosen in the following manner: All persons, qualified as aforesaid to vote for County Delegates, shall on the first *Monday* of *September*, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year forever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, two persons for their respective Counties, qualified as aforesaid to be elected County Delegates, to be Electors of the Senate; and the Sheriff of each County, or in case of sickness his Deputy (summoning two Justices of the County who are required to attend for the preservation of the peace) shall hold and be judge of the said election, and make return thereof as aforesaid: And all persons qualified as aforesaid to vote for Delegates for the City of *Annapolis* and *Baltimore* Town, shall on the same first *Monday* of *September*, 1781, and on the same day in every fifth year forever thereafter, elect *viva voce*, by a majority of votes, one person for the said City and Town respectively, qualified as aforesaid to be elected a Delegate for the said City and Town respectively; the said election to be held in the same manner as the election of Delegates for the said City and Town, the right to elect the said Elector with respect to *Baltimore* Town to continue as long as the right to elect Delegates for the said Town.

"15. That the said Electors of the Senate meet at the City of *Annapolis*, or such other place as shall be appointed for convening the Legislature, on the third *Monday* in *September*, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, and on the same day in every fifth year forever thereafter, and they, or any twenty-four of them so met, shall proceed to elect, by ballot, either out of their own body, or the people at large, fifteen Senators, (nine of whom to be residents on the *Western*, and six to be residents on the *Eastern-Shore*,) men of the most wisdom, experience, and virtue, above twenty-five years of age, residents of the State above three whole years next preceding the election, and having therein real and personal property above the value of one thousand pounds current money.

"16. That the Senators shall be balloted for at one and the same time, and out of the gentlemen, residents of the *Western-Shore*, who shall be proposed as Senators, the nine, who shall on striking the ballots appear to have the greatest numbers in their favour, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected; and out of the gentlemen, residents of the *Eastern-Shore*, who shall be proposed as Senators, the six who shall, on striking the ballots, appear to have the greatest numbers in their favour, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected; and if two or more, on the same Shore, shall have an equal number of ballots in their favour, by which the choice shall not be determined on the first ballot, then the Electors shall again ballot before they separate, in which they shall be confined to the persons, who on the first ballot shall have had an equal number; and they who shall have the greatest number in their favour on the second ballot, shall be accordingly declared and returned duly elected: and if the whole number should not thus be made up, because of an equal number on the second ballot still being in favour of two or more persons, then the election shall be determined by lot, between those who have equal numbers; which proceedings of the Electors shall be certified under their hands and returned to the Chancellor for the time being.

"17. That the Electors of Senators shall judge of the qualifications and elections of members of their body, and on a contested election shall admit to a seat, as an Elector, such qualified person, as shall appear to them to have the greatest number of legal votes in his favour.

"18. That the Electors immediately on their meeting, and before they proceed to the election of Senators, take such oath of support and fidelity to this State, as this Convention or the Legislature shall direct, and also an oath 'to 'elect, without favour, affection, partiality, or prejudice, such 'persons for Senators as they, in their judgment and con-'science, believe best qualified for the office.'

"19. That in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of this State, of any Senator, or on his becoming Governour, or a member of the Council, the Senate shall immediately thereupon, or at their next meeting thereafter, elect by ballot, in the same manner as the Electors are above directed to choose Senators, another person in his place, for the residue of the said term of five years.

"20. That not less than a majority of the Senate, with their President, (to be chosen by them by ballot,) shall constitute a House for the transacting any business, other than that of adjourning.

"21. That the Senate shall judge of the elections and qualification of Senators.

"22. That the Senate may originate any other, except money bills, to which their assent or dissent only shall be given, and may receive any other bills from the House of Delegates, and assent, dissent, or propose amendments.

"23. That the General Assembly meet annually, on the first *Monday* of *November*, and if necessary oftener.

"24. That each House shall appoint its own officers, and settle its own rules of proceeding.

"25. That a person of wisdom, experience, and virtue, shall be chosen Governour, on the second *Monday* of *November*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and on the second *Monday* in every year forever thereafter, by the joint ballot of both Houses, to be taken in each House respectively, deposited in a conference room, the boxes to be examined by a joint committee of both Houses, and the numbers severally reported, that the appointment may be entered; which mode of taking the joint ballot of both Houses shall be adopted in all cases. But if two or more shall have an equal number of ballots in their favour, by which the choice shall not be determined on the first ballot, then a second ballot shall be taken, which shall be confined to the persons, who on the first ballot shall have had an equal number; and if the ballots should again be equal between two or more persons, then the election of the Governour shall be determined by lot, between those who have equal numbers; and if the person chosen Governour shall die, resign, remove out of the State, or refuse to act, (sitting the General Assembly,) the Senate and House of Delegates shall immediately thereupon proceed to a new choice in manner aforesaid.

"26. That the Senators and Delegates, on the second *Tuesday* of *November*, seventeen hundred and seventy-seven, and annually on the second *Tuesday* of *November* forever thereafter, elect by joint ballot, in the same manner as Senators are directed to be chosen, five of the most sensible, discreet and experienced men, above seventy-five years of age, residents in the State above three years next preceding the election, and having therein a freehold of lands and tenements, above the value of one thousand pounds, current money, to be the Council to the Governour, whose proceedings shall be always entered on record, to any part whereof any member may enter his dissent, and their advice, if so required by the Governour, or any member of the Council, shall be given in writing, and signed by the members giving the same respectively; which proceedings of the Council shall be laid before the Senate, or House of Delegates, when called for by them, or either of them. The Council may appoint their own Clerk, who shall take such oath of support and fidelity to this State as this Convention or the Legislature shall direct, and of secrecy, in such matters as he shall be directed by the Board to keep secret.

"27. That the Delegates to Congress from this State shall be chosen annually, or superseded in the mean time by the joint ballot of both Houses of Assembly, and that there be a rotation in such manner that at least two of the number be annually changed, and no person shall be capable of being a Delegate to Congress for more than three in any term of six years; and no person who holds any office of profit in the gift of Congress shall be eligible to sit in Congress, but if appointed to any such office his seat shall be thereby vacated: That no person unless above twenty-five years of age, and a resident in this State more than five years next preceding the election, and having real and personal estate in this State above the value of one thousand pounds, current money, shall be eligible to sit in Congress.

"28. That the Senators and Delegates, immediately on their annual meeting, and before they proceed to any business, and every person hereafter elected a Senator or Delegate, before he acts as such, shall take an oath of support and fidelity to this State as aforesaid, and before the election

of the Governour, or Members of the Council, shall take an oath 'to elect, without favour, affection, partiality, or preju-'dice, such person, as Governour, or Member of the Council, 'as they, in their judgment and conscience, believe best 'qualified for the office.'

"29. That the Senate and Delegates may adjourn themselves respectively; but if the two Houses should not agree on the same time, but adjourn to different days, then shall the Governour appoint and notify one of those days or some day between, and the Assembly shall then meet and be held accordingly, and he shall, if necessary, by advice of the Council, call them before the time to which they shall in any manner be adjourned, on giving not less than ten days' notice thereof; but the Governour shall not adjourn the Assembly otherwise than as aforesaid, nor prorogue or dissolve it at any time.

"30. That no person unless above twenty-five years of age, a resident in this State above five years next preceding the election, and having in the State real and personal property above the value of five thousand pounds, current money, one thousand pounds whereof at least to be of freehold estate, shall be eligible as Governour.

"31. That the Governour shall not continue in that office longer than three years successively, nor be eligible as Governour until the expiration of four years, after he shall have been out of that office.

"32. That upon the death, resignation, or removal out of this State of the Governour, the first named of the Council for the time being, shall act as Governour, and qualify in the same manner, and shall immediately call a meeting of the General Assembly, giving not less than fourteen days notice of the meeting, at which meeting a Governour shall be appointed, in manner aforesaid, for the residue of the year.

"33. That the Governour, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, may imbody the Militia, and when imbodied shall alone have the direction thereof, and shall also have the direction of all the regular land and sea forces under the laws of this State, but he shall not command in person unless advised thereto by the Council, and then only so long as they shall approve thereof, and may alone exercise all other the executive powers of Government, where the concurrence of the Council is not required, according to the laws of this State, and grant reprieves or pardons for any crime, except in such cases where the law shall otherwise direct; and may, during the recess of the General Assembly, lay embargoes to prevent the departure of any shipping, or the exportation of any commodities, for any time not exceeding thirty days in any one year, summoning the General Assembly to meet within the time of the continuance of such embargo, and may also order and compel any vessel to ride quarantine, if such vessel, or the port from which she shall have come, shall, on strong grounds, be suspected to be infected with the plague; but the Governour shall not, under any pretence, exercise any power or prerogative, by virtue of any law, statute, or custom of *England* or *Great Britain*.

"34. That the Members of the Council, or any three or more of them, when convened, shall constitute a Board for the transacting of business; that the Governour for the time being shall preside in the Council, and be entitled to a vote on all questions in which they shall be divided in opinion; and in the absence of the Governour the first named of the Council shall preside, and as such shall also vote in all cases where the other members disagree in their opinion.

"35. That in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the State, by any person chosen a Member of the Council, the Members thereof, immediately thereupon, or at their next meeting thereafter, shall elect, by ballot, another person, qualified as aforesaid, in his place, for the residue of the year.

"36. That the Council shall have power to make the great seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Chancellor for the time being, and affixed to all laws, commissions, grants, and other publick testimonials, as has been heretofore practised in this State.

"37. That no Senator, Delegate of the Assembly, or Member of the Council, if he shall qualify as such, shall hold or execute any office of profit, or receive the profits of any office exercised by any other person, during the time for which he shall be elected; nor shall any Governour be capable of holding any other office of profit in this State while he acts as such; and no person holding a place of profit, or receiving any part of the profits thereof, or receiving the profits or any part of the profits arising on any agency for the supply of clothing or provisions for the Army or Navy, or holding any office under the *United States*, or any of them, or a minister or preacher of the Gospel, of any denomination, or any person employed in the regular land service, or marine, of this or the *United States*, shall have a seat in the General Assembly or the Council of this State.

"38. That every Governour, Senator, Delegate to Congress or Assembly, and Member of the Council, before he acts as such, shall take an oath 'That he will not receive, 'directly or indirectly, at any time, any part of the profits 'of any office held by any other person during his acting in 'his office of Governour, Senator, Delegate to Congress or 'Assembly, or Member of the Council, or the profits, or any 'part of the profits arising on any agency, for the supply of 'clothing or provisions for the Army or Navy.'

"39. That if any Senator, Delegate to Congress or Assembly, or Member of the Council, shall hold or execute any office of profit, or receive directly or indirectly, at any time, the profits or any part of the profits of any office exercised by any other person, during his acting as Senator, Delegate to Congress or Assembly, or Member of the Council, his seat, on conviction in a court of law, by the oath of two credible witnesses, shall be void, and he shall suffer the punishment for willful and corrupt perjury, or be banished this State forever, or disqualified forever from holding any office or place of trust or profit, as the court may adjudge.

"40. That the Chancellor, all Judges, the Attorney-General, Clerks of the General Court, the Clerks of the County Courts, the Registers of the Land Office, and the Registers of Wills, shall hold their commissions during good behaviour, removable only for misbehaviour, on conviction in a court of law.

"41. That there be a Register of Wills appointed for each County, who shall be commissioned by the Governour, on the joint recommendation of the Senate and House of Delegates, and that upon the death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County, by any Register of Wills in the recess of the General Assembly, the Governour, with the advice of the Council, may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the General Assembly.

"42. That Sheriffs shall be elected in each County by ballot every third year, that is to say, two persons for the office of Sheriff for each County, the one of whom having the majority of votes, or if both have an equal number, either of them, at the discretion of the Governour, to be commissioned by the Governour for the said office; and having served for three years, such person shall be ineligible for the four years next succeeding: bond with security to be taken every year as usual, and no Sheriff shall be qualified to act before the same is given. In case of death, refusal, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County, before the expiration of the three years, the other person chosen as aforesaid, shall be commissioned by the Governour to execute the said office for the residue of the said three years; the said person giving bond with security as aforesaid, and in case of his death, refusal, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County, before the expiration of the said three years, the Governour, with the advice of the Council, may nominate and commission a fit and proper person to execute the said office for the residue of the said three years; the said person giving bond and security as aforesaid; the election shall be held at the same time and place appointed for the election of Delegates, and the Justices there summoned to attend for the preservation of the peace shall be judges thereof, and of the qualification of candidates, who shall appoint a clerk to take the ballots: all freemen above the age of twenty-one years, having a freehold of fifty acres of land in the County in which they offer to ballot, and residing therein, and all freemen above the age of twenty-one years, and having property in the State above the value of thirty pounds, current money, and having resided in the County in which they offer to ballot one whole year next preceding the election, shall have a right of suffrage; no person to be eligible to the office of Sheriff for a County but an inhabitant of the said County, above the age of twenty-one years, and having real and personal property in the State above the value of one thousand

pounds, current money; the Justices aforesaid shall examine the ballots, and the two candidates properly qualified, having in each County the majority of legal ballots, shall be declared duly elected for the office of Sheriff for such County, and returned to the Governour and Council, with a certificate of the number of ballots for each of them.

"43. That every person who shall offer to vote for Delegates, or for the Electors of the Senate, or for the Sheriff, shall (if required by any three persons qualified to vote) before he be admitted to poll, take such oath or affirmation of support and fidelity to this State as this Convention or the Legislature shall direct.

"44. That a Justice of the Peace may be eligible as a Senator, Delegate, or Member of the Council, and may continue to act as a Justice of the Peace.

"45. That no Field-Officer of the Militia shall be eligible as a Senator, Delegate, or Member of the Council.

"46. That all civil officers hereafter to be appointed for the several Counties of this State shall have been residents of the County respectively for which they shall be appointed, six months next before their appointment, and shall continue residents of their County respectively during their continuance in office.

"47. That the Judges of the General Court and Justices of the County Courts, may appoint the Clerks of their respective courts, and in case of refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the State, or from their respective Shores, of the Clerks of the General Court, or either of them, in the vacation of the said court; and in case of the refusal, death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the County of any of the said County Clerks in the vacation of the County Court of which he is clerk, the Governour with the advice of the Council may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office respectively, to hold the same until the meeting of the next General Court or County Court, as the case may be.

"48. That the Governour for the time being, with the advice and consent of the Council, may appoint the Chancellor, and all Judges and Justices, the Attorney-General, naval officers, officers in the regular land and sea service, officers of the Militia, Registers of the Land Office, Surveyors, and all other civil officers of Government, (Assessors, Constables, and Overseers of the Roads only excepted,) and may also suspend or remove any civil officer who has not a commission during good behaviour, and may suspend any militia officer for one month, and may also suspend or remove any regular officer in the land or sea service; and the Governour may remove or suspend any militia officer in pursuance of the judgment of a Court-Martial.

"49. That all civil officers, of the appointment of the Governour and Council, who do not hold commissions during good behaviour, shall be appointed annually in the third week of *November*, but if any of them shall be reappointed, they may continue to act without any new commission or qualification; and every officer though not reappointed shall continue to act until the person who shall be appointed and commissioned in his stead shall be qualified.

"50. That the Governour, every member of the Council, and every Judge and Justice, before they act as such, shall respectively take an oath, 'that he will not, through favour, 'affection, or partiality, vote for any person to office, and 'that he will vote for such person as in his judgment and 'conscience he believes most fit and best qualified for the 'office, and that he has not made, nor will make, any prom-'ise or engagement to give his vote or interest in favour of 'any person.'

"51. That there be two Registers of the Land Office, one upon the *Western*, and one upon the *Eastern-Shore*; that short extracts of the grants and certificates of the land on the *Western* and *Eastern Shores* respectively be made in separate books, at the publick expense, and deposited in the offices of the said Registers, in such manner as shall hereafter be provided by the General Assembly.

"52. That every Chancellor, Judge, Register of Wills, Commissioner of the Loan Office, Attorney-General, Sheriff, Treasurer, Naval Officer, Register of the Land Office, Register of the Chancery Court, and every Clerk of the Common Law Courts, Surveyor, and Auditor of Publick Accounts, before he acts as such, shall take an oath 'that he will not 'directly or indirectly receive any fee or reward for doing 'his office of but what is or shall 'be allowed by law, nor will directly or indirectly receive the 'profits or any part of the profits of any office held by any 'other person, and that he does not hold the same office in 'trust or for the benefit of any other person.'

"53. That if any Governour, Chancellor, Judge, Register of Wills, Attorney-General, Register of the Land Office, Commissioner of the Loan Office, Register of the Chancery Court, or any Clerk of the Common Law Courts, Treasurer, Naval Officer, Sheriff, Surveyor, or Auditor of Publick Accounts, shall receive directly or indirectly, at any time, the profits or any part of the profits of any office, held by any other person, during his acting in the office to which he is appointed, his election, appointment and commission, on conviction in a court of law, by the oath of two credible witnesses, shall be void, and he shall suffer the punishment for willful and corrupt perjury, or be banished this State forever, or disqualified forever from holding any office or place of trust or profit, as the court may adjudge.

"54. That if any person shall give any bribe, present, or reward, or any promise, or any security for the payment or delivery of any money, or any other thing, to obtain or procure a vote, to be Governour, Senator, Delegate to Congress, or Assembly, Member of the Council, or Judge, or to be appointed to any of the said offices, or to any office of profit or trust, now created or hereafter to be created in this State, the person giving and the person receiving the same, on conviction in a court of law, shall be forever disqualified to hold any office of trust or profit in this State.

"55. That every person appointed to any office of profit or trust shall, before he enters on the execution thereof, take the following oath, to wit: 'I, A B, do swear, that I do not 'hold myself bound in allegiance to the King of *Great* '*Britain*, and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance 'to the State of *Maryland*.' And shall also subscribe a declaration of his belief in the Christian religion.

"56. That there be a Court of Appeals, composed of persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, whose judgment shall be final and conclusive in all cases of appeal, from the General Court, Court of Chancery, and Court of Admiralty: That one person of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed Chancellor. That three persons of integrity and sound judgment in the law, be appointed Judges of the court now called the Provincial Court; and that the same court be hereafter called and known by the name of *the General Court;* which court shall sit on the *Western* and *Eastern Shores* for transacting and determining the business of the respective Shores, at such times and places as the future Legislature of this State shall direct and appoint.

"57. That the style of all laws run thus: 'Be it enacted by the General Assembly of *Maryland:*' That all publick commissions and grants runs thus: 'The State of *Maryland*, &c.:' and shall be signed by the Governour, and attested by the Chancellor, with the seal of the State annexed, except military and militia commissions, which shall not be attested by the Chancellor or have the seal of the State annexed: That all writs shall run in the same style, and be tested, sealed, and signed, as usual: That all indictments shall conclude, 'Against the peace, government and dignity of the State.'

"58. That all penalties and forfeitures, heretofore going to the King or Proprietary, shall go to the State, save only such as the General Assembly may abolish or otherwise provide for.

"59. That this form of Government, and the Declaration of Rights, and no part thereof, shall be altered, changed, or abolished, unless a bill so to alter, change, or abolish the same, shall pass the General Assembly and be published at least three months before a new election, and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly after a new election of Delegates, in the first session after such new election; provided that nothing in this form of Government which relates to the *Eastern-Shore* particularly shall at any time hereafter be altered, unless for the alteration and confirmation thereof at least two-thirds of all the members of each branch of the General Assembly shall concur.

"60. That every bill passed by the General Assembly, when engrossed, shall be presented by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, in the Senate, to the Governour, for the

time being, who shall sign the same, and thereto affix the great seal, in the presence of the members of both Houses. Every law shall be recorded in the General Court Office of the *Western-Shore*, and in due time printed, published, and certified under the great seal, to the several County Courts, in the same manner as hath been heretofore used in this State.

"61. That to introduce the new Government, an election be held for the Electors of the Senate on *Monday*, the twenty-fifth of *November*, in this present year, and that the Electors of the Senate meet at *Annapolis* on *Monday*, the ninth of *December*, in this present year, and there choose Senators, and that an election be held on *Wednesday*, the eighteenth of *December*, for Delegates to serve in General Assembly, and for Sheriffs; and that the said elections be made by such persons in the same manner and under the same qualifications as such elections are herein before directed to be made at the periodical times before mentioned; the returns of all which first elections shall be made to the Council of Safety for the time being; and the General Assembly shall meet at *Annapolis*, on *Monday*, the tenth of *February* next, and shall in their then session, or in such future session as they shall think proper, choose a Governour and Council for the residue of the year, in the manner before directed: and for filling in the first instance only all the offices in the disposition of the Governour with the advice of the Council, the House of Delegates may also propose to the Senate a list of all officers in the appointment of the Governour with the advice of the Council, and on the Senate concurring therein, or in the recommendation of any of the persons therein mentioned, such persons so recommended shall be commissioned by the Governour; but if the Senate shall not concur in the recommendation of any of the persons proposed as aforesaid, then shall a joint ballot of both Houses be taken in manner aforesaid for persons to be recommended for such offices, and the persons in whose favour such ballot shall pass shall be commissioned as aforesaid."

That the said elections for all the Counties in this State, except *Washington*, *Montgomery*, *Cæcil*, and *Queen Anne's*, be held at the places of holding the County Courts of those Counties respectively.

That the election for *Washington* County be held at *Hagar's-town*.

That the elections for *Montgomery* County be held at the house now occupied by *Charles Hungerford*.

That the elections for *Cæcil* County be held at the *Head of Elk*.

And, that the elections for *Queen Anne's* County be held at *Chester Mill*, where *George Hanson* now dwells.

That *Abraham Barnes*, *Hugh Hopewell*, and *Henry Tubman*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *St. Mary's* County.

That *George Dent*, *Samuel Hanson*, and *Warren Dent*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Charles* County.

That *William Allnut*, *Samuel Chew*, and *Daniel Rawlings*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Calvert* County.

That *William Beanes*, *Enoch Magruder*, and *Jeremiah Magruder*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Prince George's* County.

That *Joseph Galloway*, *Thomas Dorsey*, and *Thomas Watkins*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Anne Arundel* County.

That *John Murdock*, *Zadock Magruder*, and *Joseph Wilson*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Montgomery* County.

That *William Luckett*, *John Adhun*, and *Joseph Wells*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Frederick* County.

That *Joseph Smith*, *Noah Hart*, and *Ely Williams*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Washington* County.

That *Thomas Gist*, Senior, *Edward Cockey*, and *Henry Stevenson*, Junior, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Baltimore* County.

That *Amos Garret*, *William Webb*, and *Thomas Johnson*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Harford* County.

That *James Evans*, *Thomas May*, and *John Stockton*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Cæcil* County.

That *John Page*, *William Rogers*, and *William Bordley*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Kent* County.

That *Thomas Ringgold*, *Nathaniel Wright*, and *Samuel Thompson*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Queen Anne's* County.

That *John Goldsborough*, *William Perry*, and *John Bracco*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Talbot* County.

That *Henry Hooper*, *Q. S. Bartholomew Ennalls*, and *James Muir*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Dorchester* County.

That *Henry Casson*, *Foster Goldsborough*, and *John White*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Caroline* County.

That *Thomas Hayward*, *Andrew Francis Cheney*, and *Thomas Bruff*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Somerset* County.

That *Joshua Mitchell*, *Benton Harris*, and *Robert Done*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Worcester* County.

That the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of the City of *Annapolis*, or any three or more of them, be judges of and hold the elections for the City of *Annapolis*.

That *John Merriman*, Junior, *James Calhoun*, and *Benjamin Griffin*, Esquires, or any two or one of them, be judge of and hold the elections for *Baltimore* Town.

That a Clerk or Clerks be appointed by the said judges for taking the polls at the said elections.

That every Judge of the Election, before he proceeds to take or receive any vote, shall take the following oath, or affirmation, to wit: "I, A B, do swear, or affirm, that I will permit all persons to vote, who shall offer to poll at the elections now to be held for County, City, or Town, who in my judgment shall, according to the directions contained in the form of Government, be entitled to poll at the same election, and that I will not admit any person to poll at the same election, who before his voting shall be objected against by any three of the electors, if such person is not in my judgment qualified to vote as aforesaid, and will in all things execute the office of Judge of the said Elections according to the best of my knowledge, without favour or partiality. So help me God."

That every Clerk, before he enters any vote on the polls, shall take the following oath, to wit: "I, A B, do declare, that I will well and faithfully, without favour, affection, or partiality, execute the office of Clerk of the Elections for County, the City of *Annapolis*, or *Baltimore* Town, according to the best of my knowledge. So help me God."

Adjourned till three o'clock.

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*Post Meridiem.* Convention met.

On motion of Mr. *Ewing*, That no person in this State who hath hitherto refused or neglected to sign the Association, (unless from religious principles,) shall ever be eligible to any office of profit or trust therein? The previous question was called for by Mr. *Gust. Scott*, and put, Whether the above question be now put? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Worthington, | Mr. J. Smith, |
| Dent, | S. Chase, | J. T. Chase, |
| B. Mackall, | Paca, | Archer, |
| Bowie, | J. Wilson, | Gilpin, |
| B. Hall, | Bayly, | Ewing, |
| Sprigg, | Williams, | D. Smith, |
| Marbury, | Edelen, | Brevard, |
| Hammond, | Beall, | Bruff. |
| J. Hall, | Stull, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Fenwick, | Mr. Deye, | Mr. Dickinson, |
| Plater, | Stevenson, | Johnson, |
| Grahame, | Bond, | Gust. Scott, |
| Fitzhugh, | Love, | Geo. Scott, |
| J. Mackall, | T. Smyth, | Horsey, |
| Carroll, | Kent, | Chaille, |
| Fischer, | S. Wright, | Bishop, |
| Sheredine, | Edmondson, | Mitchell, |
| Schriver, | Gibson, | Shepherd. |
| Ridgely, | Mason, | |

Mr. President laid before the Convention a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esquire, President of Congress, dated the 4th instant, and the Resolutions of

Congress therein enclosed dated the 30th day of *October*, all which were read, and after some time spent in considering the same, the further consideration thereof was postponed till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

Saturday, November 9, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Earle*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. *Fenwick* and Mr. *Johnson* have leave of absence.

On motion of Mr. *D. Smith*,

*Resolved*, That at the election for Sheriff in *Cæcil* County on *Wednesday*, the 18th of *December* next, it shall be lawful for the voters to mention in their ballots the name of the place they choose for holding the County Courts in the said County for the future; and that the Judges of said election shall count the number of ballots for each place that shall be voted for, and due return thereof make to the next General Assembly of this State, for their further order therein.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Memorial of Captain *William Stone*, being read,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the truth of the facts therein set forth.

And Mr. *S. Wright*, Mr. *J. T. Chase*, and Mr. *Grahame*, were appointed a Committee for that purpose.

The Convention took into consideration the Report from the Committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the emission of Bills of Credit, to defray the expenses of defending this State, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and came to the following Resolutions thereon:

*Resolved*, That for the defence of this State, and for other purposes resolved upon in Convention, Bills of Credit of the denomination of dollars, and parts of a dollar, to the amount of five hundred and thirty-five thousand one hundred and eleven dollars and one-ninth part of a dollar, be printed and struck with all convenient speed, under the care and direction of such persons as shall be appointed by the Council of Safety for that purpose, in manner and form following, to wit:

"This Bill of shall entitle the bearer hereof to receive gold or silver, at the rate of four shillings and sixpence sterling per dollar for the said Bill, according to a resolve of the Convention of *Maryland*, held at the City of *Annapolis*, the 14th day of *August*, 1776."

That the said Bills of Credit be struck on the plates and printed with the devices and marks prepared for the last emission, and that the number and denomination of the said bills shall be the following, and no other, to wit: sixteen thousand bills of eight dollars each, sixteen thousand bills of six dollars each, sixteen thousand bills of four dollars each, sixteen thousand bills of two dollars and two-third parts of a dollar each, thirty-two thousand bills of two dollars each, thirty-two thousand bills of one dollar and one-third part of a dollar each, thirty-two thousand bills of one dollar each, thirty-two thousand bills of two-third parts of a dollar each, forty thousand bills of half a dollar each, forty thousand bills of one-third part of a dollar each, forty thousand bills of one-sixth part of a dollar each, and forty thousand bills of one-ninth part of a dollar each.

That the Council of Safety purchase and provide a sufficient quantity of proper paper, on which to print and strike the said Bills of Credit, and that the said Council of Safety do forthwith cause the said Bills of Credit to be printed and struck, under the direction of two discreet and sober freemen of this State, to be by them appointed to that service, who shall be called Supervisors.

That the said Supervisors shall use the best of their care and diligence that the said bills, according to their respective denominations aforesaid, and according to the manner and form aforesaid, be forthwith printed and struck, and that the number of any of the denominations thereof be not exceeded, nor any clandestine or fraudulent practice be used by the printer, his apprentices, servants, and others concerned in the printing or striking thereof.

That the printer, and all his apprentices and servants whom he shall employ in the said work, before he or they enter upon the same, take before some Justice of the Peace, in the presence of one or both of the Supervisors, the following oath, to wit:

"I, A B, do swear, that I will truly, faithfully, and honestly perform the duty of printer of the Bills of Credit directed to be printed by a resolve of the Convention of *Maryland*, held at the City of *Annapolis* the 14th day of *August*, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and that I will not advisedly print or stamp a greater number of blank Bills of Credit than in that resolve mentioned, nor of any other denomination than therein expressed, except such sheets as may be so blotted, unfair, or imperfect in the printing or striking thereof, that the same shall be unfit for use. So help me God."

That the said printer shall not by himself, his servants, or any other person by him employed, print, strike, stitch, or bind, the said bills, or any of them, but in the presence of one or both of the said Supervisors. And in every intermission of the work, the said Supervisors shall safely and securely lock up the press and stamps with which the work shall be performed, and the impressions which shall be then made, in the room in which the printing and binding shall be done, and the keys of such room shall keep in their possession. And when all the said bills shall be printed and struck, the plates shall be immediately delivered by the printer to the said Supervisors, and by them to the Convention, or in its recess to the Council of Safety.

That Messieurs *Nathan Hammond*, *Richard Tootell*, *John Brice*, *Thomas Brooke Hodgkin*, *John Duckett*, *Thomas Gassaway*, *Frederick Green*, *William Wilkins*, *Nicholas Harwood*, *Saint George Peale*, *Richard Tilghman*, (of *Talbot* County,) *William Perry*, *Samuel Sharpe*, *Joseph Bruff*, *Samuel Edmondson*, *Alexander Irvine*, *Charles Edward Irvine*, and *Thomas Dawson*, or any two of them, be signers of the said bills.

That the said Supervisors, as soon as the said bills shall be printed, struck, stitched, and bound, shall deliver three-fourth parts thereof in value to the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore*, and the other fourth part thereof to the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore*; and the said Treasurers shall deliver out to the signers residing on their respective Shores, such and so many of the said bills to be immediately numbered and signed by them, as may be sufficient to answer any probable immediate demand on them for the same, not exceeding twelve thousand dollars; and each of the said bills shall be numbered and signed by some two of the said signers, and returned again after being numbered and signed, to the respective Treasurers; and so from time to time shall the said bills be delivered out, numbered, signed, and returned to the said Treasurers respectively, either of the said Treasurers not keeping by him at any one time, ready numbered and signed, more than twelve thousand dollars.

That the receipts of every delivery of the said bills, before and after the numbering and signing the same, be given by the signers and Treasurers respectively, each to the other.

That the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore*, out of the said Bills of Credit in his hands, pay to each of the Supervisors two dollars and two-third parts of a dollar for each day's attendance and supervising the said work, and to the printer so much as shall be agreed by the Council of Safety for his services, and for the ink and other materials, except paper, necessary for the said work; and the said Treasurers shall also respectively pay to each signer of every thousand of the said bills one dollar and one-third part of a dollar for his services.

That the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore* shall have a yearly salary of one thousand dollars, and the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore* shall have a yearly salary of four hundred dollars, for their trouble and expenses.

That torn and defaced bills shall be exchanged at reasonable and convenient times.

That the said Bills of Credit shall be redeemed and sunk on or before the first day of *January*, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, by taxes or other legislative provision; and this Convention bind their constituents, and pledge the faith of the State, for the redemption of the said bills on or before the said first day of *January*, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six.

That one hundred and twenty thousand dollars of the said Bills of Credit, so to be printed and struck, shall be applied to exchange the Bills of Credit printed and struck by virtue of the resolve of the Convention on the twenty-sixth day of *July*, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, and the said Treasurers shall, upon the

application of any person or persons holding any number and value of the said Bills of Credit, deliver to such person or persons the like value in the new Bills of Credit in lieu thereof.

That from and after the receipt of the Bills of Credit emitted by this Convention by the said Treasurers respectively, all payments which they shall make by virtue of any resolve of Convention, shall be made in the Bills of Credit emitted by this and the last Convention, and not in the Bills of Credit of the emission of *July*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

That the said Bills of Credit, which shall be so as aforesaid printed and struck, over and above the said bills hereby directed to be applied to exchange the said former Bills of Credit, be applied to the several purposes resolved on in this and the last Convention of this State, and that the Treasurers pay the same to the orders of the Convention, Council of Safety, or such persons as this Convention shall direct and appoint.

That the said Treasurers, before they receive the said blank bills to be printed and struck by virtue of the resolves of this Convention, shall give bonds respectively, the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore* in the penalty of twelve thousand pounds sterling, payable to the Honourable *Daniel of Saint Thomas Jenifer*, *Charles Carroll* of *Carrollton*, and *Charles Carroll*, (Barrister,) Esquires; and the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore* in the penalty of four thousand pounds sterling, payable to the Honourable *Matthew Tilghman*, *Edward Lloyd*, and *James Lloyd Chamberlaine*, Esquires, with the like conditions as directed by the resolve of Convention in *July* session, seventeen hundred and seventy-five; both which bonds shall be with sufficient sureties, to be approved of by the obligees therein named, or any two of them respectively.

On motion of Mr. *Bowie*, the question was put, That a sum of money be provided at the publick expense, for drummers and fifers, with drums, fifes, and colours? Carried in the negative.

AFFIRMATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Bowie, | Mr. Hammond, | Mr. Stull, |
| Sprigg, | Paca, | Gustavus Scott. |
| Marbury, | Bayly, | |

NEGATIVE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Barnes, | Mr. Williams, | Mr. Ewing, |
| Plater, | Fischer, | D. Smith, |
| Hooe, | Sheredine, | Brevard, |
| Dent, | Edelen, | T. Smyth, |
| Parnham, | Schriver, | Kent, |
| B. Mackall, | Beall, | Bruff, |
| Grahame, | Ridgely, | Edmondson, |
| Fitzhugh, | Deye, | Mason, |
| J. Mackall, | Stevenson, | Johnson, |
| B. Hall, | Shepherd, | George Scott, |
| Worthington, | J. Smith, | Horsey, |
| J. Hall, | Bond, | Chaille, |
| S. Chase, | Love, | Bishop, |
| Carroll, | Archer, | Mitchell. |
| J. Wilson, | Gilpin, | |

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Brigadiers-General of this State, when called into actual service, be allowed at the rate of eighty Dollars per calendar month.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the Letter from the honourable the President of the Congress, and the Resolutions of Congress laid before them yesterday, and thereupon came to the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That if the honourable Congress will specify any Land belonging to the *United States* as a common stock to be divided amongst the soldiery in their service, the Commissioners appointed by this Convention to repair to the camps in *New-York* and the *Jerseys* immediately on its being made known to them proceed to the camps, and endeavour to inlist such of the Troops and Militia of this State now there, as are willing to enter into the Continental service on the terms proposed by Congress: or if the Congress will not make such specification of the Lands to be given as aforesaid, and will permit the inlistment of the quota of Troops of this State on the terms proposed by this Convention, that then the Commissioners proceed to the camps and endeavour to procure the inlistment of the Troops according to the former resolutions of this Convention, paying to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private who shall so inlist, the twenty dollars bounty allowed by Congress, and the additional bounty of ten dollars proposed by the said resolutions of Convention to be allowed by this State.

But if the honourable Congress will not specify the Lands as aforesaid, and should signify a desire that the said additional bounty of ten dollars should not be given, that then the Commissioners with the permission of Congress proceed as aforesaid and endeavour to effect the said inlistment on the bounty of twenty dollars allowed by Congress; but they are not to engage the faith of this State to give or make good any bounty of Lands or give any assurance whatsoever that they will have such bounty.

*Resolved*, That Mr. President write to the Congress, and inform them, that this Convention feel themselves very unhappy that there should have been any, the least, difference of opinion between them; and as desired have reconsidered their former resolutions for raising the quota of Troops of this State, and on a very deliberate and attentive consideration of the subject have come to the resolutions of this day, which the President is requested to enclose.

That this Convention never apprehended that the Congress intended this State should be obliged in its individual capacity to make good the bounty of Lands to the soldiery, but were of opinion and remain firmly persuaded that if the bounty in Land should, by authority of this State, be proposed as a motive to induce the individuals of its quota to inlist, this State will be bound in good faith to see that bounty effectually granted; and therefore as this State has no Lands belonging solely and exclusively to itself, with which to make good the bounty, it is not only prudent, but necessary, before they do an act which will engage the faith of the State, to know what Land is to be applied, and on what terms, to the designed purpose.

That this Convention are under the strongest impressions that the back Lands claimed by the *British* Crown, if secured by the blood and treasure of all, ought in reason, justice, and policy, to be considered as a common stock, to be parcelled out by Congress into free, convenient, and independent Governments, as the wisdom of that body shall hereafter direct; but if these (the only lands as this Convention apprehend that can) should be provided by Congress at the expense of the *United States* to make good the proffered bounties, every idea of their being a common stock must be thereby given up: some of the States may, by fixing their own price on the Land, pay off what of their quota of the publick debt they please, and have their extensive territory settled by the soldiery of the other States, whilst this State and a few others must be so weakened and impoverished, that they can hold their liberties only at the will of their powerful neighbours.

That this State is so far from having an intention to increase unnecessarily the expense of the *United States*, that it hath uniformly given every evidence to the contrary; but this Convention, impressed with the indispensable necessity of establishing and keeping up a good Army, at the same time that they could not be active in giving up a common right of the *United States*, or in rendering the freedom of their own precarious, determined to exert the only safe means in their power to raise the quota of this State, nor can this Convention yet see any possibility of injury to the common interest, from this State adopting the most effectual means to raise its own quota of Troops of its own inhabitants partly, or even wholly, at its separate expense.

That this Convention have a strong disinclination to go into any discussion of the powers with which the Congress is invested, being fully sensible that the general interest will not be promoted by either the Congress affirming, or this Convention denying, the existence of a fullness of power in that honourable body; the best and only proper exercise of which can be in adopting the wisest measures for equally securing the rights and liberties of each of the *United States*, which was the principle of their union.

That this Convention, very sincerely disposed to contribute every thing in their power towards the common cause, will, if the Congress choose neither to specify the Lands to be given in bounties, nor to permit this State to give the proposed additional bounty of ten dollars, endeavour to inlist its quota of Troops on the twenty dollars bounty allowed by Congress; but if the event should prove a disappointment, it cannot be imputed to this State.

That this Convention request the honourable Congress soon to signify their pleasure in this matter to the Commissioners from this State now attending in *Philadelphia*, that the little time left may not be lost.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*,

*Resolved*, That those of Captain *Richard Smith's* Company who will not reinlist in the Artillery service of this State be discharged.

Mr. *S. Wright* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to inquire into the truth of the facts set forth in the Memorial of Captain *William Stone*; which was read, and after some time spent in considering the same, the further consideration thereof was postponed, at the request of Captain *Stone*, till the first meeting of the General Assembly.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Letter from the President of Congress of the 2d of *October* last being read, the same was referred till to-morrow.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Sunday, November 10, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Gibson*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *S. Wright*, the question was put, That a Committee be appointed to revise the Declaration of Rights and the form of Government, and that the same be read in the House and signed by the President before the rising of this Convention, and that the said Committee correct language and report to the House any inconsistencies they may discover therein? Carried in the negative.

The order of the day, for taking into consideration the Letter from the President of Congress of the 2d of *October* last, being read, the Convention took the same into consideration: and thereupon

*Resolved*, That the Honourable *Matthew Tilghman*, Esq., and *Thomas Johnson*, Jun., *William Paca*, *Thomas Stone*, *Samuel Chase*, *Benjamin Rumsey*, and *Charles Carroll*, Barrister, Esquires, or any three or more of them, be Delegates to represent this State in Congress until the first day of *March* next, or until the General Assembly shall make further order therein; and that the said Delegates, or any three or more of them, be authorized and empowered to concur with the other *United States*, or a majority of them, in forming a Confederation, and in making foreign alliances, provided that such Confederation, when formed, be not binding upon this State without the assent of the General Assembly; and the said Delegates, or any three or more of them, are also authorized and empowered to concur in any measures which may be resolved on by Congress for carrying on the war with *Great Britain*, and securing the liberties of the *United States*, reserving always to this State the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal police thereof.

And the said Delegates, or any three or more of them, are hereby authorized and empowered, notwithstanding any measures heretofore taken, to concur with the Congress, or a majority of them, in accommodating our unhappy differences with *Great Britain*, on such terms as the Congress, or a majority of them, shall think proper.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

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*Post Meridiem*. Convention met. Mr. *H. Wilson* and Mr. *Ringgold* appeared in the House.

On motion, *Resolved*, That no Civil Officer or Delegate to Congress be appointed, unless there shall be a majority of the Members present in his favour.

The Convention proceeded to ballot for a Council of Safety, and *John Hall*, *George Plater*, *Daniel of Saint Thomas Jenifer*, *Brice Thomas Beale Worthington*, *Charles Grahame*, *Joseph Nicholson*, *Nicholas Thomas*, *William Rumsey*, and *James Tilghman*, Esquires, were elected.

Convention adjourns till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

—

Monday, November 11, 1776.

Convention met. All Members present as on yesterday, except Mr. *Fenwick*, Mr. *B. Mackall*, Mr. *Gustavus Scott*, and Mr. *George Scott*.

The Proceedings of yesterday were read.

On motion of Mr. *Parnham*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee of Observation for each County in this State be elected by ballot on *Monday*, the 25th instant; that the number for each County be the same as heretofore directed; that the judges appointed for the election of Electors of the Senate be judges of the said election, and the qualification of voters the same as for Delegates to the House of Delegates. That the said Committees, at their first meeting after the election, proceed to the choice of Committees for licensing suits, in the same manner as heretofore directed; and that the above Committees be invested with the powers given by this and former Conventions, and continue to act till the 10th day of *March* next, or until the General Assembly of this State shall make further order therein.

The Convention took into consideration the Letter from the honourable the President of the Congress, of the twelfth day of *October* last, enclosing the Resolutions of Congress of the third and seventh of the same month, relative to the establishment of a Loan Office in each of the *United States*, and thereupon came to the following Resolutions:

That a Loan Office be established in this State agreeable to the resolve of Congress, and that Mr. *Thomas Harwood*, Jun., be appointed Commissioner, to superintend such Loan Office in this State.

That if any inhabitant of this State shall, after the first day of *December* next, within or without this State, or any person whatsoever shall, within this State, after the said first day of *December* next, forge or counterfeit any of the certificates, bills, or notes of the Continental Loan Office, or alter the sum expressed in any of the said certificates, bills, or notes, or shall offer, or cause to be offered in payment, any such counterfeit, forged, or altered certificate, bill, or note, knowing the same to be counterfeit, forged, or altered, and shall be thereof convicted by a petit jury, after a presentment by a grand jury, in the General Court, or shall stand mute, or peremptorily challenge above the number of twenty of the panel, he shall suffer death as a felon, without benefit of clergy.

*Ordered*, That copies of the above Resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk to the Commissioners of the Continental Treasury.

A Petition from a number of the inhabitants of *Baltimore* County, praying to be relieved from the exorbitant and extraordinary charges of the Magistrates, Clerk, and Sheriff of said County, was read, and referred till the first meeting of the General Assembly.

On reading a Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Observation for *Baltimore* County, setting forth, that a great number of the people called Methodists, pretending to be preachers, claimed an exemption from mustering under the exception made in favour of clergymen, and a certificate from the yearly Conference, that a certain *Nathan Perigo*, who had been fined by the said Committee for not enrolling in some company of Militia, was a preacher of that denomination,

*Resolved*, That the fine set upon the said *Nathan Perigo* by the Committee of *Baltimore* County aforesaid, be remitted.

On motion, *Resolved*, That all petitions, applications, and reports, to Convention this present session, and all petitions, applications, and reports, in all former sessions, whereon no final order hath been or shall be made, be referred to the General Assembly.

Whereas the detaining in custody debtors who are willing to deliver up their estates to the use of their creditors, can be of no benefit to individuals, and may be prejudicial to the community,

*Resolved, therefore*, That the Justices of the several Counties in this State are hereby authorized and empowered to release all debtors in their several jails who may owe upwards of two hundred pounds, sterling money, in the same manner and upon the same terms as debtors may be released under the act of Assembly; provided application be made by the several debtors, or such of them as may be desirous of being released, on or before the first day of *January* next.

Mr. *Horsey* and Mr. *Dickinson* have leave of absence.

Adjourned till three o'clock.

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*Post Meridiem*. Convention met.

On motion of Mr. *J. Hall*,

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be empowered to

draw for a sum not exceeding ten thousand Pounds, of the Bills of Credit now remaining in the hands of the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore*, appropriated to the calling in and cancelling the Bills of Credit issued by the Convention in *July*, seventeen hundred and seventy-five, and that they apply the same, or any part thereof, to the use of the publick, as occasion may require, and that the same be replaced in the Treasury out of the new emission ordered by this Convention.

And further *Resolved*, That in case the new emission should be delayed, by not getting paper, or otherwise, so as to make it necessary, the Council of Safety be empowered to borrow, of such persons who are willing to lend, a further sum of money, not exceeding twenty thousand Pounds, to answer the demands that may be made on them for publick expenses, or on the Treasurers for money to be exchanged according to former resolves, to be repaid out of the said new emission.

Mr. *Worthington* brings in and delivers to Mr. President a Report from the Committee appointed to examine the claims upon the Treasury, which was read in the following words, to wit:

"By the Committee appointed to examine the claims upon the Treasury.

"In obedience to the order of the honourable Convention, your Committee have examined the accounts of the Treasurers of the *Western* and *Eastern Shores*, and compared the payments made by them with the vouchers, and find by account settled the 31st of *August* a balance remaining in the hands of *William Hindman*, Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore*, in notes of credit to the amount of seventeen thousand four hundred and seventy-seven pounds ten shillings and ten pence; and by account settled to the 9th of *November*, a balance remaining in the hands of *Thomas Harwood*, Treasurer of the *Western-Shore*, to the amount of seventeen thousand seven hundred and twenty-four pounds six shillings and seven pence; of which last sum there appears to have been paid to him, nine thousand six hundred and twenty-five pounds by the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore* since the settlement of the account with him.

"Your Committee have, during the sitting of this Convention, counted and burnt Bills of Credit emitted by the resolutions of the Convention in *July*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, which have been exchanged by the *Western-Shore* Treasurer of this State for Bills of Credit emitted by resolutions of the Convention in *December* last, to the amount of twenty-three thousand one hundred and twenty-two pounds seventeen shillings and six pence; and also, Bills of Credit exchanged by the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore*, to the amount of five thousand eight hundred and thirty pounds fifteen shillings. It appears to your Committee, that the Committee of Claims in *June* last burnt the sum of six thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine pounds twelve shillings and six pence exchanged by the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore*, and also the sum of three thousand six hundred and seventy-seven pounds exchanged by the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore*; and there appears to be in the hands of the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore* the sum of one hundred and forty-seven pounds ten shillings, subject to the demands of the holders of the Bills of Credit emitted in *July*, seventeen hundred and seventy-five, and in the hands of the Treasurer of the *Eastern-Shore* the sum of fifteen thousand four hundred and ninety-two pounds five shillings, subject to the demands of the holders of said Bills of Credit.

"Your Committee herewith lay before the Convention the Journal of Accounts, together with the accounts settled with the Treasurers of the *Western* and *Eastern Shores* respectively.

"All which is humbly submitted to the honourable Convention.

"Signed by order of the Committee,

"Nich. Harwood, *Clerk*."

The Journal of Accounts was read and assented to.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of the *Western-Shore* pay the several claims allowed in the same.

Mr. *Grahame* informs the Convention that his bad state of health will not permit him to attend his duty as a Member of the Council of Safety, and therefore begs leave to resign, and resigns accordingly.

Thereupon the Convention proceeded to the choice of another in his stead, and *Thomas Contee*, Esq., was elected.

*Resolved*, That the Declaration of Rights and the Constitution and form of Government be immediately printed, and that twenty-two copies be immediately sent to each of the Counties by express, three of which copies for each of the Delegates of this Convention, two of the said copies for each of the Judges appointed to hold the next elections, and two of the said copies for each of the persons who shall be chosen an Elector of the Senate; and that as soon as conveniently may be, the Journal of the Proceedings of this Convention be printed, and two copies be transmitted to each of the Members of this Convention.

*Resolved*, That this Convention adjourn to the twenty-eighth day of this instant, and the Council of Safety may, if they think proper, call the Convention to meet before that day. And that the said Council of Safety be and are fully empowered to take and pursue all measures that they shall think necessary or proper for raising, completing, and equipping the eight Battalions resolved by this Convention to be raised for the Continental service, agreeable to the resolves of this Convention.

Signed by order of the Convention:

Matthew Tilghman, *President*.

True copy:

G. Duvall, *Clerk*.

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COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 1, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *John Bayard*, *Francis Gurney*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Samuel C. Morris*, *Geo. Gray*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Captain *William Brown*, for £100; to be charged to his Account.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *John Mitchel*, for £1,500; to be charged to his Account.

*Resolved*, That *Herculas Courtney* be appointed to the rank of Captain-Lieutenant in the Second Company of Artillery, in the service of this State.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *George Spangler* £2 17*s*. 6*d*., for two days' riding into *Chester* County, to summons some of the Inspectors, &c., of an election held in said County.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Major *Thomas Proctor*, £187 10*s*.; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Towers* was directed to deliver Captain *William Richards* all the Canvas in his possession belonging to this State.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *James Forrest*, for his nephew *James Shanks*, and a servant, being for three months' Subsistence, from 19 *September* last to 19 *December* next, allowed them agreeable to a resolve of Congress, £22 10*s*.; to be charged to Congress.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Arthur Donaldson*, for £500; to be charged to his Account.

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In Council of Safety, November 2, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *John Bayard*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *John Bull*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Samuel C. Morris*, *Francis Gurney*, *Geo. Gray*.

Mr. *Towers* was directed to deliver Mr. *Isaac Hazlehurst* twenty-five three-pound Shot, and twenty-five four-pound Shot, taking his receipt to return the like quantity.

*Resolved*, That an Officer and twenty-five Men be sent to the Salt Works erected by this State on *Tom's River*, in *New-Jersey*, as a Guard; and twenty-five spare Muskets, two

*

Howitzers, and a sufficient quantity of Ammunition, to defend it in case of an attack from the enemy.

Two Accounts were exhibited for Arms purchased for two Companies of Colonel *James Crawford's* Battalion of Militia, of *Lancaster* County, one amounting to £14 17*s.*, the other to £4 10*s.*; to be charged to the Colonel.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *John Fleming*, a soldier who was left on *Long-Island* in the engagement, and made his escape from thence, for £1 10*s.*; to be charged to Congress.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Colonel *John Bull*, for Arms purchased from Non-Associators, £44 17*s.* 9*d.*; to be charged to Colonel *John Bull.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Colonel *Philip Greenwall* £94 11*s.* 9*d.*, for Arms, Powder, Lead, &c.; £77 12*s.* to be charged to the Colonel, £3 5*s.* to Congress, and £13 14*s.* 9*d.* to this State.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *John Little* £18 10*s.*, Nails and Spikes for *Fort Island*, delivered to *Robert Allison*; also, £7 18*s.* 4*d.* for ditto, for Salt Works.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Samuel Holmes* £37 10*s.* for fifty Cutlasses, delivered to Mr. *Towers.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Josiah Wood* £49 6*s.*, for one hundred and sixty-one Pikes, delivered to Mr. *Towers.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Alexander Rutherford* £141 19*s.*, for Cartouch-Boxes, Bayonet-Straps, Belts, &c., delivered to Major *Proctor* for the use of the Artillery; and 1*s.* for six Bayonet-Scabbards, delivered to Captain *Samuel Goudy*; to be charged to Colonel *James Wilson.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Captain *Hugh Montgomery* £10 13*s.* 3*d.*, for Recruiting expenses.

*Resolved*, That the Committees of the several Counties in this State, where Prisoners of War are stationed, be directed to make monthly returns of such Prisoners to this Council, or other Executive power of this State, and that they do not, on any account whatever, permit any Prisoner to leave his place of abode without permission first obtained from this Council or the Board of War.

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In Council of Safety, November 4, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *John Bayard*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Geo. Gray*, *Owen Biddle*, *Francis Gurney*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Timothy Matlack.*

*Resolved*, That application be made to the Board of War to desire General *Mercer*, at *Amboy*, to despatch fifty Men to the Salt Works now erecting by this State at *Tom's River*, in *New-Jersey*, the Council thinking it necessary that such a Guard should be fixed there for their security.

Colonel *Timothy Matlack* reports that he has paid to *John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., Treasurer, the sum of nineteen thousand four hundred and ninety Dollars, agreeable to the order of this Board.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Major *Thomas Proctor*, for 1,000 Dollars, and charge the same to his Account.

*John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., Treasurer, was directed to pay Doct. *Geo. Glentworth* £3 1*s.* 9*d.*, for attending a sick Soldier belonging to Colonel *Miles's* Battalion.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Lewis Grant* £2 15*s.*, for three Gun-Ladles, for the *Convention*, Captain *Rice.*

*Resolved*, That the appointments of Captains and Subalterns of the Eleventh *Pennsylvania* Battalion of Foot, to be commanded by Colonel *Richard Humpton*, be deferred to *Monday* next, the 11th instant.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Archibald Dick* £34 17*s.* 4*d.*; to be charged to Colonel *Miles.*

Commodore *Seymour* informed the Board that the Commanders of the Continental vessels the *Wasp* and the *Fly*, had received and detained divers men belonging to the Armed Boats of this State, and declare their intentions of receiving and detaining as many more of the said men as they shall be able to obtain: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That Commodore *Seymour* be directed to apply to the Board of War, (or to the Marine Committee if they are now sitting,) and inform them of this circumstance, and request an order for the return of the men belonging to our Boats; which, from the justice of the request, this Board have the strongest confidence will be immediately granted.

Then adjourned to four o'clock afternoon; when the following Members met:

*Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Frederick Kuhl*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Francis Gurney*, *Samuel C. Morris.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Robert Towers*, being the balance of his Account for men's wages in Laboratory, £12 18*s.*; *Daniel Stonemats* £39 9*s.*, for Tubs, &c., delivered to Major *Loxley* for the Cannon Foundry.

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In Council of Safety, November 5, 1776.

Present: *Thos. Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *Francis Gurney*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Owen Biddle*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *John Bayard.*

An Order was drawn on *John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., Treasurer, in favour of *Thomas Dundas*, for £500, on account of the Fortification erecting at *Billingsport.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *John Thompson*, for Water Casks, Harness, Tubs, and Mess Tubs, &c., for the armed Boat *Convention.*

*James Bristol* and *Florence Sullivan* were allowed to have a furlough for two weeks, to work at Mr. *Stacy Hepburn's* Rope Walks; Mr. *Hepburn* is to be answerable for their return at the expiration of their furlough, and is to engage for their appearance on any alarm, or when called upon by order of this Board.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *John Folwell* 16*s.*, for a Blanket delivered to Captain *Thomas's* Company, of the Flying-Camp.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Jacob Miller* £32 10*s.*, for thirteen Arms delivered to Colonel *Biddle*, at the Flying-Camp, to be charged to Colonel *Biddle.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Mr. *Matthias Slough* or order, £111 18*s.* 9*d.*, for 447¾ lbs. Saltpetre delivered to Mr. *Towers.*

Mr. *Towers* was directed to deliver Mr. *Slough* 200 lbs. of Powder.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *William Caldwell* £2 15*s.* 5*d.*, for Wood, for the Ship *Montgomery.*

Mr. *Wharton*, Mr. *Biddle*, Mr. *Rittenhouse*, and Colonel *Humpton*, the Committee appointed to view the country and fix upon a spot for a Magazine for Military Stores, report, that they have viewed the ground along the *Wissahickon* road for twelve miles, and are of opinion that the heights on the North side of *Wissahickon Creek* afford a very convenient situation for stores, and is capable of being defended to great advantage; and the back country affords a fine retreat in case of necessity. The hill on the *Wissahickon* road, just above Mr. *Vanderin's* Mill, is very proper to erect a fortification upon, as it may be made almost inaccessible, and must command that country.

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In Council of Safety, November 6, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Owen Biddle*, *Francis Gurney*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *John Bayard*, *John Bull*, *Timothy Matlack.*

Captain *William Richards* was directed to deliver *Coningham & Nesbitt* as many pieces of Sail Duck as they have occasion for, taking their Receipt.

*John Nesbitt*, Esq., Treasurer, was directed to pay *Ebenezer Lundy* £137 10*s.*, for two hundred Cartouch-Boxes, and two hundred Bayonet-Belts, delivered to Mr. *Towers.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Hill & Marret* £68 5*s.* 6*d.*, for a Flat-bottom Boat built by them for this State.

*Resolved*, That Commodore *Seymour* be directed to send a Vessel on board every Vessel passing from this Port through the Chevaux-de-frise, with a proper officer, to inspect their Permits, and that said Vessels at all times be assisted by the

Boats, &c., in the service of this State (if required) in going through the Chevaux-de-frise.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Kuhl* and Captain *Blewer* be appointed to wait on the Owners of the Salt lately arrived, and request them to sell said Salt to this Council, agreeable to a publication of the 2th *October* last.

Information being made to this Council by Colonel *John Bull*, that the Treasurer to the Managers of the Hospital has refused taking Continental money in payment,

Therefore *Resolved*, That the Council will take order on that matter to-morrow.

Captain *William Richards* was directed to deliver Mr. *Towers* two pieces of Duck for quilting Grape-shot.

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In Council of Safety, November 7, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *John Bayard*, *Francis Gurney*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Owen Biddle*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Timothy Matlack*.

*John M. Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Robert Eastburn* £27 6*s.*, for attending the delivery of Salt, measuring, &c., also for collecting Rags some time since.

Mr *Nesbitt* to pay to *Jeremiah Baker* for Wood and Straw delivered at the Barracks, £180 14*s.*; to be charged to Congress.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Lewis Guyon*, for £100; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *James Ennis* £6 5*s.*, for riding express to *Northampton* and *Bucks* Counties, to request the Commanding Officers of the Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march to this City at an hour's warning.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Colonel *Francis Gurney*, for 1,000 Dollars; to be charged to Colonel *Richard Humpton*.

Colonel *Matlack* reports, that Captain *Hare*, an officer in Continental pay, did, in his presence yesterday, in the open Coffee-House, in the most publick manner and with circumstances attending his manner that appeared to be intended to draw the attention of the people present, purchase three silver Dollars at a very considerable advance above their accustomed value, which advanced value he paid in Continental Bills of Credit.

The Council taking the same into consideration, and it appearing that the like practice is becoming frequent in this City, and that it may have a dangerous tendency to lessen if not to destroy the credit of the Continental currency,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Rittenhouse*, Mr. *Biddle*, and Colonel *Matlack*, be a Committee to lay this matter before the Board of Treasury, take their sentiments hereupon, and report to this Board.

*Resolved*, That the Salt purchased by this Council for the use of the inhabitants of this State, shall be proportioned to the several Counties as near as may be according to the number of inhabitants in each, and that the quantity allotted to each County be delivered to such persons as shall apply for it by order of the several Committees, on their paying the prime cost of fifteen shillings per bushel, to be distributed by said Committees amongst the people, at the same price, expense of carriage only added.

The Board, taking into consideration the state of the Salt Works in *New Jersey:*

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Rittenhouse* and Colonel *Matlack* visit the Salt Works, carefully examine into the state of them, and report to this Board.

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In Council of Safety, November 8, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *Owen Biddle*, *Francis Gurney*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Jos. Blewer*, *Geo. Gray*, *Fred. Kuhl*.

*John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., was directed to pay the following Accounts:

Messrs. *Rittenhouse*, *Biddle & Dehaven*, £15 2*s.* 6*d.*, for sixty and a half pounds Saltpetre made at the Publick Factory:

*William Steward*, for eleven and a quarter cord of Wood, at 26*s.*, £14 12*s.* 6*d.*, delivered at *Fort Island:*

Captain *Blewer* £19 12*s.* for twenty-eight barrels of Tar, delivered to Captain *Hazlewood:*

*Matthias Keely* for forty-two new Arms, delivered to Mr. *Towers*, £189:

*Christian Shaffer* £40, on account of work done at the Barracks; to be charged to his Account.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Curtis Grub* be authorized to impress a sufficient number of Teams in the County of *Lancaster*, to transport the Cannon he has cast for the Congress to *Philadelphia*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Lieutenant *John Hennessy*, for the balance of his account for wages, £3 11*s.* 2*d.*

To pay Mrs. *Connelly* £5 7*s.* 1½*d.*, for four weeks and two days' allowance, from 3d *October* to 3d *November*, 1776; to be charged to Congress.

Mr. *Robert Eastburn* was directed to deliver the inhabitants of this City and County to the amount of three hundred bushels of Salt; to each housekeeper not more than half a bushel. The other Counties to be supplied with the proportions allotted for them by gentlemen appointed to distribute the same.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Major *Lewis Nicola*, for £200, to be charged to his Account.

Commodore *Seymour* was empowered to impress such Sloops or Vessels as may be necessary to weigh the Chevaux-de-frise, lately sunk by accident near *Fort Island*.

Complaint having been made to this Board, that a certain Captain *Thomas Cripen* has entered into contract with *Samuel Read* for the sale of the Schooner *Nancy*, now commanded by him, which he refuses to abide by, or to give the complainant satisfaction, Commodore *Seymour* was directed not to permit said Vessel to pass by *Fort Island* without special license from this Council.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *Jacob Barge*, *John Purviance*, *William Heysham*, and *William Moulder*, be appointed a Committee to superintend and direct the purchase, sale, and distribution of the Salt imported into this State, agreeable to the regulations established by this Board.

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In Council of Safety, November 9, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Geo. Gray*, *Francis Gurney*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Timothy Matlack*, *Joseph Blewer*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, Treasurer, in favour of Colonel *John Patton*, for £400, on account of Shot cast for this State, and charge same to his Account.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of the Rev. Mr. *Rodgers*, for £70, being in part of his account for wages as Chaplain to late *Miles* and *Attlee's* Battalions.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Captain *Thomas Dungan* £1 13*s.*, for an allowance of 1*s.* per piece on thirty-three Worms and Screws:

*Jacob Rittenhouse* £31 5*s.* 10*d.*, for Cannon Cartridge-Paper, delivered Mr. *Towers:*

*Matthias Keely* £238 15*s.* 6*d.*, being the balance of his Account for Arms.

*James Young*, Esq., informed the Council that Colonel *Houssaggor* has declared he will pay no obedience to the Magistrates of this State.

*Resolved*, That the Council will take the case up on *Monday* next.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Mr. *Leisner* £2 3*s.*, for forty-three days' nursing in Hospital at *New-York*, for Colonel *Attlee's* Battalion.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Caleb Hewes* £3 3*s.* 10*d.*, for Oak Scantling, delivered *Allison & Worrel* for *Fort-Island*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Joseph Mather*, Esq., for £50; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Herculus Courtney* £71 12*s.*, for Blankets, collected for the use of the Artillery.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Kuhl*, Mr. *Keppele*, and Mr. *Samuel S. Morris*, be a Committee to examine and settle Messrs. *Dehaven & Carter's* account of the Lock Factory.

*Resolved*, That the Gunsmiths be allowed 24*s.* per piece for every good Gun-Barrel delivered at the Lock Factory.

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In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 11, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rit-*

*tenhouse, Owen Biddle, Samuel Morris,* Sen., Chairman, *John Bull, Jos. Blewer, Geo. Gray, John Bayard, Francis Gurney, Samuel C. Morris, Fred. Kuhl, Henry Keppele,* Jr.

An Order was drawn on *John M. Nesbitt,* Esq., Treasurer, in favour of Messrs. *Peter Dehaven & Co.,* for £500, on account of the Lock Factory; to be charged to their Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Benjamin Harbeson* £98 12*s.* 6*d.*, for sundries for the use of the Fleet and *Fort Island,* &c.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay an Order drawn by *John Read,* Commissary and Barrackmaster at *Fort Island,* for a month's Pay, for *October,* £5.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Robert Patton* £88 10*s.* 4*d.*, for 2 tons 4 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lbs. Bar Iron, delivered Captain *William Richards.*

In consequence of intelligence received that part of General *Howe's* Army was making a move this way, the Council, to get things in forwardness to make a defence, came to the following Resolution, viz:

1st. That twelve Expresses with Horses be provided, to be in readiness to send.

2d. That Colonel *Gurney* and Mr. *Kuhl* be appointed to examine the state of Military Stores and Arms in the State-House and Lock Factory, and report to the Board the state in which they shall find them.

3d. That Colonel *T. Matlack* be appointed to write a Circular Letter, containing the intelligence received, to the Commanding Officers of the Militia.

4th. That Commodore *Seymour,* Colonel *Humpton,* Captain *Blewer,* and Captain *Hazlewood,* do review the whole Naval armament and the Artillery Companies belonging to this State to-morrow, and make report to this Board of the state in which they shall find them.

*Resolved,* That Colonel *Bayard* be appointed to draw up a Letter to Colonel *Kirkbridge* to view the Ford of the River *Delaware,* above the Falls.

6th. That Mr. *Biddle* be appointed to write to the *Delaware* State, and the lower parts of *New-Jersey,* and acquaint them with the intelligence received.

7th. That Mr. *S. C. Morris* be appointed to write to Mr. *Parr,* Mr. *Tilghman,* and Mr. *Lukens,* and order them to remove the Publick Papers in their hands.

8th. That Mr. *Robert Irwin* be sent for and directed to engage a number of Wagons, in order to remove the Military Stores from this City to the country.

9th. That Colonel *Mifflin* be sent for and requested to assist in directing the mounting all the small Guns that can be procured on carriages in and near the City that is fit for that purpose.

10th. Mr. *Towers* be directed to provide a larger quantity of Musket Cartridges than is now on hand, and employ as many people in making them as can be procured.

11th. That the Boom be fixed to the Piers near *Fort Island* without delay.

Adjourned to three o'clock.

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In Council of Safety, November 12, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton,* Jun., President, *D. Rittenhouse, John Bayard, Samuel Morris,* Sen., *Timothy Matlack, John Bull, Francis Gurney, Fred. Kuhl, Henry Keppele,* Jun., *Samuel C. Morris, Geo. Gray.*

*Resolved,* That a quantity of Military Stores be immediately removed to Colonel *Bull's,* at *Norrington,* and that Colonel *Bull* be directed to procure proper Guards to be stationed there.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Ferree,* in favour of *Thomas Lowry,* Esq., for 500 bushels of Salt for the use of the Army.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Stewart Duncan* £3 19*s.* 4*d.*, for two cords of Wood for Ship *Montgomery.*

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In Council of Safety, November 13, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton,* President, *David Rittenhouse, John Bayard, Joseph Blewer, Samuel Morris,* Sen., *Geo. Gray, Frederick Kuhl, Henry Keppele, Francis Gurney, Samuel C. Morris, James Cannon, Timothy Matlack.*

*Resolved,* That Major *Proctor* be directed to parade the Artillery under his command at *Fort Island* on *Friday* morning next, when Mr. *Blewer* and Colonel *Humpton,* at the request of this Board, will attend in order to review them.

*Resolved,* That Commodore *Seymour* be directed to issue orders immediately for every Officer of the Fleet to repair on board their respective vessels, to have them manned and fitted in the best manner possible, and to order the whole Fleet to rendezvous opposite Messrs. *Willing & Morris's* wharf at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning, in order to their being reviewed.

*Resolved,* That Colonel *Matlack* be directed to take into his immediate care the Blankets and other Clothing for our Army, that he provide a convenient store for the purpose, and a Clerk attend the same if necessary.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Jno. Little* Account for Nails delivered Mr. *Brigs* for Mr. *Savage,* £31 13*s.* 4*d.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Mr. *Wm. Evans* £77 8*s.* 1½*d.*, for Blankets and coarse Woollens purchased in *Chester* County for this Council.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt,* in favour of Colonel *William Cook* on Captain *Miller,* for 2,000 Dollars, to be charged to Colonel *Cook,* of Twelfth Battalion.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Amos Strettell* £1,784 7*s.* 9*d.*, for Block Tin, Copper, and Sulphur.

*Resolved,* That Messrs. *Rittenhouse, Matlack,* and *Cannon,* be a Committee to draw up a Memorial to be presented to the honourable House of Assembly at their next meeting, setting forth the dangerous consequence that will attend the refusal of the Continental currency.

*Resolved,* That *Robert Levers,* Esq., be appointed Paymaster to the Twelfth *Pennsylvania* Regiment, in the Continental service, commanded by Colonel *William Cook.*

The Council adjourned to three o'clock.

Members met: *David Rittenhouse, John Bayard, Geo. Gray, Francis Gurney, S. C. Morris, Timothy Matlack, James Cannon, Fred. Kuhl, Joseph Blewer, Henry Keppele.*

*Resolved,* That Captain *Blewer* and Mr. *Samuel C. Morris* be requested to fit out the armed Boat *Convention,* Captain *Rice,* with all possible expedition, and that they be desired to apply to the Marine Committee for such Stores belonging to Congress as may be wanted for that purpose.

The Council proceeded to the appointment of Captains in the Eleventh *Pennsylvania* Regiment, in the Continental service, commanded by Colonel *Richard Humpton,* when the following gentlemen were appointed, viz: Dr. *John Coates, William Henderson, Samuel Dawson, Adolph Wm. Hedrick, George Calhoon, William McKissack, William Bradford,* Jun., and *John Douglass.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Robert Smith* £3 6*s.* 8*d.*, for riding express for the Convention, to give notice to the Militia to march to *New-Jersey.*

*Resolved,* That *John Simpson,* Esquire, be appointed Paymaster to the Eighth *Pennsylvania* Regiment in the Continental service, commanded by Colonel *Æneas McCoy.*

Agreeable to a Resolve of Congress, the following Commissions were granted for Letters of Marque, viz:

To *Thomas Bell,* Commander of the Ship *Speedwell,* of the burthen of tons, navigated by twenty-five men, ten carriage guns, owned by *John Maxwell Nesbitt & Co.*

To *Robert Collings,* Commander of the Sloop *Friendship,* about thirty tons burthen, navigated by twenty men, six carriage guns, owned by *John Wilcocks & Co.*

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In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 14, 1776.

Present: *Sam'l Morris,* Chairman, *Owen Biddle, Fred. Kuhl, Jos. Blewer, Francis Gurney, Henry Keppele, Sam'l Cad. Morris.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay the following Accounts, viz:

Mr. *Robert Towers's* Account for Workmen's Wages, making Cartridges, &c., £56 6*s.* 8*d.*:

*William Shaw's* Account for Cooperage, Powder, &c., £15 13*s.* 9*d.*; £2 1*s.* 7*d.* to be charged to this State, the remainder to Congress:

*Bowyer Brooks's* Account for Oars and repairs for several of the Armed Boats, and for building a Guard Boat, £106 0*s.* 11*d.*:

*Thomas Shoemaker*, for 1,700 Flints delivered Mr. *Towers*, £3 8*s*.:

*Daniel King's* Order to Mr. *Jos. Turner* for £4 10*s*. for Iron Hoops for the use of the Brass Cannon Foundry.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Robert Jewell* £48 14*s*. 1*d*., for Wood, &c., for the use of the Prisoners in the State Jail; to be charged to Congress.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Joseph Wilson* for repairing Arms for the armed Boat *Congress*.

Intelligence was received by express that several hundred Transports had sailed from *New-York*, and steered their course to the southward, and expected to be intended for this city. Whereupon the Council wrote a Circular Letter to the Commanding Officers of the Battalions of Militia, earnestly requesting them to march their respective Battalions to this city immediately.

Adjourned to three o'clock. The following Members met: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *Owen Biddle, John Bayard, Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Francis Gurney, Joseph Blewer, James Cannon, Henry Keppele*, Jun., *Sam'l C. Morris, Fred. Kuhl.*

The Board of War was requested to send for Captain *Strohbogh* and the Company of Artillery under his command, lately sent to *Fort Montgomery*, in *New-York* Government.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Bayard* be requested to get ready immediately as many of his Battalion as are necessary to guard the State Prisoners to *Lancaster* and *Reading*.

The Commodore was ordered not to suffer any sea Vessel to pass through the Chevaux-de-frise.

*Ordered*, That Commodore *Seymour* do immediately station one of the armed Boats belonging to this State at or near *Gloucester Point*, and exert their utmost vigilance in preventing all Shallops from passing down the river. Wood Boats are to be permitted to pass and repass.

Met at three o'clock. *Thos. Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse, Owen Biddle, John Bayard, Francis Gurney, George Gray, Sam'l C. Morris, Timothy Matlack, Fred. Kuhl, Joseph Blewer, John Bull.*

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Elijah Dow*, for £120, on account of work done for this State; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Robert Towers* was directed to deliver Colonel *John Dickinson* 150 stand of Arms and 150 Cartouch-Boxes and Bayonet-Belts, for the use of the First Battalion of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia* Militia, taking his receipt.

*Resolved*, That *Jacob Gerard Dyrcks, William Scull*, and *Matthew Henderson*, be appointed Captains in the Continental service.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Thomas Dundas*, for £500, and charge the same to his Account.

*Ordered*, That the owners of Cattle and other Stock near the river side make the necessary preparations for removing the same at least five miles from the river, on the shortest notice, as it is probable that this Board may be under the disagreeable necessity of giving the most peremptory orders for their removal, and to see that the same be punctually and suddenly complied with.

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In Council of Safety, November 15, 1776.

Present: *Thos. Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse, Owen Biddle, John Bayard, Geo. Gray, Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Joseph Blewer, Francis Gurney, Fred. Kuhl, Henry Keppele*, Jun., *Timothy Matlack.*

*John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., was directed to pay the following Accounts:

Colonel *Bayard*, for expenses going to *Chester* with General *Armstrong*, &c., 57*s*., and 10*s*. for expenses going to Fort, amount £3 7*s*.

*Samuel Wheeler*, for the balance of his account for work done for Chevaux-de-frise, £441 15*s*. 5½*d*., and one account, amounting to £77 7*s*. 5½*d*., for work done for the Brass Cannon Foundry and Boring Mill.

*John Williams* and *Jacob Comly*, for hauling Timber for the armed Boat *Delaware*, £8 11*s*. 3*d*.

*Jacob Comly*, for hauling Cannon from the State-House to the commons to be proved, £17 15*s*.

An Order was drawn on *Nesbitt, Conyngham & Co.* for twenty-five Blankets, to be delivered to Colonel *Gurney*, for the use of Colonel *Humpton's* Regiment.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *David Thomson* £19 16*s*., for the use of his Wharf from 22d *June* to 26th *October*, is 198 days at 2*s*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Mr. *Robert Irwin*, for £100, to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Conyngham, Nesbitt & Co.*, and *Maurice Rogers*, £208 9*s*. 6*d*., for one hundred and twenty-one Blankets.

Mr. *Towers* was directed to deliver Captain *William Brown* 60 Pikes, 45 Cutlasses, 2,000 Musket Cartridges, 24 Priming Horns, 24 Bitts, and 24 Prickers, for the use of the Floating Battery *Putnam*.

Captain *William Richards* was directed to provide for Captain *William Brown* 20 stand of Irons and Handcuffs, for the *Putnam* Battery.

Mr. *Towers*, Commissary, was directed to deliver Colonel *John Bayard* one hundred and seventy stand of Arms, for the use of the Second Battalion of Militia of this City, taking his receipt for the same.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay to *Levi Hollingsworth* an order drawn on this Board by *Stephen Ceronee*, in favour of *Cornelius Stevenson*, for £137, *Pennsylvania* currency, dated *St. Thomas*, 9th *June*, 1776, in conformity to a resolution of the honourable Congress.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Samuel C. Morris* be appointed to have the care of the Prisoners of War within this State, and pay them the allowance granted them by Congress.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Henry Miller*, for £103 0*s*. 6*d*., for printing the Minutes, &c., of the Convention.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *James Dundass*, Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster for the Works at *Billingsport*, be allowed 2*s*. 6*d*. per day over and above his pay, in consideration of losses that may attend paying of moneys in such small sums as his department must necessarily require.

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In Council of Safety, November 16, 1776.

Present: *Thos. Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse, Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Fred. Kuhl, Owen Biddle, Joseph Blewer, Timothy Matlack, John Bull, Francis Gurney, Samuel C. Morris.*

Captain *William Richards* was directed to deliver Mr. *Abraham Mason* as much Sail Cloth as he may have occasion to make Sails for the Ship *Montgomery*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Messrs. *Peter Dehaven & Co.*, for £500, to be charged to their Account.

Colonel *Matlack* was directed to deliver Captain *Richard Eyres* thirty-five Blankets, for the Seamen on board the *Delaware* armed Boat.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Mr. *Robert Smith*, for £550, towards Chevaux-de-frise built at *Billingsport*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Mr. *Owen Biddle*, for Linen, &c., purchased by him for the service of this State, £339 12*s*. 10½*d*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Biddle* be requested to employ persons to make up the Linen in his hands belonging to this State into Shirts.

An Order was drawn on *John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., in favour of Lieutenant-Colonel *George Nagle*, for 1,000 Dollars, to be charged to Colonel *James Irvine*, of the Ninth *Pennsylvania* Regiment.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Mary Miller* 4*s*. 8*d*., for seven Dinners for Captain *Shade's* Company, Colonel *Miles's* Battalion.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Colonel *Richard Humpton*, for 2,000 Dollars, to be charged to his Account.

Colonel *John Bull* was directed to deliver to *George Losk* one ton of Saltpetre and ten hundred weight of Powder, out of his Store at *Norrington*, taking his receipt.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *William Levering* £27

14*s.*, for forty Pick-Axes and twenty-six Spades, delivered to Colonel *Bull* for the Fortification at *Billingsport*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *William Levering* £18 6*s.*, for thirty Spades and twelve Pitching-Axes delivered Mr. *Towers*.

Information being laid before this Board that a gentleman is now in the City who is well acquainted with casting Brass Cannon,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Rittenhouse*, Mr. *Biddle*, and Colonel *Matlack*, be a Committee to confer with the Cannon Committee appointed by Congress, and, in conjunction with them, to concert and execute a plan for exerting the utmost skill of all our artists in this important branch of business.

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In Council of Safety, November 18, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, Vice President; *Timothy Matlack, Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Francis Gurney, Frederick Kuhl, Joseph Blewer, John Bull, Samuel C. Morris, Owen Biddle.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Willing, Morris & Co.*, for Cartridge Paper delivered to Mr. *Towers*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *James Oellers* £3,364 4*s.*, for one hundred and twenty-eight casks of Powder delivered to Mr. *Towers*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Jeremiah Burrows* £1,269 7*s.* 6*d.*, for one thousand six hundred and ninety-two and a half bushels of Salt, at 15*s.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Major *Thomas Proctor* £59 4*s.* 1½*d.*, for Boarding of Sick Soldiers belonging to the Artillery, and £50 on account of Recruiting Expenses, to be charged to his Account.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Allison & Worril*, for £50, to be charged to their Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Emanuel Woodby* £11 10*s.*, for Boat-hire.

Mr. *Robert Towers*, Commis-sary, was directed to deliver to the Marine Committee of Congress fifteen hundred Shot for 24-Pounders, eighteen hundred Shot for 18-Pounders, and five hundred Bar Shot for 18 and 24-Pounders, taking their receipt for the same.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Michael Grove*, for riding express to *Berks* County, to order the Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march to this City, £5.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *George Ginter* for riding express to *Berks* County, to order the Militia to march to this City, £6 17*s.* 6*d.*

*Resolved*, That application be made to Congress for an Order on their Treasurer for 40,000 Dollars, to be paid to *John Maxwell Nesbitt*, Esq., on account of the State of *Pennsylvania*.

*Ordered*, That Lieutenant-Colonel *Gurney* and Mr. *Morris* wait on the President with the above Resolve, and request an Order accordingly.

In consequence of the foregoing request, Congress sent an order on *Michael Hillegas*, Esquire, for 40,000 Dollars, which Captain *Blewer* is desired to deliver to Mr. *Nesbitt*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to deliver Captain *John Rice* twenty Blankets, for the use of the armed Boat *Convention*.

*Resolved*, That the pay of the Officers of the armed Boats in the service of this State be as follows, to commence from the 1st day of *October* last: Captain 32 Dollars, First Lieutenant 20 Dollars, Second Lieutenant 16 do., Master 20 do., Captain's Clerk 12 do., Boatswain 15 do., Gunner 15 do., Carpenter 15 do., Steward 12 do., Drum and Fife 8 do., Privates 8 do., Boy 4 do.

Adjourned to three o'clock.

Met at three o'clock, *November* 18th, 1776.—*David Rittenhouse*, Vice President. *Owen Biddle. Francis Gurney, Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Fred. Kuhl, John Bayard, Sam'l C. Morris, Timothy Matlack, Joseph Blewer.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Colonel *Francis Gurney* £102 1*s.* 10*d.*, for Blankets, Mittens, &c.

*Resolved*, That the armed Boat *Convention*, commanded by Captain *John Rice*, be ordered down to *Cape-May*, to protect the trade of this State, agreeable to a request from the Secret Committee of Congress.

The following Instructions were delivered to Captain *Rice:*

"In Council of Safety, November 18th, 1776.

"Sir; The Secret Committee of Congress have informed this Board that the Continental cruisers are so employed that they cannot afford the necessary protection to the trade of this State; you are therefore ordered to proceed to *Cape-May*. You are not to leave that station when any of the enemy's vessels are at the opposite Cape, and to use your best endeavours to protect all trading vessels belonging to the *United States of America*, and to the Islands of *Bermuda* or *Bahamas*, or to any foreign State, except under the dominion of the King of *Great Britain;* and in case of their being in distress, you are to grant them all the aid and relief in your power, and upon any number of the enemy's ships appearing off the coast you are to give intelligence thereof to Mr. *Henry Fisher*, of *Lewis-Town*, with the course they steer, and such other circumstances relating to them as are of any importance to us; or if you should be able to transmit the intelligence by express to us more expeditiously than Mr. *Fisher*, you are to do it. And you are, at the same time, to use your endeavours to make capture of, and distress such of the vessels belonging to the enemies of these States as come in your way; but if it should appear to you that the enemy are coming with a fleet to invade this State, you are in that case immediately to return with the *Convention* to *Fort Island*.

"We confide in your discretion to execute the foregoing orders so as to answer the intention of this Board, and that you will perform such other service as the nature of your station will require. We therefore shall omit any further instruction.

"N. B. If there are any vessels appear with an ensign hoisted at the foretop gallantmast-head, you may conclude it is a trading vessel in the Congress service, and you may give her any advice or assistance accordingly, that being their signal to the light-house. Save your salt provisions as much as possible, and provide your men with fresh, if to be had at as low a rate as of the Commissary here."

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Captain *Jos. Blewer*, for £100, to be charged to his account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *John Bray*, for riding express to *Chester* County to order the Militia to march to this City, £5 5*s.*, to be charged to Congress. *Wm. Morris*, for do. to County, £5 5*s.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Mr. *Towers's* Account, £94 4*s.*

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In Council of Safety, November 20, 1776.

Present: *Thos. Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse, Owen Biddle, John Bayard, Joseph Blewer, Timothy Matlack, Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Francis Gurney, Sam'l C. Morris, Fred. Kuhl, George Gray.*

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Mr. *Wm. C. Bradford*, for £739 15*s.*, to be delivered to *Isaac Rodgers*, Esquire, of *Allen-Town*, on account of Pork he is contracted to purchase for this State, to be charged to Mr. *Rodgers*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Hercules Courtney*, for Candles for the use of *Fort Island*, £23 0*s. Ad.*; *George Rumhart*, for Porterage, Copper, &c., to State-House, £3 13*s.* 3*d.*; *Daniel Offley*, for Iron work for the Battery *Putnam* and Chevaux-de-Frise, &c., £14 6*s.* 2*d.*

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Wharton* and Mr. *Blewer* be appointed to revise and fix the pay of the Fleet of this State.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Lewis Grant* £10 10*s.*, for Gun Ladle and Powder Measures, £10 10*s.*, for the armed Boat *Convention*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Augustus Rupple* £5 for going express to *Bucks* County to order the Militia to march to this City.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Messrs. *Peter Dehaven & Co.*, for £500, to be charged to their Account.

Mr. *Towers* was directed to deliver Messrs. *Mease & Caldwell* half a block of Block-Tin.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Messrs. *Williams*, towards the armed Boat *Delaware* built by them, to be charged to their Accounts.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Captain *Joseph Copperthwaite*, for £500, towards the Continental Powder-Mills erecting in this State, to be charged to his account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Michael Boyer*, for riding express to *Lancaster*, *York*, and *Carlisle*, with marching orders to the Militia, &c., £8 10*s.*, to be charged to Congress.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay to *Jonathan Martin*, for repairing seven Guns, £1 5*s.* 9*d.*

Adjourned to three o'clock, afternoon; when the following Members met: *Thos. Wharton*, Jun., President, *John Bayard*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Sam'l C. Morris*, *George Gray*, *Joseph Blewer*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Messrs. *Willing & Morris*, for Handcuffs and other materials delivered for the use of the Fleet, £83 1*s.*

Mr. *Zebulon Hollingsworth*, or the person in whose care the Cannon-Shot at the head of *Elk* or *Christian Creek* belonging to this State, was directed to deliver to the order of the Marine Committee of Congress as much Shot as they may have occasion for, taking a receipt for the same.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Frederick Snieder* £5 10*s.* 6*d.*, for riding express to *Reading* to countermand the marching orders for the Militia, to be charged to Congress; and *Leonard Lesher* to *Easton* £5; also *Jacob Speight* £4 7*s.* 6*d.*, to *Chester* County.

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In Council of Safety, November 21, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *Fred. Kuhl*, *John Bayard*, *David Rittenhouse*, *Francis Gurney*, *Timothy Matlack*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Joseph Blewer*, *George Gray*, *Samuel C. Morris*.

*Jno. M. Nesbitt*, Esq., Treasurer, was directed to pay *Amer Grub* £3 15*s.* 3*d.*, for one thousand and two feet of Scantling, delivered *George Engles*, to be charged to this State.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Jacob Kisling*, for £10, for services rendered to the State in producing a Model for a Fire-Ship.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to deliver to pay *Martin Pendergast*, for Iron work for Fire-Rafts, &c., &c., (two Accounts,) £136 17*s.* 5*d.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Conyngham*, *Nesbitt & Co.*, £3,756, for thirty casks of Indigo, being part of the cargo of Ship *Montgomery*, bought by Mr. *Wharton* and Colonel *Bayard;* to be charged to their Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *William Taylor* £17 1*s.*, for Boatswain's Calls for eight of the Armed Boats belonging to this State.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Henry Miller* £5 10*s.*, for Printing fifteen hundred Blank Commissions for Officers of the Flying-Camp, by order of the Convention.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *George Weiss* £5, for riding express to *Chester* County, to order the Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march at a short notice; to be charged to Congress.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *William Morris* 15*s.*, for going express to *Germantown*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *George Schwartz* for nine Cartouch Boxes, at 9*s.*, £4 1*s.*; to be charged to Colonel *Galbreath*.

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In Council of Safety, November 22, 1776.

Present: *Thos. Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Joseph Blewer*, *George Gray*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Samuel C. Morris*, *John Bayard*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *John Bazelee* for work done for the Galley *Delaware*, armed Boat, £13 3*s.* 6*d.*

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Benjamin Eyre*, for £161; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Joel Zane* £1 19*s.*, for two Iron Pots for the *Franklin* Galley in *October*, 1775.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Captain *Ardt* and Captain *Spear* £9 7*s.* 6*d.*, for three Drums for the Flying-Camp.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Christian Shaffer*, for £100, to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay to *Christian*, Jun., and *Charles Marshall* £154 15*s.* 10*d.*, for sundries had for the use of the Fleet.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Mr. *John Wharton* £50, for expenses conducting Major *French* to *New-England*, to be charged to Congress.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Joseph Ferree*, in favour of *William Thompson*, for ten hundred weight of Saltpetre, to be manufactured into Gunpowder.

*Resolved*, That application be made to the honourable Congress for the loan of one hundred thousand Dollars, to be paid to *John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., for the use of the State of *Pennsylvania;* and that Messrs. *Kuhl* and *Morris* wait on the President with the above request.

The Council adjourned to three o'clock, when the following Members met: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *Owen Biddle*, *David Rittenhouse*, *George Gray*, *Francis Gurney*, *Samuel C. Morris*, *Joseph Blewer*, *John Bayard*, *Timothy Matlack*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Edward Stroud* £10 12*s.* 6*d.*, for riding express to *Lancaster*, *York*, and *Carlisle*, to order the Militia to march to this City, to be charged to Congress.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Daniel King* £31 19*s.* 4*d.*, for Copper work, &c., delivered to Mr. *Towers*.

Agreeable to a Resolve of this morning, Congress sent down an Order on *Michael Hillegas*, Esq., Continental Treasurer, for 100,000 Dollars, which was endorsed by the President and directed to be paid to *John M. Nesbitt*, Esq., and Mr. *Wharton* was desired to deliver it to Mr. *Nesbitt*.

*John Biles* was committed to the State-Prison, he being charged by Mr. *Woodraw* the younger and Mr. *John Osborne*, of the *Northern Liberties*, upon oath, that he has been guilty of Treason against the *United States of America*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *John Smith* be requested to attend this Board to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock, to answer such questions as shall be asked him respecting certain declarations said to have been made in his presence by Mr. *John Swift*, Jun.

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In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 23, 1776.

Present: *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., President, *David Rittenhouse*, *Owen Biddle*, *John Bayard*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Timothy Matlack*, *Samuel C. Morris*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Francis Gurney*.

The Council being informed that there are many sick Soldiers arrived in this City from the *American* Army, for whom no proper accommodations are provided, and as humanity and good policy require that the best provision be made for restoring them to health,

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Gurney* be authorized and required to have one wing of the Bettering House cleared immediately, for the reception of such sick and wounded Soldiers.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *Richards* and *Towers* furnish Mr. *Romans*, Engineer, with such materials as he may require to perform an experiment, in order to give a specimen of his skill in destroying distant objects by Fire.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay to Mr. *Jesse Jones*, one of the Commissioners of *Northampton* County, £991 for Bounty money for three hundred and twenty-three Men, directed by Convention to be paid for raising the Flying-Camp.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Henry Fraily* £6 0*s.* 4*d.*, for repairing Arms belonging to Colonel *Haller's* Battalion.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Daniel King* £10 10*s.* 10½*d.*, for Brass for Boring Mill; £1 17*s.* for Copper Hinges, &c., for *Franklin* armed Boat; and £12 for twelve Tourniquets, delivered to *Duffield & Delany*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Jacob Rittenhouse* £10 19*s.* 2*d.*, for two hundred and sixty-three pounds of Cannon Cartridge Paper.

*Resolved*, That the Salt now in the possession of the Council of Safety be immediately sent to the Committees of the several Counties in the following proportions, to wit:

*Philadelphia* County 80 bushels, *Chester* 80, *Bucks* 80, *Lancaster* 100, *York* 80, *Cumberland* 80, *Berks* 80, *Northampton* 60, *Bedford* 60, *Northumberland* 60, *Westmoreland* 60,—more or less as the quantity in store may measure.

The City and Liberties of *Philadelphia* having had a greater opportunity of a supply than the Counties, are not to have any part of this quantity.

The Committees are to sell it to the people at the rate of 15*s.* per bushel, and in no greater quantity than half a bushel to any one family; they are to make as equal distribution as they can according to the necessities of the people, for which purpose they are to require a declaration of what quantity they are possessed of more than their just proportion of this necessary article at a time of such very great scarcity of it.

Mr. *Owen Biddle* is requested to employ proper persons to send the Salt to the respective Committees, with a copy of this Resolve to each; for which service this Board will allow a reasonable compensation.

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At a special meeting of the Council of Safety, *November* 24, 1776.—Present: *David Rittenhouse*, Vice President, *Timothy Matlack, Samuel C. Morris, James Cannon, John Bull, John Bayard, Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Fred. Kuhl, John Hubley, Henry Keppele.*

A Committee of Congress requested an interview with as many Members of the House of Assembly as are in Town, and this Council: Whereupon a number of the Members of Assembly attended, and the following Resolutions of Congress were laid before them:

"In Congress, *November* 23, 1776.—*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed, with full powers to devise and execute measures for effectually reinforcing General *Washington*, and obstructing the progress of General *Howe's* Army, and that they proceed immediately on this business.

"The Members chosen, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Chase*, Mr. *Clymer*, and Mr. *Stockden*.

"John Hancock, *President*."

The Committee before mentioned have come to the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Commanding Officers of the several Battalions of Associators in *Pennsylvania* immediately to call together the Battalions respectively under their command, and to select out of each Battalion one Company, or, if possible, two Companies of Volunteers.

That each Company consist of seventy-six Privates, one Drummer, one Fifer, four Corporals, and four Sergeants, under the command of a Captain, two Lieutenants, and one Ensign.

That the Field-Officers of each Battalion, or such of them as shall be present, with the approbation and concurrence of the Volunteers, appoint the Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of each Company.

That the Companies be engaged in the service of the *United States* till the 10th day of *March* next, unless sooner discharged by Congress, and be entitled to a pair of Shoes and Stockings, and to the same Rations and the same monthly Pay with the other Troops on the Continental establishment, to commence from the time of their enrollment.

That the form of the Enrollment be as follows: "I, , hereby promise and engage to enter into the service of the *United States*, and to serve them till the 10th day of *March* next, unless sooner discharged by Congress; and to observe and obey the orders of Congress, and the orders of the Generals and Officers set over me by them."

That in order to supply the Companies with Arms, Accoutrements, and other necessaries, the Field-Officers of each Battalion, or any of them, be empowered and directed to purchase, and, if they cannot purchase, to impress, Arms, Cartouch-Boxes, Blankets, Shoes, Stockings, and other necessaries, for the use of the said Companies.

That the articles impressed be appraised by persons to be appointed by the Field-Officers, or any of them, for that purpose.

That the Field Officers, or any of them, give certificates of the value of the articles so purchased, or appraised, which certificates shall be deemed sufficient vouchers to the persons to whom they shall be given, or to their assigns, for the respective sums therein mentioned, and shall be paid at the Continental Treasury.

That the Captains march their Companies with the utmost expedition, and join the Army under General *Washington*.

That the Council of Safety be empowered and directed to form the said Companies into Battalions; and to adopt such farther measures as they may find necessary for the march and equipment of the said Companies, and particularly to collect, in the City of *Philadelphia* and its neighbourhood, Blankets and other necessaries for their use, and to seize such articles, paying the value of them, if they cannot otherwise be procured.

That one month's pay be advanced to each volunteer upon his enrollment; and that the Council of Safety be supplied with money for this purpose.

That the Council of Safety be requested to forward by express the foregoing Resolutions to the Commanding Officers of the several Battalions of the State of *Pennsylvania*.

James Wilson,
George Clymer,
James Smith,
Samuel Chase.

Philadelphia, November 24, 1776.

"In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 24, 1776.

"Sir: General *Howe*, after having reduced *Fort Washington*, and obtained possession of *Fort Lee*, is now directing his operations against *New-Jersey*. There is much reason to believe that his views extend to the city of *Philadelphia*. The forces in *New-Jersey* may be insufficient to oppose his progress: It is, therefore, indispensably requisite for the preservation of this State, and the support of the general cause, that troops be immediately raised to reinforce General *Washington*. The measures adopted for this purpose, you will learn from the resolutions enclosed. In this time of danger it is unnecessary to use arguments with freemen, who are determined never to lose that character but with their lives. We have entire confidence that you, and the battalion under your command, will, upon this occasion, give the strongest proofs of vigour and patriotism.

"A judicious choice of the officers will do honour to the volunteers, and produce essential advantages to the service; for it is our opinion that the volunteers ought to have the election of them; and we recommend to you the utmost circumspection and care, not only in the persons you may recommend to them, but also in the manner of doing it. As this Council can only have in view the interest of the whole, you may safely assure the people of our care and attention in the appointment of the Field-Officers, so as, at the same time, to forward the service, and as much as possible to give satisfaction to the people.

"A Paymaster will be appointed for each battalion, and the volunteers may depend on having their pay regularly. The Colonel or commanding officer ought to muster each company, and send a certificate thereof to this Board.

"Money is forwarded to in order to advance the month's pay; to him you will please to apply for what money will be necessary in your battalion for that purpose.

"By order of the Council:

"David Rittenhouse, *Vice President*.

"To the Colonel or Commanding Officer of the Battalion of ."

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In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 25, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, Vice President, *Joseph Blewer, John Bull, Samuel C. Morris, John Bayard, Timothy Matlack, Francis Gurney, Owen Biddle.*

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Nicholas Hicks* £316 0*s.* 2*d.*, being in full for paving and repairing the Barracks.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay to *John Hazlewood* £150; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay to *Thomas Nevill* £100, to be charged to his Account, for making Gun-Carriages.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay to *Samuel Morris*, Jun., £500; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Arthur Donaldson* £200; to be charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Daniel Evans* £80, for 200 Pitching Axes delivered to Mr. *Towers*.

Mr. *Towers* was directed to deliver the Marine Committee of Congress 800 Swivel Shot, taking a receipt.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Henry Litman* £55 6*s*. 2*d*., for Iron work for Fire Rafts.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Board it is most prudent to pay Captain *Cochran's* Company agreeable to their demand. Therefore recommend it to the Committee of Congress to pay his accounts as they stand, especially considering the readiness with which they stepped forward at the late call of the Militia, and of the necessity of an immediate call on them for the common defence.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Captain *George Calhoon*, for 200 Dollars, for Recruiting service; he to be accountable for it.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Captain *Matthew Henderson*, for 200 Dollars, for the Recruiting service; he to be accountable for it.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay an Order drawn by *Vanbibber & Usher*, of *Baltimore*, for £805, in favour of Mr. *John Mease*, for freight of 23,000 pounds of Gunpowder from *St. Martin's* to *Baltimore*, and now in the Warehouse of *Isaac Vanbibber*, at that place.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Owen Biddle*, Esq., £104, for attending the late Committee of Safety 260 days, at 8*s*.

Adjourned to three o'clock; when the following Members met: *David Rittenhouse*, Vice President, *Owen Biddle*, *John Bayard*, *Timothy Matlack*, *Francis Gurney*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Samuel C. Morris*, *George Gray*.

In consequence of a meeting with as many of the Field-Officers of the Battalions of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia* as could be convened, it was upon consideration agreed on to present a Memorial to the General Assembly on the Resolve of Congress with respect to calling out the Militia, and on the present state of the Military Association, and a Committee of this Board was ordered to prepare a draft of such Memorial, to be delivered to the House to-morrow morning.

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In Council of Safety, November 26, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, Vice President, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *Timothy Matlack*, *Joseph Blewer*, *James Cannon*, *Owen Biddle*, *Samuel Morris*, *John Bayard*, *John Hubley*, *Francis Gurney*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Captain *William Scott* £1 11*s*. 6*d*., for repairing Arms.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Mr. *Robert Towers* his account for Men's Wages, making Cartridges, &c., &c., £52 2*s*. 6*d*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Kuhl* and Mr. *Keppele* be appointed to audit and settle the Accounts of the Commissioners of *Bedford* County, for calling out the Militia for the protection of the frontiers of this State.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *John Hagan* £2 19*s*. 6*d*. for sundries, services in carting for Colonel *Atlee's* Battalion, while at *Chester*, and sundries for Colonel *Waijer's* Battalion; £1 10*s*. to be charged to Congress, and £1 9*s*. 6*d*. to be charged to this State.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Colonel *Richard Humpton*, for 2,000 Dollars, to the purpose of paying Bounty Money for his Regiment; to be charged to his Account.

(Here insert the Memorial to Assembly.)

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Matlack* and Mr. *S. C. Morris* wait on the honourable House of Assembly with the foregoing Memorial.

Adjourned to three o'clock.

Met according to adjournment, *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Owen Biddle*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Francis Gurney*, *Timothy Matlack*, *Samuel Morris*, Sr., *Frederick Kuhl*, *Samuel C. Morris*, *John Hubley*, *James Cannon*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay an Order drawn on this Board by *Ross* and *Ega*, in favour of *Levi Hollingsworth*, for £500, on account of Cannon-Shot cast by them.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Mr. *William Rush*, for £250, on account of work done for the State; to be charged to his Account.

*Resolved*, That the regulations concerning Salt, of the 15th *October* last, be continued until the 1st day of *January* next, and that Messrs. *George Schlosser*, *Jacob Schriner*, *Philip Boem*, *William Moulder*, *William Will*, *George Bartram*, *Samuel Simpson*, *Nathaniel Donnel*, *Thomas Cuthbert*, Sen., *Richard Dennis*, *John Taylor*, and *William Robeson*, be appointed to carry them into execution, and to distribute the Salt imported in the most equitable manner between the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring States.

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In Council of Safety, November 27, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Owen Biddle*, *John Hubley*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Timothy Matlack*, *Francis Gurney*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Bernard Dougherty*, Esq., for £549 1*s*., for the pay of a Company of Rangers, commanded by Colonel *Baxter*, raised in *Bedford* County, for the defence of the frontiers of this State against the depredations of the *Indians*, agreeable to a resolve of Convention.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *John Fleming*, for £37 10*s*., for the purpose of purchasing Coarse Woollens, &c., for this State, he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That *Peter Grubb*, Jr., and *James Lang* be appointed Captains in the Tenth Battalion of Continental Troops, raised by this State, commanded by Colonel *Penrose*.

*Resolved*, That the Council will receive applications for commissions in the Tenth Battalion of Continental Troops to be raised by this State, under the command of *Joseph Penrose*, until the 2d day of *December* next, after which they will proceed to the appointment.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Mr. *Benjamin Loxley*, for £100, for carrying on the Cannon Foundry. Charged to his Account.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Spangler & Weily* £15 5*s*., for riding express, horse-hire, &c.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Mr. *John Dunlap* £35 16*s*., for Cartridge Paper, Printing, &c.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Captain *Peter Hardman* £10 12*s*. 9*d*., for collecting Arms, &c., in *Chester* County.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Wolery Meng* for one hundred and ninety-five Bayonet Scabbards, delivered to Mr. *Towers*, £29 5*s*., agreeable to the Resolution of Congress of 23d instant, respecting the calling out part of the Militia of this State.

An Order was sent down from Congress on *Michael Hillegas*, Esq., Treasurer to the Continent, dated the 25th instant, for 35,000 Dollars, for advancing a month's pay to each man who shall enroll himself to serve till the 10th *March* next, unless sooner discharged.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Lewis Grant* £42, for Copper work for the Floating Battery *Putnam*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *John Mitchell*, Esq., for £1,500; to be charged to his Account.

*Resolved*, That *Joseph Irwing* and *Joseph McClelan* be appointed Captains in the Ninth *Pennsylvania* Regiment, commanded by Colonel *James Irvine*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* is directed to pay *John Elmslie* £6 5*s*., for Turner's work, delivered to Colonel *Clement Biddle*; to be charged to Congress.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of *Christopher Breidenhart*, for £37 10*s*. 6*d*., for repairing of Guns for the Militia.

Mr. *Kuhl* took the order of Congress, and received the sum of 35,000 Dollars, which he deposited with the Council.

Adjourned to three o'clock; when the following Mem-

bers met: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Owen Biddle*, *John Hubley*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Timothy Matlack*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen.

"GENTLEMEN: In full confidence of your prudence and activity, the Council do hereby appoint and authorize you, in consequence of several resolves of Congress, to call upon the housekeepers of this City and Liberties, for as many blankets and woollen stockings as each family can spare, for the use of the *American* Army; and if any person shall be so insensible to the distresses of our countrymen now in the service, and to the dictates of humanity, as to refuse or any wise withhold them, you are to make use of proper force. You are to pay a reasonable price for the blankets and stockings so taken, for which purpose you will be supplied with money by this Board. They are to be delivered as collected to Messrs. *Mease & Caldwell*."

*Resolved*, That *John Davis* be appointed Captain in the Ninth *Pennsylvania* Regiment in the Continental service, to be commanded by Colonel *James Irvine*.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 27, 1776.

The Officers of Colonels *Miles's* and *Atlee's* Battalions, and the Officers of any other Battalion of this State, not in actual service, who are in or near the City of *Philadelphia*, are requested to send their names, in writing, and their places of abode to this Council, and to hold themselves in readiness to receive the orders of this Board.

By order of the Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *V. P.*

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In Council of Safety, November 28, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Owen Biddle*, *John Hubley*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *John Bayard*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Timothy Matlack*, *James Cannon*, *Francis Gurney*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Messrs. *Peter Dehaven & Co.*, for £500, on account of the Lock Factory; to be charged to his Account.

Town Meeting*

Adjourned to three o'clock.

Met at three o'clock, according to adjournment.

*David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Owen Biddle*, *Joseph Blewer*, *James Cannon*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Timothy Matlack*, *John Hubley*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *John Bull*, *Francis Gurney*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay the following Accounts:

*Jacob Aubell* £2 10*s.*, for going express to *Northampton:*

*Ebenezer Lundy*, for 200 Cartouch-Boxes and 200 Bayonet-Belts, £137 10*s.*:

Captain *Henry Lott*, two Accounts, amount £52 11*s.* 3*d.*, for Arms purchased in *Bucks* County and taken into service, to be charged to Colonel *Hart;* also, an Account £5 4*s.* for expenses collecting Arms:

*Benjamin Poultney*, for procuring Intrenching Tools, &c., £10:

Colonel *Kirkbride* £3 10*s.*, for seven pair Stockings.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Mr. *James Dundass*, for £500, on account of the Fortification at *Billingsport*, to be charged to his Account.

*Resolved*, That the Officers and Men of the Artillery in service of this State be allowed the same Pay and Allowance as the Officers and Men in the Continental service, from the next pay day.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Bull* be ordered to send the Men that were employed at *Billingsport* down to that place to-morrow morning.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Peter Brown* £320 1*s.* 3*d.*, for Iron work done for this State.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Jeremiah Baker* £253 7*s.*, for Wood delivered at Barracks near this City; to be charged to Congress.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Joseph Blewer* be ordered to apply to the Marine Committee for the Cannon which have lately arrived in the prize vessels, that they may be mounted on travelling carriages.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Joseph Blewer* be ordered to make inquiry after suitable Cannon to mount upon travelling carriages, and apply to the owners for them.

*Resolved*, That *Thomas Bartholomew Bowen* be appointed a Captain in the Ninth *Pennsylvania* Regiment in the Continental service, commanded by Colonel *James Irvine*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Robert Towers* be directed to deliver the publick Arms to the Commanding Officers of Companies of Militia of the City and Liberties upon their application, taking receipts for the same.

*Resolved*, That the necessities of divers poor persons, women, children, &c., belonging to the Army, in passing through this City, require the attention of this Board, and therefore, the several members are requested to relieve them as occasion may offer, and this Board will pay the expense.

*Resolved*, That the Salt to be sent to the several Counties of this State be sold out to the Militia only who go into actual service at this time or to their families, in the manner directed in our Resolve of the 23d instant, as sent to the Committees.

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In Council of Safety, November 29, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Samuel Morris*, *John Hubley*, *Francis Gurney*, *Joseph Blewer*, *John Bayard*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Henry Wynkoop*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *John Bull*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Colonel *Joseph Penrose*, for 2,000 Dollars, towards recruiting expenses for Tenth *Pennsylvania* Regiment in Continental service; to be charged to his Account.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Mr. *Matthew Irwin*, for £1,200, for the purpose of purchasing Blankets, &c., from the inhabitants of the City and Liberties.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *George Hutton* and others 40 Dollars, as a reward for apprehending *John Denover*, a highway robber.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *George Ginter*, for going express to *York*, *Cumberland*, and *Lancaster* Counties, to order Militia to march, £11 17*s.* 6*d.*—charge Congress; *James Barnes* for Glazing at the Hospital on *Province Island*, £4 2*s.* 6*d.*; *Esther Burke* for ten weeks Nursing sick Soldiers, £5 10*s.*

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Lieutenant Colonel *Nagle*, for 3,000 Dollars, to be charged to Colonel *James Irvine*, of Ninth Regiment.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Ichabod Groves* for twenty-five tons Ballast, £5.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Fred. Verner* £10, for riding express to *York*, *Lancaster*, and *Cumberland* Counties, to countermand marching of Militia.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *John Pringle* £243 15*s.*, for one hundred and thirty barrels Turpentine, in Mr *Pringle's* stores.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Captain *Nathan Gibson* £6 5*s.*, for Powder-Horns, &c., &c.; to be charged to Colonel *Paschall*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Mr. *Henry Wynkoop* £44 18*s.* 8*d.*, for repairing Arms of Colonel *Kechline's* Regiment.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay Mr. *Wynkoop* £1 12*s.*, for expenses for collecting Arms from Non-Associators in *Bucks* County, and £5 10*s.* for a Rifle,—£5 10*s.* to be charged to Colonel *Joseph Hart*.

* PHILADELPHIA, *November* 28, 1776.—At eleven o'clock this forenoon, a very large and genteel town meeting was held in the State-House yard. The members of the General Assembly and the Council of Safety were present; Mr. *Rittenhouse*, Vice President of the Council, being in the chair. The intelligence which has been received of the probability of General *Howe* having it in contemplation to invade this State was laid before the citizens; and they were informed that the Congress requested the Militia of the City and several of the Counties, and part of the Militia of each of the other Counties, to march into *New-Jersey*. The people expressed their cheerful approbation of the measure by the most unanimous acclamations of joy ever observed on any occasion; and the Militia are ordered to be reviewed to-morrow, at two o'clock in the afternoon. General *Mifflin* addressed his fellow-citizens, in a spirited, animating, and affectionate address, which was received by them with marks of approbation which showed their esteem for, and confidence in, the General.

Mr. *Nesbitt* to pay *Andrew Ashton* £4 10*s.*, for Iron work for the armed Boat *Delaware*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Christian Dull* £18 9*s.* 9*d.*, for dieting Flying-Camp men, to be charged to Congress; also £3, for nursing a sick man.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *George Bickham* be employed as Quartermaster for this State, with the rank, pay, and rations of a Captain, and that Mr. *Biddle* is to send under his care to the *Pennsylvania* Battalion now commanded by Major *Williams*, such a supply of clothing as he has in his possession, that they may stand in need of.

Agreeable to resolve of Congress a commission for Letter of Marque was this day granted to *Michael Barstow*, Commander of the Brig *Industry*, mounting ten carriage guns, (four-pounders,) burthen about one hundred tons, navigated by twenty-five men, owned by *Blair McClenachan*.

*Resolved*, That *Matthew Brooke*, *Leonard Stoneburner*, and *Jacob Engle*, do provide as many Teams as they can immediately, to remove the Stores from this City; for which service they are authorized to pay 2*s.* 10*d.* per mile for carrying twenty hundred weight from *Philadelphia*, and shall be allowed 15*s.* per day each for their own trouble while they are employed in this service.

*Resolved*, That this Council will provide generously, and in the least exceptionable manner they can devise, for the families of the Associators who shall march into *New-Jersey* to join General *Washington*, exclusive of their pay, out of such moneys as they have at their disposal, unless the House of Assembly shall before that time make the interposition of this Board unnecessary.

Adjourned to three o'clock; when the following Members met: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Owen Biddle*, *Samuel Morris*, Sen., *John Hubley*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Timothy Matlack*, *Francis Gurney*, *Henry Wynkoop*.

An Order was drawn on Mr. *Nesbitt*, in favour of Colonel *Richard Humpton*, for 2,000 Dollars, for the purpose of paying bounty money and recruiting expenses for the Eleventh *Pennsylvania* Regiment.

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In Council of Safety, November 30, 1776.

Present: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Owen Biddle*, *John Hubley*, *Fred. Kuhl*, *Francis Gurney*, *John Bull*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Joseph Blewer*, *Henry Wynkoop*, *Sam'l C. Morris*, *James Cannon*.

*John M. Nesbitt*, Esquire, was directed to pay Captain *William Brown* £214 9*s.* 9*d.*, being the balance of his Account for bounty money and recruiting expenses, &c., and sundry necessaries for the *Putnam* Battery.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Captain *Henry Lott*, of *Bucks*, three days' pay for himself, two Lieutenants, two Sergeants, one Drummer, and sixteen Privates, they being on march to this City, by a late order of the Council; to be charged to Congress.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Henry Wynkoop*, Esq., for Arms, &c., purchased by him, and delivered to the Militia, balance £10 10*s.* Also £223 16*s.* 4½*d.*, being the balance of his Account as Treasurer for the Committee of *Bucks* County.

*Ordered*, That the proportion of Salt belonging to this State for the County of *Philadelphia*, be immediately put into the hands of the Colonels or Commanding Officers of the Battalions of Militia of said County, to be sold out, on the terms mentioned in our Resolves of the 23d instant, to the Militia who go into actual service only.

*Resolved*, That in the present alarming situation of our affairs, it is highly expedient that no Vessels should be suffered to depart this port until further orders from this Board.

The Commodore was directed to stop all Vessels from passing through the Chevaux-de-frise.

*Ordered*, That Captain *William Brown* do furnish a Guard for the Salt Vessels, when applied to by the Salt Committee for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That money be sent immediately to the Colonels of the Militia of *Chester*, *Philadelphia*, *Bucks*, and *Northampton* Counties, and City of *Philadelphia*, to supply the families of such Associators as go into actual service, and may stand in need of the same; and that each Battalion do choose two Subalterns, substantial freeholders, who are to receive from the Colonels of their respective Battalions the said money, and distribute it amongst the said families from time to time, according to their need, in the most discreet manner, for which money they are to account with this Board.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay Colonel *Timothy Greene* the sum of £52 10*s.*, for the attendance of Fifers and Drummers to his Battalion in *Lancaster* County.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Michael Goodman* £4 16*s.*, and *John Rabson* 17*s.* 6*d.*, for porterage of Stores for Mr. *Towers*.

Adjourned to three o'clock; when the following Members met: *David Rittenhouse*, V. P., *Owen Biddle*, *Sam'l Morris*, Sen., *Fred. Kuhl*, *Joseph Blewer*, *Francis Gurney*, *John Hubley*, *James Cannon*, *John Bull*.

Mr. *Nesbitt* was directed to pay *Matthias Woolpert* £42, for six hundred bushels of Coal, delivered to Major *Loxley* for the use of the Brass Cannon Foundry.

Mr. *Richard Dormond* was employed by this Council to procure ten Wagons at the same rate Mr. *Brooks* was employed yesterday, if he procures ten Wagons, and in proportion of any lesser number.

*Resolved*, That in the present alarming situation of our affairs, it is highly expedient that no Vessels should be suffered to depart this Port until further orders from this Board.

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## NEW-YORK CONVENTION AND COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

### CONVENTION.

Saturday morning, September 28, 1776.

Convention met.

Present: Colonel *Peter R. Livingston*, President.

For New-York—Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Bancker*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Jay*.

For Orange—Mr. *Wisner*, Dr. *Sherwood*, Mr. *Little*.

Tryon—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*.

For Albany—General *Ten Broeck*, Mr. *Ten Broeck*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Colonel *Livingston*.

For Dutchess—Mr. *Platt*, Mr. *Sackett*, Mr. *Gil. Livingston*.

Charlotte—Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Duer*.

For Ulster—Major *Parks*, Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Wisner*.

For Westchester—Major *Lockwood*, Colonel *Drake*, Mr. *Tomkins*, Colonel *Cortlandt*.

Cumberland—Mr. *Sessions*, Mr. *Stephens*.

General *Ten Broeck* and Mr. *John Ten Broeck* have leave of absence for one month. Mr. *Duane* dissents.

Mr. *Wisner*, Jun., has leave of absence for a fortnight, that he may be enabled to execute the order of the Committee of Safety of yesterday, for forwarding the Powder from his mill to *King's Bridge*, agreeable to the General's request.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to prepare a form of Government for this State do report the same to this House on or before the 12th day of *October* next.

And that the said Committee may no longer be detained from that important business,

*Ordered*, That the said Committee sit every afternoon till they shall be ready to report.

A Letter from *John Sloss Hobart*, Esq., directed to the Convention, dated at Head-Quarters, on the 26th instant, was read and filed.

He therein informs that General *Washington* has ordered Lieutenant-Colonel *Livingston* to repair to the Forts in the

Highlands with his detachment; that he (Mr. *Hobart*) is concerting measures for the release of General *Woodhull*; that he has not heard of the Committee of Safety below the Highlands; that the enemy are throwing up works, to annoy our advanced posts; that he wrote a letter to Convention yesterday, by Captain *Rogers*, and requests an answer.

The Letter from Mr. *Hobart* of the 25th instant, being brought in, was read.

He therein informs, that in obedience to the order of Convention, he had called at the Forts in the Highlands, and found things in as good a state as could be expected, considering the number of men in garrison; that he had mentioned to General *Washington* the necessity of a reinforcement from the Army to those forts, and that the General said it was impossible; that he had shown the resolution of Convention for procuring an exchange for General *Woodhull* to his Excellency General *Washington;* that it is very doubtful how it can be effected; that the *Canada* prisoners are at the *Hook*, and are to be sent on shore on their parole. He therein further gives an account of the conflagration of the city; requests to know by Captain *Rogers* whether the sloop-of-war *Montgomery* will be sold, and directions how to dispose of one hundred and twenty pounds of publick money which he left lately at *Fairfield*.

Captain *Rogers* being called in, and examined as to the condition of the sloop *Montgomery*, says that the vessel is in good repair; that she wants nothing but provisions and a little gunpowder; that one of the prizes which he formerly took, to wit, a small *Bermuda* sloop, is at *Rhode-Island*, as he hopes, by this time, condemned; that she had also on board some sails and rigging taken from the other vessels of which he made captures; that he brought off a few things in a boat from *Huntington* at the time he took *Isaac Ketchum* and *Samuel Skidmore;* that the latter was a person who had taken possession of a farm of a brother of Captain *Zeph. Platt;* that he came to the Convention to request their directions how to dispose of the vessel the *Montgomery*.

*Resolved*, That the vessel-of-war the *Montgomery* be continued in the service of this State.

That Mr. *William Harper*, Mr. *Bancker*, and Mr. *Zeph. Platt*, be a Committee to give such instructions to Captain *Rogers* as they shall think proper, to enable him to proceed on a cruise with all possible expedition. And also that the said Committee give such directions to Captain *Rogers* relative to any prizes or prize-goods remaining on *Nassau Island* as they shall think proper.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Jay* be added to the Committee appointed yesterday morning to report on the application of Major *Hoisington* for money for the use of the Rangers, and the other matters therewith committed.

A short Letter, dated the 27th instant, from *Thomas Cregier*, of the armed Schooner *Putnam*, was read.

*Ordered*, That the late representation of the state of that vessel made by Captain *Cregier*, the Letter from *Quigley* his Lieutenant, the Memorial of the Artificers of the said vessel, and Captain *Cregier's* present Letter, be committed to Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Tompkins*, and Mr. *Dunscombe;* and that they report thereon with all convenient speed.

A Letter from General *James Clinton* was read, and is as follows, to wit:

"Fort Constitution, September 27, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: Colonel *Snyder* has just come down with three companies of his reginent, and more is daily expected.

"The enclosed is a letter for Mr. *Schenck*, urging him to forward the materials he was ordered to provide for these forts. I have wrote to him for five hundred weight more of iron, and about two hundred shingle lath if they can be sent down immediately with the twenty hogsheads of lime. We have two barracks raised, one at this fort and the other near *Fort Montgomery*, but we can't do much more to them for want of these materials, &c. I have received nails from the Quartermaster-General; I believe what will be sufficient. I am at a loss to know what to do with the troops, for want of barrack room, unless I detain the sloops that brought them down a few days; but if I get these necessaries to go on with the work, we will soon have room enough.

"I have two prisoners here that was sent down from *New-Windsor* on suspicion of buying butter, flour, &c., for the Ministerial Army. I will soon send you the particulars.

"I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

"JAMES CLINTON, *B. Gen'l.*

"Please to forward the enclosed to Mr. *Schenck*, after you have opened it, if you think proper."

(*Endorsed*—"To the President of the Congress of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*. Per Ser't *Cook*.")

The said Letter of General *Clinton* was immediately taken into consideration; and thereupon,

*Ordered*, That *John Schenck*, Esq., be, and he hereby is, directed to procure and forward to *Fort Constitution*, with the utmost despatch, five hundred weight more of Iron, and about two hundred Shingle Lath, together with the twenty hogsheads of Lime heretofore ordered to be sent thither.

A Letter from *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Secret Committee (for obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River,) was received and read, and is as follows, to wit:

"Poughkeepsie, Wednesday, 25th September, 1776.

"SIR: We've obtained two sloops, two brigs, and two large ships, for the purpose of obstructing the channel at *Fort Washington*. One of the sloops, the *Clinton*, heretofore purchased by the Committee, we found here; the other we've ordered from *Fort Montgomery*. The two brigs are here also, one of which belongs to *Malcom, Kip & Lott;* the other is a *New-England* vessel, about one hundred and twenty tons burthen, loaded with wheat, staves, and a considerable quantity of inch boards. The wheat and staves we've ordered to be stored; but sent down the boards for publick use. The ships are in *Esopus* Creek; owners, Messrs. *Franklin*. They are two very fine vessels, in the building of which much extraordinary pains have been taken, both as to timber and workmanship. On our going there, we ordered them to be hauled out, and expect they will proceed to *Fort Washington* this day. The two sloops, the *Clinton* and that from *Fort Montgomery*, we think are almost arrived by this time, as the *Clinton* sailed yesterday, with a fair wind, and the other must have proceeded from the fort shortly after the *Clinton's* arrival there; and as to the brigs, we shall be able to despatch them to-day also. The *Cambden*, Captain *Castle*, with near two thousand feet plank, and Captain *Donaldson*, with upwards of six thousand ditto, sailed yesterday also. The ships and brigs aforesaid we are to have appraised by the time they are ready to set off from here, and we imagine the ships will run very high.

"Our stock of money is very low, and our contracts far exceeding the sum we were furnished with. The demands on this Committee are frequent and urgent. Upon these considerations, we hope the Convention will, by some means or other, furnish us with a further supply.

"We are, sir, your humble servants. By order of the Committee:

ROBT. YATES, *Chairman.*"

A Letter from Mr. *Samuel Tudor*, one of the Agents superintending the building of the Continental Frigates at *Poughkeepsie*, was read, and is as follows, viz:

"Poughkeepsie, September 27th, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: Enclosed I send you General *Schuyler's* two letters of the 23d and 25th instant, with an order for more cordage. I'm on my own part extremely anxious to serve, to the best of my abilities, each department wherein the defence of our country is aimed at; but having this day received a letter from Mr. *Van Zandt*, one of the commissioners for building the ships, wherein he expresses his disapprobation of my sparing any of the materials belonging to the ships, without an express order from Congress or the commissioners. If I have hitherto erred, 'tis in judgment only, and with the advice of your honourable House. This second demand from General *Schuyler*, coming to hand unexpectedly, and immediately after the receipt of Mr. *Van Zandt's* letter, has put me to a stand. An indemnification, or letter of approbation from Congress, for our former proceedings, which you promised to procure for us, I believe is the reason of the Commissioners disapproving our going further, as that has not yet appeared either to them or us.

If you have procured it, pray send it, as also your most candid advice to me in the premises.

"I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

"SAML. TUDOR.

"Convention of the State of *New-York*."

Two Letters from General *Schuyler*, signed by *Richard Varick*, the one bearing date on the 23d and the other on the 25th instant, directed respectively to the Superintendents of the Continental Ships now building at *Poughkeepsie*, were read.

The General thereby applies to the Superintendents for Rigging, out of the Continental Stores at *Poughkeepsie*, to fit out some Row-Galleys on *Lake Champlain*.

A List of the Stores wanted for the said Row-Galleys was also enclosed in the said Letters, which was likewise read.

A Letter from *Robert Yates* and *Gilbert Livingston*, Esqs., two of the Committee for obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River, was received and read, and hereafter follows, viz:

"Poughkeepsie, September 27, 1776.

"SIR: The bearer hereof, Captain *John Hun*, is come down with three battoes from General *Schuyler*, for cordage. Captain *Tudor*, to whom he is directed, informs us that he cannot spare the quantity the General requires.

Out of one of the new ships belonging to *Franklin*, we have taken all the new cordage, and stored it with Captain *Schenck*. We acquaint you with this circumstance, that in case the Convention should judge it necessary, they may give directions to complete the remainder of the General's orders out of this store.

"We are, sir, your humble servants,

"ROBT. YATES.

"GILBERT LIVINGSTON.

"Captain *Schenck* has the charge of the cordage, and if any orders are given, they ought to be directed to him."

Endorsed, "To *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York, Fishkill.*"

*Ordered*, That the said Letters from General *Schuyler* and Inventory of Rigging wanted, the said Letter of Captain *Samuel Tudor*, received this day, and the Letter from Messrs. *Yates* and *Livingston*, of the 27th instant, be committed to Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Duane*, and Mr. *Cuyler*, and that they report thereon with all convenient speed, and have leave to withdraw for that purpose.

The Convention were informed that Colonel *Humphreys*, of *Dutchess* County, who is attending, alleges that it is impracticable for him to raise the proportion of the last Levies ordered to be detached from the Militia of this County, which ought to be detached from his Regiment.

Colonel *Humphrey*, called in, says, that he understands that the order for raising men is, that they be raised voluntarily; but if otherwise, 'tis his opinion that there are so many disaffected that they cannot be drafted; that the disaffected discourage others, by saying, that as *Long-Island* and *New-York* are taken, the enemy will take the forts in the Highlands, and that those taken in them will be hanged; that Captain *Johs. V. Duerson* says his whole Company, except his Lieutenant and himself, are Tories.

Colonel *Humphreys* withdrew.

Whereas twenty days have elapsed since a Resolution of this House was passed for a detachment of men of the Militia of *Dutchess* County, to reinforce the garrisons in the Highlands; and whereas the said detachment hath not yet been raised, and Colonel *Humphreys* hath represented to this Convention that great difficulties hath arisen in attempting to raise the same:

*Resolved*, That the Committee of the County of *Dutchess* be authorized and requested to provide that the said detachment be immediately raised, and, for that purpose, that they consult with and afford General *Ten Broeck* their advice, aid, and influence.

*Ordered*, That a copy hereof, and a copy of the Resolutions for raising the said Detachment, be immediately sent to the Chairman of the Committee of *Dutchess* County.

The Committee to whom were referred the Letters from General *Schuyler*, Mr. *Samuel Tudor*, and Messrs. *Yates* and *Livingston*, brought in their Report; which being read and adopted, the Convention came to the following determination on those Letters, viz:

Whereas Major General *Schuyler*, by Letters from his Secretary of the 23d and 25th instant, directed to the Superintendents of the Continental Ships which are now building at *Poughkeepsie*, has applied for cordage and rigging out of the Continental Stores there, for fitting out Row-Galleys on *Lake Champlain:* And whereas Mr. *Samuel Tudor*, one of the said Superintendents, by Letter of the 27th instant, has requested the advice of this Convention respecting a compliance with the said application; and there being a quantity of Rigging in store at *Fishkill Landing*, and likewise in the store of Mr. *John Schenck*, of *Poughkeepsie*, which was taken from vessels employed in obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River:

*Resolved, therefore*, That such of the articles as General *Schuyler* has applied for, which are in store at *Fishkill Landing*, and in Mr. *John Schenck's* store at *Poughkeepsie*, shall be delivered to Captain *Hunn*, being first appraised by three indifferent and skillful persons; and that it is the opinion of this Convention that such of the articles as shall not be found in the said stores ought immediately to be supplied by the Superintendents out of the Continental Stores at *Poughkeepsie*, it appearing to this Convention that the completing the Naval Armament for the protection and security of *Lake Champlain* is an object of the greatest moment to the *United States*, and will not admit of delay.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will make a proper representation to the Congress of the *United States*, of the reasons which have induced them to advise the Superintendents to deliver such Continental stores on Major-General *Schuyler's* requisition; and that this Convention will indemnify the said Superintendents for their compliance with these Resolutions.

On motion of Mr. *Jay*,

*Ordered*, That the Secretaries employ Mr. *Abraham W. De Peyster*, at the rate of one Dollar per day, to transcribe the Journals of the former Congresses of the Colony and of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

*Resolved*, That the President of the Convention for the time being, and Mr. *Robert Harper*, be a Committee to superintend the engrossing the Journals of the former Congresses of the Colony, and of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

Major *Lockwood* has leave of absence till next *Wednesday* evening.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Duane* be added to the Committee for forming a plan of Government; and

*Resolved*, That the Chairman of the said Committee with any four of the members be a quorum.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the several applications delivered on the 25th instant relative to the sale of Salt, delivered in their Report; which was read and ordered to be recommitted, and that Mr. *William Harper* and Mr. *Gansevoort* be added to the Committee.

*Resolved*, That the last Committee of Safety be revived, and that it consist of the same members, and with the same powers, and to continue until the next meeting of a quorum of the Convention.

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At Fishkill, Sunday morning, September 29, 1776.

The President and several of the Members met pursuant to adjournment.

No very urgent business offering, they adjourned till tomorrow morning, at nine o'clock.

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Monday morning, September 30, 1776.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Peter R. Livingston*, President.

For NEW-YORK—Mr. *Bancker*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Colonel *Jay*, Mr. *Duane*.

For WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Cortlandt*, Colonel *Drake*, Mr. *Tomkins*.

For ALBANY—Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Robert Yates*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Colonel *Livingston*.

For ORANGE—Colonel *Sherwood*.

For TRYON—Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkerk*.

For Ulster—Colonel *De Wit*, Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*.
For Charlotte—Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Duer*.
For Dutchess—Mr. *G. Livingston*, Mr. *Sacket*, Mr. *Schenck*.
For Cumberland—Mr. *Sessions*, Mr. *Stephens*.

A Letter from General *Mifflin*, directed to Captain *Benjamin Ayres*, was read, and is in the words following, viz:

"Mount Washington, September 28, 1776.

"Dear Sir: Colonel *Moylan* having resigned the Quartermaster-General's Department, and the General having requested me to act in his place until the pleasure of Congress is known, I earnestly desire you to go immediately to the *Fish Kilns*, and there wait on the President of the *New-York* Convention; entreat him in my name to give you every assistance in his power in the procuring boards of one inch and one-and-a-half inch, for the use of the Army here, who are now suffering much for want of them. We are in want of a much greater quantity of boards than I fear can be obtained this fall from this Colony; I therefore do not now limit your contract.

"If you see Mr. *Duer*, tell him I have seen his letter to Colonel *Moylan*. If he will undertake the business, and can promise his attendance to it, you will have little to do. If he requires your attendance in the Highlands, take his orders and execute them with your usual zeal and activity. At any rate, procure boards of one inch, which are much wanted. Ten thousand of one-and-a-half inches, for platforms; ten thousand ditto two-and-a-half ditto, should be had immediately if possible. I propose to go to *Philadelphia* this day, and to return in one week. Any orders drawn by you, or Mr. *Duer*, on account of boards and planks will be honoured.

"I am, sir, your hum. and d. servant,

"Thos. Mifflin, *Q. M. G.*

"Captain *Benjamin Ayres*."

Captain *Ayres* was called in, and he gave the Convention further information on the subject-matter of the said Letter.

Thereupon it was *Resolved and Ordered*, That Captain *John Schenck* be, and he hereby is directed, to purchase and forward down to *Spytdenduyvel Creek*, with the utmost despatch, one hundred hogsheads of Lime, as many hard and soft Bricks as he can procure, (not exceeding four hundred thousand,) any number of Shingles not exceeding one hundred thousand, and ten thousand Shingle Lath; that in case Captain *Schenck* cannot procure those articles with the consent of the owners thereof, that he be authorized to impress them, paying a reasonable price for the same. Also, Vessels, Teams, Wagons, Horses, and Men, for the purpose of conveying them speedily, it being of the utmost importance to the preservation of the Army and general cause of *America*, that those articles should be procured with the utmost expedition.

*Ordered further*, That Captain *Schenck* be directed to procure at the most reasonable rate he can, ten thousand feet of two-and-an-half inch of Oak Plank, and forward the same to *Spytdenduyvel Creek*, and that Captain *Schenck* draw on Captain *Benjamin Ayres*, at *Fishkills*, for such money as he may require in purchasing and procuring the above-mentioned articles.

Captain *Ayres* further informed the Convention, that he is directed by Quartermaster-General to procure large supplies of Grain and Cord Wood, for the use of the Army, and requests the aid of the Convention in the despatch of this most necessary business.

Thereupon it was *Ordered*, That Mr. *Dirk Jansen*, of the Manor *Livingston*, be authorized and requested to purchase and send down to *Spytdenduyvel Creek*, with the utmost despatch, to Brigadier-General *Mifflin*, Quartermaster-General to the *American* Army, three thousand bushels of Oats, four thousand bushels of old Corn, and one thousand bushels of Rye, at the most reasonable rate, not exceeding four shillings per bushel for Oats, and five shillings for old Corn and Rye, and that he draw on Captain *Benjamin Ayres*, at *Fishkill*, for payment of the same.

And *Ordered*, That the following persons, whose names are hereunder mentioned, be respectively authorized and requested to purchase and send down to *Spytdenduyvel Creek*, with the utmost despatch, for the use of the *American* Army, as much Cord Wood as they may be able respectively to obtain, and at the most reasonable rate, not exceeding twenty-four shillings per cord for Oak, and thirty-two shillings per cord for Nut Wood; and that on the delivery of any quantity of the said Wood there to Brigadier-General *Mifflin*, or his order, they apply to him for payment, to wit: *John Teller*, in *Dutchess* County; *William Danielson*, at *New-Marlborough*; *James Jackson*, at *New-Windsor*; *Isaac Belknap*, at *New-Burgh*; *Lewis Clark*, at *New-Burgh*; *Nicholas Brewer*, Jun., at *Wapping Kill*; *Arie Smith*, near *Naiock*; *Corns. Jansen*, at *Esopus Landing*; and *James Wells*, *Cocksackie*.

On motion of Colonel *De Wit*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the abuses committed in withholding of Tea by the owners or agents thereof, within this State, and also in the sale thereof at higher prices than that limited by Congress; and that they report thereon without delay; and that Colonel *De Wit*, Mr. *Gilbert Livingston*, Mr. *Robert Harper*, Mr. *Bancker*, and Mr. *Contine*, be the Committee.

*Ordered*, That Major *Henry Schenck* be, and hereby is, empowered to take charge of the Children of *Isaac Teller*, deceased; to place such of the said Children as he may think proper at board until further order.

*Ordered*, That the Committee at *Rhumbout* Precinct endeavour to make such provision for, or give such assistance at the publick expense to, *Vincent Carter's* Family as to prevent their perishing by cold or hunger.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Safety, appointed on the 27th instant, to continue until a meeting of the Convention, and which was revived on the 28th instant, consisting of the same members, and with the same powers and regulations, be again revived, to continue until a meeting of this Convention, with the same powers, regulations, and to consist of the same members.

A Letter from the honourable the Delegates for the State of *New-York*, at Continental Congress, was received and read, and is as follows:

"Philadelphia, 24th September, 1776.

"Gentlemen: We received your letter of the 9th *September*, with sundry enclosures, which were laid before Congress, who have come to several resolutions, a copy of which we send here enclosed. You will see that three tons of powder was directed to be delivered at *New-Windsor*, to be send to the forts; but that will not be done, as the wagons with the fifteen tons referred to in the resolution went by way of *Minisink*. The five tons we shall forward immediately. We obtained an order from Congress for six thousand seven hundred dollars, to be laid out in arms for your State, which we shall purchase when we have an opportunity. None are now to be had here, but parcels frequently arrive. If you should have occasion for the money for a more pressing purpose, you will please to acquaint us.

"We wrote you the 30th *August*, which we hope came to hand.

"The encouragement now given by Congress will, we hope, enable you to raise four complete battalions as speedily as possible. We refer you to the President's letter on that head. Four battalions is all that is required of *New-York*, including those already raised. Enclosed are sundry newspapers. We could wish to hear from you at least once a week, which seems to be more necessary now than ever.

"*Brookland*, on *Long-Island*, is burnt, as well as the City of *New-York*, without doubt on purpose. This account we have from Mr. *Blanchard*, of *Elizabeth-Town*.

"We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,

"Phil. Livingston,
"Wm. Floyd,
"Lewis Morris."

Sundry Resolutions of Congress, referred to and enclosed in the said Letter, were also read, and are as follows:

"In Congress, *September* 23d, 1776.—*Resolved*, That the *German* Battalion be ordered immediately to join the Army under General *Washington*, and that the President inform his Excellency of their march, and desire that he will order an equal number of men from his Army to garrison the Forts in the Highlands.

"That Mr. *J. Mease* be directed to supply the *German* Battalion with such articles of Clothing as they may stand

in need of, the same to be charged to their account and deducted out of the pay of the men.

"That three tons of the fifteen tons of Powder lately ordered to the Northern Army, and now on its way thither, be left at *New-Windsor*, in the State of *New-York*, and from thence conveyed to *Fort Montgomery*, and that five tons be immediately sent from the City of *Philadelphia*.

"That two Companies of the Marines lately raised, and now in *Philadelphia*, be ordered to march immediately for *Fort Montgomery*.

"That application be made to the Council of Safety of the State of *Pennsylvania*, to order one half of the Artillerymen now in the service of their State to proceed to *Fort Montgomery* as soon as possible.

"That Congress approve of the measures adopted by the Convention of *New-York* for the defence of the Highlands, and will cheerfully defray all the necessary expenses which may accrue.

"By order of Congress:

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President*."

"IN CONGRESS, *September* 20, 1776.—*Resolved*, That the sum of 6,700 Dollars be advanced to the Delegates of *New-York*, for the use of that State, the said State to be accountable.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHAS. THOMSON, *Secretary*."

A Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, President of the Continental Congress, enclosing sundry Resolutions, was received and read, and is as follows:

"Philadelphia, September 24, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: You will perceive by the enclosed resolves, which I have the honour to forward to you in obedience to the commands of Congress, that they have come to a determination to augment our Army, and to engage the troops to serve during the continuance of the war. As an inducement to inlist on these terms, the Congress have agreed to give, besides a bounty of twenty dollars, a hundred acres of land to each soldier; and in case he should fall in battle, they have resolved that his children, or other representatives, shall succeed to such land.

"The many ill consequences arising from a short and limited inlistment of troops, are too obvious to be mentioned. In general give me leave to observe, that to make men well acquainted with the duties of a soldier, requires time; and to bring them under proper subordination and discipline, not only requires time, but has always been a work of much difficulty. We have had frequent experience that men of a few days' standing will not look forward; but as the time of their discharge approaches grow careless of their arms, ammunition, &c., and impatient of all restraint; the consequence of which is, the latter part of the time for which the soldier was engaged is spent in undoing what the greatest pains had been taken to inculcate at first. Need I add to this that the fall of the late General *Montgomery* before *Quebeck* is undoubtedly to be ascribed to the limited time for which the troops were engaged, whose impatience to return home compelled him to make the attack contrary to the conviction of his own judgment? This fact alone furnishes a striking argument of the danger and impropriety of sending troops into the field under any restriction as to the time of their inlistment. The noblest enterprise may be left unfinished by troops in such a predicament, or abandoned at the very moment success must have crowned the attempt.

"The heavy and enormous expense consequent upon calling forth the Militia, the delay attending their motions, and the difficulty of keeping them in camp, render it extremely improper to place our whole dependence on them. Experience hath uniformly convinced us of this, some of the Militia having actually deserted the camp at the very moment their services were most wanted. In the mean time the strength of the *British* Army, which is great, is rendered much more formidable by the superiour order and regularity which prevail in it.

"Under these circumstances, and in this situation of our affairs, it is evident that the only means left us of our procuring our liberties is the measure the Congress have now adopted, and which I am ordered most earnestly to recommend to you to carry into immediate effect. Without a well-disciplined army, we can never expect success against veteran troops; and it is totally impossible we should ever have a well-disciplined army unless our troops are engaged to serve during the war.

"To attain, therefore, this most desirable end, I am to request you will at once, and without a moment's delay, lend all your attention to raise your quota of the *American* Army. The times call for the greatest despatch and vigour of conduct. When the bloody standard of tyranny is erected in a land of liberty, no good man, no friend of his country, can possibly remain an inactive spectator of her fall. Display, therefore, I most ardently entreat you, that virtue which alone can save her on this occasion. Let us convince our enemies, that as we entered into the present contest to defend our liberties, so we are resolved, with the firmest reliance on Heaven for the justice of our cause, never to relinquish it, but rather perish in the ruins of it. If we do but remain firm; if we are undismayed at the little shocks of fortune, and are determined at all hazards that we will be free, I am persuaded, under the gracious smiles of Providence, assisted by our own most strenuous endeavours, we shall finally succeed agreeably to our wishes, and thereby establish the independence, the happiness, and the glory of the *United States of America*.

"As the troops now in service belonging to the several States will be considered as a part of their quota in the *American* Army, you will please to take such steps as you judge necessary to ascertain what number of troops, as well as what officers, will engage to serve during the war. I send by this express blank commissions, to be filled with such as you shall please to appoint. I also forward a number of the rules and articles of war, as altered by Congress, and just published.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President*."

"Honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*."

The Resolutions referred to and enclosed in the foregoing Letter, are as follows:

"IN CONGRESS, *September* 16, 1776.—*Resolved*, That eighty-eight Battalions be inlisted as soon as possible, to serve during the present war, and that each State furnish their respective quotas in the following proportions, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *New-Hampshire*, | 3 | Battalions. |
| *Massachusetts-Bay*, | 15 | ditto. |
| *Rhode-Island*, | 2 | ditto. |
| *Connecticut*, | 8 | ditto. |
| *New-York*, | 4 | ditto. |
| *New-Jersey*, | 4 | ditto. |
| *Pennsylvania*, | 12 | ditto. |
| *Delaware*, | 1 | ditto. |
| *Maryland*, | 8 | ditto. |
| *Virginia*, | 15 | ditto. |
| *North-Carolina*, | 9 | ditto. |
| *South-Carolina*, | 6 | ditto. |
| *Georgia*, | 1 | ditto. |

"That twenty Dollars be given as a bounty to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier, who shall inlist to serve during the present war, unless sooner discharged by Congress:

"That Congress make provision for granting Lands, in the following proportion: To the Officers and Soldiers who shall so engage in the service, and continue therein to the close of the war, or until discharged by Congress, and to the representatives of such Officers and Soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy—such lands to be provided by the *United States*, and whatever expense shall be necessary to procure such land, the said expense shall be paid and borne by the States in the same proportion as the other expenses of the war, viz:

"To a Colonel, 500 acres; to a Lieutenant-Colonel, 450 do.; to a Major, 400 do.; to a Captain, 300 do.; to a Lieutenant, 200 do.; to an Ensign, 150 do.; each Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier, 100 do.:

"That the appointment of all Officers and filling up vacancies (except General Officers) be left to the Governments of the several States, and that every State provide Arms, Clothing, and every necessary for its quota of Troops, according to the foregoing estimate; the expense of the Clothing to be deducted from the pay of the Soldiers, as usual:

"That all Officers be commissioned by Congress:

"That it be recommended by the several States that they take the most speedy and effectual measures for inlisting their several quotas; that the money to be given for bounties be paid by the Paymaster in the department where the Soldier shall inlist:

"That each Soldier receive pay and subsistence from the time of their inlistment."

"SEPTEMBER 18th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That if Rations be received by the Officers or Privates in the Continental Army in money, they be paid at the rate of eight-ninetieth parts of a dollar per ration:

"That the Bounty and grants of Land offered by Congress, by a resolution of the 16th instant, as an encouragement to the Officers and Soldiers to engage to serve in the Army of the *United States* during the war, shall extend to all who are or shall be inlisted for that term: the bounty of ten dollars which any of the Soldiers have received from the Continent on account of a former inlistment, to be reckoned in part payment of the twenty dollars offered by said resolution:

"That no Officer in the Continental Army is allowed to hold more than one commission, or to receive pay but in one capacity."

"SEPTEMBER 19th, 1776.—That the Adjutants of Regiments in the Continental Army be allowed the Pay and Rations of Captains, and have the rank of First Lieutenants.

"In order to prevent the Officers and Soldiers who shall be entitled to the Lands hereafter to be granted by the resolution of Congress of the 16th, from disposing of the same during the war,

"*Resolved*, That this Congress will not grant Lands to any person or persons claiming under the assignment of an Officer or Soldier.

"By order of the Congress:

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*"

"Philadelphia, September 24, 1776.

"SIR: I had the honour to receive your letter accompanying the resolve of Congress relative to my return to resume the command of my brigade. At a time when the State to which I belong is invaded, and particularly as I am honoured with a military command, I esteem it my duty to account for my absence.

"Since my arrival at *Philadelphia*, the State of *New-York* has had no more than a representation in Congress; and as the gentlemen of the Committee for *Indian* Affairs were mostly out of town, the whole of that necessary business has devolved upon me. My family have been obliged to desert their home; and meeting with them in this place altogether unprovided, I have been under the necessity of delaying the time of my stay until I could fix them in some situation where they could be accommodated. The distress of my family on this occasion made it my particular duty to attend to them, and which I flatter myself will be justifiable upon every principle of justice.

"The situation of my brigade, I was convinced, was well known to the Convention. I apprehended that not more than a Colonel's command was left in it, and as such did not think my presence was so absolutely necessary. I have thought that the existence of such a brigade, in which were so many disaffected persons, was dangerous to the cause, as well as to my own life. But being desirous to participate in the virtuous opposition to the *British* tyrant, I had determined, as soon as possible, to join General *Washington*, and contribute my assistance to him, prompted, in the first instance, by a love to my country, and in the next place, the preservation of my property, being thoroughly convinced, that unless we conquer, I am ruined. However, in obedience to the commands of Convention, I shall prepare, with all possible expedition, to set out for *Westchester*, and will endeavour to execute any orders they may be pleased to give to the utmost of my ability.

"I have the honour to subscribe myself, sir, your obliged and obedient humble servant,

"LEWIS MORRIS."

Whereas the Convention have granted an exemption from military duty to Mr. *Charles Shaw;* and whereas *Richard Morris*, Esq., is exempted therefrom by his commission, agreeable to the regulation of the Militia of this State; notwithstanding which, as this Committee are informed, Captain *Berrian* insists upon their serving in the Militia: This Committee are of opinion that Captain *Berrian* should, agreeable to the Resolution of the Convention of this State, consider the said *Charles Shaw* and *Richard Morris* as exempt from military duty, and that a contrary conduct will be considered as a high contempt of the authority of this State, and punished as such.

—

Die Martis, 9 ho. A. M., October 1st, 1776.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President.

NEW-YORK—Mr. *Robert Harper*, Mr. *Bancker*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Joy*, Mr. *Duane*.

WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Drake*, Colonel *V. Cortlandt*, Mr. *Tompkins*.

ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Gansevoort*.

ORANGE—Mr. *Wisner*, Colonel *Sherwood*.

CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*, Mr. *Sessions*.

ULSTER—Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*.

TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*.

DUTCHESS—Mr. *G. Livingston*, Dr. *Crane*, Mr. *Z. Platt*, Mr. *Sackett*.

CHARLOTTE—Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*.

The Convention were informed that *Richard Gazatt*, one of the persons who has been detained at *Fishkill* by the Guard as a suspicious person, is said to be dangerously ill; that a Doctor, or Physician, is unwilling to continue his attendance or care of him without security for payment from this State:

*Resolved*, This Convention will provide means that the Physician who shall attend the said *Richard Gazatt* shall have a reasonable reward for his trouble in the premises.

It being represented to the Convention that *Mary Dunscomb*, the wife of *James Dunscomb*, (now in the *American* troops of this State,) with her children, are in the *New-Windsor* Precinct, in *Ulster* County, and unable to procure the means of support,

*Ordered*, That the Committee of *New-Windsor*, at the publick expense of this State, afford such assistance to the said *Mary Dunscomb* as may enable her (together with every other lawful means) to have the necessaries of life for herself and children.

A Letter from *Thaddeus Burr*, Sheriff of *Fairfield* County, in *Connecticut*, of the 27th *September* last, to the President of this Convention, informing that, at the request of *Thomas Tredwell*, and other gentlemen of *Long-Island*, he had received into his Jail *Isaac Ketchem* and *Samuel Skidmore*, who were held by no legal process, and requesting the direction of this Convention relative thereto, was read and considered; and thereupon the Convention came to the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That a copy of the late Resolutions of this House, authorizing and directing *John Sloss Hobart*, Esq., to send *Isaac Ketchem* to this place, be forthwith sent to *Thaddeus Burr*, Esq.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Burr* be requested to detain the said *Samuel Skidmore* (who is accused of treasonable practices against this State) in his custody till this Convention shall give further directions concerning him, and that all charges and expenses attending a compliance with this request will be defrayed; and for that purpose that Mr. *Burr* be authorized to draw for the amount thereof on the President of the Convention for the time being.

Mr. *G. Livingston*, from the Committee appointed yesterday to remedy the abuses committed in withholding the sales of Tea, and in making sales higher than the limited prices, brought in their Report; which was read. After some time spent therein,

*Ordered*, That the further consideration thereof be postponed till to-morrow.

A Letter from *Peter T. Curtenius*, dated at *Hackensack*, on the 16th of *September*, was read and filed. He therein informs that he had not any Military Stores in his hands, having from time to time delivered them to the Military Storekeeper, Mr. *Norwood*, and that, after his removal, the evidence was delivered to Mr. *Zedekiah Mills;* that, in obedience to the order of the Committee of Safety of the

10th *September*, he had enclosed an account of the quantity of lead, &c., shipped off, and the persons' names to whom delivered, to wit:

An account of Lead and Ball, &c., shipped off by *Peter T. Curtenius* agreeable to orders of Congress, and delivered to the following persons, viz:

| To whom delivered. | Pounds of lead. | Pounds of ball. | Bullet-moulds. | Bill-hooks. | Tomahawks. | Shovels. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nathl. Sackett, Dutchess | 6,000 | | | | | |
| Jon'n Platt, Westchester | 750 | 750 | | | | |
| Henry Wisner, Jun., Ulster | 6,000 | | | | | |
| Do. Orange | 4,000 | | | | | |
| Simon Stevens, Gloster and Cumberland | 7,500 | | | | | |
| Col. L. Paulding, G. Clinton's Camp | 9,772 | - | 8 | | | |
| John Loyd, Stamford | 44,800 | | | | | |
| Zedekiah Mills | 11,200 | - | - | 309 | 340 | 12 |
| Casper Mabie and J. Herring, Orange | 22,400 | | | | | |
| Delivered by order of General Washington to E. Cheevers, Com'sary of Artillery Stores. | 51,520 | 41,716 | | | | |
| | 163,942 | 42,466 | 8 | 309 | 340 | 12 |

An Account of the Ball and Flints delivered by *Peter T. Curtenius* before Mr. *Norwood's* appointment:

| To— | Ball. | Flints. |
|---|---|---|
| Tryon County | 600 | 3,000 |
| Westchester County | 800 | 4,000 |
| Ulster County | 400 | 2,000 |
| Dutchess County | 1,000 | 5,000 |
| Albany County | 2,000 | 9,500 |
| Suffolk County | 1,000 | 5,000 |
| New-York | 1,350 | |
| | 7,150 | 28,500 |

Mr. *Curtenius*, by his said Letter, further informs that he has engaged one hundred Muskets of Mr. *Allen* and Mr. *Varick*, which they say will be ready in a month, and that twenty-five of them are ready now.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Contine*, Dr. *Crane*, and Mr. *Moore*, be a Committee appointed to fix the price to be paid for the Spears and Spear Handles which have been ordered by this Convention to be made and provided.

Mr. *Tredwell*, one of the Committee appointed yesterday to devise ways and means to procure Clothing for the Continental Troops raised in this State, being absent,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Bancker* and Mr. *Tompkins* be added to that Committee.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, dated 28th *September*, and another Letter from Mr. *Tilghman*, dated the 29th, to Mr. *Duer*, were respectively read.

He therein gives an account of the arrival at Camp of two very large Mortars from *Boston*; that *Mount Washington* is strengthened; and that the Army are fortifying their flanks.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Gilbert Livingston* endeavour to procure the use of a large iron Stove for this Convention.

*Ordered*, That a Commission issue, appointing *Thomas Storm* Captain of a Company of the Militia detached from the Militia of *Dutchess* County to augment the Forts and Garrisons in the Highlands, pursuant to the Resolutions of this Convention on the 7th of *September*. The said Commission to appoint him Captain in addition to his present command in the Militia of this County, and to be in force until the said Company is discharged.

*Ordered*, That a like Commission issue, appointing Mr. *Gilbert Deane* (in addition to his command in the Militia of his County) Captain of a Company of Militia in Colonel *Samuel Drake's* Regiment, of General *Scott's* Brigade, to be in force till that Company is discharged.

*Ordered*, That a Commission, dated 25th *September*, 1776, issue to *Samuel Drake*, a Colonel of a Minute Regiment in *Westchester* County, to replace his former Commission, which has been taken by the enemy.

The said three Commissions issued.

Die Mercurii, 9 ho. A. M., October 2, 1776.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President.

New-York—Mr. *Bancker*, *R. Harper*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Duane*.

Albany—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *R. Yates*.

Ulster—Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*.

Dutchess—Mr. *Z. Platt*, Mr. *Sacket*, *R. R. Livingston*, Dr. *Crane*.

Westchester—Mr. *Tompkins*, Colonel *Drake*.

Cumberland—Mr. *Sessions*, Mr. *Stevens*.

Orange—Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Little*.

Tryon—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*.

Charlotte—Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Duer*.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman* to the Committee of Correspondence, dated the 30th *September*, was read. The said Letter contains accounts of the disposition of the Army of the enemy; also, some particulars relative to the disaffected persons. The contents of this Letter was charged from the Chair to be kept secret.

The Convention was informed by Mr. *Duer* that the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of Captain *Clark's* Company of Guards now here cannot procure subsistence here at the lowest for less than ten shillings per week, and appear dissatisfied to spend any part of their pay. The Convention also took into consideration the Petition of the Subalterns, Non-commissioned Officers and Privates, of Captain *Micha Townsend*, of *Westchester* County, praying for an increase of their subsistence:

Thereupon *Resolved*, That the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the several Companies of Guards or Rangers employed in the Counties of *Dutchess* and *Westchester*, under the command of Captain-Commandant *Melancthon Smith*, be allowed ten shillings per week each for their subsistence from this day during their continuance in that service.

Mr. *Z. Platt* informed the Convention that Colonel *V. Cortlandt* and himself had been under a necessity, during the time of their supplying the Militia on the east side of *Hudson* River by order of the Convention, to advance some small sums of money for Ammunition and other Military Stores in the department of the Commissary of Military Stores. That it would also tend to prevent confusion in the publick accounts if Colonel *Cortlandt* and himself should be ordered and authorized to settle accounts with, and discharge the moneys due to, *George Comb*, of *Westchester* County, who, by order of the Convention, supplied the Militia a few days before the appointment of Messrs. *Cortlandt* and *Platt*, and has also supplied some small matters since Mr. *Paulding's* appointment and his acting as Commissary,

*Resolved and Ordered*, That *George Combe* be directed to settle his Accounts with Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt* and Mr. *Z. Platt*, for all such articles and things as he has supplied to the Militia in service at the times above-mentioned; and they are also hereby authorized to settle with the said *George Combe*, and pay him as well for his disbursements as his services.

And *Resolved*, That Messrs. *Van Cortlandt* and *Platt* do settle and discharge such Accounts as they necessarily contracted in the department of a Commissary of Militia Stores; for which this shall be their justification.

A Letter from *Andrus De Witt* to *Matthew Contine*, dated the 30th *September*, was read and filed. He thereby informs that the inhabitants of *Papaconck* are in great fear of a rupture with the *Indians;* that a person who rode express to him with a succeeding annexed letter from those inhabitants, informed him that an old Squaw (weeping much) had desired the inhabitants to move this week to get out of danger, and that she would not see them in a long time; that the said express told him there remained at *Papaconck* nine families, amounting to the number of between sixty and seventy children, and that they would speedily move if they could not get assistance.

A Letter from *A. De Witt* and *D. Wynkoop*, Jun., to the Convention, was read as follows, to wit:

"Sir: Agreeable to the resolves of the Convention of the State, we have distributed part of the gunpowder, lead, and flints to the inhabitants of *Papaconck* and the *Indians*

*

near us; and as far as we can learn, they remain peaceably inclined. By enclosed letter it appears that the inhabitants of *Papaconck* are under apprehensions of danger; and the bearer of their letter further informed us, that an old *Indian* squaw had warned them to be on their guard; that she expected that in case they did not move off they would be murdered by the *Indians* in a short time. This is all the intelligence we have got as yet, but believe that in case no assistance is given to them, they shall move off in a short time.

"We remain, sir, your most obedient servants,

"A. De Witt,
"D. Wynkoop, Jun.

"Kingston, 30th September, 1776.

"To the President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

A Letter from the inhabitants of *Papaconck*, enclosed in the preceding Letter, was received and read; and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Papaconck, September 26, 1776.

"Sir: Agreeable to what was agreed on by yourself and Judge *Wynkoop* and *William Pick*, when Mr. *Sprague* and myself was at *Marble-town*, do on the earliest notice send the bearer hereof to notify you of the danger we, the settlers here and hereabout, are in from the savages distressing of us immediately. The intelligence is nearly as follows: Last *Friday* two men came down the *Rookouse Branch*, with a letter to the Committee at the *Mennasink*, sent by the interpreter who says that Sir *John Johnson* has sent to the *Indians*, that they must take up arms one side or the other, and that they were gone to treat with *Johnson* at *Oswego*, and it was expected that they would strike on the frontiers very soon. And since the above letter was sent down, an *Indian* named *John Shiling*, or *John Renepee*, was down the river after King *Philip*, and said this week was the last that we might stay with safety. Said news has occasioned all the settlers below us to move off, and some of them we have stopped till we can have advice from you; and pray, sir, forward the same; and if we can have help, do let it be soon, for it is evidently expected we shall all be cut off the middle of next week, except we have help.

"Sir, we remain your obedient distressed friends, in haste,

"Silas Bowker, Timothy Gregory,
"Peter Averee, Jona. Hicks,
"Abel Sprague, Jacob Kern,
"Wm. Rosse, Thos. Cumming.
"Russel Gregory,

"Esquire *De Wit*."

"P. S. Sir: The above was wrote and afterwards the inhabitants below our settlements concluded to move off, and are gone; but we the subscribers have concluded to stay till we can have advice from you, and have agreed to build a picket fort. Sir, yours, &c.,

"Geo. Barnhart,
"Jacob Austin."

The Convention proceeded to consider the state of the frontier inhabitants of *Ulster* County. After some time spent therein, Mr. *William Harper* moved and was seconded, that the Committee of *Ulster* County be directed immediately to order the Rangers already raised in that County to proceed to the frontiers of the County to protect the inhabitants there, and to expedite the residue of the said Rangers.

Debates arose thereon. Mr. *Gansevoort* moved, seconded by Colonel *De Witt*, for the previous question, Whether the question on Mr. *Harper's* motion shall be now put; and it carried against the previous question, and for the motion, by a great majority. Therefore,

*Resolved and Ordered*, That the Committee of *Ulster* County be and hereby are directed immediately to order the Rangers already raised in that County to proceed to the frontiers of the County to protect the inhabitants there, and that they expedite the raising of the residue of the Rangers with all possible despatch.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Robert Yates*, Mr. *Robert Harper*, and Colonel *De Witt*, be a Committee to take Letters from *Ulster* County, read and before mentioned, the Resolutions for detaching part of the Militia of *Ulster* County for augmenting the garrisons of the Fortifications in the Highlands, the Resolutions of Congress relative to an augmentation to those Garrisons from *Pennsylvania*, with the Letter from the Delegates of this State accompanying the same, in order that further means may be devised, if necessary, to afford assistance to the frontier inhabitants of *Ulster* County.

A Letter from *Philip Livingston*, Esq., one of the Delegates of this State at Congress, was read, and is as follows, to wit:

"Philadelphia, 28th September, 1776.

"Gentlemen: We received your letter desiring us to apply to Congress for the loan of a sum of money. We have applied accordingly, and obtained an order on the Treasury for one hundred thousand dollars, which will certainly be sent you by *Thursday* next.

"Your resolutions respecting General *Schuyler* we have laid before Congress, and they have appointed a Committee to consider them, who have promised us to report on *Monday* next. The Committee is to our wishes, viz: Mr. *Rutledge*, Mr. *Hooper*, and Mr. *McKean*. As soon as this report is agreed to, it shall be forwarded for your information. It will, without question, be satisfactory.

"We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,

"Phil. Livingston.

"*Abm. Yates*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

*Ordered*, That this Letter be committed to the same Committee with the last Letter received from the Delegates of this State, to wit, Mr. *Robert Yates*, Mr. *Duane*, and Mr. *Tompkins*.

Mr. *R. R. Livingston* informed the Convention that agreeable to their order, we have waited upon General *Schuyler*, and spent some days in inquiring into the reasons of his resignation, and examining his papers and letters relative to his conduct since his acceptance of the command in the Northern Department. That Major-General *Schuyler* informed him that he had been unjustly calumniated by many people in this Colony, by more in the neighbouring States; that he had been accused of disaffection to the cause of *America*, at the very time he was making the greatest exertions in her behalf; and that the false zeal of several had carried them so far as to lay schemes for his imprisonment, and the malice of others led them to transmit *ex parte* and false affidavits, in order to degrade his character to General *Washington;* that by this wicked and malconceived conduct, his utility in the Army was in a great measure destroyed; that he had applied frequently to the honourable the Congress for an inquiry into his conduct; that his letters were as yet unanswered and neglected; that he thought, therefore, the justice he owed to his own reputation and the publick, obliged him to take the step he had taken.

Mr. *Livingston* further informed the Convention that he had reason to believe, from the papers and letters of Major-General *Schuyler*, (which he had carefully inspected,) that his conduct would stand the severest scrutiny, and that upon an inquiry he would not only be acquitted of all censure, but appear worthy of the thanks and approbation of the Continent.

Mr. *Duane*, from the Committee* appointed to take into consideration the application of Major *Joab Hoisington*, for money to discharge the residue of the Bounty, and one month's Pay and Rations to the Rangers in the County of *Gloucester* and *Cumberland*, and also the Letter from the Committee of *Cumberland* County of 21st *June* last, delivered in their Report; which was read. It was ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow, for the perusal of the Members, and to be read a second time to-morrow morning.

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Die Mercurii, 4 ho. P. M., Octobr. 2, 1776.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President.
New-York—Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *R. Harper*.
Cumberland—Mr. *Sessions*, Mr. *Stevens*.
Albany—Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.

*In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, *October* 2, 1776.

The Committee to whom were referred a Letter from the Committee of the County of *Cumberland*, of the 21st day of *June* last, and the application of Major *Joab Hoisington* for the pay and subsistence of the Rangers directed to be raised for the defence of the said County and of the County of *Gloucester*, made their Report; which being twice read,

*Ordered*, That the consideration thereof be postponed till to-morrow, and that the same lie on the table for the perusal of the Members.

WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Tompkins*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*.
DUTCHESS—Dr. *Crane*.
CHARLOTTE—Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Little*.

No other Members appearing, and there being a quorum of no more than five Counties, they could not proceed to business, and adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Die Jovis, 9 ho. A. M., October 3, 1776.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *P. R. Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Duane*, Colonel *Lott*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Bancker*, Mr. *R. Harper*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Little*, Mr. *Wisner*.
ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Gansevoort*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Tompkins*, Colonel *Drake*, Major *Lockwood*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*, Colonel *De Witt*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
DUTCHESS—Dr. *Crane*, Captain *Platt*, Mr. *Sackett*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Duer*.
CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Sessions*, Mr. *Stevens*.

Mr. *Wisner*, from the Committee appointed to make an estimate of the price of the Spears directed to be made for the use of the Militia of this State, reported as follows, to wit:

That the Smiths be allowed for the Spears steeled 5*s*. 6*d*. per Spear, and for those without steel, including the rivets, 4*s*. 6*d*., and that the Carpenters be allowed 1*s*. for each shaft, or handle. That the Smith and the Carpenter, each taking his part of that business, are to fit in the handles, rivet them in the Spears, and fit them for use, for the above price, so that when completed, the price for those Spears that are steeled be 6*s*. 6*d*., and those not steeled 5*s*. 6*d*. The same being read, was agreed to.

The Committee to whom were referred the Letters from the *New-York* Delegates in Continental Congress of the 24th and 28th ultimo, reported a draft of a Letter in answer thereto; which was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

"GENTLEMEN: I am directed by the Convention to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 24th and 28th ultimo. In consequence of the resolves of Congress to raise four battalions, a Committee is appointed to report a plan to carry these resolves into execution. Convention have great reason to expect that an inquiry into General *Schuyler's* conduct will clear his character from the aspersions which some have industriously endeavoured to throw on it, and are happy to hear that the persons appointed by Congress as a Committee are such as you approve of. The money you have obtained from Congress is a seasonable supply, and we thank you for your endeavours to procure it. It is the design of the Convention to write to you as often as occurrences arise worthy of notice.

"I am, gentlemen, most respectfully, your very humble servant. By order.

"The Honourable the *New-York* Delegates in Congress, *Philadelphia*."

*Ordered*, That the same be copied, signed by the President, and transmitted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the honourable the Congress, for their late vote of an advance of Money to this State, agreeable to the request of this Convention for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That the Committee to whom were referred the late Letters from the Delegates of this State, report a draft of a Letter for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. *Jay*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to devise ways and means for rendering the communication by land between the northern and southern parts of this State, and between this and the Southern States, more easy and practicable, and that they report with all possible speed.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *De Witt*, Mr. *Jay*, Doctor *Crane*, and Colonel *Drake*, be a Committee for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *William Duer*, Esq., on account of Brigadier-General *Mifflin*, Quartermaster-General to the Continental Army, the sum of six hundred Pounds, which sum the said *William Duer* engages to repay into the Treasury in the space of ten days.

Colonel *Lott* informed the Convention that the poor inhabitants of the City of *New-York*, which were lately sent to *New-Windsor*, are provided with Provisions in a very expensive manner:

Therefore, *Ordered*, That Colonel *Lott* and Major *Parks* be a Committee to devise a more economical mode of providing for them.

*Resolved*, That the Committee to whom were referred the Resolutions of Congress relative to the raising the four Continental Regiments in this State to serve during the war, be and they hereby are authorized to apply to any officer in the Continental service, and obtain from them proper returns and information respecting the rank and number of officers and men raised in this State, together with the terms of their inlistment, and such other intelligence as the said Committee may think necessary to enable them to form their Report.*

*Ordered*, That the President do without delay provide two large iron Stoves for the use of this Convention, at the publick expense.

*Resolved*, That the sum of six thousand Pounds be deposited into the hands of Messrs. *John R. Livingston* and *Abraham P. Lott*, who hereby are authorized and requested to dispose thereof in purchasing on account of this State, Coarse Cloth, Linsey Woolsey, Shoes, Woollen Stockings, Blankets, and Tanned Leather, together with such other articles as they may think proper for clothing the Troops raised in this State, and that they be allowed two and a half per cent. for commissions in purchasing the said goods, the State to be at the expense of transporting the same to such place as shall be ordered by this Convention.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to Messrs. *John R. Livingston* and *Abraham P. Lott* the sum of six thousand Pounds, to be by them disposed of in purchasing Coarse Cloths and other articles necessary for the Troops raised in this State, and that he take their receipt to account for the same.

Mr. *Z. Platt* brought into Convention a Return or Rank Roll of the Officers employed in Colonel *Morris Graham's*

* The Committee, to whom is referred the resolves of Congress of the 16th of *September* instant, for the raising in this State four Battalions to serve during the present war, as part of eighty-eight Battalions to be raised in the *United States of America;* as also the letters from the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President, of the 24th instant, and of *Ph. Livingston*, *Wm. Floyd*, and *Lewis Morris*, three of the Delegates from this State, explanatory of those resolves, do thereupon report, that in order to carry the resolves of Congress into execution, it may be necessary to enumerate to this Board the troops raised in this State, and still in the service thereof, and the different designs whereon they were raised:

1st. That by the resolves of the Committee of Safety of the 27th day of *January* last, four Battalions were ordered to be raised for garrisons in the State, each Battalion to consist of eight Companies; each Company of one Captain, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, four Sergeants, four Corporals, one Drum, one Fife, and seventy-six Privates.

2d. That in consequence of those directions, the said Battalions were soon thereafter raised, under the command of Colonels *McDougall*, *Clinton*, *Ritzema*, and *Wynkoop*.

3d. That by the instructions of the inlistment it appears to your Committee that no limitation is mentioned as to the time of their service.

4th. That by the letters above referred to, it appears that the troops already raised in this State are considered as part of its quota.

If these were the only Battalions raised in the State of *New-York*, your Committee conceive that the resolves of Congress could with great ease be put in practice, by new commissioning the officers of those Battalions, and aiding them to recruit to supply any deficiency. But your Committee, in justice to the rank and services of the officers who served last year in *Canada*, who are again incorporated in two new Battalions, do further report, that on the 9th day of *January* last past, Congress resolved that Colonel *Van Schaick* and the other Field-Officers of the Second Battalion, be continued in the service of the *United Colonies*, and that they take the command of the Battalions then to be raised in *New-York* for *Canada*. That on the day of last, Congress resolved that another Battalion should be raised in this State, under the command of Colonel *Nicholson*, out of the troops which had served the year before in *Canada*. Your Committee further observe, that both those Battalions are officered and recruited here, and are now in actual service, and so to continue till the last day of *December* next. From hence it appears to your Committee, that there are more officers in the service of the State than will be necessary to the command of the four Battalions required by Congress. In order, therefore, that this Convention may be truly informed of the respective ranks, merits, and services of all the officers in this State, your Committee do further report, that it will be expedient to obtain, with all possible despatch, from the commanding officers a rank roll of all the officers now in the service of this State, in order that this Convention may select the proper officers for the command of those Battalions. ROBT. YATES.

Regiment, and moved that Commissions might be issued for the Officers in that service, to be in force until the Regiment is discharged.

The said Rank Roll was read, and is as follows, to wit:

*A Rank Roll of Colonel* MORRIS GRAHAM'S *Regiment of Foot, in service of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *under the command of Brigadier-General* CLINTON, *at Head-Quarters,* KING'S BRIDGE, *September the* 10*th*, 1776.

*Morris Graham*, Colonel; *Roswell Hopkins*, Lieutenant-Colonel; *William Barker*, Major.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Captain, Brinton Paine | 1st Lieut., | Samuel Waters, |
| | 2d do. | William Meade. |
| 2d Captain, Peter Stoutenburgh | 1st Lieut., | William Denmison, |
| | 2d do. | Ebenezer Mott. |
| 3d Captain, Israel Platt | 1st Lieut., | Reuben Hopkins, |
| | 2d do. | Jonas Parks. |
| 4th Captain, Elisha Barlow | 1st Lieut., | Ezra St. John, |
| | 2d do. | Ebenezer Carter. |
| 5th Captain, Andries Herrmmance | 1st Lieut., | Her'n J. Knickerbaker, |
| | 2d do. | George Sharpe. |
| 6th Captain, William Stewart | 1st Lieut., | John L. Hardenbergh, |
| | 2d do. | John Seaton. |
| 7th Captain, John Van Steenbergh | 1st Lieut., | Stephen Edget, |
| | 2d do. | Benjamin Bogardus. |
| 8th Captain, James Teller | 1st Lieut., | William Tremper, |
| | 2d do. | Paul Van Auden. |

Staff Officers; *Reuben Hopkins*, Adjutant; *George Morehouse*, Quarter-master; , Surgeon; , Mate.

*Ordered*, That Commissions issue to the Officers named in the preceding Rank Roll of Colonel *Morris Graham's* Regiment, appointing each of them respectively to the rank therein mentioned, in addition to their respective former rank or station in the Militia, and to continue in force only until the said Regiment is discharged.

A Return, or Rank Roll, of the Officers at present in service under the command of *Cornelius Humfrey*, Esq., as Colonel, was read. The Colonel therein requests Commissions for the said Officers.

And the said Rank Roll being read, is in the words following, that is to say:

"Fort Montgomery, September 27, 1776.

"SIR: Agreeable to the discourse that passed between you and myself concerning commissions for my officers, I have enclosed their names and rank, as follows, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Captain, Hugh Rea | 1st Lieut., | Daniel Wilson, |
| | 2d do. | James Humfrey. |
| 2d Captain, John Dorlon | 1st Lieut., | William B. Alger, |
| | 2d do. | Daniel Outwater. |
| 3d Captain, Joshua Barnum | 1st Lieut., | Jos. Townsend, |
| | 2d do. | William Woodworth. |
| 4th Captain, Colbee Chamberlain | 1st Lieut., | James Tilmage, |
| | 2d do. | Daniel Hamell. |
| 5th Captain, Caleb Bently | 1st Lieut., | Van Vrank, |
| | 2d do. | Mageer. |

"As also a commission for myself and Major *Renserlow*. As for his Christian name, I have not at present; but if you see fit to send down those commissions for all, or part, just as you may think proper, I shall be able to put in those Christian names that are left out.

"Gentlemen, your compliance will very much oblige

"CORN'S HUMFREY, *Colonel.*

"Mr. *Livingston.*"

*Ordered*, That Commissions issue to the Officers named in the preceding Rank Roll of Colonel *Humfrey's* Regiment, appointing each of them respectively to the rank therein mentioned, in addition to their former rank or station in the Militia, and to continue in force only until the said Regiment is discharged.

A Return of an election of Officers of a Company of Militia in the Precinct of *Shawangunk*, in *Ulster* County, which Return is certified by *Mathew Rea*, Chairman of the Committee of *Shawangunk*, was read and filed. The said *Mathew Rea* having resigned the command of that Company, it is thereby certified that *Ira Robinson* was duly promoted and elected Captain, *James Hunter* First Lieutenant, *James Kaine*, Jun., Second Lieutenant, and *Evert Hoffman* Ensign.

*Ordered*, That their Commissions issue.

And they were issued accordingly.

—

Die Veneris, 9 ho. A. M., October 4, 1776.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Peter R. Livingston*, President.

NEW YORK—Mr. *Bancker*, Colonel *Lott*, Mr. *R. Harper*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Jay.*

ORANGE—Mr. *Little*, Mr. *Wisner.*

ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Ganse-voort*, Mr. *Robert Yates.*

WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood.*

ULSTER—Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks.*

TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *William Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Paris.*

DUTCHESS—Dr. *Crane*, Mr. *Sackett*, Mr. *Z. Platt.*

CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Williams.*

CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*, Mr. *Sessions.*

A draft of a Letter to the honourable the President of Congress was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

"SIR: This Convention have had the pleasure of receiving information through their Delegates, that a resolution has passed the honourable Congress of the *United States* for advancing to this State one hundred thousand dollars. They are highly sensible of this seasonable relief, which, amidst a crowd of difficulties and accumulating expenses, may enable them to support publick credit, alleviate the sufferings of their fellow-citizens, and continue their strenuous exertions in the common cause.

"They have, sir, directed me to present, in the most respectful terms, their thanks to the honourable Congress for this fresh instance of their confidence and regard, which I beg you will be pleased to communicate.

"I have the honour to be, with the utmost regard, &c.

"To the Hon. *John Hancock*, President of the Congress."

Mr. *Duane* mentioned that Mr. *Gerard Bancker*, the Deputy Treasurer, had, in pursuance of an application to Colonel *Trumbull*, the Commissary-General, by order of this Convention, lately received of him a considerable sum of money on account of the Pork supplied to him at his request by this State; that the account could not then be finally settled for want of the proper receipts and vouchers, remaining in the hands of the persons who delivered the Pork; that the said Commissary-General intimated that he expected to be charged no more for the Pork than it cost with all charges, and should think it his duty to apply to Congress for advice, if he was charged a higher price.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Lockwood*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, and Mr. *Duane*, be a Committee to settle the price of the Pork to be paid by the said Commissary-General, taking into their consideration all expenses thereon, and that they report with all convenient speed.*

*The Committee have, according to order, taken the same into consideration, and thereupon have agreed to the following state of facts and Resolution:

That, in the month of *March* last, the late Provincial Convention directed that twelve hundred barrels of Pork should be purchased and deposited in different stores, in the County of *Westchester*, for the publick service of this State. That about that quantity of Pork was accordingly purchased, repacked, and stored, and was intended to be reserved for the use of such troops as might be raised at the separate expense of this State for its internal protection. That the Commissary-General of the forces of the *United States*, by letters to this Convention, dated the 14th day of *August* last, represented that large numbers of men were then expected in the city of *New-York* and its neighbourhood, in defence of the liberties of *America*; that having been disappointed of some Pork, that he had not then on hand so much as he could wish, and therefore requested that the Convention would give directions for the delivery of the Pork belonging to this State (or such part thereof as should be judged proper) to the order of the said Commissary-General; that he would pay for it in money, or replace it when the pork he expected should arrive, or would settle the whole matter in such manner as should be most agreeable to the Convention. That the Convention, on the same day, came to a resolution to furnish the Commissary-General with the whole, or such part of the Pork belonging to the State as he should stand in need of, and the greatest part thereof was accordingly delivered to his agents. That, on the 18th of *September* last, this Convention directed Mr. *Bancker*, the Deputy-Treasurer, to procure the vouchers for the Pork so delivered from the Storekeepers, and to apply to the Commissary-General for payment at the price current of that article when delivered. That, on the 4th of this instant *October* report was made to Convention that the Deputy-Treasurer had received a considerable sum of money from the Commissary-General towards payment for the said Pork, but that the account could not then be finally settled for want of all the vouchers, which he had not been able to obtain from the Storekeepers. That the Commissary-General intimated his expectations to allow no more for the Pork than it cost, with all charges, and that he should think it his duty to apply to Congress for advice, if he should be charged a higher price. That the first cost of the said Pork being £4 per barrel, and has been increased by the charges of cartage, storage, pickling, and cooperage, to near hard about £4 10*s*. But for want of some small outstanding accounts, it cannot be ascertained with precision. That two reasons induced the Convention to request the Commissary-General to pay for the said Pork in money: the first, that from the circumstances expressed in the resolution of Convention of the instant, the Treasury of this State was exhausted, while demands upon the publick, on account of the distressed situation of the

A representation* was made to Convention that this State is indebted to *Nicholas Bayard*, Esquire, for the use of his House for the security of the publick Records of this State for several months, and for expense attending the Guards kept there for that purpose; that being now deprived of his whole estate by the enemy, payment thereof ought to be made.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Lockwood*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, and Mr. *Duane*, be a Committee to state and report the sum reasonably due from this State to *Nicholas Bayard*, Esquire, on the account above-mentioned.

A Letter from General *James Clinton* relative to £27 11*s.* 2*d.* deducted from the pay of thirteen deserters of *Robert Johnson's* Company, by order of the late Congress of this State, was read and committed to Mr. *Wisner* and Colonel *De Witt*, to consider of and report thereon.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Letter from the Committee of *Cumberland* County of the 21st *June* last, and the papers from *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* Counties relative to the Rangers raised in those Counties. The Return of the Officers of said Rangers, subscribed by *James Clay*, Chairman, was again read, and is as follows, to wit:

State, were very urgent; but principally because it was apprehended that, at a juncture when the greatest exertions were necessary to supply the Continental troops with provisions, it must have been highly inconvenient to the Commissary-General to return an equal quantity of pork, according to his engagement; and therefore the Convention was unwilling to make the demand.

Nor is the request of payment at the current price of the commodity where it was delivered, unreasonable. It appears to your Committee, on the contrary, to be founded on justice and equity, for several reasons, one of which only, to avoid prolixity, they beg leave to suggest.

It has been the misfortune of this State to sustain the pressure of this cruel war at their doors. This has obliged them, besides their general quota of men and money to the common defence, to raise different corps of troops at their separate expense, for the internal protection of several of the Counties. In fixing the rations for these troops, which were agreed to be paid for in money, the State having parted with their provisions reserved in the publick stores to the Commissary-General, those rations were estimated according to the current price of provisions in the month of , when the establishment took place; and at that time Pork was at least as scarce and dear as when the Commissary-General received the supply from this Convention. It follows, therefore, that unless the Pork with which the Commissary-General was supplied by Convention shall be paid for at the price which was current when it was delivered, the advantage which hath arisen by seasonably laying it up in store will be transferred from this State to the Continent, and this State eventually pay the difference between the time of purchasing the provisions and the establishment of the said troops.

Your Committee, however, conceive it beneath the dignity of this State to demand any alteration respecting the price of the said Pork, and have therefore agreed to the following Resolution:

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee that the Auditor-General, after obtaining the necessary vouchers, be directed to repair to the Commissary-General, at Head-Quarters, and explain to him the principles on which Convention required payment for the Pork at the current price when it was delivered, for which purpose a copy of the preceding state of facts and remarks shall be furnished; that he represent to the Commissary-General, if it can be done without prejudice to the service, it will be highly acceptable to the Convention to have an equal quantity of Pork returned to replace that with which he hath been so supplied—a publick magazine of provisions for the use of this State, under its present circumstances, appearing to your Committee to be absolutely necessary; and that in this case the money he hath paid on account shall be immediately returned. But as this Convention, zealous for the honour of the State and the success of the common cause, would carefully avoid every measure which might tend to impede the general service, or embarrass the Commissary-General in his department, or raise a suspicion that this Convention were capable of seeking an unreasonable advantage, your Committee are further of opinion that if, notwithstanding such representation, the Commissary-General should persist in his opinion of the price to be charged for the Pork, and cannot, without embarrassing the service, return an equal quantity, that then the Auditor-General be instructed to settle with the Commissary-General for the said Pork on the terms he has himself proposed.

*On the 11th *February* last, agreeable to an order of Congress, the records of this Province were, for greater security, removed to the house of Mr. *Nicholas Bayard*, in the Outward of the City of *New-York*. His house was at that time much encumbered with furniture belonging to his friends in the city, besides his own large family of children and a family he had taken in from the city. Notwithstanding this, he was necessitated to furnish the Secretary with his largest room for the records and clerks, another room for his private use, and to have his own bed-room in common with the Secretary, &c.

A guard, consisting of an officer, two non-commissioned officers, and twelve privates, came out and continued with the records. The officer Mr. *Bayard* could not decently avoid asking to his table. The Secretary being Mr. *Bayard's* kinsman, he means not to hint was burthensome; but the number of people that came out on business with him was a considerable tax.

The first month the guard was furnished by Mr. *Bayard* with candles as well for the guard-room as for the passage to the office, where sentries were placed.

Fire-wood was found them day and night, from first to last. The expense of supplying the privates with liquor and other necessaries they constantly wanted, was considerable, to say nothing of their plundering. The records were continued there with this guard till the last of *June*, above four and a half months.

*A Roll of the Officers belonging to Major* Hoisington's *Company of Rangers, appointed and recommended by the Committee of Safety for the Counties of* Cumberland *and* Gloucester, *are as follows, to wit:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Captain, Benj. Wait | 1st Lieut., | Elisha Hawley, |
| | 2d do., | Zebulon Lyon. |
| 2d Captain, John Strong | 1st Lieut., | Eldad Benton, |
| | 2d do., | John Barnes. |
| 3d Captain, Joseph Hatch | 1st Lieut., | Simon Stevens, |
| | 2d do., | Amos Chamberlain. |
| 4th Captain, Elkana Day | 1st Lieut., | Nath'l Whitney, |
| | 2d do., | Joheel Robins. |

"A true list, examined by me:

"JAMES CLAY, *Chairman.*"

The application of Major *Joab Hoisington*, requesting the remainder of the Bounty for the said Rangers, was also read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"*To the Honourable* Nath'l Woodhull, *President of the honourable Congress of the State of* New-York:

"Agreeable to the order of the honourable Congress, I have sent the muster-rolls of the several Companies under my command by Mr. *Ebenezer Andrews*, the bearer, begging the favour of your forwarding the remainder of the bounty, rations, and one month's wages, taking his receipt for the same.

"I am, sir, your humble servant,

"Joab Hoisington.

"P. S. Please to remit my wages and rations, likewise as much of the rations as the honourable Congress shall see fit. I find it much easier to purchase supplies with cash."

The several Muster-Rolls of the said Companies of Rangers were also read.

The said Letter from the Committee of *Cumberland* County, dated the 21st day of *June* last, and inserted in the Minutes of this Convention on the 24th day of *August* last, was also read.

The Report of the Committee to whom were referred a Letter from the Committee of the County of *Cumberland* of the 21st day of *June* last, and the application of Major *Joab Hoisington* for the Pay and Subsistence of the Rangers directed to be raised for the defence of the said County and of the County of *Gloucester*, was again read; and the same being read and taken into consideration by paragraphs, and amended, is in the words following, to wit:

"The Committee to whom were referred a letter from the Committee of the County of *Cumberland* of the 21st day of *June* last, and the application of Major *Joab Hoisington* for the Pay and Subsistence of the Rangers directed to be raised for the defence of the said County and of the County of *Gloucester*, have, according to order, taken the same into consideration, and thereupon have agreed to the following state of facts and Resolutions:

"That on application of the inhabitants of the County of *Cumberland*, the former Congress, from time to time, supplied the County Committee with £100 in money, 1,800 pounds of gunpowder, 4,500 pounds of lead, and a quantity of flints.

"That the Convention of this State, on the 23d day of *July* last, directed that two hundred and fifty-two men should be raised in the Counties of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester*, for the immediate protection and joint defence of the said Counties in the following manner, to wit: To be divided into four Companies, consisting respectively of one Captain, two Lieutenants, three Sergeants, three Corporals, and fifty-four Privates. The commissioned officers to be nominated by the mutual consent of the Committees of both Counties, by whose authority warrants for levying the troops were to issue to the Captains of each Company. The pay of the officers and privates to be the same as that given to the Continental troops, besides a bounty of twenty-five dollars to each non-commissioned officer and private. The subsistence to be, to each Captain sixteen shillings, each Lieutenant fourteen shillings, and to each non-commissioned officer and private ten shillings per week, in lieu of all rations. The officers and privates to furnish themselves each with a good musket or firelock, powder-horn, bullet-pouch, tomahawk, blanket, and knapsack; each officer, before receiving his warrant, to take an oath, to be administered by the Chairman of the County Committee recommending him, that he will once in every month, or as soon after the expiration of every month as possible, transmit to the Convention or Legislature of this State a muster-roll of the names of every officer and private

under his command, and of their respective times of inlistment and service. One half of the bounty to be paid by the Captain of each Company to every able-bodied man when he shall pass muster, the other half to be remitted by the Convention to the commanding officer, to be by him issued to the Captain and immediately disbursed to the men. That on the same day, by the recommendation of the members of the County of *Cumberland*, *Joab Hoisington*, Esq., was appointed and commissioned by Convention to be Major and commanding officer of the said Rangers; and a resolution of Convention passed on the same day directing the Treasurer of this State to pay to the Deputies of *Cumberland* County £1,200, in part of the bounty for the said Rangers.

"On the 24th of *August* last, a letter from the Committee of the County of *Cumberland*, signed by Mr. *James Clay*, as Chairman, directed to this Convention, and dated the 21st of *June*, was read, informing Convention, in substance, that upon receiving the printed resolution of the late Provincial Congress, recommending the expediency of instituting civil Government, the major part of that County had elected their Deputies, and empowered them to agree with the Convention in establishing a mode of Government, declaring, however, that the Deputies of the said County were restrained by certain instructions given them by the said Committee, in such manner that if those instructions should be violated in the institution to be formed, the Committee reserve to themselves, on behalf of the inhabitants of the said County, the full liberty of an absolute disavowal of such institution, and further reserving to themselves the liberty of pursuing a certain petition in behalf of the people included therein, which that Committee allege was some years since preferred to the Government of the *Massachusetts Bay*, praying that the district therein described might be reunited to the said Province. That the letter was referred to a Committee of this Convention, who have made no report thereon.

"That on the 26th of *September* last, a letter to the Convention, from Major *Joab Hoisington*, was read, including muster rolls of those companies, and requesting that the remaining part of the bounty, with the rations, and first month's wages, which your Committee find amounts to six thousand four hundred and twelve and two-eighths dollars, might be forwarded, the said letter being also accompanied with a certificate from the Joint Committees of Safety for the said Counties, signed by *James Clay*, as Chairman, recommending the officers of the said Rangers. That upon its being moved that the money should be transmitted to Major *Hoisington*, debates arose, and it was objected:

First, that the Committee of the County of *Cumberland* had by their before mentioned letter, implying a protest, pretended to reserve to the inhabitants a right not only of rejecting any form of Government which might not correspond with the instructions to their Deputies, but, if they should hereafter think fit, even of separating from this State and uniting with that of the *Massachusetts-Bay;* and that further expenditures of the publick money for the immediate protection of that County could not, in justice to other parts of this State, be made, while the jurisdiction was questioned, a separation threatened, and there was reason to apprehend that the same temper which dictated the letter might induce a denial to contribute any thing towards the heavy debt which was necessarily incurring, as well for the immediate defence of this State as for the support of the great cause of *American* liberty and independence.

The Convention therefore proceeded to ask information from Messrs. *Sessions* and *Stephens*, two of the Deputies of the County of *Cumberland*, who were present. They declared, that in pursuance of the resolution of Congress of the 31st of *May*, for electing Deputies to meet in Convention for the express purpose of forming a Government for this State, they were duly elected by the people of the County at large. That the General Committee of the County is composed of two members from each town. That the Committee who gave them instructions and sent the said letter to the Convention, were elected long before their own election as Deputies for the said County. That they are ignorant of the Committees or Sub-Committees of the said County having had any authority or directions from the inhabitants of the said County to give the instructions or to make such declarations as are contained in the same letter. That the said letter was agreed to by the Committee to prevent any division in the County, because the Deputies from four or five of the towns were opposed to sending Deputies to Convention without such instructions. That they have no instructions from the inhabitants at large, nor from any particular town. That their credentials from the County give them full and unrestrained power in forming a Government. That they conceive themselves no further bound by their instructions than they shall appear to be right and beneficial; but that whenever on debate it should appear that those instructions might work an injury to the State, or if on any question they should be outvoted, they should not consider themselves bound by their instructions; and further, that as representatives of the said County, they fully acknowledge the jurisdiction of this State over the said County and its inhabitants. And the credentials of the said Deputies being read it appears that Colonel *Joseph Marsh*, with Mr. *Stephens* and Mr. *Sessions*, were duly elected to represent the said County in the Convention of this State, and that the said representatives are expressly invested with full power of legislation, the said credentials containing no reserve or limitation of their authority.

"Second. It was objected against transmitting the said money, and the fact is, it does not appear from the muster-rolls, or return, or in any other manner, that the officers and privates therein mentioned have furnished themselves each with a good musket or firelock, powder-horn, bullet-pouch, tomahawk, blanket, and knapsack, which is one of the qualifications of mustering expressly required by the before-recited resolutions; nor whether the officers of the respective companies, before receiving their warrants, had been qualified to make and return monthly muster-rolls of their companies, as the said resolutions also direct.

From this state of facts, it appears to your Committee that the former Congress and present Convention have manifested the most ready and cheerful disposition to protect the inhabitants of *Cumberland* at the publick expense, in common with their other constituents, and without the least partiality or distinction; that liberal supplies of men and money, and ammunition and warlike stores, according to the abilities of the State, have been granted them as soon as their wants have been disclosed; that this Committee neither know, nor have heard of, the least cause of complaint or uneasiness that has been given to any of those inhabitants by this State, or any under its authority, during the present contest for our rights and liberties.

"If under the former Government individuals may have been injured, it ought to be remembered, that to rescue ourselves from the oppressions of that Government, the *United States of America*, submitting to all the miseries of war, have asserted their independence.

"It is unquestionable, that the jurisdiction of this State over the territory which now comprehends the County of *Cumberland*, is coeval with its first formation as a Colony under the Crown of *Great Britain*, and accordingly that County was erected, and hath been represented, laws passed for its internal regulation, courts established, civil and military officers appointed, and many charters for lands and privileges confirmed by its sole authority. Your Committee therefore conceive it to be the indispensable duty of this Convention to preserve and maintain their jurisdiction over the said County by every wise, steady, and prudent measure in their power. At a time when this State is invaded and pressed by powerful armies, when our utmost exertions are necessary, and we are straining every nerve for the common cause of *America*, for the general defence of this State, and for the more immediate defence of the County of *Cumberland;* at a time when every virtuous member of the community is loudly called upon to assist his bleeding country, and harmony and mutual confidence are so essential to our preservation, and to the success of the greatest and best of causes; at such an important and decisive conjuncture, your Committee cannot but lament that any of the inhabitants of the County of *Cumberland* should suffer themselves to be so far misguided as to assert a claim and principles subversive to all Government, derogatory to the dignity, rights, and jurisdiction of this State, manifesting an unbecoming return for the assistance and protection they have received out of the publick Treasury of their fellow-subjects at large, and implying a latent design, by a future separation from the State, to leave the whole burthen of the present cruel and expensive

war to be sustained by the rest of the community. If the extraordinary injunctions in the letter from their Committee should be vindicated, it must follow that the form of Government dictated by a party, from the best information by no means the majority of the County, is to be adopted, however injurious to the general interest of this State, or disagreeable to other Counties, and however unreasonable it might on publick debate appear even to their own immediate representatives; and thus a single County is to control the whole State, prescribe its Constitution and Government, and establish its laws, on pain of separation; from a parity of reason, every other County, and even district and town, within this State might arrogate the same power, and instead of producing order, security, and a wise and permanent Government, (the great and salutary purposes for which this free Convention was elected and assembled,) anarchy and confusion must be the fatal result.

"Your Committee are satisfied, however, that the letter does not convey the sentiments of the majority of the good people of the County of *Cumberland*, and that the General Committee will, upon cool reflection, be at no loss to perceive its want of respect to this Convention, and its dangerous tendency, not only to the State but to the common cause of *America*, and that after a deliberate revision they will candidly correct it, and give this Convention reasonable assurances of their attachment to its jurisdiction, and of their intention to share its blessings and misfortunes, its protection and its burthens, like faithful and affectionate fellow-citizens; that your Committee earnestly recommend it, as the best and surest means of removing the uneasiness which a measure so unexampled has excited, and of promoting the most perfect harmony and good understanding throughout every part of this State. In confidence, therefore, that a thinking and reasonable people must see their own interest and preservation, as well as the safety of the State to which they belong, and the success of the great cause in which the whole Continent is engaged, cannot but be weakened by dissension and by countenancing the factious and self-interested, your Committee are of opinion that the requisition of the commanding officer of the Ranging companies of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* Counties should be complied with, lest the good people of those Counties, being disappointed of the aid and protection provided by this State, may suffer from the incursions of their enemies before an explanation of the said letter can be obtained from the Committee of *Cumberland*, and have therefore agreed to the following Resolutions:

"First. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee that the sum of 6,412 Dollars and 2-8ths of a Dollar,* being the remaining part of the Bounty Money and one month's Wages and Rations due to the Officers and Men of the four Companies of Rangers raised and established for the immediate protection and defence of the Counties of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester*, under the command of Major *Joab Hoisington*, be forthwith transmitted for their use.

"But inasmuch as it does not appear by the Returns of the Commanding Officer or otherwise that the men are equipped and furnished with Arms or Accoutrements, or that the Officers have been qualified to make up their Muster-Rolls and Returns agreeable to the directions of Convention:†

"Second. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee that a Committee from this Convention be appointed to see that the said Money is faithfully applied agreeable to the establishment of the said Rangers, for that purpose consulting with the General Committee of the said Counties; that they be further authorized to call upon them, the commanding and other officers of the said Rangers, and if they should find it necessary, to review the respective companies; that they be instructed to inquire into the temper of the inhabitants of the said County and the grounds of any discontent which may prevail among the uninformed, or be encouraged by designing men, and use their endeavours to remove the same, and to frustrate any attempt to sow the seeds of jealousy and disaffection; and lastly, that they represent to the Committee of the said County of *Cumberland*, the wisdom and propriety of a revision of the said letter, and of an unreserved submission of the said County to the jurisdiction of this State, that all cases of distrust may subside and the harmony which is so essential at this important conjuncture may be fixed on the surest foundation."

*Resolved*, That this Convention do agree with their Committee in the said Report, as amended, and the same is hereby declared to be the act of this Convention.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *Sessions* and *Taylor* be requested to proceed to the County of *Cumberland*, and unite with Colonel *Marsh*, one of the Members of the said County now there, as a Committee from this Convention, to see the preceding Resolutions carried into effect.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this State do pay to the said Committee the above-mentioned sum of six thousand four hundred and twelve and two-eighths Dollars, for the purposes mentioned in the said Report, and the further sum of two hundred Dollars, to defray the charge of their journey, for the expenditure of which last-mentioned sum they are to be accountable to this Convention.

*Resolved*, That three thousand Flints be delivered by the Commissary of this Convention to the Deputies of the County of *Cumberland;* two thousand for the use of that County, and one thousand for the use of *Gloucester* County.

The Committee to whom was referred the application of Lieutenant *William Boerum* and Lieutenant *Daniel Rapalje*, officers of the late Troop of Light-Horse, delivered in their Report, viz:

"That it appears to the Committee, that agreeable to a resolution of this Convention the said Troops were ordered out on publick service on the 14th day of *August* last; that the said Troops continued in the service assigned them until the 29th day of *August;* that it appears to your Committee that the said Lieutenants *Boerum* and *Rapalje*, together with one Second Lieutenant, two Ensigns, one Quartermaster, one Sergeant, one Trumpeter, and nine Privates, did, on the 29th *August*, agreeable to the order of their commanding officer, leave their posts in said *King's* County; that they are now in and about the County of *Dutchess;* that they are incapable of performing further service to this State, in their respective characters; that they are also destitute of the means of subsistence; that the Committee are therefore of opinion that nine shillings per day be allowed to Lieutenants *Boerum* and *Rapalje;* and to each of the other commissioned officers, for pay and rations, six shillings per day, (as also to the non-commissioned officers and privates, six shillings per day,) of the said Troopers, from the time of their respectively entering the service to the 29th day of *August*, together with half such pay and rations from the said 29th of *August* to the present day; and for this purpose, that the said Lieutenants *Boerum* and *Rapalje* be furnished with an order on the Treasurer of this State, for the sum of , for the use of themselves and the other persons for whom they have applied as above-mentioned, amounting to the pay and rations aforesaid; and that they be considered as no longer holden to serve in consequence of their former engagement."

*Resolved*, That this Convention agrees with their Committee in their said Report, as amended and above stated, and that the same stand confirmed as the act of this Convention.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Stephens* take a copy of the form of inlistment that said Rangers have signed, and take the names of such as have not inlisted agreeable to the resolves of Congress.

Upon information from Major *Hoisington*, that he had contracted debts to the amount of two hundred Pounds in purchasing Provisions, &c., for the men under his command,

*Resolved*, That the Committee do pay to said Major *Hoisington* three hundred Dollars, to enable him to discharge part of said expenditures, and forty-three Dollars and 5-6ths of a Dollar, it being for one month's pay and rations.

* To the remainder of the Bounty ..... 3,250 Dollars.
To the Rations for one month for 4 Captains ..... 32 "
To do. do. for 8 Lieutenants ..... 56 "
To do. do. for 12 Sergeants ..... 60 "
To do. do. for 12 Corporals ..... 60 "
To do. do. for 216 Privates ..... 1,080 "
To one month's Wages for 4 Captains ..... 106 2-8 "
To do. do. for 8 Lieutenants ..... 144 "
To do. do. for 12 Sergeants ..... 96 "
To do. do. for 12 Corporals ..... 88 "
To do. do. for 216 Privates ..... 1,440 "
6,412 2-8 Dollars.

† *Resolved*, That Mr. *Stephens* repair to *Cohoss* and pay to each man of the Rangers, equipped and on actual service, the sum of fifteen Dollars, except those of Captain *Wait's*, who has received their pay himself, and inform said Rangers why the residue of their wages are not paid at present; and that Mr. *Stephens* muster said Rangers, and discharge such as he shall deem unfit for said service, paying them for the time they have served, including what bounty they have received in their wages.

*Resolved*, That each Captain be paid twenty-five Dollars, and each Lieutenant twenty Dollars, now at service at that place.

Die Sabbati, 9 ho. A. M., October 5, 1776.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Peter R. Livingston*, President.

NEW-YORK—Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Bancker*.

ORANGE—Mr. *Little*.

ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Robert Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*.

TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.

ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Colonel *De Witt*, Major *Parks*.

CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*.

WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*.

DUTCHESS—Dr. *Crane*, Captain *Platt*, Mr. *Sackett*, Mr. *G. Livingston*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.

CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Sessions*, Mr. *Stephens*.

A Letter* from *Joshua H. Smith*, Esq., one of the Members of this Convention, dated the 4th instant, was read. He therein shows, for cause of his non-attendance, that he has been in a bad state of health; that he is at present an infirm convalescent, and will attend as soon as his health will permit.

A Letter from Colonel *Broome*, another of the Members of this Convention, dated at *New-Haven*, on the 26th ult., was received and read. He thereby acknowledges that on the day preceding he had been served with an order of Convention for his attendance, and excuses his non-attendance by reason of the indisposition of his family.

The Committee appointed to devise ways and means for rendering the communication by land between the northern and southern parts of this State, and between this and the Southern States, more easy and practicable, reported thereon, as far as respects the communication by land between the northern and southern parts of the State, on the east side of *Hudson's* River; which Report being read, amended, agreed to, and adopted by the Convention as their act, Thereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Post Road from the north side of the Highlands to *King's Bridge* is very much out of repair, and particularly that part of it which leads through the Highlands to the Manor of *Philipsburg*, and that the said Road affords the most short and convenient communication by land between the northern and southern parts of this State, on the east side of *Hudson's* River.

*Resolved*, That the said Road ought to be immediately repaired; and therefore,

*Resolved*, That Colonel *John Field* be appointed and directed to repair such part thereof as lies between *Isaac Van Wyck's*, on the north side of the Highlands aforesaid, and the south line of *Dutchess* County.

*Resolved*, That Major *Joseph Strang* be appointed to repair the remaining part of the said Road, together with a certain other small road, which leads from the Post Road aforesaid to the Dock at *Dobb's* Ferry.

*Resolved*, That each of the said persons so appointed be allowed, for their trouble, ten Shillings per day, and that they be also allowed their subsistence.

*Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced by the Treasurer of this State to Colonel *Field*, and the sum of one hundred Pounds to Major *Strang*, to enable them to execute the trust hereby reposed in them.

*Resolved*, That the said Colonel *Field* and Major *Strang* respectively be, and they hereby are, authorized to employ Teams and Carts for the purposes aforesaid.

And, lest a sufficient number of Labourers speedily to repair the said Road should not be obtained,

*Resolved*, That General *Petrus Ten Broeck* do, on the requisition of the said Colouel *Field*, furnish him with such detachments of the Militia of the County of *Dutchess*, from time to time, as the said Colonel *Field* may require; and that General *Morris*, or, in his absence, the next commanding officer of the Militia in *Westchester* County, do, on the requisition of the said Major *Strang*, furnish him with such detachments of the Militia, from time to time, as he may require.

*Resolved*, That the said detachments, while employed in repairing the Roads aforesaid, be under the direction of the Superintendents thereof aforesaid, in their respective Counties, and that while actually employed as aforesaid, they be allowed at the rate of ten Dollars per month, and provided with provisions by the said Superintendents.

*Resolved*, That the said Superintendents keep and render to this Convention regular Accounts of their expenditures and proceedings.

*Ordered*, That copies of these Resolutions be sent by express to the respective Superintendents above-mentioned.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That Mr. *John Taylor*, of the County of *Albany*, be one of the Committee to proceed to *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* Counties, and that his name be inserted in the blank left among the names of that Committee yesterday.

On motion of Mr. *Duane*, on behalf of the said Committee who reported on the said Letter from *Cumberland* County, and the Letter from *Joab Hoisington*, for the pay and subsistence of the Rangers directed to be raised for the defence of the said County of *Cumberland*, and of the County of *Gloucester*,

*Ordered*, That the said Committee have leave to sit again.

Mr. *Stevens*, one of the Members for the County of *Cumberland*, applied for leave of absence for three weeks, to visit his family; which is granted.

Whereas Mr. *Stevens* has applied for and obtained leave of absence for three weeks, to visit his family,

*Resolved*, That he be added to the Committee appointed to carry into effect the Resolutions of Convention of the 4th instant, respecting the County of *Cumberland*.

*Ordered*, That the Secretaries procure five hundred copies of the Resolutions relative to the Pay and Subsistence of the said Rangers printed, to be distributed in the Counties of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester*, and the other parts of this State.

Colonel *Williams* moved for leave of absence. Debates arose; and the question being put thereon, it was carried in the negative, in the manner following, to wit:

| *For the Negative.* | *For the Affirmative.* |
|---|---|
| 8 New-York. | 4 Ulster. |
| 6 Albany. | 2 Charlotte. |
| 5 Dutchess. | 2 Cumberland. |
| 3 Tryon. | — |
| 3 Orange. | 8 votes. |
| — | |
| 25 votes. | |

On behalf of *Henry Livingston*, Esq., Clerk of *Dutchess* County, it was suggested to the Convention that next *Tuesday* is the stated day for holding the County Court at *Poughkeepsie*, in *Dutchess* County, and that he requests the advice of this Convention whether he shall issue any precept for summoning a Grand Jury.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Convention that *Henry Livingston*, Esq., do not issue any precept to summon a Grand Jury, or any other precept whatever, until a new Government is formed, or further order of this Convention.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman* to *William Duer*, Esq., dated the 3d instant, was read, a part whereof is in the words following, to wit:

"Captain *Cook* is now up the river, cutting timber for chevaux-de-frise; as he is much wanted here to sink the old vessels, the General begs that you would immediately send him down; we are at a stand for want of him, for as he has superintended the matter from the beginning, he best knows the properest places to be obstructed."

*Ordered*, That a certified copy of the above part of Mr. *Tilghman's* Letter be immediately despatched to Captain *Cooke*.

The Memorial of *Isaac Paris*, *Christian Fox*, *Johannes Billinger*, and upwards of one hundred others of the inhabitants of *Tryon* County, was read. They therein complain that *Hundrick Frey*, *Frederick Young*, and other very suspected persons, have been permitted by the County Committee to return to the County. Some of the inimical

*SIR: I have the honour of your order for my attendance on Convention, by the hands of your messenger. I should have returned with punctuality at the time limited, but have been detained by a violent attack of the dysentery, of which I am still by no means free from danger. I shall attend on Convention as soon as may be consistent with safety: and am yours and the Convention's most obedient,

JOSHUA H. SMITH.

The President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

HAVERSTRAW, *October* 5th, 1776.

expressions and declarations of the said *Frey* and *Young* are therein set forth, and the memorialists pray that the Resolve of the County Committee may be repealed or changed.

*Ordered*, That this Memorial be referred to the Committee for detecting Conspiracies.

A Letter from *Johannes Slight*, Esq., to Colonel *De Witt*, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Kingston, 3d October, 1776.

"SIR: We have just now received your letter by our post. The Committee are much obliged to you for your trouble. I am directed to acquaint you that the Justices of this and the neighbouring townships of *Rochester*, *Marble-Town*, and *Hurly*, have met here yesterday to consider what is best to be done relative to the *Indians*. Our frontier inhabitants are daily moving away for fear of them; we have, therefore, concluded to call them together to treat with them, and have already fixed a certain day for that purpose; but as this will be attended with some cost, we would be glad to know whether your honourable House will be good enough to assist us in paying the cost of this treaty. Your answer by the next post will much oblige your friend and most obedient humble servant,

"JOHANNES SLIGHT."

The Convention having taken the same into consideration, did thereupon resolve,

That the Committee of *Kingston* ought, as soon as may be, represent the matters contained in the said Letter to the Commissioners for *Indian* Affairs at *Albany*, and pursue such directions as they may give relative to the same. But that if, by the day appointed for the holding of the said treaty, an answer from the said Commissioners cannot be obtained, that they proceed to hold the same, and that this Convention will pay the expense attending the same.

A Letter from Captain *Samuel Tudor*, one of the Superintendents of the Continental Frigates building at *Poughkeepsie*, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Poughkeepsie, 2d October, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: The bearer, Mr. *McEuen*, is employed in the yard as plumber to the ships; his business is obliged to stop for the want of lead, which we cannot procure for him. We are informed there is a quantity at *Fishkill*, under your direction and disposal; beg it as a particular favour you would furnish him with such quantity as he may want with all expedition, as our orders from the Commissioners are to put the ships in the water as soon as possible.

"We are, with respect, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL TUDOR.

"*Peter R. Livingston*, Esq."

*Malcom McEuen*, the bearer, was called in and interrogated as to the Lead necessary for the said Frigates, and withdrew.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Daniel Bush* be, and he is hereby, directed to deliver to *Nathaniel Sacket*, Esq., all the Lead in his possession belonging to this State, taking a receipt for the same, and that this Convention will justify him in the execution thereof.

*Ordered*, That *Nathaniel Sacket*, Esq., deliver to the bearer hereof, Mr. *Malcom McEuan*, for the use of the Convention, for the Continental Frigates building at *Poughkeepsie*, two tons of Lead, and that he take Mr. *McEuen's* receipt for the same; to be charged to Continental account.

The Report of the Committee appointed on the 2d instant to take into consideration the Letters from *Ulster* County relative to the *Indians*, delivered in their Report; which was read. After some time spent thereon, it was recommitted to the same Committee.

Whereas it is represented to this Convention that a number of the inhabitants of the frontiers of *Ulster* County, being very apprehensive from intelligence they have received, that they will speedily be attacked by the *Indians*, are preparing to remove from their settlements, and will unless relieved retire with their families to the inner country,

*Resolved*, That the Committees of the Counties of *Ulster* and *Orange* do provide for the defence of their frontier country, by detachments from the Militia from those Counties, and that the expense thereof be defrayed by this Convention.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Robert Harper*, Mr. *William Harper*, Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, and Mr. *Moore*, be a Committee of Safety for this State until the next meeting of this Convention.

Colonel *Williams*, from the Committee appointed to report regulations for the sale and disposition of Salt in this State, brought in the Report of the said Committee; which was read.

*Ordered*, That the said Report remain for further consideration.

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COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Die Lunæ, 9 ho. A. M., October 7, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *P. R. Livingston*, President.

NEW-YORK—Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscombe*.

SUFFOLK—Mr. *William Smith*.

ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Abraham Yates*, Jun., Mr. *Cuyler*.

CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*, Mr. *Sessions*.

ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.

TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *W. Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Paris*.

WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*.

CHARLOTTE—Colonel *Williams*, Major *Webster*.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman* to Mr. *Duer*, dated the 5th instant, was read. He therein informs, that on the preceding night a party of the *American* Army brought off a parcel of Boards from *Harlem*. That the enemy had that morning sent a party there, who have been throwing up a breastwork.

A Letter from Brigadier-General *Scott*, dated the 3d instant, at eleven o'clock at night, was read. He gives the Convention a particular account of the examinations and testimony against *Joseph Read*, *Israel Underhill*, and *Philip Palmer*, all late of *Westchester* County, and now sent here under a guard.

*Ordered*, That the said Letter be referred and delivered to the Committee for detecting and defeating Conspiracies.

*Ordered*, That the President write to the Committee of *Albany*, requesting them to procure by purchase or loan, for the use of this Convention, the iron Stove belonging to the Presbyterian Church at *Albany*.

The Report of the Committee on the sundry Letters and Papers of Captain *Thomas Cregier*, and the Petition of sundry Officers and Marines of the armed Vessel or Schooner *Putnam*, delivered in their Report; which was read: There upon,

*Resolved*, That the said armed Schooner *Putnam*, together with her Arms, Cannon, Ammunition, Boats, Rigging, Tackle, and Furniture, be immediately sold, and that *John Imlay*, Esq., be agent for that purpose, who is hereby directed out of the proceeds to pay the officers and crew their wages and all other reasonable charges, and to remit the surplus to the Treasury of this Convention.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Cuyler*, and Mr. *Dunscomb*, be a Committee to examine and take an inventory of the Goods belonging to this State, now stored in Mr. *John Schenck's* storehouse, and all other goods belonging to this State, and report what parts are fit for the use of the Army. And that they be, and hereby are, authorized to cause such parts of the said goods made up for soldiers' use as they may think proper. And all persons who have heretofore had charge of any such goods, are hereby directed to make return of the goods they have in hand, or under their directions, to the Committee abovementioned, and follow such directions as they may receive from those gentlemen relative thereto.

The Committee appointed to devise ways and means for purchasing Clothing for the Continental Troops, delivered in their Report; which was read. The same being then delivered in at the table, was again read by paragraphs, and in many instances amended.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That the said Report be recommitted to the same Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Messenger be immediately despatched to summon Judge *Graham* and Mr. *Landon* to attend the

*

publick business in Convention without delay, and that they pay the said Messenger for his trouble and expense.

*Resolved*, That a Committee or Member be appointed to answer the Letter received from General *Morris*, and that he be requested immediately to repair to *Westchester*, and take charge of his Brigade of Militia.

Thereupon Mr. *R. R. Livingston* was appointed for that purpose.

On account of the cold and dampness of the Church, the Committee adjourned to meet to-morrow at Mr. *Isaac Van Wyck's* Tavern.

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Die Martis, 9 ho. A. M., October 8, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met at the house of *Isaac Van Wyck*, pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *P. R. Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *R. Harper*, Mr. *Dunscombe*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Crane*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.
TRYON—Mr. *William Harper*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*.
CHARLOTTE—Colonel *Williams*.
CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*.

The Committee finding that the accommodation for their sitting at Mr. *Van Wyck's* will not answer their expectations, and the weather being more favourable than for some days past, they adjourned to the Church.

The Committee met at the *Dutch* Church pursuant to the above adjournment.

Present: The Members above-mentioned, together with
ALBANY—Mr. *Abraham Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*.
WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Allison*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.

Mr. *Robert R. Livingston*, according to order, reported a draft of a Letter to Brigadier-General *Morris*, which was read.

*Ordered*, That it be recommitted to Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Abraham Yates*, and Mr. *William Smith*.

A Letter from *John Field* and *Isaac Paddock*, of *South-East* Precinct, in *Dutchess* County, dated the 7th instant, was received and read. For the reasons therein mentioned, they suggest the necessity of raising another Company of County Guards, for the detection and suppression of dangerous and disaffected persons, and they recommend *Nathaniel Scribner* for Captain and *Joseph Field* Lieutenant of such Company.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Adgate*, Dr. *Crane*, and Mr. *Robert Harper*, be a Committee to consider of the said Letter, and to report thereon.

The present President, Colonel *Livingston*, represented to the Committee that the lower part of the County of *Albany*, particularly the Districts of *Claverack* and the Manor of *Livingston*, were infested with disaffected persons; that they have fired with loaded arms through the houses and store-houses of *Dirk Jansen*, and wounded one of the clerks, and perpetrated other enormities against the peace of this State.

*Ordered*, That the Committee above named consider of this information and report thereon.

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Die Veneris, October 8, P. M., 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. R. Livingston*, Esq., President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *R. Harper*, Mr. *Dunscombe*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*.
WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *W. Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Jun., Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Allison*.
CHARLOTTE—Major *Webster*.

The Committee to whom was recommitted the draft of a Letter to Brigadier-General *Morris*, reported a new draft; which was read and approved of, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"October the 8th, 1776.

"SIR: The Convention have directed me to inform you that they were extremely sorry for the necessity that first obliged them to request your immediate return to your brigade, since they hoped that no military officer would choose to be absent when his country was invaded. They are willing to acknowledge the force of those reasons for delaying your return which are derived from the particular situation of your family. These they hope, by their safety and security, have long since ceased to operate. They now flatter themselves that it will be unnecessary to remind you of the superiour ties which bind every man to his country, more particularly by those whom the State have vested with the highest honours. Though the *Indian* affairs of the middle department should be under the consideration of Congress, yet they hope your attendance may be dispensed with, as the Congress have it in their power to call upon the other Commissioners, without injuring the publick so materially as by retaining a military officer from his station. The Convention cannot but hope that you have been deceived in your belief that your brigade is reduced to less than a Colonel's command, though the loud and well-founded complaints of the County of *Westchester* has given them reason to fear that it has suffered by your absence. They are pleased to hear that you have expressed your desire of offering your personal service to General *Washington*, since they cannot conceive that a General officer can withdraw his duty, yet as a volunteer when the troops under his command are, or like to be, called into action. Upon the whole, sir, they have directed me to inform you that they expect your immediate attendance on the duties of your department.

"I am, sir, yours, &c. By order.

"Brigadier-General *Morris*."

Mr. *Livingston* moved a Resolution relative to Tanned Leather; which was ordered to lie on the table for further consideration and perusal.

Mr. *Robert Harper*, from the Committee appointed this morning, made a Report in the form of Resolutions; which were read and adopted, and are as follows, to wit:

Whereas it is absolutely necessary in the present critical conjuncture, that one Company, of forty-nine men, in the County of *Albany*, and one Company of forty-nine men in the County of *Dutchess*, be immediately raised for the purpose of detecting and defeating the intentions and conspiracies of our secret and open enemies:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That one Company be immediately raised in the County of *Albany*, and that one other Company be immediately raised in the County of *Dutchess*; that each Company consist of one Captain, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, three Corporals, one Fifer, and forty Privates—forty-nine men. That the pay of those Companies be the same as the pay of the Continental Troops. That the Captains be allowed each sixteen shillings per week, the Lieutenants fourteen shillings, and the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates each ten shillings per week, in lieu of all rations and subsistence. That *Petrus Van Gaasbeck* be and is hereby appointed Captain, and *Samuel Thorne* Lieutenant, of the said Company to be raised in the County of *Albany*, and that the said Company do rendezvous at and about the Manor of *Livingston*, and be subject to the order of the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State, and under the direction of the Committee of the City and County of *Albany*, or such person or persons as the Convention or Committee of Safety of the State shall appoint.

That *Nathaniel Scribner* be, and is hereby, appointed Captain, and *Joseph Field* Lieutenant, of the said Company to be raised in the County of *Dutchess*, and that the said Company do rendezvous in *Fredericksburg* and *Southeast* Precincts of the said County, and be subject to the order of the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State, and be under the direction of the Committee of the said County of *Dutchess*, or such other person or persons as the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State shall appoint.

That the Chairman of the Committee of the district of the Manor of *Livingston*, for the time being, be the Muster-master to muster the Company to be raised in the County of *Albany*, and that Colonel *John Field* be appointed Muster-master of the Company to be raised in *Dutchess* County.

That the said Company to be raised in the County of *Dutchess* be incorporated and deemed a part of the corps

whereof Captain *Melancthon Smith* is commandant, and that both the Companies hereby directed to be raised be inlisted to continue in service for the term of three months, unless sooner discharged.

The application of *Benj'n Justeen*, Chairman of *Goshen* Precinct, for the sense of Congress relative to certain *Scotch* Prisoners stationed in *Goshen* by the Committee of Prisoners; also a Letter signed *Daniel Walker*, on behalf of said Prisoners; and also a Letter from *John Broome*, Esq., and others, of the Committee of Prisoners, were received and read, and committed to a Committee consisting of Mr. *Robert Harper*, Mr. *Cantine*, and Mr. *Cuyler*.

A Letter from General *Scott*, received by Lieutenant *Mott*, with two disaffected persons, viz: *Gersham Smith* and , was read.

*Ordered*, That the Letter, Lieutenant, and Prisoners be severally referred to the Committee for detecting Conspirators.

The Committee adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

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Die Mercurii, 9 ho. A. M., October 9, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *P. R. Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *R. Harper*, Mr. *Dunscombe*.
WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Wm. Smith*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *W. Harper*.
DUTCHESS—Dr. *Crane*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.
CHARLOTTE—Major *Webster*.
CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*.

The Report of the Committee appointed to devise means for clothing the Troops, was read and agreed to, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"*Resolved*, That the persons hereafter mentioned be appointed to purchase, at the cheapest rate, in their several Counties, all the coarse Woollen Cloth, Linsey Woolsey, Blankets, Woollen Hose, Mittens, coarse Linen, Felt Hats, and Shoes, fitting for Soldiers, and that they have their Linen made up into Shirts:

"That Mr. *Stephen Ward*, *Gilbert Strang*, and *Phil. Leak*, be appointed for the County of *Westchester*, and that the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced to each of them, for the purpose of purchasing the above-mentioned articles.

"That *William Radlif*, for *Rynebeck* and *Northeast* Precincts; *Samuel Smith*, for *Charlotte* and *Armenia* Precincts; *Jon'n Paddock*, for *Philips's*, *Fredericksburg*, and *Southeast* Precincts; *Isaac Tabnan*, for *Beekman's* and *Pawling's* Precincts; and *Wykoff*, for *Rumbout's* and *Poughkeepsie* Precincts; be appointed in the County of *Dutchess*, and that the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced to each of them for the purpose of purchasing the above-mentioned articles.

"That *Johannes Sleight*, Jun., and *Abell Belknap* be appointed for the County of *Ulster*, and that the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced to each of them for the purpose of purchasing the above-mentioned articles.

"That Captain *John A. Fonda*, of the Manor of *Livingston*, *Peter Van Ness*, of *Claverack*, *Barent Van Buren*, of *Kinderhook*, *Isaac V. Arnum*, of *Albany*, *Corn's Cuyler*, of *Schenectady*, *James McGee* and *Henry Quackenboss*, of the Manor of *Rensselaer*, *Anthony Van Bergen*, of *Coeksackie*, *Henry Oothout*, of *Kaatskill*, and *Johannes Ball*, of *Scohary*, be appointed for the County of *Albany*, and that the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced to each of them for the purpose of purchasing the above-mentioned articles.

"That Colonel *Benjamin Tusteen* and *Teunis Cuyper*, Esq., be appointed for the County of *Orange*, and that the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced to each of them for the purpose of purchasing the above-mentioned articles.

"That the sums of money affixed to the names of the persons in each County above-mentioned, be paid to the said persons respectively, or their order, towards purchasing the said Clothing, and that they transmit an account of their progress from time to time to the President of the Convention, or future Legislature of this State; and if either of them shall not have money sufficient for the payment of such of the said articles as shall be by either of them purchased, then either of them shall have power to draw on the President for such sums as shall appear to be necessary, or by them advanced, allowing to each of them five per cent. for his trouble."

The Convention were informed by a Member that Captain *Benjamin Coe*, who lately commanded a Company in Colonel *Smith's* Regiment, on *Nassau Island*, is in distressed circumstances, and that from his muster-roll of the time of said Company's service, it appears that the pay due to him amounts to about twenty Pounds, and request that he may have an order on the Treasurer for that sum on account.

Therefore, *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to Captain *Benjamin Coe*, of Colonel *Smith's* Regiment, drafted from the Militia on *Nassau Island*, the sum of twenty Pounds, and take his receipt on account for the same, on the settlement of the pay-rolls of the said Regiment.

The Committee to whom was referred the behaviour of the *Scotch* Prisoners at *Goshen*, in the County of *Orange*, as represented to this Convention by Colonel *Teston*, Chairman of the Committee there, delivered in their Report, which was read and agreed to, and is as follows:

"That as the said Prisoners are not content with their enlargement from close confinement and privilege to labour, as the said Committee have heretofore permitted them, but have behaved indecently and unbecomingly, that the said Committee be, and they are hereby, directed to maintain and provide for the said Prisoners in any such way and manner as to them shall seem most consistent with the security of the said Prisoners, the safety of the State, and with the resolve of the Continental Congress in that case made and provided. Also, as to the boys among the said Prisoners, that they shall be put out to such service and in such families as the Committee shall think proper, and that the said boys, upon their behaving impertinently or unfaithfully in their said service, shall be subject to such punishment from their respective employers or masters as in such cases by custom immemorial hath been hitherto practised in this country: Provided nevertheless, that the said Committee be directed to see that the said boys are not treated with cruelty or unnecessary severities."

*Ordered*, That the President write a Letter to General *Schuyler*, requesting him to discharge *John Taylor*, Esq., from any service to which he may be appointed by General *Schuyler's* order, that Mr. *Taylor* may be employed as one of the Committee of this House ordered to repair to *Cumberland* County.

The Committee were informed by Colonel *Tusteen*, Chairman of the present Committee of *Goshen*, that a certain *Richard Speight*, a disaffected person, was sent from *New-York* some time since to *Goshen*, to remain there on his parole, is, with his wife and children, in a starving condition, being unable to support himself and family.

*Ordered*, That the Committee of *Goshen* Precinct be directed to allow *Richard Speight*, his wife and children, each one ration of provisions per day, agreeable to the rations allowed prisoners of war, and that this Convention will make provision for the payment of the same.

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Wednesday afternoon, October 9, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *P. R. Livingston*, President, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Contine*, Dr. *Crane*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *William Harper*, Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Major *Lockwood*.

A Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated at *Albany*, *October* 7th, 1776, was received and read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Albany, October 7th, 1776.

"SIR: On *Saturday* last I received sundry despatches from *Philadelphia*. Copy of Mr. *Hancock's* letter, and of the resolutions of Congress of the 25th ultimo, I do myself the honour to lay before the Convention. By the contents of the former it would appear as if Congress still consid-

ered me as commanding in this department, and correspondent to this idea was the direction of the letter. If so, nothing could be more insulting than that Commissioners should be sent to confer with any officer under my command, with respect to the Army in this department, or any part of it. This treatment would fully justify me if I forebore every act as Commander-in-Chief of this department; yet the principles which induced me to accept the command, on which I have acted whilst in it, and which, I trust, will mark every action of my life, will not permit me to forbear acting until matters are put in such a proper train by Congress as that no detriment may accrue to my country. Of this I have advised Congress, and signified my wish that I may be speedily relieved. Convention will perceive by the postscript of Mr. *Hancock's* letter, that Congress has referred an inquiry into my affairs to a special committee. Although I have the fullest confidence in the propriety of every part of my conduct, and in the honour of the gentlemen who compose the Committee, yet things may appear in a quite different point of view from what they really are, to persons uninformed of causes and facts, which perhaps none but myself can suggest. I have therefore entreated Congress to suspend their judgment until I shall have had an opportunity given me of being heard; a request so reasonable that I hope it will not be refused me. But if it is, I must, in justification of my conduct, publish my letters to Congress, with their answers, whatever may be the consequences, for I cannot sacrifice my honour to any considerations whatever.

"By the resolutions of Congress to inlist eighty-eight battalions during the war, I perceive that this State is to raise four of them. The Convention will pardon my presumption in mentioning a thought on the subject. By the resolutions of Congress, the soldiers are to pay for their clothing, the price of which is now so excessively high that I fear that condition will greatly impede the levies. Perhaps it would be best to determine the several articles of clothing that should be given to each soldier, and ascertain what stoppages he should be put under for it; but these, I think, ought very little to exceed the price that clothing was sold at before the present troubles arose. This, with the bounty offered and paid immediately, I believe would induce men to engage with alacrity.

"That State which is foremost in publishing their terms and in appointing recruiting officers in both armies to inlist men, I conceive will meet with the least difficulties in doing it. I should imagine that many of the *New-Jersey* and *Pennsylvania* soldiers, whose terms of inlistment expire on the last of this month, would reëngage.

"I am, sir, respectfully, your most obedient humble servant,

"PH. SCHUYLER.

"The Hon. *Abraham Yates*, Esq., President, &c., &c."

A copy of a Letter to General *Schuyler*, from the Honourable *John Hancock*, dated *September* 25th, enclosing copies of certain Resolves of Congress of the same date, was also read, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Philadelphia, September 27, 1776.

"SIR: I have the honour to enclose you sundry resolves, which are so explicit that I need only request your attention to them.

"You will perceive that Congress have come to a determination to augment our Army to eighty-eight battalions, and to engage the troops to serve during the continuance of the war, being thoroughly convinced, by repeated instances, that the short and limited inlistment of troops has been the source of much mischief to the service. In order that these troops may be better disciplined, the Congress have abolished the system of rules and articles for the government of the Army which they at first instituted, and have adopted a new one, sundry copies of which I enclose you.

"It is also their determination that the strictest discipline should be kept up in the Army; that the soldiers should be daily trained and practised in their different manœuvres. An attention to these things, you will observe by the enclosed resolves, will be the likeliest way to attain promotion, and will be the surest recommendation to their notice.

"The Committee of Congress to confer with you on the state of the Army, &c., will set out to-morrow or next day for *Tyconderoga*. To them I beg leave to refer you; and am, with every sentiment of esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

"General *Schuyler*.

"P. S. The attention of Congress has been so much taken up by our affairs at *New-York*, that I have not time to reply to your several letters, but hope I shall have leisure to do it by the next conveyance, and that Congress will soon determine on the subject of them. They are now in the hands of a special committee."

*Ordered*, That the said Letters and Resolves be committed to the Committee to whom were referred the Resolutions of Continental Congress for raising four Battalions in this State to serve during the war; and that Mr. *R. R. Livingston* and Mr. *Cuyler* be added to the said Committee.

The Auditor-General, by a note, informed the Committee that Colonel *Nicoll* and Colonel *Palmer* have, in their accounts of expenses and disbursements for transporting the Cannon from *New-York* to *Fort George* last spring by order of the Provincial Congress, charged twenty-four Shillings per day for their services, and requests the opinion of the Committee thereon. The same was immediately taken into consideration.

*Resolved*, (as the opinion of this Committee,) That Colonel *Nicoll* and Colonel *Palmer* be allowed ten Shillings per day each, for their services and expenses while employed in that service.

A Petition of *James Wilson*, late a Sailor on board of a Continental Privateer, setting forth his indigence, and praying for some relief:

*Ordered*, That the Secretaries pay him three Dollars, and that the Treasurer be and is hereby directed to repay the Secretaries.

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Thursday morning, October 10, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: *Colonel *P. R. Livingston*, President, *Mr. *Wm. Harper*, Doctor *Crane*, Colonel *Cortlandt*, Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Paris*, *Mr. *Contine*, *Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Stephens*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Colonel *Allison*, *Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Roosevelt*.

The Letter from General *James Clinton*, of the 3d instant, relative to £27 11*s*. 2*d*. by him deducted from the pay of Captain *Robert Johnson's* Company, pursuant to an order of the Provincial Congress at *New-York* for the like sum paid to *Edward William Keirs*, as expenses accrued by the apprehending of thirteen Deserters; and on reading the certificate of *John Price*, Jun., Assistant Paymaster, dated the 18th *June* last, that the sum of £34 13*s*. 4*d*., for the pay of thirteen Deserters for one month, was deducted from the pay of the said Company, and remained in the Paymaster's hands,

*Ordered*, That Brigadier-General *James Clinton* do pay to the said *Robert Johnson* the sum of £27 11*s*. 2*d*., by him deducted, and that the said sum of £27 11*s*. 2*d*., disbursed by the late Congress of this State for the apprehending the said Deserters from the Continental Army, be charged to the Continent, as being retained in the hands of the Continental Paymaster.

A Letter from his Excellency *John Hancock*, dated the 2d instant, enclosing Resolutions of the Continental Congress of the 30th ultimo, providing for the examination of candidates for the offices of Surgeon and Surgeon's Mates in the Army, was read and referred, with its enclosures, to a Committee, consisting of Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Van Cortlandt*, and Mr. *Adgate*.

A Letter from General *Greene*, informing Congress that Adjutant *Bradford*, of Colonel *Hitchcock's* Brigade, had brought a Horse from *Long-Island* after the battle, which belonged to a Tory named *Jacob Wyckoff*, which would be delivered to their order, or disposed of as they should direct; was read and referred to the same Committee.

A Letter from Colonel *Henry Remsen*, dated the 26th *September*, enclosing the Accounts of Mr. *Hallett* relative to his Vessel chartered by the Committee of Safety, was read, and the consideration thereof ordered to be postponed until the meeting of the Convention.

A Letter from *Johans. Sleght* relative to the Tea stored in *Kingston*, and requests some general regulation may be made concerning Tea, was read, and the consideration, in like manner, postponed until the meeting of the Convention.

A Letter from *Comfort Sands*, Esquire, the Auditor-General, requesting that two Members be appointed and authorized, with the said Auditor-General, finally to settle and audit the Accounts of *Abm. Livingston*, late Contractor of Provisions.

Mr. *Evert Bancker* and Colonel *Broome*, who were formerly appointed a Committee for that purpose, being absent,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Roosevelt* and Mr. *Newkirk* be appointed a Committee for that purpose.

A Return of Officers for three Companies of Rangers to be raised in *Tryon* County, signed by *John Fry*, Chairman, was read.

*Ordered*, That Commissions issue accordingly.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, and Mr. *Lockwood*, be a Committee to confer with Mr. *Abraham Livingston* about salting Pork in *Westchester*.

*Ordered*, That Commissions issue to the Officers of the Rangers of *Gloucester* and *Cumberland* Counties.

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Thursday afternoon, October 10, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President, Colonel *Cortlandt*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Ab'm Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Duane*, Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Contine*, Dr. *Crane*, Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *W. Harper*, Mr. *Sacket*.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, by express, dated the 9th instant, was received, and is in the words following:

"Head-Quarters, Harlem-Heights, 9th October, 1776.

"Gentlemen: About eight o'clock this morning the *Roebuck* and *Phœnix*, of forty-four guns each, and a frigate, about twenty guns, got under way from about *Bloomingdale*, where they have been lying some time, and steered on, with an easy southerly breeze, towards our chevaux-de-frise, which we hoped would have given them some interruption, while our batteries played upon them. But, to our surprise and mortification, they all ran through without the least difficulty, and without receiving the least apparent damage from our forts, which kept playing on them from both sides of the river. How far they intend to go up I don't know, but his Excellency thought fit to give you the earliest intimation, that you may put General *Clinton* on his guard at the Highlands, for they may have troops concealed on board, with intent to surprise those forts. If you have any stores on the water side, you had better have them removed a second time, boards especially, for which we shall be put to great straits if the communication should be cut off. The enemy have made no move on the land side.

"I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

"Tench Tilghman.

"Honourable Committee of Correspondence, State of *New-York*.

"Be pleased to forward this intelligence up the river and to *Albany*. The two new ships are put in near Colonel *Phillips's*. A party of Artillery, with two twelve-pounders and one hundred Riflemen, are sent up to endeavour to secure them."

*John McDonald*, the Miner, having refused to receive the sum of six Pounds, ordered on the 21st of *August* last to be paid to him for the use of *Donald Morrison*,

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay the said six Pounds to the said *Donald Morrison*, on his executing a bond, to be prepared by the Secretary, to *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., the President, conditioned for the payment thereof.

*Resolved*, That the Commanding Officer of the Militia of *Ulster* County do immediately send down three hundred men of the Militia of the County of *Ulster*, to *Peekskill*, well armed and accoutred, with three days' provisions.

*Resolved*, That the Commanding Officer in the south side of the Mountains or Highlands, in the County of *Orange*, be directed to order such a number of the Militia from that part of the said County which lays on the south side of the Highlands as will be sufficient to guard their shores, and to appoint a Commissioner to supply them with provisions; and that the Commanding Officer on the north side of the Highlands, in the said County, order one hundred of the Militia from the north side of the Highlands of the said County, to march without delay to *Peekskill*, taking with them three days' provisions.

*Resolved*, That *Benjamin Haight* and *Matthew Harper* be Commissioners to supply them with Provisions, and that this Convention will provide means for defraying the expense.

*Resolved*, That all the Rangers raised in the County of *Ulster* repair immediately to *Fishkill*, and be subject to the direction of the Committee for inquiring into, detecting, and depressing all conspiracies formed in this State against the liberty of *America*.

A draft of a Letter to General *Schuyler* and General *Clinton* was read and approved, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Fishkill, October 10, 1776.

"Sir: I am directed by the Committee of Safety of this State to inform your Excellency that yesterday three of the enemy's frigates passed the obstructions opposite to *Mount Washington*, and got up *Hudson's* river; that we have made from time to time such large drafts from the Militia of the four Counties adjoining that river, that the remaining well-affected are reduced to a small number, and most of the disaffected in this State are on the east side of *Hudson's* river. A Committee, specially appointed for the purpose by the Convention of this State, are sitting daily to frustrate their machinations, and several who had inlisted or engaged to inlist with the enemy, have been discovered, apprehended, and are sent to the westward; many perhaps remain undiscovered. Should the enemy and the disaffected be able to concert measures so as to form a junction of the latter with a party from on board the ships in the river, the Committee of Safety are apprehensive of the want of a very speedy assistance without a diminution of the main army, and have therefore taken the liberty to despatch a copy of the enclosed resolution to each of the Counties therein mentioned, and have directed me to request that your Excellency would be pleased to give such directions as in case of necessity may afford the most speedy succour.

"I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect."

*Ordered*, That two copies thereof be prepared, and one addressed to General *Clinton* and the other to General *Schuyler*.

A draft of a Letter to his Excellency General *Washington* was read and agreed to, and is in the words following:

"Fishkill, 10th October, 1776.

"Sir: We received from Mr. *Tilghman* an account of the enemy's ships having gone up the river, and have dispatched expresses to General *Schuyler* and General *Clinton*, agreeable to your Excellency's request.

"Nothing can be more alarming than the present situation of our State. We are daily getting the most authentick intelligence of bodies of men inlisted and armed, with orders to assist the enemy. We much fear that those cooperating with the enemy will seize such passes as will cut off all communication between the Army and us, and prevent your supplies. We do not trust any more of the Militia out of this County. We have called for some aid from the two adjoining ones, but beg leave to suggest to your Excellency the propriety of sending a body of men to the Highlands or *Peekskill*, to secure the passes, prevent insurrections, and overawe the disaffected.

"We suppose your Excellency has taken the necessary steps to prevent their landing of any men from the ships, should they be so inclined, as no reliance at all can be placed on the Militia of *Westchester* County."

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Die Veneris, 9 ho. A. M., October 11, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. R. Livingston*, Esquire, President.

New York—Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Roosevelt*.

Westchester—Colonel *Cortlandt*, Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Mills*.

ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*.
DUTCHESS—Dr. *Crane*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*.
CHARLOTTE—Major *Webster*.

The Resolution of yesterday, for sending three hundred Men from *Ulster* County to *Peekskill* being reconsidered,

*Resolved*, That the Militia of the County of *Ulster* and the northern part of *Orange* County shall not continue in service longer than one fortnight after their arrival at their stations, within which time this Convention will provide ways and means to have them relieved from the more remote Counties, from whom no immediate support can be derived.

*Resolved*, That Letters be written to the Commanding Officers of the Counties of *Fairfield* and *Litchfield*, in the State of *Connecticut*, informing them of the reasons that we have to apprehend insurrections in this State, if the measures of the disaffected should be seconded by the enemy who are now in *Hudson's* River, and requesting that they will hold their Militia in readiness to lend us every necessary assistance in case of such an event.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the above Resolution be sent to his Excellency Governour *Trumbull*, and that he be requested to order the same to be carried into effect.

The draft of a Letter to the Commanding Officers of *Fairfield* and *Litchfield* was read, and approved of; and is as follows:

"SIR: Three of the enemy's ships of war having passed our fortifications near *King's Bridge* and proceeded up *Hudson's* river to within a few miles of the Highlands, and from the number of disaffected persons in this and *Westchester* County, we have reason to apprehend they meditate the landing some troops in this neighbourhood, and by that means give those deluded wretches an opportunity of joining them and thereby forming a body superiour to the few well-affected Militia who are not drafted into service. The zealous attachments of your Militia to the common cause of *America*, and the willingness with which they stepped forth to the assistance of this State when called upon on a late occasion, renders any arguments unnecessary to induce them to hold themselves in readiness to come to our aid on the shortest notice, when requested.

"I have the honour to be, &c."

The Resolution of instant, fixing the pay of Colonels *Palmer* and *Nicoll* at six Shillings, being reconsidered, it was resolved that they be allowed ten Shillings per day each.

*Resolved*, That *Samuel Arthur* be, and is hereby, appointed Inspector of Flour in the northern part of *Orange* and southern parts of *Ulster* County. That *Dirck Wynkoop*, Jun., Esq., be, and is hereby, also appointed Inspector of Flour at *Kingston*. That each of them be governed by the regulations published in the last act of the General Assembly of the Colony of *New-York* until further order.

*Ordered*, That the President send for Messrs. *De Witt*, *Tappen*, and *Jo. Smith*.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That Mr. *Gerard Bancker*, the Deputy Treasurer of this State, proceed to *Philadelphia*, and apply to the Delegates of this State to receive the Money lately voted to this Convention by Congress. That Mr. *Bancker's* receipt shall be a sufficient discharge for such sum as he may receive on account of this State in pursuance of this order.

That Mr. *Bancker* take to his assistance Colonel *Birdsall*, and that he be, and is hereby, authorized from time to time to procure any other guard or further assistance he shall think necessary for the safe conveyance of the said Money to the Treasury of this State.

And *Ordered and Resolved*, That *William Floyd*, Esq., one of the Delegates of this State, be, and he is hereby, authorized to draw on the Treasury of this State for such sum of Money as he may have present occasion for, and receive the same at *Philadelphia* out of the Money lately voted to this State by Congress.

Friday afternoon, October 11, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Lockwood*, Colonel *Allison*, Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr *Adgate*, Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Schenck*, Mr. *Paris*.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *Ebenezer Woodhull* the sum of two hundred Pounds on account of the Pay and Subsistence of the *Orange* County Troop of Light-Horse, some time ago called into service by order of Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, and that Captain *Woodhull* be accountable for the expenditure thereof.

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Saturday morning, October 12, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscombe*.
WESTCHESTER—Col. *Cortlandt*, Mr. *Mills*, Major *Lockwood*.
ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
GLOUCESTER—General *Bayley*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *William Smith*, Mr. *Gelston*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *William Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Schenck*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*.
CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*.

A Letter from General *Clinton*, dated the 10th instant, requesting that certain arrearages of Bounty due to his Brigade may be sent by Colonel *Hammond*, was read and committed to Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Schenck*, and Mr. *Yates*.

A Letter from Colonel *Hay*, dated the 10th instant, requesting Arms and Provisions for his Regiment, to enable them to resist the enemy should they attempt to land from their vessels on the western shore of *Hudson's* River, was read and referred to the same Committee.

A long Letter from *John Sloss Hobart*, dated at *Fairfield*, the 7th instant, was received and read; and is in the words following to wit:

"Fairfield, October 7th, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: I wrote to Convention from the camp at *King's Bridge*, giving an account of the progress I had made in negotiating the exchange of General *Woodhull*, since which I have received the melancholy intelligence of his death. The wound in his arm mortified; the arm was taken off, but the mortification still continued, and in a few days put an end to that useful life. He was attended in his dying moments by his lady, who was permitted to remove the corpse to his seat, where it was interred about the 23d ultimo. These particulars I have from Captain *Strong*, of *Islip*, by whose door the procession passed in its way to *St. George's*.

"In a day or two after my arrival here, General *Clinton* called upon me, by desire of General *Washington*, to attend upon a council of war to be held at *New-Haven*, from whence I returned not till *Saturday* evening. I shall unavoidably be detained two or three weeks, in order to get my family fixed for the winter; but in the mean time shall send *Ketchum* to the Highlands (say *Fishkills*) as soon as a guard can be procured. At present every one is employed in forwarding the Militia from *New-Hampshire* and *Massachusetts*, who are marching to the number of near six thousand to join the main and grand Army.

"By some late accounts from *Long-Island*, I learn that two hundred Infantry and one hundred Cavalry were at *Huntington*, in order to force the people who had been in our Army to join the *British* troops. This measure will drive the people to desperation; and, if it can be accomplished, most of them will quit the country. I hope General *Washington* will attempt to assist them in it. Much has already been done by Lieutenant-Colonel *Livingston*, who, with the zeal and activity of an excellent officer, has greatly assisted the people at the east end of the Island in removing their families and effects. But many of them are without the means of support with them, which will occasion great difficulties. Should a number more, under the same circum-

stances, come over, it will be too great a charge upon the charity of individuals in this State.

"The provision made by Convention is inadequate to the purpose of maintaining the indigent from the Island, even supposing they were to remove into our own State; for certificates of indigency from the Chairmen of Committees being necessary to entitle to maintenance, such cannot be had; for as soon as the necessity of removing took place, the Committees universally declined acting, so that the resolve intended for their relief became of no effect, and they would fail of the intended relief in any part of *New-York*; but here, where the purity of intention wherewith the Convention was actuated is not known, if the resolve stands in its present form I fear it will be construed into a design to delude both the refugees and the persons who shall entertain them. Some further regulations are necessary if any thing is intended to be done for those unhappy sufferers. The Assembly of this State are to sit in a few days at *New-Haven*, and I trust will, upon application, give all the assistance we can reasonably ask. I hope the Convention will not think me impertinently troublesome upon this subject. My heart aches at every pore when I consider the deplorable situation to which the people whom I have the honour to represent are reduced; a people who, without boasting, were as warmly attached to the common cause, and who as cheerfully obeyed the orders of Convention, as any in the State. Upon the retreat of the Army from the Island, they viewed themselves as abandoned by the Convention—the Continent; and, expecting the enemy hourly among them, a general removal appeared impracticable. Besides, to quit their pleasant habitations and throw themselves, with their tender connections, upon the charity of an unknown world, was a degree of apathy to which they had not yet arrived. In a fit of despair they laid down their arms, and made an unconditional submission to what they supposed the inquiring Army. The people at large being thus brought to terms, they found it less difficult, by threats, to induce the individuals who had formerly held commissions under the Crown of *Great Britain* to resume the execution of their offices. Being well led into the snare, every measure tended to draw the net closer about them; notwithstanding which, I am from the best authority informed that they are accused by Mr. *Tryon* and his minions of having submitted only the better to cover their intention of removing, and that unless the young men do voluntarily take up arms against their country, an inveterate and disappointed soldiery will be let loose upon them.

"These considerations induce me earnestly to wish that some measures may be taken to induce the people to quit the Island, by offering a support to those who cannot maintain themselves; the aged and infirm must be maintained at the publick expense. A regiment of *Long-Island* refugees would provide a support for many of the young men. Should the Convention adopt the idea, there are many officers in General *Scott's* brigade who, together with some of Colonel *Smith's* regiment now on this side, would make an exceeding good corps. Should General *Washington* send a body of troops on to the Island, it will be necessary to destroy every thing that would be of service to the enemy, to prevent its falling into their hands. I beg leave to submit whether it will not be proper to hold out the prospect of compensation, in order to induce the people the more cheerfully to assist in destroying their own property.

"Give me leave, before I conclude this long letter, to suggest the propriety of filling up the two vacant regiments late *McDougall's* and *Clinton's*. Your officers, by the delay, will lose the opportunity of raising so fast in the Continental Army as those of the other States. There is some little uneasiness in the First Regiment on the subject of rank. That matter may now be accommodated to general satisfaction.

"I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

"JOHN SLOSS HOBART.

"To the Honourable the Convention of *New York*."

Ordered to lay on the table till *Monday*.

A Letter from *Samuel Ten Broeck*, Chairman *pro tem.* of the Manor of *Livingston*, dated the 9th *October*, mentioning that the disaffected are numerous and troublesome, and stating the efforts that are making to apprehend them, was read.

Another Letter from *Samuel Ten Broeck*, Chairman, &c., dated the 10th instant, complaining of the outrages of the Tories, and stating that any effort to apprehend them must prove ineffectual, from the number of disaffected persons in each Company who give notice of the measures taken to secure them, and requesting that a Company of sixty men be raised for that service, was also read.

A Letter from *Petrus Van Gaasbeck*, Chairman of the Committee of the Manor of *Livingston*, mentioning the outrages of the Tories in, upon, and into the houses of some of the inhabitants, was read.

*Ordered*, That the three last-mentioned Letters be referred to Mr. *Adgate* and Mr. *Gelston*.

A Letter from *William Paulding*, dated the 10th instant; a Letter from *John Gavino*; also, a Letter from *Rynier Van Houten*, of the 9th instant, relating respectively to Captain *Underhill*, a disaffected person in *Westchester* County, were read.

*Ordered*, That the above-mentioned three Letters be referred to the Committee for detecting and defeating Conspiracies.

The Committee to whom was referred the Resolutions of Congress of the 30th *September*, and the Letter from the Hon. *John Hancock* of the 2d *October*, made a report of a Letter to the Continental Congress; which was read, and the consideration thereof postponed until *Monday*.

The Committee to whom was referred the Letter from General *Greene*, relative to the Horse brought from *Long-Island* by *William Bradford*, Adjutant to Colonel *Hitchcock's* Regiment, reported.

On motion of *William Duer*,

*Resolved*, That the Members of Convention furnish themselves with Arms and Ammunition, to prevent a surprise.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Moore* view the Arms in Mr. *Sackett's* care, at the Landing, and report the state in which they are, and the number.

A Certificate from *Samuel Tudor*, *Stephen Seaman*, and seven other persons, at the ship-yards at *Poughkeepsie*, dated the 10th instant, was read. They thereby certify that *William Warne* hath continued there the time directed by the Convention, during which time he hath laboured diligently and behaved himself peaceably and quietly, and otherwise much to their satisfaction; and they recommend him to the favour of the Convention.

*Ordered*, That the said Certificate be referred to the Committee appointed for detecting Conspiracies, &c.

The Committee, &c., reported the following by way of Resolves:

Your Committee, to whom was referred Brigadier-General *Clinton's* and Colonel *A. H. Hay's* Letters of the 10th *October* instant, beg leave to make the following report:

*Resolved*, That the Levies of one hundred men, ordered to be raised in the northern part of *Orange* County, for the defence of the fortifications at *Peekskill* and in *Westchester* County, be ordered to march immediately and put themselves under the command of Colonel *Hay*, at *Haverstraw*, on the west side of *Hudson's* River, in *Orange* County.

*Resolved*, That five hundred Dollars be sent to Colonel *Hay* on account of supplies for the Troops under his command.

And beg leave to offer the following draft of a Letter enclosing the foregoing Resolves.

With respect to the Letter of General *Clinton*, your Committee also beg leave to submit the following draft of a Letter in answer thereto.

An answer to the Letter from Colonel *Hay* was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

"October 12, 1776.

"SIR: I am directed to inform you that yours of the 10th instant came to hand. You will see by the resolve of this House, copy of which you have enclosed, that a reinforcement of one hundred men from the north part of *Orange* County are to join you as soon as they can be levied. I am also directed to send you by the bearer, Mr. *Van Houten*, five hundred dollars for the Commissary to buy provisions for the troops, a sum probably less than you may want, but we hope before you have expended this, our Treasury

will be replenished, or your troops ordered to be victualled by the Continental Commissary.

"I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

"Colonel *Hay*."

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, dated the 9th instant, concerning ten tons of Gunpowder at *Windsor*, &c. Another Letter from same person, dated 10th instant, mentioning that the enemy's ships still continue laying off *Tarry-Town*, were read.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Cortlandt*, Mr. *Contine*, and Mr. *Duane*, be a Committee to secure the Powder mentioned in Mr. *Tilghman's* Letter, and remove it to a place of safety.

The Committee of Safety were informed by a Member that *Is. Ketcham*, lately ordered by the Convention of this State to be sent to this place under guard, is now in the guard-house, under the care of Captain *Clark's* Company.

*Ordered*, That *Is. Ketcham* be left to the disposition of the Committee for detecting Conspiracies.

A draft of a Letter to *Samuel Ten Broeck*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of the Manor of *Livingston*, was read, and is as follows:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, Fishkill, 13th October, 1776.

"SIR: Yours of the 9th and 10th instant have been received and laid before the Committee. They had some days before been convinced that more effectual measures were necessary to be taken for the safety of your district, and had come into the enclosed resolutions, copies of which were sent forward on the 8th instant.

"It is hoped, instead of the number of men you request, the company ordered to be raised will be sufficient to answer every purpose intended. In the mean time I am directed to assure you that the Committee will afford you every necessary assistance in their power.

"I am, sir, &c.,

"*Saml. Ten Broeck*, Esq., &c."

—

Saturday afternoon, October 12, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment, and adjourned till to-morrow morning.

—

Sunday morning, October 13, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment, and adjourned till to-morrow morning, to go to Church.

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Monday morning, October 14, 1776.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.

NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Jay*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Colonel *Cortlandt*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Adgate*, Colonel *Livingston*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *William Smith*, Mr. *Gelston*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Sacket*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*.
ULSTER—Major *Parks*, Mr. *Contine*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
CUMBERLAND—Mr. *Stevens*.
GLOUCESTER—Colonel *Bailey*.

Mr. *Moore* reported that he had been at the Landing, and viewed the Arms in Mr. *Sacket's* care. That out of sixty-three Arms and two Barrels, thirteen appear to be fit for immediate use, with a little cleaning and repair; the rest are in very bad order.

*Ordered*, That the thirteen Arms be immediately repaired by Mr. *McCavery*, and that the rest of the Arms be sent to *Poughkeepsie*, to Mr. *John Schenck*, who is requested to get them repaired and sent down to this Convention without delay.

A Letter from *Thomas Randall*, dated the 10th instant, accompanying a Letter from *Thomas Quigley*, Lieutenant of the Schooner *Putnam*, dated 6th instant.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the Resolution directing the sale of the said Schooner be transmitted to Captain *Randall*.

Mr. *Gelson* informs that one thousand pounds of Gunpowder, which had been sent by this State into *Suffolk* County, is removed to *Say-Brook*, in *Connecticut*; that there is also a quantity of Saltpetre in that State, which he had purchased in *Suffolk* County for the State.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Gelson* and Mr. *Duane* be a Committee to inquire into the state of and devise ways and means to secure the Gunpowder and Saltpetre lately removed from *Suffolk* County into *Connecticut*, mentioned to the Convention by Mr. *Gelson*, and also to inquire where the Arms are which were removed from that County by Colonel *Livingston*.

Mr. *Gelston* further informed that he has in his hands two hundred and twenty-five Dollars belonging to this State, which he received of Colonel *Josiah Smith*, of *Suffolk* County, being part of the gross sum advanced to Colonel *Smith* to discharge the one half of the bounty engaged to his Regiment.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Gelston* pay the said two hundred and twenty-five Dollars to the Treasurer of this Convention, and take his receipt for the same, which shall be a full indemnification for Mr. *Gelston* for the same.

A Letter from *William Floyd*, dated at *Harlem*, the 11th instant, enclosing two Resolutions* of Congress, the one relating to General *Schuyler*, the other respecting Clothing for the Troops.

A Letter from our Delegates at Congress, dated the 7th instant, enclosing Mr. *Hunter's* account (say receipt) for one hundred thousand Dollars, to be by him conveyed to this Convention, which sum was received by the Secretaries in the absence of the Treasurer, who gave their joint receipt for the same, and this morning the money was by them delivered to the Treasurer.

Whereas it hath become absolutely necessary for the defence of this State that a body of Troops should without delay be assembled at on near this place: And whereas accommodations for the said Troops cannot be speedily provided in any other manner than by putting them in houses or buildings belonging to the publick: And whereas the house owned and built near this place by the donations of divers well-disposed persons for the purpose of an academy for the education of youth, hath not for a long time past been applied to that use, but is now only occupied as a dwelling-house by the Rev. Mr. *Chauncey Graham*, who formerly presided over the said academy: And whereas, notwithstanding the pressing necessity this Convention hath for the use of the said house has been communicated to Mr. *Graham* by a Committee of this House, he declines relinquishing the possession thereof; and it being inconsistent with the duty which this House owe to their constituents to permit individuals to occupy publick buildings when the same are wanted for publick use:

Therefore *Ordered*, That the said Rev. Mr. *Chauncey Graham* do, within one week from this day, remove from the said Academy.

*Resolved*, That the sum of £40 be paid to the said *Chauncey Graham* as a compensation for the trouble and expense he may be put to by the aforesaid Order.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed for the purpose of inquiring into be directed forthwith to put the said house in a proper state for the reception of Troops, and that the sum of £100 be paid into their hands for that purpose.

Colonel *Luddington* informed a Member that he has twenty or more Arms, taken from disaffected persons, now in his possession, and requests to know how they shall be disposed of.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Luddington* send all the Arms in his possession, taken from disaffected persons, to this

* IN CONGRESS, *October* 2, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the President be desired to write General *Schuyler*, and inform him that the Congress cannot consent, during the present situation of their affairs, to accept of his resignation, but request that he continue the command which he now holds; that he be assured that the aspersions which his enemies have thrown out against his character have had no influence upon the minds of the Members of this House, who are fully satisfied of his attachment to the cause of freedom, and are willing to bear their testimony to the many services which he has rendered his country; and that, in order effectually to put calumny to silence, they will at an early day appoint a Committee of their body to inquire fully into his conduct, which they trust will establish his reputation in the opinion of all good men.

Extract from the Minutes: CHAS. THOMSON, *Secretary*.

Committee, without delay, and that he send his account for repairing them to the Auditor-General.

On motion of Mr. *Duane*,

*Resolved*, That General *James Clinton*, commanding the Fortresses in the Highlands, be requested to give directions that all Boats passing up and down the river be diligently searched, and the Passengers carefully examined, and such as shall be suspected, secured; and that for his passes, besides the usual sentries, a Barge be manned and kept in motion in the river opposite to each Fort every night; and that the General be further requested to give orders for taking up and securing in a place of safety all the Row-Boats, Barges, and small craft, between the Forts in the Highlands and the Army, to prevent those falling into the enemy's hands, and their gaining intelligence.

*Ordered*, That a copy be sent to General *Clinton*.

The Committee appointed on the 12th instant to have the Gunpowder lately brought to *New-Windsor* Landing removed to places of safety, reported, that there is not any quantity of Gunpowder belonging to the publick now at that landing; that they are informed that the five tons of Gunpowder which arrived at *New-Windsor* from *Philadelphia*, was immediately carried down to *Fort Constitution*, and there lodged, from whence part of it, by order of the Commanding Officer, has been taken to *Fort Independence*, and placed in such manner as to supply the Troops or Militia there; that the Powder brought from the Mill of Messrs. *Wisner & Phillipse* to *New-Windsor*, was immediately put on board of a proper vessel for the purpose, to be transported to *Spytden Duyvel Creek*. Mr. *Phillips*, one of the manufacturers, proceeded with the vessel with the Powder. The enemy's ships having got up *Hudson's* River before the vessel with the Powder could reach her destination, information is received that Mr. *Phillips*, who was at *Peekskill* with the Powder, intended to land it there, and proceed by land. That a Letter has been sent by Mr. *McKesson*, one of the Secretaries, to the owners of the two Powder-Mills near *Goshen*, requesting them not to send any Gunpowder to the river side until further order.

*Ordered*, That a copy of this Report be immediately sent to General *Washington*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Cantine* be added to the Lead and Brimstone Committee, and that three of the said Committee to be a quorum.

Certain Resolutions, proposed by Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, for purchasing all the Stock and Grain in *Westchester* County, were read and agreed to, and are in the words following, that is to say:

"*Resolved*, That a Commissary be appointed immediately to repair to the County of *Westchester*, to purchase all the Cattle fit for the use of the Army within that County, and drive them down to the Army at *King's Bridge* as fast as they may be wanted, provided that so much shall be left as is absolutely necessary for the support of the families from whom the same shall be taken.

"*Resolved*, That if any person shall refuse to part with his Cattle at a reasonable price, that the Commissary be directed to drive them down to the Army, and return to the owner the money for which they sold, after deducting the contingent charge.

"*Resolved*, That all the Hides of the Cattle so driven and killed, be carefully preserved and sent to some safe place on the north side of the Highlands, where, being appraised by persons hereafter to be named for that purpose, they shall be paid for by this State.

"*Resolved*, That the said Commissary be directed to swear truly, and to the best of his skill and ability, to perform the trust above reposed in him, and that the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the County of *Westchester* be empowered to administer the Oath, and give a certificate thereof.

"*Resolved*, That Mr. *Stephen Ward* be Commissary, and that he be allowed a reasonable compensation for his expense and trouble in the execution of the above Resolves.

"*Resolved*, That *Gil. Budd Horton*, *Alexander Hunt*, *James Varian*, and *Joseph Youngs*, be appointed Commissioners to drive all the Horses, Hogs, Sheep, and Cattle, from those parts of the County of *Westchester* which lay upon the Sound or *Hudson's* River, and which are any way exposed to the enemy, and to billet them out upon the farms that lay on the interiour part of the County till the same can be otherwise disposed of, and that a reasonable compensation be allowed them for their trouble.

"*Resolved and Ordered*, That the Farmers in the County of *Westchester* immediately thresh out all their Grain, as the Straw will be absolutely necessary for the use of the Army, and as those who do not comply with this Resolution will be in danger of having their Straw taken for the use of the Army, even though the same should not be threshed.

"*Resolved*, That his Excellency General *Washington* be empowered to order any Straw in the County of *Westchester* to be taken for the use of the Army, paying to the owners a reasonable compensation therefor.

"*Resolved*, That the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the County of *Westchester* for the time being, on application from the Commissary-General, be empowered to take so much of the Grain in the County of *Westchester* as shall be necessary for the use of the Army, allowing to the owners thereof the now current price, and paying them upon the delivery, provided always that so much shall be left in the hands of the owners as will be sufficient to support their families for nine months, and to perfect the fatting of such Hogs as may now be actually put up for that purpose.

"*Resolved*, That his Excellency General *Washington*, in case that the Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Horses, or Hay, in the County of *Westchester* should be in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, be empowered either to remove it or them therefrom, or if that should not be practicable, to destroy the same.

"*Resolved*, That the Commissary or Commissaries hereby appointed, be empowered to appoint agents under them, and to call upon any officers commanding any part of the Militia, for such detachments of the men under his command as will be necessary to carry the same into execution.

"*Resolved*, That Mr. *Stephen Ward* apply to the Commissary-General for such sums of Money as will, from time to time, be necessary to carry the above Resolves into execution.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of the above Resolutions be sent to his Excellency General *Washington*, and to the Commissary-General, requesting their assistance in carrying the same into execution."

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Monday afternoon, October 14, 1776.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.

New-York—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Harper*.
Suffolk—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Gelston*.
Charlotte—Mr. *Webster*.
Albany—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Adgate*.
Orange—Mr. *Allison*.
Cumberland—Mr. *Stephens*.
Ulster—Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*.
Westchester—Colonel *Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*, Mr. *Mills*.
Gloucester—Colonel *Bailey*.
Dutchess—Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Landons*.
Tryon—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.

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CONVENTION.

Tuesday morning, October 15, 1776.

The Convention met.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.

New-York—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Duane*.
Dutchess—Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *Sackett*, Mr. *Schenck*.
Albany—Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Colonel *Livingston*.
Orange—Mr. *Wisner*, Colonel *Allison*.
Charlotte—Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Webster*.
Suffolk—Mr. *William Smith*, Mr. *Gelston*.
Westchester—Judge *Graham*, Colonel *Cortlandt*, Mr. *Mills*.
Cumberland—Mr. *Stephens*.
Ulster—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Parks*.

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Tryon—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.

Gloucester—Colonel *Bailey*.

A Letter from the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., dated the 9th instant, was received and read, in the words following, to wit:

"Philadelphia, October 9, 1776.

"Gentlemen: The enclosed resolves, which I transmit in obedience to the commands of Congress, will inform you of the ample provision they have made for the support of both officers and soldiers who shall enter into the service during the war. The pay of the former is considerably increased, and the latter is to receive annually a complete suit of clothes, or, in lieu thereof, the sum of twenty dollars should he provide the suit for himself. This additional encouragement, besides the twenty dollars bounty and one hundred acres of land formerly granted, the Congress expect will be the means of engaging the troops to serve during the war. For this purpose, also, I am to request you will appoint a Committee or Committees to repair immediately to the Army, to induce such of the troops as have been raised by your State to inlist during the war, and to appoint officers for the same.

"The Congress, for very obvious reasons, are extremely anxious to keep the Army together. The dangerous consequence of their breaking up, and the difficulty of forming a new one, are inconceivable. Were this barrier once removed, military power would quickly spread desolation and ruin over the face of our country. The importance, and indeed the absolute necessity, of filling the Army, of providing for the troops and engaging them to serve during the war, is so apparent, and has been so frequently urged, that I shall only request your attention to the resolves of Congress on this subject, and beseech you, by that love you have for your country, her rights and liberties, to exert yourselves to carry them speedily and effectually into execution, as the only means of preserving her in this her critical and alarming situation.

"I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

"John Hancock, *President*.

"Honourable Convention of *New-York*."

Sundry Resolutions of Congress, from the 2d instant upwards, enclosed in said Letter, were also read.

A printed set of Resolutions of Congress, relating to Loan Officers, and dated the 2d and 7th instant, were also read.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, dated the 13th instant, was read.

An Account of *John Simmons*, Inn-Keeper, for maintaining *Israel Youngs*, *Isaac Youngs*, *Isaac Ketcham*, and *Henry Dawkins*, from the 15th of *May* to 13th of *July* last, amounting to £44 6*s*. 6*d*., which was sworn to by the said *John Simmons*, and allowed by the Auditor-General, was read.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Mr. *John Simmons* the amount of the within Account, and that the sum stand charged, to be repaid by the within-mentioned *Isaac Ketchem*, *Israel Youngs*, *Isaac Youngs*, and *Henry Dawkins*, or some or one of them, in such manner as shall be hereafter ordered.

A draft of a Letter to the Delegates of this State at Congress, was read and approved, and is in the words as follow, to wit:

Whereas this Convention is informed that the Records of the City and County of *New-York*, as well as the Records of the County and the Records of the Borough of *Westchester*, are at present lodged in private houses in the County of *Westchester*, whereby they may be exposed to the enemy, who have landed in that County,

*Ordered*, That *William Miller*, *Theo. Bartow*, and *John Cozine*, be and are hereby appointed Commissioners for removing, with all possible expedition, all the said Records to *Kingston*, in *Ulster* County, and there placed in the care of *Dirck Wynkoop*, *Abraham Haas Brouck*, and *Christopher Tappen*, Esqs.:

That the said Commissioners apply either to the Troops raised for the protection of that County, or to the Militia, for a proper Guard to attend the said Records in their removal; which said Troops or Militia are hereby directed to furnish such Guard as may be necessary for that purpose.

Whereas Major *Henry Schenck*, at the request of sundry of the Members of this Convention and of the late Committee of Safety, lent and advanced five hundred Dollars to *Roeloff Van Houten*, to be applied to the maintenance and support of the Militia or Troops employed to guard the shore at *Haverstraw*, in *Orange* County,

*Ordered*, That *Peter Van B. Livingston*, Esq., as Treasurer, pay unto Major *Henry Schenck* the sum of five hundred Dollars, by him advanced to Colonel *Hay* to support the Troops or Militia employed to guard the shore at *Haverstraw*.

Certain Returns of Muster-Rolls of Companies of Rangers raised in the Counties of *Tryon*, *Albany*, and *Cumberland*, were produced to the Convention, and a request made for an order on the Treasurer for money to pay the bounty (say the remaining moiety) to the said Rangers.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Webster*, and Mr. *Duane*, be a Committee to take the said Muster-Rolls, and report thereon to the Committee of Safety, who are hereby authorized to proceed thereon.

A Letter from a Committee of Congress to purchase Clothing, was read, and is as follows:

"Philadelphia, October 7, 1776.

"Gentlemen: The Committee appointed to carry into execution the enclosed resolves can think of no method so proper for the State of *New-York*, as to apply to the Convention; and for that purpose we do send you ten thousand dollars, and desire you to appoint proper persons in the several districts to execute the same; and if, upon trial, you find that more clothing may be had than this money will purchase, you may have more by applying to this Committee.

"Signed:

| | |
|---|---|
| "Robt. Treat Paine, | Wm. Williams, |
| "William Ellery, | Arthur Middleton, |
| "G. Wythe, | Lyman Hall, |
| "William Floyd, | Geo. Ross. |
| "Josiah Bartlett, | |

"To the honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

The Resolutions therein contained, dated the 19th *June* and 25th *September*, 1776, for providing Clothing for the Troops, were also read.

*Ordered*, That the said sum be paid into the Treasury, and the Papers committed to Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, and Mr. *Newkirk*.

*Resolved*, That one month's Pay and Rations be allowed to Major *Hoisington*.

Therefore, *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State do pay to Mr. *Stephens*, Member from *Cumberland* County, for the use of Major *J. Hoisington*, one month's pay as Major, amounting to , and the further sum of for one month's rations, at the rate of 21*s*. 4*d*. per week.

On motion of Mr. *Duer*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed immediately, by ballot, to proceed to the camp at *King's Bridge* and *New-Jersey*, for the purpose mentioned in the Resolutions of Congress relative to appointing Officers. That another Committee of three be appointed to go to *Ticonderoga*, for the same purposes.

The Convention proceeded to ballot: Whereupon it appeared that the gentlemen hereafter named were duly elected for the respective Committees: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Jay*, Judge *Graham*, and Mr. *Robert Harper*, be the Committee to proceed to *King's Bridge*; and that Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Cuyler*, and Mr. *Robert Yates*, be the Committee to proceed to *Albany* and *Ticonderoga*.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to repair to *King's Bridge* be directed and empowered to carry into execution the Resolves of Congress relative to the inlisting of Troops. That the Committee appointed to repair to *Albany* be vested with similar powers, and that both Committees, together with Mr. *Duer*, be a Committee for carrying into execution the Resolves of Congress relative to the new arrangement of Officers.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *R. R. Livingston* prepare and report

a draft of an answer to the Letter from President *Hancock*. And that he have leave of absence for eight days from the time of his departure. That Mr. *Harper* have leave of absence for one month from the time of his departure.

Whereas the Convention of the State of *New-York* did, on the day of last, by resolve, order the sum of for the use of the contingent charges of the County of *Charlotte*, payable to the order of the County Committee of *Charlotte* County, signed by the Chairman, and countersigned by the Clerk, which sum has not yet been paid: And whereas the said County of *Charlotte* is now in immediate want of the said money:

Therefore, *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *William Duer* and *Alexander Webster*, Esqrs., the sum of , taking their receipts for the same.

*Resolved*, That 8*s*. 6*d*. per pound be given by this Convention to every person for Saltpetre, made between this day and the first of *January*, seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, of materials collected within this State; the maker to swear to this before the Chairman of the County or the Inspector of Saltpetre. Also a bounty of one shilling per pound for all Powder made of Saltpetre brought into this State from the neighbouring States, or from abroad, within the time above-mentioned.

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Tuesday afternoon, October 15, 1776.

Convention met.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Duane*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Colonel *Livingston*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *Sacket*, Mr. *Schenck*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Wm. Smith*, Mr. *Gelston*.
WESTCHESTER—Judge *Graham*, Colonel *Cortlandt*, Mr. *Mills*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Williams*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Parks*.
TRYON—Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
GLOUCESTER—Colonel *Bailey*.

On motion of Mr. *Jay*,

*Resolved*, That another Member be chosen, by ballot, and added to the Committee appointed to repair to *King's Bridge* to carry into execution the Resolves of Congress relative to the inlisting of Troops.

The ballots of the several Counties having a representation present, being taken and told, Colonel *De Witt* appeared to be duly elected.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That Colonel *De Witt* be added to that Committee.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt* be added to the Committee appointed on the 21st day of *September* last for the detecting and defeating Conspiracies.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Jay* have leave of absence, to assist in removing his aged parents, with their effects, out of danger of the enemy, and that in the mean time his attendance at *New-York* with the Committee appointed to carry into execution the Resolves of Congress relative to the inlisting of Troops be

Mr. *Jay*, seconded by Mr. *Duane*, moved that a Vice President be appointed by ballot; which was agreed to.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot; and upon counting the votes, it appeared that Colonel *Van Cortlandt* was duly elected.

Thereupon, *Resolved*, That Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt* be and is hereby appointed Vice President of this Convention.

Mr. *Robert R. Livingston* moved certain Resolutions relative to Hides; which were amended and agreed to, and are in the words following, that is to say:

Whereas large numbers of Cattle are supplied by this and the Eastern States for the use of the Armies at *New-York* and *Ticonderoga:* And whereas the hides of most or all of the cattle driven from the Eastern States, and many of those purchased on contract in this State, are by the contractors sent into the State of *Connecticut*, and those killed at the Northern posts for the use of that Army are, for the most part, as this Convention are informed, wasted for want of proper care,—great exertions have been made in the northern parts of this State to supply the Army at *Ticonderoga* with shoes, and it is also necessary to provide in time for the quota of troops raised within this State,—from which circumstance the article of leather is already nearly exhausted, must become exceedingly scarce and dear, and leave part of the Army, which depends upon this State, distressed: And whereas the inhabitants of this State are, by these means, reduced to the greatest distresses for the want of that necessary article: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Delegates of this State state the facts to the honourable the Congress, and requesting that this State may be at liberty to send a Commissary to *Ticonderoga* and *Fort George*, in order to take charge of this necessary article, for which this State are willing to allow the price at which they shall be appraised, after deducting the expense attending the care and transportation thereof. And that they obtain a resolution of the honourable the Congress, directing the Deputy Quartermaster in that department to give them such assistance as will be necessary for securing the same.

Whereas Major *Henry Schenck* was some time since appointed by the Convention of this State to purchase Flour, and transmit the same to the Commissary-General for the use of the Army: And whereas the Flour which was manufactured is by this time in all probability purchased, and the attendance of Major *Schenck* as one of the representatives of this State is necessary:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That Major *Schenck* be and is hereby discharged from that agency, or any further attendance on that business.

*Resolved*, That the words "State of *New-York*," which was ordered by the resolutions of this Convention of the 13th day of *August* last to be altered on the plates for the emission of Bills of Credit of this Convention, be printed on the said bills with types only.

Major *Schenck*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *Contine*, General *Bailey*, Mr. *William Smith*, Colonel *Allison*, and Mr. *Mills*, was appointed a Committee of Safety for this State until the meeting of Convention. That five Members with the President be a quorum. That all Members who attend have voices. That the Committee of Safety having twenty Members present, may do every act which the Convention may do, except forming a Government.

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COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Wednesday morning, October 16, 1776.

Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Dunscombe*, Mr. *Jay*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Gansevoort*.
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Parks*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *Schenck*.
GLOUCESTER—Colonel *Bailey*.

The Reverend *C. Graham* came into the Convention, and complained of great hardships in consequence of the order for his removal out of the Academy.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Allison* and Mr. *Moore* proceed to the Academy to consult with Mr. *Graham*, and determine whether he can remain a few days therein, and what part he shall occupy.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Commissary be immediately appointed to provide for the Troops coming up to this place, and that *Henry Wyckoff* be the person, during the will and pleasure of this House.

*Resolved*, That an express be immediately despatched to *Peekskill*, with orders that all the Troops, except two Companies which are ordered up to this place, remain at *Peekskill* until further orders.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Cortlandt* and Mr. *Wisner* do immediately proceed to *Peekskill*, to provide quarters for the Troops there, and to assist the Engineer in pointing out the places in the Highlands most proper to be fortified.

*Resolved*, That two Companies of those Troops now coming be subject to the direction of the Committee for detecting Conspiracies, &c., till further orders.

*Resolved*, That the said Committee be authorized at their discretion to call out such part of the Militia of this State for fatigue men as they may think necessary.

Two Letters of intelligence, one from Mr. *Tilghman*, the other from Mr. *Harrison*, the General's Secretary, dated at Head-Quarters, the 14th instant, were read and returned to the Committee of Correspondence.

A Letter from Colonel *Hay*, at *Haverstraw*, dated 15th instant, giving an account of the state of his Regiment and of the motions of the enemy's Ships, was read.

*Ordered*, That the President write to Colonel *Hay*, and inform a detachment of one hundred men of the Militia, from the northwest side of the Mountains, are marched to the banks of *Hudson's* River, on the south of the Mountains, and that he direct Colonel *Hay* to drive all the stock (which are in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy) to the interiour part of the County.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to Mr. *Robert Harper* the sum of one hundred Dollars, for the purpose of carrying into execution the resolve of Convention of the 3d instant concerning the manufacturing of the Flax belonging to this Convention, and that Mr. *Harper* account for the expenditure thereof.

The Committee to whom were referred the Resolutions of Congress of the 30th *September* and 1st *October*, relative to Surgeons and Surgeons' Mates, and the call of the names for all the absent Members to attend, and General *Greene's* Letter relative to a Horse in his possession, taken from a Tory on *Long-Island*, reported the following drafts of Letters; which were read and approved, and ordered to be transmitted:

"In Committee of Safety, for the State of New-York.

"Sir: We have received your favour of the 7th instant, respecting the horse taken by *William Bradford*, Adjutant to Colonel *Hitchcock's* Regiment, which you inform us is the property of one *Jacob Wyckoff*, who has joined the enemy. As the horse is now in your possession, and you are in want of one, we desire you will have him appraised and kept in your service until some future determination of the Convention or future Legislature of this State relative to the disposition of the property of all such persons as have or hereafter may join the enemy, that may fall into our hands. The bravery of the Adjutant will then also be considered.

"I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant.

"To Major-General *Greene*."

The Letter to the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esquire, President of the Continental Congress, reported as aforesaid by the same Committee, was in the words following, to wit:

"Sir: The Convention were honoured with yours of the 2d instant, enclosing some resolves relative to Surgeons for the Army, and urging the necessity of a full representation at Congress. If by a full representation, nothing more is meant or intended than such a number of Delegates from every State as will entitle each of them to a vote, this Convention hope that the recommendation is complied with by this State, since they have always directed so many gentlemen to remain at *Philadelphia* as will answer that purpose. If, on the other hand, it is expected that all the Delegates of this State should attend, this Convention, though fully satisfied of the propriety of such a requisition, must beg the honourable the Congress to excuse their non-attendance at present, the critical situation of this State, equally endangered by open and secret enemies, rendering it extremely improper to deprive the Convention of the assistance of any gentleman whose abilities may be of service to it, at least till the Army is arranged, and measures taken to form and establish some more permanent government than we now enjoy. These considerations, we flatter ourselves, will have some weight with Congress, and not only induce them to admit our excuse for not permitting such of our Delegates as are now here to attend at *Philadelphia*, but to defer any matter in which this State is particularly interested, (when the general cause of *America* will safely admit of such delay,) till they are more fully represented.

Drs. *John Jones*, *Samuel Bard*, and *Malachi Treat*, were appointed by this Convention to examine all Surgeons or Surgeon's Mates that entered into the service of this State. No warrant or commission has been given to any in that capacity, unless they produced a certificate of their examination, signed by at least two of those gentlemen, setting forth that they were fully qualified to discharge their duty in their stations, excepting a few late instances, when they could not be obtained by reason of those gentlemen being dispersed in different parts of the County, and could not attend, in which case five or six have been admitted on the examination of one only.

"Yours, &c. By order.

"The Hon. *John Hancock*, President, &c., &c., &c."

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Wednesday afternoon, October 16, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.

Albany—Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Ab'm Yates*.
Orange—Mr. *Wisner*, Colonel *Allison*.
Gloucester—Colonel *Bailey*.
Suffolk—Mr. *Wm. Smith*, Mr. *Gelston*.
Westchester—Mr. *Mills*, Judge *Graham*.
Ulster—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Parks*, Mr. *Wisner*.
Charlotte—Mr. *Webster*.
Dutchess—Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *Schenck*.
Tryon—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Sacket*.

Mr. *Duer* informed the Committee that his attendance on the Committee for detecting Conspiracies, &c., is so absolutely necessary as not to admit of his going down to *Peekskill* for the purpose to which he was appointed this morning, in conjunction with Colonel *Cortlandt*, to provide Quarters for the Troops there, and assisting the Engineer in pointing out the grounds proper to be fortified, and therefore prays that Mr. *Wisner* be appointed in his stead.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Wisner* be appointed in the stead of Mr. *Duer*.

Mr. *Wisner* informed the Committee that he had taken upon himself to employ some persons to repair the Roads in the northern part of *Orange* County leading to the Fortifications in the Highlands, and requests to know the sense of the Committee on the propriety of this measure, and whether they shall be directed to go on in the said necessary work.

*Resolved*, That this Committee do approve of Mr. *Wisner's* conduct, and that the persons employed by Mr. *Wisner* continue to repair the said Roads, and that this Convention will defray the expenses.

A person attending by direction of General *Mifflin*, for the advice of the Convention relative to a quantity of Bricks, Shingles, Boards, and other stores on board vessels somewhere in the river near the Highlands,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Schenck* make the necessary inquiry and assist the man.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Schenck* provide Vessels to transport those Troops which were intended to have come to this place back to *Peekskill*.

A Letter from *John Sloss Hobart*, Esq., dated at *Fairfield*, *October* 8th, 1776, setting forth the state and circumstances of the Sloop *Montgomery*, and of the sum of money

* October 16, 1776.—Whereas the Convention of the Representatives of the State of *New-York*, on the 19th day of *September*, 1776, did appoint and authorize us (*Henry Wisner*, &c.) a Committee to employ proper persons for making discoveries and essays of Sulphur, Lead, and Flint, within this State, we do hereby covenant and agree with *John McDonald*, Miner, in manner following, that is to say: That he, the said *John McDonald*, shall sink the Lead Mine which he has lately opened in the *Great Nine Partners*, in *Dutchess* County, twelve feet in depth from its present state, and extend the same thirty feet in length and three feet in breadth, in such direction as he shall think best to pursue the vein, and carefully separate the ore from the rubbish, and deliver the same to the order of this Convention. And the said *John McDonald* further agrees, for the consideration hereafter mentioned, to provide at his own proper cost and charge all such articles as may be necessary for the performance of this agreement, and to make a faithful report of the state of the mine at least once in every month. And we, the said *Henry Wisner*, &c., do on our part covenant and agree to pay to the said *John McDonald* the sum of ten pounds for every sixth feet in depth, sixth feet in length, and three feet in breadth, which he shall sink in said mine.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals the 16th day of *October*, 1776.

necessary for paying off the wages of the crew and other expenses:

Thereupon *Ordered*, That the sum of £800 be transmitted by Mr. *Gelston* to Mr. *Hobart*, at *Fairfield*, or such other person as Mr. *Gelston* may think safe and prudent, in the absence of Mr. *Hobart*, to be advanced to Captain *Rogers* for defraying the expenses of fitting out and paying off the wages of the officers and crew of the Sloop *Montgomery*.

Report of the Committee sent to consult with the Rev. Mr. *Graham* relative to the Academy ordered for the use of the Troops and to view the said building, was read, and postponed till to-morrow morning.

Thursday morning, October 17, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscombe*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Wm. Smith*, Mr. *Gelston*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Wisner*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Ab'm Yates*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*.
DUTCHESS—Major *Landon*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*.
GLOUCESTER—Colonel *Bailey*.

A Letter from *Richard Varick*, Esq., Secretary to General *Schuyler*, dated *October* 14th, 1776, enclosing copy of a Letter from General *Arnold* to General *Schuyler*, giving a particular account of the action on *Lake Champlain* between the enemy's fleet and ours on the 12th instant, was read, and is in the words following, to wit, that is to say:

"Schuyler's Island, October 12, 1776.

"DEAR GENERAL: Yesterday morning at eight o'clock, the enemy's fleet, consisting of one ship mounting sixteen guns, one snow mounting the same number, one schooner of fourteen guns, two of twelve, two sloops, a bomb-ketch, and a large vessel, (that did not come up,) with fifteen or twenty flat-bottomed boats or gondolas, carrying one twelve or eighteen-pounder in their bows, appeared off *Cumberland Head*. We immediately prepared to receive them. The galleys and *Royal Savage* were ordered under way, the rest of our fleet lay at an anchor. At eleven o'clock they ran under the lee of *Valcour*, and began the attack. The schooner, by some bad management, fell to leeward, and was first attacked; one of her masts was wounded, and her rigging shot away. The Captain thought prudent to run her on the point of *Valcour*, where all the men were saved. They boarded her, and at night set fire to her. At half-past twelve the engagement became general, and very warm. Some of the enemy's ships and all their gondolas beat and rowed up within musket-shot of us. They continued a very hot fire with round and grape-shot until five o'clock, when they thought proper to retire to about six or seven hundred yards distance, and continued the fire until dark. The *Congress* and *Washington* have suffered greatly; the latter lost her First Lieutenant killed, Captain and Master wounded. The *New-York* lost all her officers, except her Captain. The *Philadelphia* was hulled in so many places that she sunk in about one hour after the engagement was over. The whole killed and wounded amounts to about sixty. The enemy landed a large number of *Indians* on the island and each shore, who kept an incessant fire on us, but did little damage. The enemy had, to appearance, upwards of one thousand in batteaus, prepared for boarding. We suffered much for want of seamen and gunners. I was obliged myself to point most of the guns on board the *Congress*, which I believe did good execution. The *Congress* received seven shot between wind and water, was hulled a dozen times, had her mainmast wounded in two places, and her yard in one. The *Washington* was hulled a number of times, her mainmast shot through, and must have a new one. Both vessels are very leaky, and want repairing.

"On consulting with General *Waterbury* and Colonel *Wigglesworth*, it was thought prudent to return to *Crown Point*, every vessel's ammunition being nearly three-fourths spent. At seven o'clock, Colonel *Wigglesworth*, in the *Trumbull*, got under way; the gondolas and small vessels followed; and the *Congress* and *Washington* brought up the rear. The enemy did not attempt to molest us. Most of the fleet is this minute come to an anchor. The wind is small to the southward. The enemy's fleet is under way to leeward, and beating up. As soon as our leaks are stopped, the whole fleet will make the utmost despatch to *Crown Point*, where I beg you will send ammunition and your further orders for us. On the whole, I think we have had a very fortunate escape, and have great reason to return our humble and hearty thanks to Almighty God for preserving and delivering so many of us from our more than savage enemies.

"I am, &c., B. ARNOLD.

"P. S. I had not moved on board the *Congress* when the enemy appeared, and lost all my papers and most of my clothes on board the schooner. I wish a dozen batteaus, well manned, could be sent immediately, and tow up the vessels in case of a southwardly wind.

"I cannot, in justice to the officers in the fleet, omit mentioning their spirited conduct during the action. B. A."

A Letter from *Jacobus Lansing*, Jun., of *Albany*, dated at *New-Windsor, October* 11th, 1776, directed to the Deputies of *Albany*, setting forth the defenceless state of the city of *Albany*, and suggesting the propriety of erecting some fortifications, and supplying them with some field-pieces, was read, and committed to Messrs. *Adgate*, *Allison*, and *Landon*

Two Certificates from the Committee of *Walkill*, dated *September* 11th, 1776, and signed by *William Wilkin*, Chairman: the one that *Henry Wisner*, Jun., has at his Mill manufactured nine thousand one hundred and eighty-four pounds of Powder, agreeable to resolve of Congress; the other that *Henry Wisner*, Jun., and *Morris Philips* have erected a Mill, and manufactured agreeable to resolve of Congress. Committed to Mr. *Contine* and Mr. *Moore*.

The Committee to whom was referred a conference with the Rev. *Chauncey Graham*, and to examine into the particular state of the publick Academy in this town, in consequence of a resolve of this House of the 13th instant, wherein the said Rev. *Chauncey Graham* was ordered to move out of the said Academy in one week's time, in order that the same might be occupied by the troops ordered here by this Convention, submitted it as their opinion that the following Resolves be entered into by this House:

*Resolved*, That whereas it appears to this Committee to be exceedingly inconvenient for the Rev. *Chauncey Graham* to remove his family out of the publick Academy in this town on so short a notice, at this difficult season, as hath been allowed him by a former Resolve of this House, he is therefore hereby permitted to occupy the easternmost room on the lower story of said Academy one fortnight from this day, provided he permit the soldiers to have the use of the necessary.

*Resolved*, That the said *Chauncey Graham* be permitted to take the Sashes and Glass out of three of the Windows in said Academy that are not in the rooms now occupied, relying on his word to this House that he will replace the same in good order when thereunto required by this Convention or a future Legislature of this State, or whenever the said Academy may be converted to the uses it was originally intended for.

*Resolved*, That there be allowed unto the said Reverend *Chauncey Graham* an equal number of Boards as purchased by him for the use of the Academy since his late residence there, and also as many Nails as shall or may appear to have been used by said *Graham* in working up said Boards into partitions, or otherwise, for the conveniency of said House.

The Committee to whom was referred the claim of Mr. *Nicholas Bayard* for providing an Officer for securing the Records of this State, for a Guard-Room for the Guard appointed to watch the said Records, and for Fire-Wood and Candles supplied the Guard, have taken the same into consideration, and thereupon agreed to the following Resolution:

*Resolved*, That there be allowed to *Nicholas Bayard*, for providing an Office for securing the publick Records of this State, a Guard-Room and Fire-Wood and Candles supplied the Guard over the said Records, the sum of fifty Pounds.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State cause to be

conveyed to *Nicholas Bayard*, Esq., by the first safe opportunity, the sum of fifty Pounds, pursuant to the above Resolution, and procure his receipt for the same.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this State do, on application of either of the persons respectively named in the Resolutions of the Committee of Safety on the 9th instant for the purposes of purchasing Clothing in the Counties of *Westchester*, *Orange*, *Dutchess*, *Ulster*, and *Albany*, advance to each of them respectively the sum of one hundred Pounds, taking their receipt for the same.

Mr. *Wyckoff*, who is appointed Commissary to the Troops in this place, requested an order for two bushels of Salt for the use of said Troops.

*Ordered*, That Major *Terboss* deliver to Mr. *Henry Wyckoff*, or his order, two bushels Salt, for the use of the Troops at *Fishkill*, Mr. *Wyckoff* to pay for the same agreeable to the regulated price of that article in this County.

An additional Resolution relative to the persons to superintend the printing the Bills of Credit, was read and agreed to, and is as follows, to wit:

Whereas, in the Resolution of this Convention of the 13th *August* last, for the emission of five hundred thousand Dollars in Bills of Credit, it was, among other things, resolved that *Isaac Roosevelt* cause to be administered to the Printer of said Bills, by the President of this Convention, a certain oath therein prescribed: And whereas the want of money in the Treasury renders it necessary to carry the said Resolution into immediate execution; and *Samuel Loudon*, the intended printer thereof being now absent, and therefore cannot take the said oath:

*Resolved, therefore*, That the said *Isaac Roosevelt* do cause the printing of said Bills to commence with the Foreman and other workmen of the said *Samuel Loudon*, and that he appoint two persons to attend the printing thereof, to whom, instead of the printer thereof, shall be administered by the President of this Convention, the following oath:

"I, A B, do solemnly swear by the Almighty God, that from the time that the letters were set, and fit to be put in the press for printing the said Bills of Credit, until the Bills were printed, and the letters afterwards distributed into the boxes, I was present in the absence of the other, and that both of us did not at any time leave the room in which the said letters were, without locking them up so that they could not be come at without violence of a false key, or other art unknown to us, and therefore, to the best of our knowledge, no copies were printed off but in the presence of one or both of us, and that all the blotters and other papers whatsoever impressed by the said letters whilst set for printing the said Bills, to the best of our knowledge, are delivered to the said *Isaac Roosevelt*, together with the stamps; and in all things relating to this affair we have demeaned ourselves honestly and faithfully to the best of our knowledge and understanding. So help me God."

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Dunscomb* have leave of absence for four or five days.

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Thursday afternoon, 17th of October, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President, Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Adgate*, Colonel *Bailey*, Mr. *Gelston*, Mr. *Yates*, Judge *Graham*, Mr. *R. Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *William Smith*, Mr. *Landon*.

An Account of *Jacamiah Allen* was produced, for guarding the Cannon at *King's Bridge*. Referred to Messrs. *Lockwood*, *Moore*, and *Landon*.

Whereas the time limited by the honourable the Continental Congress for the sale and consumption of *Bohea* Tea on hand, proved too short for that purpose, whereby large quantities of that commodity remained unsold and unconsumed in the Colony, to the great loss and damage of the proprietors thereof: And whereas the said proprietors or Tea-holders in the City of *New-York* did, by a memorial or petition to the Committee of that place, represent the difficulties they were reduced to by reason of that article of the Association, and praying their interposition in their behalf: And whereas the said Committee of the City and County of *New-York* did transmit the said representation to the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, and did certify the same to be worthy their attention: And whereas the said Congress, finding on inquiry that divers of the inhabitants of the said Colony would be greatly injured unless a further time was allowed for the consumption of Tea, did instruct their Delegates in Continental Congress to endeavour to obtain a resolve of Congress for that purpose: And whereas the said Tea-holders did, among other things, allege in favour of their application that many of them would, unless relieved, be ruined by being prohibited the sale of the said Tea, which was a perishable article; that they were fast friends to the *American* cause, and had been induced to import a more than usual quantity of that article with a view the better to oppose and defeat the designs of the Ministry and *India* Company in selling Tea in the Colonies subject to duty; that they would be content to sell the remaining stock on hand at the former current price; that had they been permitted to vend it, they would have employed the moneys arising from the sale of it in importing divers commodities very necessary to the defence of the Colonies, and if indulged in selling the same, would immediately set about it:

And whereas the Continental Congress, moved by considerations of justice as well as policy, did finally grant the prayer of the said petitioners; and lest any evil-disposed persons might take undue advantages of the scarcity of Tea which would necessarily take place from its future importation being prohibited, they wisely limited the price of all *Bohea* Teas at three-fourths of a dollar, and that of other Teas at such prices as would be fixed by the Committees, allowing by the said resolve a generous and more than usual price for the Tea on hand, and thereby compensating the owners for any losses they might have sustained by not being permitted to sell the same in the intervals between the expiration of the time limited for its consumption and the date of the resolve annulling that resolution:

And whereas divers of the said Tea-holders, not content with the advanced price of Tea allowed by the Congress, and forgetting the patriotick principles which induced them to import it, as well as the services they once intended to do their country by speedily turning that perishable article into money, and employing those sums in the importation of articles essential to the defence of the *United States of America*, have refused to dispose of their stock of Tea on hand, designing to postpone the sale thereof until such time as an artificial scarcity shall induce the good women of this State to tempt them to vend it, by offering exorbitant prices:

And whereas others of the said Tea-holders have already, in various and manifold instances, sold Tea for double the price allowed by the Congress, and by involving so many in a transgression of the said Resolve, expect to escape the just punishment demanded by it:

And whereas the said unjustifiable and mercenary practices of the said Tea-holders hath in many instances brought upon them the resentment of the people, and many riotous proceedings have thereby been occasioned, to the great disturbance of the quiet and breach of the peace and good order of the community:

And whereas monopolies and forestalling, designed to create an artificial scarcity, and, distressing the people deprive them of their property, have ever been justly deemed proper objects of reprehension, and called for the interposition of the Legislature:

This Convention, for the reason aforesaid, find themselves constrained, by the great duties they owe their constituents and the General Congress, to effectually provide that the said Resolve be no longer violated in this State; and the more so, as the Congress of the Colony of *New York* were solicited by the said Tea-holders to use, and did exert their influence to obtain it.

*Resolved, therefore*, That the Committees of the several Counties within this State do forthwith take into their custody, from every Tea-merchant, Shopkeeper, or other person or persons whatsoever in this State, all the *Bohea* Tea which shall be found in their possession over and above the quantity of twenty-five pounds respectively, and appoint some respectable person or persons to retail the same in small quantities to any person that may apply to purchase the same, at the rate of six shillings per pound; and that the money arising by such sale be paid to the said Committee, and by them kept for and delivered to the proprietor of such Tea, on his application in person, or by order from the same.

That the person or persons appointed to retail the said Tea be authorized to demand and receive from the purchaser thereof three pence per pound for his or their expense and trouble in executing the trust hereby reposed in him or them. That the person or persons so to be appointed shall take an oath for the faithful discharge of the trust hereby reposed in him or them before the Chairman of the County Committee, and give security to the said Chairman to pay to the said Committee the money he or they may or shall receive for the Tea so by him or them sold agreeable to the above resolutions. That the person or persons to be appointed to sell the said Tea, do not sell more than twelve pounds to any one person for the use of any one family; that if any of the tea-holders, or their agents within this State, in order to prevent its being sold at the above-mentioned price, to evade the intent of those resolves, or for any other reason or purpose whatsoever, shall hereafter export or import out of or into this State, any *India* Tea, shall forfeit double the value thereof to the Committee of the County out of or into which the same shall be exported or imported. That publick notice shall be given by the person or persons appointed as aforesaid to sell the said Tea, at least ten days before he or they open the same for sale, that those who want may have an equal chance of being supplied.

The same was agreed to by the House.

*Resolved*, That the Rangers ordered from *Ulster* County to this place, be subject to the order and direction of the Committee appointed for the detecting Conspiracies, &c.

The Committee to whom was referred the request of Dr. *Osborn*, for Medicines for the use of the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Jacobus Swartwout*, made the following Report:

"Whereas your Committee are informed by said Doctor *Osborn*, that part of the men under the command of Colonel *Jacobus Swartwout*, in General *Clinton's* brigade in Continental service, are in great distress for want of medicines, and that Colonel *Swartwout* had requested Doctor *McNight*, one of the Continental Hospital Surgeons, to supply his regiment with the same, who hath requested said Doctor *Osborne* to apply to this Convention: your Committee, agreeable to the power given by the Convention, have thought proper to supply, and have supplied the said Doctor *Osborn* with six pounds Sal Cathartics and pounds Cortex Peruviana, out of the store of medicines belonging to this Convention, for which your Committee have taken a receipt from Doctor *Osborn*, which said receipt, amounting to the sum of £3 6*s*., together with the orders from Colonel *Swartwout* and Doctor *McNight* respecting the same, your Committee now here produce."

*Ordered*, That the said Receipt and Orders be filed with the Treasurer of this State, and that he charge the said £3 6*s*. to Continental account.

A Letter from *Joshua Ambler*, Chairman of the Committee of *Poundridge*, in *Westchester* County, dated the 15th instant, informing that there is danger of the Prisoners of War going off to the enemy, as one of them is already gone off to *Long-Island:*

Thereupon *Resolved*, That Major *Lockwood* repair immediately to *Poundridge* and *Bedford*, in *Westchester* County, to inquire into the state of the Prisoners of War confined there; and if he should find it necessary, that he cause the Privates to be conveyed, under a proper guard, to *Woodbury*, in the State of *Connecticut;* and that the Officers who are prisoners on parole, to *Dansbury*, in the same State. Major *Lockwood* to be furnished with the blank paroles, to be by him filled up for such of the said Prisoners as are confined there on parole, the old paroles to be cancelled; and that Major *Lockwood*, at his discretion, settle with and advance to the Prisoners the rations and other provisions allowed by the Resolve of Congress, as may appear to him to be justly due to them.

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Friday morning, 18th October, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Peter R. Livingston*, President.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison.*
ALBANY—Mr. *Adgate.*
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Lockwood.*
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Gelston.*
TRYON—Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Moore.*
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Wisner.*
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster.*
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon.*
GLOUCESTER—Colonel *Bailey.*

Mr. *Duer* brought into Committee an affidavit sworn to by *William B. Alger*, Lieutenant in Captain *Durlin's* Company, in Colonel *Humphrey's* Regiment, setting forth that a certain *Jacob Dean*, in *Charlotte* Precinct, has refused to receive the Paper emission of the Continental Congress in payment for a parcel of Deer's Leather which the said *Alger* had bought from the said *Jacob Deane.*

Thereupon *Ordered*, That the Committee appointed for inquiring into and defeating Conspiracies, &c., be requested to cause the said *Jacob Deane* to be apprehended and brought before them, to be examined and dealt with as to them shall seem meet.

Mr. *Gelston* informed the Committee that he, as one of the Committee appointed by the Resolution of the Congress for the purpose of purchasing Saltpetre in *Suffolk* County for the use of this State, requests that sixty Pounds may be advanced him on account, to pay for a certain quantity of Saltpetre by him purchased:

Thereupon *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *David Gelston*, Esq., the sum of sixty Pounds, to enable him to pay for a certain quantity of Saltpetre purchased on account and for the use of this State, pursuant to a resolution of the Congress of this State; and that Mr. *Gelston* give his receipt to account for the said sum.

The Committee to whom was referred the Account of *Jacamiah Allen*, for guarding the Cannon at *King's Bridge*, reported that they have examined into the said Accounts, and from what appears to them they think Mr. *Allen's* account ought to be paid. Referred to the consideration of Convention.

Mr. *Moore*, from the Committee to whom was referred the Certificates from the Chairman of the Committee of *Wallkill* Precinct relative to Mr. *Wisner's* having manufactured nine thousand one hundred and eighty-four pounds of Gunpowder, delivered in their Report;* which was read, and agreed to.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Henry Wisner*, Jun., Esq., the sum of £459 4*s*., for the bounty on nine thousand one hundred and eighty-four pounds of Gunpowder manufactured by him between the 1st day of *March* to the 9th day of *June* last, as appears by the Certificate of *William Wilkins*, Chairman of the Committee of *Wallkill*, in *Ulster* County.

Mr. *Allen*, from the Committee appointed to establish and employ Riders between this place and Head-Quarters, for the purpose of obtaining daily intelligence, delivered in their Report relative to the persons and the terms on which they agreed with them to ride, &c. The same was read, and agreed to.

Therefore *Resolved*, That the Auditor-General do, until further order of this House, audit from time to time the accounts, and allow to *Odel, Mich'l* , and *John Crygier*, each sixteen Shillings per day for performing the services of Post-Riders, from the time of their riding first commencing, that is: *Odel* from the 17th *September* last, *Mitchel* from the 18th, and *John Cregier* from the 19th of same month.

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Friday afternoon, October 18, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon.*
GLOUCESTER—Colonel *Bailey.*
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Colonel *Livingston.*
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills.*
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Wm. Smith.*
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison.*

*A. M. OCTOBER 18th.—Your Committee appointed to examine the records respecting the granting a bounty on manufacturing Gunpowder, having compared the certificate of *Henry Wisner*, Jun., with the Resolve, do find, That the said *Henry Wisner*, Jun., is entitled to the bounty for nine thousand one hundred and eighty-four pounds of Gunpowder, manufactured by him between the 1st of *March* and the 9th of *June* last. That the said *Henry Wisner* has complied with the Resolve in all things, except that of delivering the Powder to the Committee as specified in said Resolve.

An order to be made out for the above bounty, amounting to £459 4*s*.

CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*.
ULSTER—Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Contine*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*.

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Saturday morning, October 19th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Jay*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Ab'm Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Gansevoort*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*.
GLOUCESTER—Colonel *Bailey*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Wisner*, Jun.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
DUTCHESS—Major *Landon*, Mr. *Schenck*, Mr. *Sacket*, Captain *Platt*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Webster*.

A Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated at *Saratoga, October* 16th, containing the intelligence of the destruction of our Fleet on *Champlain*, was read, and is in the words following:

"Saratoga, October 16th, 1776—6 o'clock in the afternoon.

"SIR: By letters from Generals *Gates* and *Arnold*, I am advised of the total destruction of our fleet on *Lake Champlain*, and that it is beyond doubt that the enemy mean to attack our Army at *Ticonderoga*. I have written to General *Ten Broeck* to march up the Militia under his command, and I have also applied for that of the neighbouring States. General *Gates* wishes to be sustained by an army of ten or twelve thousand of them. It is certainly of the highest importance that all the Militia that can be spared should march up without delay, either to support General *Gates*, if there should be time, or to cover his retreat, should he be reduced to the necessity of quitting his ground, and I must therefore entreat your aid.

"Permit me to suggest that I believe the Convention's moving to *Albany* would be attended with good consequences.

"I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient humble servant,

"PHIL. SCHUYLER.

"The Honourable *Abraham Yates*, Esquire, President of the Convention."

*Ordered*, That copies of said Letter be sent to Congress and General *Washington* by express.

A Letter from the Marine Committee of the Continent, dated the 12th instant, signed by *John Hancock*, *Robert Morris*, and seven others, was read, relative to the safety of the Continental ships building at *Poughkeepsie*.

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be immediately transmitted to the Superintendents there.

A Letter from *Gouverneur Morris*, dated at *Boonton*, 13th *October*, 1776, assigning reasons for his non-attendance, and enclosing a Letter from Treasurer *Lott*, dated the 9th instant, assigning the reasons for his non-attendance, with his accounts, agreeable to order.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, Esq., dated the 17th instant, directed to Mr. *Duer*, of the Committee of Intelligence, was read.

General *Bailey* had leave of absence.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Luddington* deliver the nineteen Guns taken from disaffected persons to *James Weeks*, who is requested to keep them in his care till further order.

Mr. *Contine* delivered in the Muster-Roll of Captain *De Witt's* Company of *Ulster* County Rangers, and requested that the remainder of the bounty ordered be paid.

*Ordered*, That the said Muster-Roll be referred to the Auditor-General to be first audited.

A Petition of *Christian Colles* for forty or fifty Pounds to enable him to set up his Wire-Works, was read.

*Ordered*, To lie on the table.

A motion was made by Mr. *Moore* for Ammunition for the *Tryon* County Rangers. Nothing done thereon.

Resolutions to appoint a Committee to proceed to *Albany* and concert measures with General *Schuyler* for the defence of the northern frontier of this State, was read and agreed to, and is in the words following, to wit:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, October 19th, 1776. }

"Whereas information has been received by this Committee from the Honourable Major-General *Schuyler*, commanding the Continental Army in the Northern department, of the total destruction of our Fleet on *Lake Champlain*, and that it is beyond doubt that the enemy mean to attack our Army now at *Ticonderoga*: And whereas it is of the utmost importance to the safety of this State, and to the general cause of *America*, that the Legislative authority of this State should make the most vigorous and decisive exertions for repelling the progress of the enemy's arms, and for preserving the lives, liberty, and property of the good people of this State from falling a sacrifice to a tyrannical, merciless, and savage enemy: And whereas the Convention of this State did, on the 15th instant, appoint out of their body a Committee of Safety, with full powers to transact all such business and exercise such authority as should more immediately concern the safety of this State:

"*Resolved*, That a Committee be forthwith appointed to repair to the City of *Albany*, in order to cooperate with Major-General *Schuyler* on devising and carrying into execution all such measures as they shall deem most effectual for repelling the invasion of the enemy's Army on the northern and western frontiers of this State, and that for this purpose they be invested with full powers to call out the whole, or any part of the Militia of the Counties of *Tryon*, *Charlotte*, *Cumberland*, *Gloucester*, and *Albany*, to such place or places as they shall think proper and necessary.

"*Resolved*, That Colonel *Renselaer*, with the detachment of his Militia now at the house of *John Carpenter*, in *Charlotte* Precinct, postpone his march till such time as he shall receive orders from the Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York*, for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all conspiracies formed in the State of *New-York* against the liberties of *America*.

"*Resolved*, That the Colonels of all the Regiments of Militia, or in their absence the next commanding officer in *Ulster* County, be forthwith ordered to hold their Regiments in readiness, with three days' provisions, to march at a moment's warning.

"*Resolved*, That the officers and men of the Militia so called out, shall be entitled to Continental pay and rations during the time they are actually in service.

"*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the Committees of *Albany*, *Tryon*, *Gloucester*, *Charlotte*, and *Cumberland*, to give all possible aid to the commanding officers of their respective Militia in calling out and equipping the said Militia, and that the said Committees do carry into execution all such other measures as to them shall be recommended by the Committee hereafter named.

"*Resolved*, That Brigadier-General *Abraham Ten Broeck*, *Evert Bancker*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *John Bleecker*, *John Taylor*, *James Duane*, *Robert R. Livingston*, *Robert Yates*, *Christopher Yates*, *John Ten Broeck*, *Volkert Veder*, and *William Harper*, Esq., be the Committee for the purpose of carrying into excution the above Resolutions, and that any four of them, with a Chairman, be a quorum."

*Ordered*, That a Letter be written to Major-General *Schuyler*, enclosing him a copy of these Resolutions, and that copies of the same be immediately transmitted to the Committee of *Albany*, *Tryon*, *Gloucester*, *Cumberland*, and *Charlotte*, and to *Robert R. Livingston*, Esq., who is earnestly requested to proceed immediately to *Albany*, and to give notice to the other gentlemen above-mentioned, of their appointment.

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Saturday afternoon, October 19th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Abm. Yates*.
GLOUCESTER—General *Bailey*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Wisner*, Jun.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Schenck*, Mr. *Landon*.
CHARLOTTE—Major *Webster*.

On motion of Mr. *Contine*,

*Ordered*, That *Robert Boyd*, Chairman of *Ulster* County, pay unto Captain *Jacob R. De Witt*, the remaining half of the Bounty due to his Company, out of the money in his hands.

*Ordered*, That each Member be allowed to take one of the Guns now at Captain *Weeks's* for his own present use, out of those nineteen delivered there by Colonel *Luddenton*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Sacket* be requested to send up a box of Cartridges to this place out of the store at the Landing.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Cortlandt* and Mr. *Wisner* be authorized to impress as many Pick-Axes, Stubbing-Hoes, Spades or Shovels, or any other Intrenching Tools that may be wanted at the works at or near *Peekskill*, in the Highlands, they paying the value thereof, or returning the same to the proprietors.

*Resolved*, That the Colonels of all the Regiments of Militia, or in their absence the next commanding officer, in *Ulster* County, be forthwith ordered to hold their Regiments in readiness, with three days' provisions, to march at a moment's warning.

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Monday morning, October 21st, 1776

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Colonel *Brasher*, Mr. *Roosevelt*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
ALBANY—Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*.
DUTCHESS—Major *Landon*, Major *Schenck*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*.
CHARLOTTE—Colonel *Duer*, Major *Webster*.

Mr. *Duer*, seconded by Mr. *Gansevoort*, moved that the Secretaries be ordered to postpone the printing and publishing of the Salt and Tea Resolves, which were agreed to in this Committee on the 17th instant, as the Committee of Safety did not then consist of a sufficient number of Members to determine any reports which had originated in the Convention of this State. Debates arose, and the question being put thereon, it was carried in the negative.

Mr. *Abraham Yates*, seconded by Mr. *William Duer*, moved that the printing and publication of the Resolves relative to Salt and Tea, be postponed for further consideration. Debates arose, and the question being put thereon, it was carried in the affirmative.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the Secretaries do postpone the publication of the said Resolves till further orders.

A Certificate of Mr. *Gerard Bancker*, Deputy Treasurer, in the words following, was read:

"I do hereby certify, that the pay-roll of Captain *Jacob Rutzen De Witt's* Company, amounting to five hundred and ten pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence half penny, has been by me carefully examined; that the amount of it, as now corrected, is right; that he has produced to me a certificate of his and his Lieutenants having taken the oath prescribed by a resolution of Convention of the 23d *July* last to be taken previous to his receiving his pay; and that the charges for pay and subsistence are in his said roll made agreeable to the aforesaid resolution.

"GERARD BANCKER.

"Fishkill, 21st October, 1776."

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Jacob Rutzen De Witt* the remaining half Bounty due to his Company of Rangers, raised in *Ulster* County; as also the sum of £510 17*s*. 6½*d*., for Pay and Subsistence, agreeable to the muster-roll of the said Company, as by Mr. *Bancker* examined, and certified this day to be right.

An Account of *Petrus Bogardus* against the Continent, for transporting with his Sloop Captain *Daniel Runnels's* Company of eighty men, of Colonel *Tash's* Regiment of Troops in Continental service, from *Fishkill*, in *Dutchess* County, to the Works at *Red-Hook*, on *Hudson* River, with their baggage, which Account amounts to £4, was produced, and read.

A Certificate of Captain *Daniel Runnels*, that eighty Men and their baggage had been transported in the said Sloop from *Fishkill* to *Red-Hook* aforesaid, was also read; and it appeared to the Committee of Safety that the said Sloop was engaged and taken up to transport the said Troops at the request of two of the Field-Officers of that Regiment who were then present, and from necessity for despatch, and because they found that part of the Regiment too much fatigued to march through the Highlands.

Therefore, *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to the said *Petrus Bogardus*, or his order, the sum of £4, taking his receipt for the same, and that the Treasurer charge the same to Continental account.

Mr. *Abraham Yates*, from the Committee to whom was referred the Muster-Rolls of the different corps of Rangers in the Counties of *Albany*, *Tryon*, and *Charlotte*, leg leave to lay before this Committee of Safety the following facts:*

"That on the twenty-third of *July*, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, the Convention ordered the raising of a number of Rangers in the several aforesaid Counties, the officers and men on Continental pay, the Captain sixteen shillings, the Lieutenant fourteen shillings, and each non-commissioned officer and private ten shillings a week, in lieu of all subsistence, with an addition of a bounty of twenty-five dollars to each non-commissioned officer and private. That the officers and privates were to furnish themselves each with one good musket or firelock, powder-horn, bullet-pouch, tomahawk, blanket, and knapsack. One half of the bounty to be paid to every able-bodied man when he shall pass muster, the other half to be remitted by this Convention to the said respective County Committees, to be by them issued to the Captain of their respective Companies, and immediately distributed to the men.

"That the Officers, before they receive their warrant, take an oath before the Chairman of the County Committee from whence he is recommended, that he will, once in every month, or as soon after the expiration of any month as possible, transmit the Convention or future Legislature of this State, a Muster-Roll of the names of every Officer and Private under his command, and the respective times of their inlistment and service.

"Your Committee, in perusing the Returns, find that it does not appear that the Officers have been qualified agreeable to the said Resolve; nor does it appear, as it ought to do, that either the Officers or Men have furnished themselves with a Musket or Firelock, Powder-Horn, Bullet-Pouch, and Tomahawk, Blanket and Knapsack.

"Notwithstanding which, your Committee beg leave to suggest, that from the dangers this State is in from our

*Whereas it appears that the Rangers raised in several of the Counties within this State, by virtue of certain Resolutions of the Convention, bearing date the 23d day of *July*, 1776, for the purpose of ranging the woods and guarding the inhabitants on the frontier parts of such Counties, are not now wanted for the purpose for which they were raised, since such a large body of Continental Troops are raised and raising for the defence of the country: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the several Companies of Rangers aforesaid be disbanded on day of , and paid such moneys as remain due, except the Companies of Captain *Belknap* and Captain *De Witt*, who are now on important service.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That the Chairmen of the County Committees where such Rangers have been raised do immediately transmit to the Convention of this State all the Muster, Pay and Subsistence Rolls of such Companies of Rangers as they may or have received and not heretofore sent to the Convention, with an account of the disposition of the moneys they have received from the Treasurer of this State for payment of said Rangers, with the receipts of the several persons to whom said money has been paid.

*Resolved*, That be and is hereby appointed Paymaster, to go to *Albany* and *Tryon* Counties and pay the moneys due to said Companies to the Captain or Commanding Officer of such Companies, for the use of their said Companies; and that be advanced, by the Treasurer of this State, the sum of , to enable him to pay such Rangers.

*Resolved*, That be and he is hereby appointed Paymaster to go to *Charlotte* County, and pay the Captain or Commanding Officers of each Company of Rangers of said County the money due to them for their respective Companies; and that the Treasurer of this State advance to the said the sum of , to enable him to pay such Rangers.

*Resolved*, That be and he is hereby appointed Paymaster to go to the Counties of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester*, and pay the Captains or Commanding Officers of each Company of Rangers of said Counties the moneys due to them for their respective Companies; and that the Treasurer of this State advance to the said the sum of , to enable him to pay such Rangers.

*Resolved*, That the above-named Paymasters be each allowed per day, for their time and expense while executing the above Resolves.

*Ordered*, That the Secretaries transmit copies of these Resolutions to the Chairmen of the several County Committees aforesaid.

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external as well as internal enemies, the great usefulness of the Rangers to this State, if they are diligent and faithful, it would be imprudent, if not dangerous, to defer the payment of the Bounty, Subsistence, and Pay, to the Rangers, and therefore propose the following Resolve:

"*Resolved*, That the sum of six hundred Pounds be remitted to the Committee of the County of *Albany*, nineteen hundred Pounds to the Committee of the County of *Tryon*, and six hundred Pounds to the Committee of the County of *Charlotte*, to enable them to discharge the Pay, Bounty, and Subsistence of such able-bodied men inlisted in the Rangers, furnished and accoutred agreeable to the aforesaid Resolve; the County Committee of each of those Counties to be accountable to the Convention or future Legislature of this State for the expenditure of those Moneys, and to return complete Accounts of the expenditure and disbursements thereof, as particular and expeditiously as possible, therein distinguishing between Bounty, Pay, and Subsistence; and that it be recommended to the several Committees, that none of these Moneys be paid to either Officers or Men until a proper Muster-Roll be made out, under the oaths of the Captain or Commanding Officer and other Officers of each Company, (if not already sworn before their receipt of their Warrants,) that so many able-bodied men are inlisted and accoutred in each Company in this manner aforesaid.

"*Resolved*, That the several Committees be furnished with copies of the aforegoing Report and Resolves. Which Report being agreed to, it was

"*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *John Moore*, Esq., the sum of nineteen hundred Pounds, to be by him remitted to the Committee of *Tryon* County, for the purpose of paying off the remaining half of the Bounty and one month's Pay and Subsistence, to the three Companies of Rangers raised in the said County, pursuant to the Resolutions of the Convention of this State; the said Committee to be accountable for the expenditure of the same."

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Monday afternoon, October 21st, 1776.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Colonel *Brasher*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Paris*.
DUTCHESS—Major *Schenck*, Major *Landon*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*.

A Letter from Colonel *Peter Van Ness*, dated at *Claverack*, the 14th instant, enclosing two Pay Rolls: the one of a Detachment of Colonel *Livingston's* Regiment of Militia, the other of a Detachment of Colonel *Van Ness's* Regiment of Militia, for their services in quieting Tories.

*Ordered*, To be referred to the Convention.

A Letter from *Lewis McDonald*, Chairman of the Committee of *Bedford*, in *Westchester* County, dated the 19th instant, relative to *Stephen Baxter*, Jun., who is now sent under guard to this Committee, by order of said Committee of *Bedford*, charged with having rescued a Prisoner, and also disarming and otherwise abusing *Isaac Smith*:

*Ordered*, That the said Letter, together with the Prisoner, be referred to the Committee for inquiring into and defeating all Conspiracies, &c.

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Tuesday morning, October 22d, 1776.

Committee of Safety met.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Colonel *Brasher*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Webster*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Mr. *Adgate*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Wisner*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *Schenck*, Captain *Platt*.

Captain *Samuel Tudor*, one of the Superintendents of the Continental Frigates building at *Poughkeepsie*, attending, informed the Committee that the said Frigates were by the honourable the Continental Congress ordered to be launched as soon as possible; that one, if not both of them, will be ready to be launched in a few days, but that they are at present destitute of Anchors and Cables. Captain *Tudor* therefore requests that he may be furnished with an order on the person at the landing at *Fishkill* for the loan of such Anchors, Cables, and other stores, belonging to and taken out of the Vessels sunk at *Fort Washington*, as may be necessarily required in the launching of the said Frigates.

Thereupon *Ordered*, That the person who hath the charge of the Anchors, Cables, and other stores at *Fishkill* Landing, and which were taken from on board the vessels now sunk at *Mount Washington*, deliver to Captain *Samuel Tudor*, or his order, such of the said Anchors, Cables, or other stores, as he may require for the use of the Continental Frigates building at *Poughkeepsie*, taking his receipt for the same.

Colonel *John Field* having declined the business of superintending the repairing of the Roads in the Highlands, to which he was appointed on the 5th instant.

Therefore *Resolved*, That Captain *Dirck Brinckerhoff* be and is hereby appointed in the place of Colonel *John Field*, to superintend the repairing of the Roads in the Highlands, with the same powers and agreeable to the Resolutions of the 5th instant,

The Committee of Safety were informed that *Henry Wykoff* declining the purchasing of Clothing for the Troops, agreeable to the Resolution of the day of , and that Mr. *Paul Schenck* is willing to undertake that service, and has already purchased sundry articles for that purpose, to the amount of £250,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Paul Schenck* be and is hereby appointed in the room of Mr. *Henry Wykoff*, to purchase Clothing for and on account of the Convention of this State, for the purposes of furnishing the Troops in service with Clothing; and that the Treasurer of this State do advance to the said *Paul Schenck*, on his receipt, the sum of £100, which was ordered by the said Resolutions to be paid to the said *Henry Wykoff*, and the further sum of £200 for the same purpose, for which £300 the said *Paul Schenck* is to be accountable.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, Esq., to the Committee of Correspondence, requesting an immediate supply of Flour for the Continental Army, was received and read.

Thereupon *Resolved*, That *Henry Schenck* and *Dirck Jansen*, Esquires, or their Agents, jointly and severally, be directed to forward by water towards the Continental Army in *Westchester* County, with all possible expedition, all the Flour they can procure; and for that purpose that they be empowered to hire or impress Vessels, Boats, Wagons and Horses, Teams, and every other carriage, and to employ such persons under them as they may think best calculated to execute this order with the utmost expedition; and further, that they be authorized to pledge the publick faith for the payment of such Vessels, Boats, &c., at an appraised value, as may through an unforeseen accident fall into the hands of the enemy.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Joseph Traverse*, at *Peekskill* Landing, be empowered and directed to receive all Flour which shall be sent down at or near *Peekskill* Landing, for the use of the Army in *Westchester* County; that he give Receipts to the different Boatmen for the cargoes they bring, and take Receipts of every Teamster for the loads he carries.

*Resolved*, That the Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army, or his Agents, be empowered to impress in the Counties of *Dutchess* and *Westchester* divers Horses, Wagons, Horse-Teams, Ox-Carts, and every other carriage which may be necessary for the use of the Continental Army, paying for the same the usual prices.

*Ordered*, That a copy of these Resolutions be forthwith transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*, and to Brigadier-General *Mifflin*, Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Gilbert Livingston* be one of the Secret Committee directed to be sent down with the utmost despatch to *Fort Montgomery* with such parts of the Chain as is fixed in the logs, and that Mr. *Henry Wisner*, Jun., coöperate with him in carrying this measure into execution in the most safe and expeditious manner possible.

Captain *Samuel Tudor*, one of the Superintendents of the building the Continental Frigates at *Poughkeepsie*, informed the Committee of Safety that the said Superintend-

ents have lately received a raft of timber for which they are indebted, and daily expect some other rafts of timber for which to pay ready money; that the said Superintendents have also some other accounts to discharge, are at present destitute of money, and cannot obtain a supply from the Treasurer of the Marine Committee; Mr. *Tudor* therefore, on behalf of the said Superintendents, requested an advance or a loan of £600.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to Captain *Samuel Tudor*, as one of the Superintendents, on his account, say receipt, the sum of £600, and charge the same to Continental account.

The Committee to whom was referred the Certificates of the Committee of *Wallkill*, on the 17th instant, reported that *Henry Wisner*, Jun., and *Moses Philips* had erected a Powder-Mill in the County of *Ulster*, and had the same completed on the 20th day of *May* last past, and agreeable to the Resolves made the 16th day of *March*, 1776, are entitled to receive the sum of £100, as also the loan of £1,000, for two years, without interest, provided they comply agreeable to the Resolves made for that purpose. On reading of which, it was

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Henry Wisner*, Jun., Esquire, the sum of £100, as a Premium for building a Powder-Mill in *Ulster* County, pursuant to the Resolutions of the Provincial Congress of *New-York*.

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Tuesday afternoon, October 22d, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Livingston*, President.
NEW-YORK—Colonel *Brasher*, Mr. *Roosevelt*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Colonel *Livingston*, Mr. *Adgate*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Wisner*, Jun.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*.

A Resolution of the Committee appointed for inquiring, &c., all Conspiracies, &c., dated this day, requesting the advance of £500 for the publick service:

Thereupon *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to the Order of the Committee appointed by the Convention of this State for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all Conspiracies formed in the said State against the liberties of *America*, the sum of £500, to be accounted for by the said Committee to the Convention of this State.

A Letter from General *Mifflin*, Quartermaster-General, dated the 19th instant, at *Mount Washington*, directed to Mr. *Duer*, was read.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Keene*, Assistant Quartermaster-General, be authorized to impress and take possession of any Out-building in this neighbourhood, for the purpose of securing the Continental Stores, he paying a reasonable price for the use of the same.

*Resolved*, That Letters be written to the Committee of *Ulster* and *Orange* and *Dutchess* Counties, requesting them to send all the Carpenters and Masons that can be procured in their respective Counties to *Fishkill*, and that they engage them on the lowest terms possible.

A Letter from *Elisha Avery*, at *Albany*, and a recommendation from the Committee of *Albany* subjoined on the back, requesting the assistance of Convention to forward Flour for the Northern Army. Referred to Colonel *Brasher* and Mr. *Abm. Yates*.

A Letter from Colonel *Jonathan Hasbroeck*, enclosing a list of disaffected persons in his Regiment of Militia, was read.

*Ordered*, That the Letter and List be referred to the Committee appointed to inquire into, &c., all Conspiracies, &c.

A Letter from *Kerr* and others, in *Orange* County, relative to *Gale*, *Treadwell*, and *Ludlam*, and a request that they may not be sent off, was read, and referred to the same Committee.

A Letter from *Jas. Thomas*, Jun., Chairman of the Committee of *Westchester*, accompanying all the Prisoners from *White-Plains* Jail to this place, was referred to the Committee of Conspiracies.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to the Committee of the County of *Albany* the sum of £600, and also advance to the Committee of the County of *Charlotte* the sum of £600, for the purpose of paying off the remaining half of the Bounty, and one month's Pay and Subsistence, of the Companies of Rangers raised in the said Counties respectively, pursuant to the Resolutions of the Convention of this State, the said Committees to be accountable for the expenditure of the sums received by them respectively.

*Ordered*, That Commissions be made out and dated the 1st of *August*, for *Jacob Deronde*, Captain; *Isaac Coe*, First Lieutenant; *John Coe*, Second Lieutenant; *Abm. Underdonck*, Captain; *John Gardner*, First Lieutenant; *Roger Ashburn*, Second Lieutenant;—in Colonel *Isaac Nichol's* Regiment.

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Wednesday morning, October 23rd, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Colonel *Brasher*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *G. Livingston*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Colonel *Cortlandt*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*.

A Letter from the Committee of *Albany*, dated *October* 21st, was received and read, and is as follows, to wit:

"Albany Committee-Chamber, 21st October, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: In consequence of a request from his Honour General *Schuyler*, desiring the aid of our Militia, we have, in conjunction with Brigadier-General *Ten Broeck*, issued out orders for their immediate march to *Fort Edward*. A part of the Militia have already marched, and the remainder are making preparations to follow them, but not with that alacrity which the present alarming situation of our affairs in this quarter requires.

"Every District in this County is crowded with disaffected persons; the woods are full of them; and notwithstanding every effort that has been made by our Militia and the Rangers to apprehend them, they still have eluded our search. This County, besides, is full of slaves, who probably may already have been tampered with, and (all our friends being ordered off) may join with the disaffected in the abuse or destruction of our wives, our children, and our effects.

"We have just received a letter from one of your body to his Honour General *Schuyler*, which mentions that the whole number of arms, by the last return, in the Manor of *Livingston*, was no more than one hundred; since which time many have been drawn by the men drafted for the Highlands, &c., and that the number of disaffected there is at least three to one.

"Our suspected enemies in this city are continually drawing off in a secret manner into the County, perhaps collecting together and awaiting the departure of our friends to fall upon the remainder of us. The disaffected persons in the County have proceeded to open acts of violence; they have plundered some of our soldiers of their arms on the road in open day, broken into the houses of the inhabitants in the night time and robbed them of their arms, ammunition and blankets, and even rescued our prisoners from the hands of those who were guarding them.

"Whether the Militia of *Tryon* County are also ordered off or not, we do not know, but they now hold themselves in readiness for a march; and we have reason to fear, from information which we enclose, that some attempt will be made to the westward, in which case we should have no frontier on that side, but remain entirely exposed to the undistinguished cruelty of the torturing savage. In this serious and alarming situation, we feel for our distressed country, and would apply to your honourable House for that aid, direction, and assistance, which your wisdom and power may enable and induce you to render us. We would wish you to take into the most attentive consideration this state of facts, as every thing that is dear to us depends upon what you determine.

"We would also request you to advise us whether it would not be necessary to have some of our vessels ready to sink in such parts of *Hudson's* River as may effectually

stop the vessels of our enemy from proceeding up the river so as to endanger this city or the parts adjacent.

"We shall despatch a guard to-morrow with about fifty prisoners now in custody here, to be left to your direction on their arrival at *Fishkill* Landing. We would also beg leave to inform you that we have not arms even sufficient to put in the hands of our friends, and no cannon.

"We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servant. By order:

"JNO. BARCLAY, *Chairman pro tem.*

"To the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

A Deposition of *Isaac Peabody* and *Samuel Allen*, taken before *Jons. Younglove*, Chairman of the Committee of *Bennington*, dated *October* 14, 1776.

A Deposition of *Isaac Peabody*, taken before the same person and of the same date, (both enclosed in the Letter from the Committee of *Albany*,) setting forth sundry facts relative to disaffected persons in that quarter.

*Ordered*, That the Depositions, and so much of the Committee's Letter as relates to them, be referred to the Committee for inquiring into Conspiracies.

Whereas *Alexander Stewart* was, by order of the Convention of this State on the 27th *July* last, taken prisoner and ordered to be kept in close custody till their further order, he declaring himself a subject of the King of *Great Britain:*

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed for inquiring into all Conspiracies, &c., be authorized to dispose of the said *Alexander Stewart*, (as a prisoner of war,) in such manner as to them shall appear most proper.

Mr. *Gansevoort* came into Committee, and informed that the Committee for inquiring into Conspiracies have so much business on hand that they cannot possibly take into consideration the Letter from the Committee of *Albany*, and the Depositions therein enclosed.

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That the Letter from the Committee of *Albany*, of the 21st instant, together with the Depositions of *Isaac Peabody* and *Samuel Allen*, received and read this morning, as also the Deposition of *John Haines*, of *Rumbout* Precinct, taken before the Committee appointed to inquire into, &c., all Conspiracies, &c., be referred to the Committee appointed on the 19th instant to repair to *Albany*, in order to coöperate with Major-General *Schuyler* on devising and carrying into execution all such measures as they shall deem most effectual for repelling the invasion of the enemy's Army on the northern and western frontiers of this State, who are hereby empowered and requested to take the same into immediate consideration, and pursue such measures and give such directions therein as to them shall seem meet and necessary.

The Memorial of *Andrew Bostwick*,* an insolvent debtor now confined in the Jail of *Orange* County, was presented to the House, setting forth that he has been confined for near eighteen months, notwithstanding all his efforts to accomplish a settlement with his creditors, and from the calamity of the times, cut off from all hopes of obtaining his liberty; that in his present confinement he has it not in his power to mend his circumstances, but that they must of necessity be daily growing worse, and praying for such speedy relief as the nature and necessity of the case requires.

*Resolved*, That the Sheriff of *Orange* County do release the said *Andrew Bostwick* from confinement, on his giving to the said Sheriff sufficient security, by bond or otherwise, to be forthcoming at the expiration of nine months from the time of taking such security.

*Ordered*, That the Sheriff of *Orange* County be furnished with a copy of the aforegoing Resolve.

**To the Honourable the Representatives of the State of* NEW-YORK, *in Convention assembled:*

*The Memorial of* ANDREW BOSTWICK, *an Insolvent Debtor now confined in the Jail of the County of* ORANGE, *humbly showeth:*

That your memorialist having been confined near nineteen months, notwithstanding all his efforts to accomplish a settlement with his creditors, is, by the prevailing calamity of the times, cut off from all hopes of obtaining his liberty, and thereby unfortunately deprived of every opportunity of serving his creditors, his family, or his country, (which at this particular period claims the utmost exertion of every individual member of society,) unless enabled by the timely interposition of this honourable body: that your memorialist, from his present confinement, has it not in his power to mend his circumstances, but they must of necessity be daily growing worse; is therefore anxiously desirous something may be done that may have a tendency to better them. Your memorialist therefore most humbly begs leave to recommend his case to this honourable Convention, praying them to grant such speedy relief as the nature and necessity of the case require. And your memorialist, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

ANDW. BOSTWICK.

Mr. *Gilbert Livingston* came into Committee and informed that he is called upon by sundry persons who have demands on the Commissioners who were appointed to superintend the erecting of the Fortifications in the Highlands, as also on the Secret Committee for obstructing the navigation on *Hudson's* River, and request money to enable him to discharge those demands.

Therefore *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *Gilbert Livingston*, Esq., and Colonel *Thomas Palmer* the sum of five hundred Pounds, to enable them to pay sundry demands brought in against them as Commissioners for superintending the erecting the Fortifications in the Highlands, they to be accountable for the same.

And *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *Gilbert Livingston*, Esq., one of the Secret Committee for obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River, the sum of one thousand Pounds, and take his receipt to account for the expenditure thereof.

A draft of a Letter to *Elisha Avery*, in answer to his received yesterday, was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York,
Fishkill, October 23d, 1776.

"SIR: We have received yours without date, and an endorsement of the Committee of *Albany*, dated the 20th instant, respecting flour. We beg leave to inform you that an application hath been made to us from the Southern Army, for all the flour we can procure in this quarter. We shall write to the Committee of *Albany* to assist you in that County. Mr. *Schenck*, who is employed to purchase flour, informs us that he hath sent up to *Albany* upwards of five hundred barrels, which we hope you have received. That quantity, with what your agents may have procured, will, we trust, be some relief for the present. In the mean time, in proportion to Mr. *Schenck's* success, we shall attend to the demand of the two departments; and remain, sir, your most humble servants.

"By order of the Committee.

"*Elisha Avery*, Deputy Quartermaster-General, *Albany*."

A draft of a Letter to the Committee of *Albany* was also read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York,
Fishkill, October 23d, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: We have received a letter from *Elisha Avery*, Deputy Quartermaster-General, respecting flour. We beg leave to inform you that an application hath been made to us for all we can procure for the Southern Department. We therefore request that you will give all the assistance in your power to Mr. *Avery*, to enable him to procure a supply. We have employed proper persons to purchase all they can, and we must govern ourselves by their success. The consumption of flour is great. The difficulty in procuring it arises from a want of water, which prevents grinding. Mr. *Schenck* has sent up five hundred and odd barrels, which we hope Mr. *Avery* has received, which, with the quantity he may have procured, will be a relief for the present.

"Your letter of 21st, enclosing the depositions of *Pabody* and *Allen*, is this moment delivered to us. This Committee have referred them to the Committee of this House which now sits at *Albany*, who are empowered to take such steps in it as they may think necessary. Yours, &c.

"To the Committee at *Albany*."

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Wednesday, P. M., October 23d, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President.
NEW-YORK—Colonel *Brasher*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Abm. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Colonel *Cortlandt*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.

The Petition of *Henry Dawkins*, a Prisoner,* was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

* MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: The subscriber, humbly relying on the known goodness and humanity of this honourable House, begs leave to lay his complaint before them, which is briefly as follows:

That your petitioner was about six months past taken upon *Long-*

The Petition of *William Watkins, Sam'l Wilson, John Levericke,* and *John Read,* Prisoners and disaffected persons, were severally read.

*Ordered,* To be referred to the Committee of Conspiracies.

A Letter from *John Coe,* Deputy Chairman of the Committee on the south side the Mountains in *Orange* County, enclosing a Deposition of *Peter Smith* against *John Larie,* and the Examination of *John Larie,* were read, and referred to the Committee of Conspiracies.

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Thursday morning, 24th October, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt,* Vice President.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates,* Mr. *Adgate.*
NEW-YORK—Colonel *Brasher.*
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison.*
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon.*
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk.*
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills, Pierre V. Cortlandt,* Esq.

The *Dutch* Church being necessarily occupied by a large Guard and a number of Prisoners, and the other Church being at present occupied as a Continental Storehouse, the Committee, for want of a convenient place for their reception, and no pressing business appearing, adjourned until six o'clock this evening.

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In Committee of Safety, October 24th, 1776, P. M.

In a Chamber at *Weeks's* Tavern.—Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt,* Vice President, *Abm. Yates, Wm. Smith, Abm. Brasher, John Langdon, Henry Schenck, Mat. Adgate, Z. Platt, Jedediah Mills, Wm. Duer,* Mr. *Newkirk,* Esquires.

*Resolved,* That *Henry Schenck,* Esq., be authorized and directed to purchase eight thousand bushels of Wheat for the use of the Continental Army, on the most reasonable terms possible, not exceeding 6*s.* 6*d.* per bushel, and that he return the names of every person or persons who may refuse to part with their Wheat at that price to this Committee or the Convention of this State.

*Resolved,* That *Henry Schenck,* Esquire, be directed to use the utmost expedition in sending down the above Wheat to the Mills of Colonel *Van Cortlandt,* at *Peek's Kills* and *Croton* River.

*Resolved,* That Colonel *Van Cortlandt* be directed to keep both his Mills constantly at work night and day in making Flour for the Continental Army.

Whereas most of the Coopers belonging to this State are at present engaged as soldiers in the service, in consequence of which it is impracticable to find sufficient casks for supplying Flour to the Southern and Northern Armies without aid obtained from the Army:

*Resolved,* That his Excellency General *Washington* be requested to send three Coopers to Colonel *Van Cortlandt's* Mills, at *Croton* River and *Peek's Kill,* and seventeen to this place, in order that they may be employed under the direction of this Committee in making Flour Casks with the utmost expedition.

And whereas it is of the utmost consequence to the publick cause that there should be no delay in manufacturing Flour for the use of the Army under General *Washington:*

*Resolved,* That all the Millers, Packers, Coopers, Teamsters, Boatmen, and other labourers employed by Colonel *Van Cortlandt* in transporting the above-mentioned Wheat to his Mills, and in manufacturing the same, be exempted from military duty of any kind whatsoever, and that his teams be not subject to be impressed, till further order from this Committee or the Convention of this State.

Mr. *Schenck* informed the Committee that he could immediately purchase one hundred Bags for the purpose of transporting Wheat to the Mills employed to grind Flour for the Troops.

*Resolved,* That *Henry Schenck,* Esquire, be directed to purchase said Bags, and that he cause each of them to be marked C. A.

*Resolved,* That General *James Clinton,* at *Fort Montgomery,* be requested to grant a furlough to *Silvanus Scowfield,* in Captain *Darley's* Company, for the purpose of assisting in making Flour Casks for the Continental Army, and that he be requested to send up to this place as many other Coopers as he can possibly spare from his garrison, it being of the utmost consequence that a quantity of Flour should be immediately sent down to the Army under the command of General *Washington.*

*Ordered,* That General *James Clinton* be furnished with a copy of this Resolution.

*Resolved,* That the Quartermaster-General, or his Agent at *Fishkill,* be requested to supply *Henry Schenck,* Esq., with as many six-penny Nails as he can possibly spare, there being no Nails of that kind to be purchased in this State.

Mr. *Schenck* informed the Committee that there are six poor Women, with their Children, from the City of *New-York,* for whom he can procure no lodging at or near this place, and desires that they might be sent to the Committee of *New-Windsor* to be provided for:

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Schenck* be authorized and directed to send the above persons to the Committee aforesaid, to be disposed of and maintained by the said Committee, in the same manner with the other persons sent to that place.

*Ordered,* That a copy of these Resolutions be sent by express to his Excellency General *Washington.*

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Friday morning, 25th October, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt,* Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Colonel *Brasher.*
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison.*
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates,* Mr. *Adgate.*
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk.*
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Wm. Smith,* Mr. *Miller.*
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon.*
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills,* Major *Lockwood.*

On motion, *Resolved,* That *Ebenezer Hazard,* Esq., Postmaster, be requested to forward to the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State, as often as he may be able to procure the same, all the publick Newspapers of the States of *Pennsylvania, New-Jersey,* (printed by Mr. *Gaine,*) *Connecticut,* (printed at *New-Haven,* say *New-London,*) and *Massachusetts,* (printed at *Boston.*) And that Mr. *Hazard* be requested to procure for the use of the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State, all those Papers heretofore printed, or which may hereafter be printed, and which contains the plans or form of Government, published in the different States of *America,* and that the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State will provide for the payment of the same.

*Ordered,* That the President transmit a copy hereof to Mr. *Hazard,* by the first opportunity.

*Ordered,* That Commissions issue to Colonel *Snyder's* Officers, agreeable to his Return received and read this day, and dated at *Fort Montgomery;* that they be signed by Mr. *Yates,* the late President, and that the date be left blank to be filled up by Colonel *Snyder.* That Colonel *Allison* draft a Letter to Colonel *Snyder* informing him that be first Captain.

A Letter from *Stephen Ward,* Esq., relative to the construction of the Resolution respecting Hides, was read.

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Friday afternoon, October 25th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt,* President.

*Island* for a trespass of which this House is thoroughly acquainted, as by the instigation of *Israel Youngs* he was led away to perform an action of which he has already sincerely repented. And as your petitioner was torn away from his only son, who is left among strangers, without any one to support or protect him during the inclemency of the approaching winter; as his unhappy father hath since the first day of his being taken had but one shirt and one pair of stockings to shift himself; and as he hath been afflicted during his imprisonment at the *White-Plains* with the worst of enemies—hunger, and the nauseous stench of a small room where sometimes twenty persons were confined together, which hath introduced a sickness on your distressed subscriber, which, with the fatigue of travelling, hath reduced your unhappy petitioner to a state of despondency;—he therefore, being already weary of such a miserable life as his misconduct hath thrown him into, humbly begs for a termination of his sorrows by a death to be inflicted in what manner the honourable House may think fit. The kind compliance of this honourable House will ever lay an obligation on your Honours' distressed, humble servant, HENRY DAWKINS.
*October* 19, 1776.

ALBANY—Mr. *Gates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*.

Mr. *James Weeks*, an inhabitant of this place, informed the Committee that a certain *Philip Dalley* had beat and abused his workman in his blacksmith's shop, and had threatened and maltreated himself. Mr. *Weeks* withdrew; upon which the said *Philip Dally* rushed into the Committee-Chamber, without permission, in an insolent manner, and informed the Committee that he had inquired at the smith's shop whether his horses were shod, and that the workman laughed at him; upon which he had given him some strokes with his whip. *Dally* attempted to justify his conduct, and declared he would do the like again.

It fully appears to this Committee, that even if the behaviour of the blacksmith had been such as the said *Dally* states it to have been, nevertheless the said *Dally* is very culpable in using the violence and outrage which he confesses he did.

*Ordered*, That as the publick service may require it, Mr. *Weeks* cause the said Horses to be shod without delay.

*Resolved*, That as the immediate assistance of every individual in this State is required, and such usage from officers or others employed by the military must inevitably tend to obstruct the publick service, that the said *Philip Dally* be called in, and informed that this Committee highly disapprove of and blame his conduct, but that they have, notwithstanding, directed Mr. *Weeks* to cause his Horses to be shod without delay.

The said *Philip Dalley* was further informed that the apprehension of the publick service being delayed, alone prevents their ordering him into confinement for his ill conduct and insolence.

*Resolved*, That General *Mifflin* be informed of this man's behaviour, and that he be requested to take such measures as may deter others from the like conduct in future.

*Ordered*, That a Commission issue for *Thomas Moffatt*, Esq., as Major of Colonel *Isaac Nicoll's* Regiment.

*Ordered*, That Commissions issue for *Samuel Drake's* officers; that they be dated 29th *June*, and signed by *Abm. Yates*, late President.

A draft of a Letter to Colonel *Snyder*,* reported by Colonel *Allison*, was read and approved, and is in the words following, viz:

"SIR: The commissions for your Regiment, agreeable to your request, are enclosed. I am directed to inform you that when the resolutions for raising your present corps passed the Convention, it was agreed that the Captain from *Orange* County should be first Captain of that corps, as each of the other Counties had a Field-Officer nominated out of their officers. To this end the dates of the commission, except Captain *Storm's*, are left blank, and with the above direction it is submitted to you to fill up the dates before you deliver them, so as to give rank or merit its weight and reward. Captain *Storm's* commission is dated, because he received one of the like date on his way to the Fortifications."

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Saturday morning, October 26th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Mills*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
DUTCHESS—Major *Landon*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.

A Letter from *Robert Harper*, Colonel *De Witt*, and *Lewis Graham*, the Committee appointed to form an arrangement of the Troops raised and to be raised in this State, dated at the *White-Plains*, 24th instant, informing the Committee of the progress they had made in the business of their appointment, and requesting a supply of clothing might be sent to the Troops of this States, was read.

A Letter from *Peter T. Curtenius*, dated at *Paramus*, 24th instant, enclosing a Resolution of the Convention of this State of 29th *August*, authorizing him to borrow, on the credit of this State, £10,000. Another Letter from Mr. *Curtenius*, of the same date, informing that his box, with all his Accounts of the publick, are at Mr. *Paulding's*, at or near *Tarry-Town*, and requests that they may be sent for, to prevent their falling into the enemy's hands.

*Resolved*, That Dr. *Van Wycke* be requested to engage quarters for the detachment of Horse under the command of Major *Sheldon*, amongst such of the inhabitants as are willing and best enabled to receive and subsist them in the most expeditious manner possible, the commanding officer paying for the same at a reasonable rate; and in case he should not be able to procure sufficient quarters in seasonable time, that he be then empowered to billet them amongst such inhabitants who are best qualified to receive them, in the most equitable proportions, and in such apartments of the houses as can best be spared.

Dr. *Malachi Treat* attending, produced an Account of £88 10*s.* for his attendance and medicine given to the soldiers of the First Battalion of *New-York* Troops, and to several Companies under the command of General *Lee*, (they not having a Surgeon or Mate to attend them,) pursuant to an order of the Provincial Congress of *New-York*, beginning about the middle of *February*, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, and ending about the middle of *April* following; as also an account of £18 17*s.* 6*d.*, for his attendance and medicine given to the soldiers of Colonel *Lasher's* and Colonel *Drake's* Regiments, in General *Scott's* Brigade, total, £107 7*s.* 6*d.* Difficulties arose in the minds of the Members respecting the said Accounts: Whereupon the Doctor made the following deposition at the foot of the said Account, viz:

"Dr. *M. Treat* being duly sworn, deposeth and saith: That the above Account of £107 7*s.* 6*d.* is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, just and true; that with respect to the particulars of the Account of £88 10*s.*, an account thereof was delivered to the Committee appointed by the Provincial Congress of *New-York* for auditing accounts, who directed the same to be delivered to the Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army for payment; the Quartermaster-General referred it to the Director-General of the Hospital; that he, the said Dr. *Treat*, hath applied to those gentlemen for payment, or to have his original account returned to him, neither of which he hath been able to procure; that as to the charge of £18 17*s.* 6*d.*, he has it not in his power to make out an account of the particulars thereof, neither is it in his power to make out an account of the particulars of the account of £88 10*s.*, as his accounts, which were deposited in his chest at *Harlem*, have been destroyed by the troops. "MALACHI TREAT."

Sworn before me this 26th *October*, 1776:
PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice President*.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Dr. *M. Treat* the sum of £107 7*s.* 6*d.*, in full for the abovementioned Accounts, taking his receipt for the same, and that the Treasurer charge the same to Continental account.

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Saturday night, October 26th, 1776.

The Committee met, (and no business transacted.) Colonel *Cortlandt*, Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Allison*, Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Lockwood*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *Smith*.

—

Monday morning, October 28th, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Harper*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ULSTER—Colonel *De Witt*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.

*SIR: I am directed by the Committee of Safety to enclose the commissions for your Regiments agreeable to your request, but the Committee, being furnished with proper evidence of the rank or merit of officers, have left the commissions undated. In doing of which the Committee doubts not but you will do your best endeavours to fix an arrangement upon the justest of principles.

I am likewise directed to inform you that when the resolves passed for raising your Battalion, and the Field-Officers appointed to command the same, it was agreed that *Orange* County should be entitled to the oldest Captain, which you will please to observe in giving out the commissions.

DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Judge *Graham*, Major *Lockwood*, Colonel *Cortlandt*.

One Member wanting, the Committee adjourned till this afternoon.

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Monday afternoon, October 28th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Roosevelt*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ULSTER—Colonel *De Witt*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *Schenck*, Mr. *Sacket*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Judge *Graham*, Mr. *Lockwood*, Colonel *Cortlandt*.

Major *Lockwood's* Report relative to the removal of Prisoners of War from *Salem* and *Poundridge*, being read, is in the words following, viz:

"Monday P. M., October 28th, 1776.

"Major *Lockwood* reports, that pursuant to the Resolutions of this Committee on the 8th instant, directing him to proceed to *Poundridge* and *Bedford*, in *Westchester* County, and give directions relative to the Prisoners of War at those places, he proceeded to *Bedford* aforesaid, and found it necessary to remove such Prisoners of War as yet remained there.

"That *Samuel Cox*, Master of the Sloop *Charlotte* Transport, *Joseph Woolcomb*, Chief Mate of the Ship *Blue Mountain Valley*, *Thomas Rimmington Harris*, Mate of the *Savage* Sloop, *Richard Bruere*, Midshipman, and *William Elder*, Volunteer, had severally escaped and fled from thence, in violation of their paroles, and could not be heard of though endeavours had been used by the Committee to apprehend them.

"That *John Simpson*, late Master or Captain of the *Saville* Transport-Victualler, *James Auchmuty*, Storekeeper in the Engineer's Department, together with his wife and family, and *William McDermot*, were yet remaining there. That he had, with the consent and approbation of the three prisoners last-mentioned, changed their respective paroles, and taken of each of them a new parole,* to repair to *Danbury*, in the State of *Connecticut*, and there, or within six miles thereof, to continue during the present war; and that he had sent them to the care of the Committee at *Danbury*, under the guard of *Jesse Slason*, where they were received by the Committee, as appears by a draft of a letter from Mr. *Lockwood* to that Committee, and their answer, signed by *Thomas Stevens*, Chairman.

"Major *Lockwood* further reports, that he proceeded to *Poundridge*, where nine men, (and one child,) privates were prisoners. That one of them, named *John Gibbons*, was lame, and in a place which appeared a place of safety from the enemy, and is therefore left to remain there for the present. That the other eight men and child, prisoners, taken on board of or from different vessels, viz: *James Wilson*, *John Murry*, *Samuel Coppin*, *Jeremiah Reerdor*, *Henry Killgrove*, *Michael Cowney*, *Cesar Freeman*, *William Patterson* and his child, were sent under guard to *Woodbury*, in the State of *Connecticut*, in charge of Lieutenant *Samuel Bouten* and five privates of the Militia.

"That he, Major *Lockwood*, in the course of this business, advanced the following sums of money, viz: To *James Auchmuty*, on account of the subsistence of 2 Dollars per week allowed him, 8 Dollars; to *William McDermott*, on the like account, 3 Dollars; to *John Simpson*, do., 3 Dollars; to *Jos. Owens*, for an ox-cart and team of four cattle to transport *Auchmuty's* effects, 7½ Dollars; to the expenses and allowances to Captain *Seeley* and *Jesse Slawson* as a guard to said prisoners, the first with one man with him from *Bedford* to *Poundridge*, and the other with two horses to remove *Auchmuty's* wife and child from *Poundridge* to *Danbury*, in the whole 1⅛ Dollars; to Lieutenant *Samuel Bouton*, for expenses disbursed in maintaining eight men and a child, provisions himself and a guard of five armed men from *Poundridge* to *Woodbury*, in the State of *Connecticut*, 14⅝ Dollars; and for pay to the said *Samuel Bouton* and his said guard, including horses to assist themselves and some of the prisoners (one of the prisoners being an old man and some of them indisposed) from *Poundridge* to *Woodbury* aforesaid, for four and a half days, only 7½ Dollars; and that Major *Lockwood* paid for his own disbursements 1 Dollar; amounting in the whole to 48⅛ Dollars, or £19 5*s*. 4*d*., *New-York* money.

"Major *Lockwood* further reports, that he was informed by the Committee of *Bedford* that the prisoners who escaped from thence had left sundry effects at the places where they were respectively lodged, which effects he has directed to be inventoried by the said Committee, and that the inventory be returned to the Convention of this State. That, on the 13th *September* last, *Francis Clemmens*, a prisoner, deserted from *Poundridge*, and on the 24th *September* *William Metcalf*, another prisoner, who was absent or about to make his escape, was, by order of the Committee there, sent to *Westchester* Jail.

"EBENR. LOCKWOOD."

Mr. *Harper*, of the Committee appointed to repair to the camp at or near *King's Bridge*, relative to the new arrangement, delivered in an account of the expenses of the said Committee in the course of their journey.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Robert Harper*, Esq., the sum of forty-one Dollars, to reimburse the Committee who were appointed to repair to the camp at or near *King's Bridge*, for the purpose mentioned in the Resolutions of Congress relative to appointing officers; and the further sum of two Dollars, to reimburse Mr. *Harper* for so much by him paid for the use of a craft to convey him from the town of *Harlem* to *Flushing*, on *Nassau Island*, to attend to the disposal of some of the indigent inhabitants of the City of *New-York*.

*Ordered*, That the Secretaries of the Convention of this State, as Commissaries of the Prisoners of War in this State, pay to Major *Lockwood* the sum of forty-eight Dollars and one-sixth part of a Dollar, amounting to £19 5*s*. 4*d*., for his disbursements on account of the Prisoners of War late in *Westchester* County, in this State, taking Major *Lockwood's* receipt for the same.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Major *Lockwood* the sum of 21*s*. 4*d*., to reimburse him his expenses in going to *Stamford*, in *Connecticut*, on publick business by order of Convention of this State; and take his receipt for the same.

Mr. *Henry Schenck*, who was appointed by the Convention of this State an agent to assist the Commissary-General of the Continental Army, now in *Westchester* County, in procuring and sending down Flour for the use of the said Army, requested of this Committee, on behalf of the said Commissary-General, the loan of £2,800, to be repaid by the said Commissary-General, or the said *Henry Schenck*, as soon as possible.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to Major *Henry Schenck* (who was appointed by the Convention of this State an Agent to assist the Commissary-General of the Continental Army, now in *Westchester* County, in procuring and sending down Flour for the use of the said Army) the sum of £2,800, to be repaid by the said Commissary-General, or the said *Henry Schenck*, as soon as possible.

A Letter from *Lynde Lord*, Jailor, of *Litchfield*, relative to *Isaac* and *Israel Youngs*, dated 26th *October*, and a Petition of *Isaac* and *Israel Youngs*, dated 25th *October*, was referred to Judge *Graham* and Colonel *De Witt*.

General *Mifflin* sent back the Resolutions relative to

*I, *James Auchmuty*, being made a prisoner of war by the Army of the Thirteen *United Colonies* of *North America*, do promise and engage, on my word and honour and on the faith of a gentleman, to depart from hence to the Township of *Danbury*, in the County of *Fairfield*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being the place of my destination and residence, and there, or within six miles thereof, to remain during the present war between *Great Britain* and the said *United Colonies*, or until the Congress of the said *United Colonies*, or the Assembly, Convention, or Committee or Council of Safety of the said Colony shall order otherwise; and that I will not, directly or indirectly, give any intelligence whatsoever to the enemies of the *United Colonies*, or do or say any thing in opposition to, or in prejudice of, the measures and proceedings of any Congress for the said Colonies during the present troubles, or until I am duly exchanged or discharged.

Given under my hand this 20th day of *October*, A. D. 1776.

JAMES AUCHMUTY,
*Storekeeper in the Engineer's Department.*

Parole of honour of *John Simpson*, Master of the Ship *Saville*, a Victualling-Transport, same date, place, and endorsement as the preceding.

Parole of honour of *William McDermott*, same date, place, and endorsement as the preceding.

*Dally*, who maltreated *Weeks's* man, with a note on the back, informing the Committee that *Dally* shall be sent down to give such satisfaction as the Committee may require.

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Tuesday morning, October 29th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Harper*, Colonel *Brasher*.
WESTCHESTER—Major *Lockwood*, Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*, Mr. *Mills*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Little*, Mr. *Wisner*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, Esq., dated at Head-Quarters, *White-Plains*, *October* 27th, 1776, containing the daily intelligence and disposition of the Army, of the taking a party of *Rogers's* Rangers, some *British* and *Waldecker* Troops, and enclosing the Examination of *James Budd*, the principal among those disaffected taken in *Westchester* County by the Army.

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Tuesday afternoon, October 29th, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, President.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Little*, Mr. *Wisner*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Wisner*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Mr. *Lockwood*, Colonel *V. Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*.

*John Canfield*, Esq., Adjutant to a Regiment of Light-Horse from the State of *Connecticut*, produced to the Committee of Safety different bills of charges, delivered in by different persons for the board of part of the said Regiment, by which it appears that they are charged at very different rates; and, on behalf of Major *Shelden*, requested this Committee would fix some regulation by which the said accounts may be discharged, that he may do equal justice.

Thereupon the Committee fixed the following regulation of prices for the payment of those accounts: viz: 1*s*. 6*d*. per day for each man for boarding, lodging, diet, &c.; 9*d*. for each horse per day, and 3*s*. per bushel for oats.

A Letter from *James Duane*, *Robert Yates*, and *Jacob Cuyler*, Esqrs., the Committee appointed to go to *Albany* to make an arrangement of Officers, dated 24th *October*, stating that they have appointed Recruiting Officers at proper stations, and given them their instructions; and, to avoid delay, had borrowed twelve hundred Pounds to furnish the Recruiting Officers with the means of proceeding immediately on this service, was read.

A Letter from *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of the Convention now at *Albany*, dated *October* 27th, enclosing copies of Letters from General *Gates* and General *Arnold*, both dated at *Ticonderoga*, *October* 24th, and directed to General *Schuyler*, was read and filed.

A Letter from Messrs. *Tudor & Lawrence*, at *Poughkeepsie*, dated *October* 28th, informing when the Ships will be launched.

A Letter from Colonel *Peter R. Livingston*, the President, dated at *Esopus*, *October* 26th, mentioning his success in procuring Flour to the Northward, was also read.

A Letter from *Peter T. Curtenius*, dated at *Philadelphia*, *October* 20th, 1776, relative to his conduct, and the quantities of the different articles purchased for the use of the Troops, and requesting that money may be sent to him at *Paramus*, was read.

A Letter from *Joseph Hallett*, dated at *Prince-Town*, *October* 22d, 1776, relative to his proceedings with respect to the Prizes taken by Captain *Rogers*.

*Ordered*, That Major *Lockwood* be requested to proceed immediately to *Westchester* County, and make inquiry where the Records of the Town Clerk's Office of the City and County of *New-York*, as also the publick Records of the Loan Officers and Supervisors of the County of *Westchester* are deposited, and that he use his best endeavours to cause them to be safely conveyed to such place of safety as he shall judge prudent; and that this Committee will make provision for paying the expense attending the same.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State send to *James Duane*, *Robert Yates*, and *Jacob Cuyler*, Esqrs.. at *Albany*, who were appointed a Committee to repair to *Albany* and *Ticonderoga* to take measures for carrying into execution the Resolutions of Congress relative to the raising of Troops and appointing of Officers in the Continental service, by *John Visher*, who is employed as an Express by the said Committee, the sum of one thousand two hundred Pounds, and take his receipt to deliver the same to those gentlemen, or either of them.

A draft of a Letter to *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Convention now at *Albany*, in answer to theirs received and read this morning, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, viz:

"Fishkill, October 29th, 1776.

"SIR: The Committee of Safety have received the letter of your Committee by express, enclosing minutes of the Committee of the County of *Albany*, relative to the department of the Deputy Commissary-General. The exertions which they have made to procure the necessary supply for the Northern Army are highly laudable, and deserve the warmest approbation of the Committee of Safety.

"We have been loudly called upon by his Excellency General *Washington* to forward a supply of flour for the use of the Army at the *White-Plains*. We have devised all the means we can think of to prevent the Army from suffering for the want of that article, copy of which you will see by our resolutions, which we now transmit you. We are of opinion that if a similar mode was adopted to the northward it would be productive of good effects. We are informed that there are several mills between *Albany* and *Lake George*, which might be kept constantly employed in manufacturing flour for the Northern Army, if the Commissary-General would engage persons to purchase up grain, and to have it transported to the mills most contiguous. It would, however, be needless in us to enter into a particular detail on this subject. Your Committee, from being on the spot, are the best judges of what further measures will be necessary for supplying that Army, and are invested with full powers for carrying into execution all such measures as you shall think effectual for repelling the invasions of the enemy on the northern and western frontiers. Whilst we, therefore, in this quarter exert ourselves in devising and executing whatever shall appear to us most conducive to the publick safety, we trust that your attention and zeal will not be wanting in giving vigour to our military operations to the northward, in quelling, by such means as you shall deem most prudent, the insurrections of the disaffected in that part. We highly approve of your having detained those detachments of the Militia which you mention, for that purpose; but it is not in our power to order up the detachment under the command of Colonel *Van Rensselaer*, as we have now in custody near two hundred and twenty dangerous and disaffected persons, whom we propose removing to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*. A detachment of seventy-six persons of this stamp was sent off a few days ago; and from the information we have received from the Committee appointed by the Convention of this State for inquiring into and detecting all conspiracies which may be formed in this State against the liberties of *America*, we have reason to think that there will be a necessity of apprehending and removing several other persons. You must, therefore, be sensible that no dependance can be put on this quarter. Should you find it necessary to employ a further force for the purpose of seizing and securing the disaffected, we recommend it to you to endeavour to raise as many men in the *Massachusetts-Bay* Government as you shall think necessary.

"We transmit you a copy of the last intelligence we have received from Head-Quarters. We flatter ourselves that our accounts from the northward will be equally favourable.

"We are, gentlemen, with great respect, yours, &c.

"To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee appointed to repair to *Albany* to confer with General *Schuyler* on devising and carrying into execution the measures necessary for repelling the invasion of the enemy's Army on the northern and western frontiers of this State."

Resolutions authorizing *Henry Schenck* to purchase Wheat, and to exempt Coopers for two months from military duty, was read and agreed.*

A draft of a Letter to *James Duane*, *Robert Yates*, and *Jacob Cuyler*, Esquires, Committee of Arrangement now at *Albany*, in answer to theirs received this morning, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

"In Committee of Safety, &c., 29th October, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: We have yours of the 24th instant before us, and approve of the method you have pursued in appointing recruiting officers, and now send you by the express the twelve hundred pounds you have borrowed for that purpose. We would beg leave to recommend to you the calling in the Members of the Committee appointed to confer with General *Schuyler*, so as to make a quorum; without that you may return with all convenient speed to *Fishkill*, to join Colonel *De Witt*, Judge *Graham*, and Mr. *Harper*, (who are already arrived,) to finish the arrangement. We would not, however, by any means advise you to leave *Albany* in this critical situation of affairs, unless there be a quorum of that Committee without you; and if you cannot all leave that Committee, we advise that so many of you do come to *Fishkill* as can be spared from those, leaving a quorum of that Committee sufficient for the business.

"We are, &c.

"Messrs. *Duane*, *Yates*, and *Cuyler*, *Albany*."

—

Wednesday morning, 30th October, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *V. Cortlandt*, Vice President.

NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Harper*, Colonel *Brasher*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ULSTER—Major *Parks*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Colonel *V. Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.

No business of an urgent nature, the Committee adjourned till this afternoon.

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Wednesday afternoon, October 30th, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.

NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Colonel *Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*.
DUTCHESS—Major *Landon*.

On motion of Mr. *Adgate*, seconded by Mr. *Yates*,

*Resolved*, That the further sum of nine hundred and eighty Pounds be transmitted to the Committee of *Albany*, for the Pay, Bounty, and Subsistence of the Rangers; that the Treasurer of this State pay that sum to *Abraham Yates*, Jun., Esquire, to be delivered to the said Committee for the purposes aforesaid, and that the said Committee regulate themselves in paying the said money agreeable to the resolutions of the Convention of the Representatives of this State on the 23d day of *July* last, for raising, mustering, and paying the said Rangers, and the resolves and instructions of this Committee of the 21st instant for the same purpose; and the said Committee are directed to be particularly careful that every Muster-Roll of each Company of Rangers be returned on oath by each Commissioned Officer of each Company, making return before it is transmitted to the Convention, and that they do not advance the last moiety of the bounty, or any pay or subsistence for any Rangers but such as are armed and accoutred agreeable to the said resolution.

Sergeant *Sickles* attending with twenty Coopers, informed that he had no means of subsistence for the said Coopers.

*Ordered*, That *Robert Benson*, Esquire, one of the Secretaries, advance 5¼ Dollars to Sergeant *Sickles* on his receipt, for the subsistence of the said Coopers, taking a receipt for the same in the name of *Henry Schenck*, Esq.

The Committee took into consideration the Letter from *Peter T. Curtenius*, dated the 20th, and received on the 29th instant, stating the sums he has advanced for clothing and the sums he is indebted, and requesting an advance of fifteen thousand Pounds. After some time spent therein, the further consideration thereof was postponed till to-morrow.

A Letter* from Mr. *McNeal*, stating that *John Kane* refuses to receive Congress money in payment of his Mortgage.

*Ordered*, To lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. *Adgate*,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Abraham Yates* and Mr. *Wisner* be a Committee to devise and report ways and means for obtaining intelligence from *Albany* and keeping up a regular communication between *Fishkill* and *Albany*.

Major *Strang*, from *White-Plains*, on request, attended and informed this Committee of the intelligence from the Army, and their present situation.

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Thursday morning, 31st October, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *V. Cortlandt*, Vice President.

NEW-YORK—Mr. *Brasher*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Roosevelt*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Little*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Parks*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.

On motion, *Ordered*, That Mr. *Robert Harper* be added to the Committee appointed on the 17th instant to inventory all the goods belonging to the State fit for soldiers' use, and procure the same to be made up for soldiers' use, that the Committee may prosecute that necessary business.

On motion of Mr. *Mills*,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Abraham Yates* and Mr. *Landon* be a Committee to inquire whether the Rangers under the command of Captain-Commandant *M. Smith* will continue in the service during the war, and to report a proper arrangement for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That Major *Parks* be added to the Committee appointed yesterday to devise ways and means for obtaining intelligence from *Albany* and keeping up a regular communication between *Fishkill* and *Albany*.

And *Ordered*, That the powers of that Committee be

* OCTOBER 29th, 1776.—Whereas this Committee have been called upon by his Excellency General *Washington*, by a Letter received from *Tench Tilghman*, dated *October* 26, 1776, to exert themselves in devising all possible means for the expeditious supply of Flour for the *American* Army, in the County of *Westchester*:

*Resolved*, That *Henry Schenck*, Esq., or such Agents as he may think proper to employ, be empowered to purchase up Wheat for the use of the Continental Army; and that he cause the same to be manufactured into Flour and transported to the Landings most contiguous to the places where the same may be manufactured, with the utmost despatch.

*Resolved*, That the names of all persons who shall refuse to part with their Wheat at a reasonable rate be forthwith returned to the Committee of Safety or to the Convention of this State, in order that proper measures may be devised for preventing the publick interest from being sacrificed to the perverseness, disaffection, or avarice of individuals.

*Resolved*, That *Henry Schenck*, Esq., or the Agents by him employed in purchasing Wheat, be authorized to impress Drivers, Wagons, Teams, Ox-Carts, or other carriages, for the purpose of executing with the utmost despatch the Resolutions of this Committee.

*Resolved*, That all the Coopers in the Counties of *Dutchess*, *Westchester*, *Orange*, *Ulster*, *Albany*, *Tryon*, and *Charlotte*, be exempted from all Militia duty of what kind soever for the space of two months from the date hereof, provided always that the said Coopers are employed in exercising their trade in making and preparing Flour, Beef, and Pork Barrels.

*Ordered*, That copies of these Resolutions be transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*, to the Commissary-General, and to the Committee of the Convention of this State now sitting at *Albany*; and further, that the last Resolution, respecting the Coopers, be transmitted to the Commanding Officer of the Militia in the Counties above-mentioned.

* *To the Honourable Convention at the* FISHKILLS: *The humble Petition of* WILLIAM MCNEAL:

That a twelve month last *May* past, my father-in-law *James Wiltsie*, did take up of Mr. *John Cain* the sum of two hundred Pounds, for which we gave our note of hand payable for the same to the said *John Cain*. And that last *February*, the said *John Cain* demanded landed security for the said money, and that my father-in-law *James Wiltsie* did give him a mortgage for the same, to one Captain *Montresure*, of the *British* Army; and that my father-in-law now deceased, the place has fell to me, and have since applied to the said *John Cain* to pay off the said mortgage and interest, and denies having any interest or the money, and therefore your petitioner prays your advice and assistance in the affair, in order that he may have the mortgage taken up. WM. MCNEAL.

FISHKILLS, *October* 30th, 1776.

*

increased, and that they devise ways and means for the conveying intelligence to other parts of the State by publishing Handbills, Newspapers, or otherwise.

The Committee resumed the consideration of the Letter of *Peter T. Curtenius*, of the 20th instant, which was received on the 29th, and read yesterday.

*Ordered*, That the sum of £15,000 be immediately remitted to *Peter T. Curtenius*, for the purposes of paying for the Clothing, &c., that he has purchased for the use of the Troops raised or to be raised in this State.

That the Treasurer of this State deliver that sum to *Robert Benson*, one of the Secretaries, to be conveyed to Mr. *Curtenius*, who is directed to return a receipt to the Treasurer for the same.

And *Resolved*, That Colonel *Curtenius* be directed to have the goods by him purchased at *Philadelphia* and in *New-Jersey*, transported to *Perhamus*, or such other place of safety in his neighbourhood as he may think a proper place of safety, and have the same there stored until the further order of the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State.

A Letter from *Egbert Dumont*, Esq., dated 25th *September*, containing his reasons for not complying with the order of the Convention of this State of the 12th of *September* last, directing him to account with the Treasurer for moneys advanced him, was received and read:

Thereupon, *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee that the reasons contained in the said Letter are unsatisfactory and insufficient.

Therefore, *Ordered peremptorily*, That the said *Egbert Dumont* do immediately comply with the said Order.

And *Ordered*, That the Secretaries transmit a copy of this aforegoing Resolve and Order to Mr. *Dumont* without delay.

—

Thursday, P. M., October 31st, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, President.
ALBANY—Mr. *Adgate*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Parks*.
DUTCHESS—Mr *Platt*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Little*.

*Resolved*, That Commissary *Wyckoff* supply twenty-one men with Provisions, being the Coopers sent here by General *James Clinton*, until they are otherwise provided for by Mr. *Henry Schenck*.

After the daily Rider came in, present: Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Newkirk*, and Colonel *De Witt*.

*Uriah Mitchell*, one of the daily Riders from this place to the Head-Quarters, applied to this Committee for Cash on account of his wages:

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of the Convention of this State advance to the said *Uriah Mitchell* one hundred Dollars, on account of his wages, taking his receipt for the same.

—

Friday morning, November 1st, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *V. Cortlandt*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Little*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
CHARLOTTE—Mr. *Duer*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Parks*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.
WESTCHESTER—Mr. *Mills*, Colonel *Van Cortlandt*.

One of the Officers of the present Eastern Troops, who lodges at Doctor *Graham's*, on yesterday evening applied to the Committee of Safety, and desired that he might remain in one room in the Academy, as they board with him, and it may be a convenience to the Officers.

*Ordered*, That Doctor *Graham* be at liberty to remain in the room in the Academy until the further order of the Convention or the Committee of Safety of this State.

The Committee approved of the order for paying one hundred Dollars to *Mitchel*, the Rider, made yesterday, and his receipt for the same.

A Letter from *R. R. Livingston*, Esq., one of the Committee sent to the northward, dated at *Albany*, 23d *October*, 1776.

A Letter from *Peter R. Livingston*, dated Manor *Livingston*, *October* 29th, 1776, was read.

Whereas, by a Letter received from *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., bearing date 29th ultimo, it appears a Second Lieutenant is much wanted in Captain *Goosbeek's* Company, the better to enable said Company to answer the purpose for which they was raised:

Therefore *Resolved*, That *Samuel I. Ten Broeck* be appointed Second Lieutenant in the said Company.

A Letter from *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee sent to *Albany*, was received and read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Albany, October 25th, 1776.

"SIR: We met in Committee yesterday, on the arrival of the gentlemen appointed to arrange the Army from *Saratoga*. A number of important objects immediately engaged our attention; a capital one is the supplying the Army at *Ticonderoga*, and the military marching to their assistance. The papers which we have the honour to transmit will show the steps which have been taken by the Committee of this County to aid the Deputy Commissary-General here, who, without their exertion, we fear would not have been able to procure the necessary supply. At the best, it will, on so sudden an occasion, be a difficult task.

"It has added to our anxiety to learn, by a letter from General *Washington* to Mr. *Livingston*, that the Army in that quarter was also in danger of being distressed for want of provisions. His Excellency entreats Mr. *Livingston* to use his influence to send without delay flour and beef for that Army towards the *White-Plains*, and also a number of teams, the more the better, to aid in removing the Army as occasion may require. We submit it to your consideration whether, if teams cannot now easily be got from the eastward, it will not be advisable to order down a sufficient number belonging to such persons in the Manor *Livingston*, *Kinderhook*, and *Dutchess* County, as cannot be trusted with arms. If this plan should be adopted, every owner of a carriage should be directed to supply himself with a week's provision, to ease the Commissary as much as possible.

"The spirit of disaffection has appeared at *Hellebergh*, *King's* District, and *Coxsackie*, in this County, and it requires vigorous measures to oppose and suppress it. Nothing is more necessary than that the jails here should be cleared of the State prisoners without delay, and the more especially as all the Militia of this city and neighbourhood are marched. We have therefore advised the County Committee to send those prisoners, with the causes of their confinement, to *Fishkill*, by water, in order to be forwarded to one of the neighbouring States, or disposed of as you shall judge most advisable. It would have been imprudent, in every view, to have marched them to another State at this juncture, when none but the disaffected remain in the County, and many of them are in arms, and have threatened a rescue. We have found it necessary to detain a part of Colonel *Van Ness's Claverack* regiment, consisting of about one hundred and forty men, here, to oppose the designs of the disaffected at the *Hellebergh*. As they are much wanted to the northward, we did it with very great reluctance; and, indeed, it could only have been justifiable on the most urgent necessity. It is much to be wished that Colonel *Van Renselaer*, with part or detachments of two regiments under his command, could immediately be ordered up to *King's* District, to which we have been able, notwithstanding the importunity of the inhabitants, to send only a small detachment of fifteen Rangers, commanded by a Lieutenant, and to direct Colonel *Whiting* to raise one hundred men in that neighbourhood and the *Massachusetts* Government. A party of fifty, of the *Scohary* regiment and some of the Manor regiment, are detached to *Coxsackie*, where they are employed in dispersing and seizing the disaffected who are now in arms, and there is yet no account of their progress. We have thought it advisable to direct the few armed and well-affected Militia of the Manor of *Livingston*, to be detained and kept in readiness for the internal service of the County, conceiving

it unsafe, when the spirit of revolt is so prevalent in that quarter, to leave it defenceless. The information from *King's* District and the *Hellebergh* are enclosed.

"We are sir, your most humble servants,

"By order: ROBERT YATES, *Chairman.*

"To *Peter R. Livingston*, Esquire, President of the Convention of the State of *New-York.*'

—

Die Veneris, November 1st, 1776, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Harper.*
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Mr. *Mills.*
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate.*
ORANGE—Mr. *Little.*
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller.*
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk.*
ULSTER—Mr. *Cantine*, Major *Parks.*
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon.*

Captain-Commandant *Melancton Smith* and Captain *William Clark*, respectively, delivered in their Muster-Rolls, and the Pay and Billeting or Subsistence Rolls of their late respective Companies of Rangers, whose time of service now expires. The pay and billeting money, or allowance for rations and necessaries, from the 26th *July* to 31st *October* inclusive, amounting, in the whole, to the sum of £877 1*s.* 10¼*d.*, as appears by the said Rolls, and also by certificate signed by Mr. *G. Bancker*, Deputy Treasurer, and Clerk or Assistant to the Auditor-General, that he has examined the same, and finds them just, and the pay and billeting money and allowance for divers necessaries, due to Captain *Clark's* Company, amount to £921 14*s.* 5¾*d.*, as appears by the like rolls, and a similar certificate of Mr. *Bancker.**

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *M. Smith* the sum of £449 1*s.* 10¾*d.*, which, together with the sum of £428, by order of the Convention of this State, paid to *Egbert Benson*, Esq., to be applied to the payment of the wages and subsistence of the Companies under the command of Captain *Smith*, and applied accordingly on the 16th day of *September* last, amounts to the said sum of £877 1*s.* 10¾*d.*, and ordered that the said Treasurer pay to the said Captain *William Clark*, on his receipt, the sum of £921 14*s.* 5¾*d.*, in full for the pay and billeting money due to that Company.

Mr. *Abraham Yates*, from the Committee appointed for the purpose, brought in a Report, devising means of a steady communication of intelligence between *Fishkill* and *Albany.* The said Report was read, and the consideration thereof was postponed until to-morrow.

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Die Sabbati, November 2d, 1776, A. M.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Roosevelt.*
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little.*
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate.*
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk.*
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller.*
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Parks.*
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon.*

A Letter from *Jacob Odell*, dated and received yesterday, was read. He thereby informs, that through sickness he is confined to *Benjamin Dyckman's*, and is unable to ride, and must, therefore, quit that business; that as he is unable to ride he has sent up his brother with his Account.

The said Account being also read, consists of the following articles, viz:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To riding express from *Philipsburg* to *New-York* and returning, twenty-seven miles, - - - | £1 | 7 | 0 |
| To do. *Philipsburg* to *Fishkill*, forty-two miles, - | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| To do. as a Messenger, from 19th *September* to the 1st of *November*, including forty-four days, at 16*s.*, as per resolve of Convention dated 17th *September*, 1776, - - - - - - - - - - | 35 | 4 | 0 |
| | £38 | 13 | 0 |

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Abraham Odell* the sum of £38 13*s.*, in full for the Account of *Jacob Odell*, and take *Abm. Odell's* receipt for the same.

An Account of *Benjamin Dyckman*, dated 10th *October*, 1776, amounting to £4, for going express from *Fishkill* to *Albany*, was read.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Sampson Dyckman*, on his receipt, the said £4, for the use of his brother *Benjamin Dyckman.*

The Committee were informed by Mr. *Robert Harper* that the Soldiers want Shoes. Mr. *Curtenius's* Letter of the 20th *October* was thereupon read. Colonel *Brasher* was then sent for to this Committee. He explained the present state of the goods belonging to this State.

*Ordered*, That the Committee appointed for procuring of Clothing and having them made, report the most proper method of disposing of the Clothes on hand, and procuring coarse Clothes, and every matter they may think necessary for the purpose of completing Clothing.

Thereupon a draft of a Letter to the three Brigadier-Generals of this State was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

"SIR: We are informed (and have reason to believe it is true) that the troops stand in need of clothing. We have ordered Mr. *Curtenius* to collect all the clothing which is in the south of this State and belonging to the same, to *Peramus*, in *New-Jersey.* We request your information whether it is necessary to send clothing for our troops to our Army at this time; if so, by what route and to whose care, and whether for any of our troops but those to continue in general service during the war.

"We are, respectfully, sir, yours, &c."

Mr. *Wisner* informed the Committee that, pursuant to the order or indemnification of this Committee for that purpose on the 16th day of *October* last, he has expended upwards of one hundred and forty Pounds on the Roads in *Orange* County leading towards the *American* Army, and engaged the same men at four shillings per day each for a fortnight longer, they maintaining themselves; which will cost upwards of one hundred and forty Pounds more; and he requested an order on the Treasurer for three hundred Pounds for the purpose aforesaid.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Henry Wisner*, Esq., the sum of £300 on his receipt, to be applied to repair the Roads in *Orange* County leading to the *American* Army, in order to enable the inhabitants of the County, as well as the publick agents employed for the purpose, to transport provisions and other necessaries to the said Army.

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Saturday P. M., November 2d, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate.*
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller.*
ULSTER—Mr. *Cantine.*
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Van Cortlandt.*
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon.*
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk.*
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *J. Smith*, Mr. *Wisner.*

A Memorial of *William McNeal*, dated the 17th *October*, was read. He therein sets forth that Colonel *Dirck Brinckerhoff* has taken from the store of *Peter Bogardus* thirty bushels of Salt belonging to the memorialist, which he detains, to the great injury of the memorialist, whereby the said *William McNeal* is likely to lose several sums of money for which he was to have received payment in beef and pork, and praying redress in the premises.

*Ordered*, That the said Memorial be referred to the County Committee of *Dutchess* County, to hear and determine thereon.

A Letter to the Committee of *Dutchess* County was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

"SIR: The enclosed Petition, and Order thereon, I am directed by the Committee of Safety for this State to refer

*I do hereby certify, that I have examined the Billeting and Pay-Rolls of Captain *William Clark's* Company, from 26th *June* to 31st *October*, as signed by him, amounting to £921 14*s.* 5¾*d.*, and find them right.

GERARD BANCKER.

*November* 1, 1776.

to the General Committee of the County of *Dutchess*, to be by them, as soon as convenient, taken under consideration.

"I am, sir, yours, &c.

"To *Egbert Benson*, Esq., Chairman."

A Billeting-Roll of Captain *Elias Haasbrouck's* Company of Rangers, consisting of twenty-eight men, officers included, imbodied in *Ulster* County, was delivered to the Committee, charging £155 15*s.* 3½*d.*, for billeting from the time of their inlistment to the 31st of *October*, inclusive.

A Pay-Roll of the said Company was also delivered, wherein is charged £229 3*s.* 6*d.* for the pay of the said Company to the 31st of *October* included.

A Muster-Roll of the said Company, subscribed by all the Commissioned Officers of the said Company, was also read and delivered in; all which Captain *Haasbrouck* declared to be delivered upon his oath taken before the County Committee, agreeable to the Resolutions of Convention of the 23d *July* last.

A Certificate of Mr. *Gerard Bancker*, Clerk and Assistant to the Auditor-General, was read, whereby he certifies that he carefully examined the said Pay-Roll and Billeting-Roll of Captain *Elias Haasbrouck's* Company, amounting together to £384 18*s.* 9½*d.*, and finds them right calculated.*

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of the State pay to Captain *Elias Haasbrouck*, on his receipt or receipts, the said sums of money, amounting together to the sum of £384 19*s.* 9½*d.*, for the pay and billeting or subsistence of his Company to the 31st of *October* last, inclusive.

Captain *Elias Haasbrouck* applied for the second moiety of the Bounty for twenty-five men of his Company, who are inlisted and mustered, as appears by the Muster-Roll now delivered.

Thereupon *Ordered*, That *Robert Boyd*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Ulster* County, pay to Captain *Elias Haasbrouck* the sum of three hundred and twelve Dollars and one half of a Dollar, in full for the Bounty of the said twenty-five men, out of the money formerly deposited in his hands for advancing the first moiety of the Bounty to the Rangers raised in *Ulster* County; that Mr. *Boyd* take duplicate receipts from Captain *Haasbrouck* for that money, the duplicate of that receipt to be of the same tenour and date, and declaring that they are duplicates and for the same sum.

The Committee took into consideration the subject of a Letter from General *George Clinton*, of the 30th *October*, mentioning the advantage of mounting a few Cannon at different places near the level of the water, on the banks of *Hudson's* River, in the Highlands.

Thereupon *Resolved*, That *Henry Wisner*, Esquire, and General *James Clinton* be and are hereby authorized, requested, and empowered, to have such Cannon as they may think proper placed on such places, and such small works as they may think proper for that purpose erected on the banks of *Hudson's* River, for the annoyance of the enemy's ships, should any attempt to pass. And General *James Clinton* is hereby requested to afford every aid of men, artillery, or otherwise, in the premises, consistent with the publick service.

A Petition of *William Forbes*, a disaffected man confined in *Litchfield* Jail, was read. He requests a mitigation of his confinement.

*Ordered*, That the said Petition be referred to Colonel *De Witt* and Judge *Graham*, to consider and report thereon.

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10 ho. A. M., Sunday morning.

The Vice President and Committee met pursuant to adjournment. No business done. Adjourned to six o'clock.

*Six ho. P. M.*—The Vice President and Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

A Letter from *T. Tilghman* to the Committee of Correspondence was read; and two Letters from camp to *John McKesson* was read.

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Monday morning, November 4th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

* I do hereby certify that I have carefully examined the Pay-Roll and Billeting-Roll of Captain *Elias Haasbrouck's* Company, amounting together to 384 18*s.* 9½*d.*, and find them right calculated.

GERARD BANCKER.

Present: Colonel *P. V. Cortlandt*, President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *R. Harper*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Cantine*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman* to the Vice President, dated the 3d instant, and received this morning, was read and filed. The General consents that eighty men, of Colonel *Lasher's* Regiment, be sent with provisions to *Connecticut*.

Mr. *Landon* produced a Memorandum of the amount of sundry Accounts for the maintenance of the Poor from *New-York* placed in *Rombout's* Precinct, amounting in the whole to the sum of £78 11*s.*

*Ordered*, That the said Memorandum be submitted to *Henry Schenck*, Esq., that he request the several Accounts and Vouchers mentioned therein, and that he report thereon to the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State.

A number of Papers relative to Prisoners of War lately maintained at *Kingston*, in *Ulster* County, and now removed, were handed in.

*Ordered*, That they be delivered to the Secretaries as Commissaries for the Prisoners of War; that if they find any difficulty in settling those Accounts, they report the difficulties, for order to be made thereon.

A Letter or Account, of the like kind, from Colonel *Tusten*, was read, and delivered in the same manner, and with the like order.

It was moved that the sum of thirty Pounds be advanced to Mr. *Christopher Collis*, for the purpose of enabling him to make Wire and Wool Cards; that he, at any time, shall satisfy the Convention or Committee of Safety with regard to the progress he shall make in the business, and execute his bond to the President of this Committee for the payment thereof at the end of nine months from this day.

The question being put thereon, it was carried in the negative.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a bounty of two Shillings per pair be allowed for every pair of good Wool Cards made in this State out of iron wire manufactured in this State within six months from this day; that the said bounty shall be payable to an order on the Treasurer of this State, on full and due proof made by the oath of the owner of the said works, before the Chairman of the Committee of the District, or the nearest Magistrate to the said works, or before the President in Convention of the Representatives of this State, or the House of Representatives thereof for the time being, that the wire of which such Wool Cards has been made, and also the said Wool Cards, have been manufactured and made at his works within this State: Provided such proof be made, and the bounty applied for, within one month after expiration of the said six months.

Mr. *Tilghman's* Letter of the 2d *November* was read. To be delivered to Mr. *Duer* for the present.

A Letter, of the 3d instant, from *Tilghman* was read. Ordered to be communicated to the Committee for detecting and defeating Conspiracies.

A Letter from *Philip Livingston*, recommending *Bamper* for a Commission, was also read.

A Letter from *Bamper*, requesting a Commission, was read. Committed to the Committee of Arrangement.

A Letter from *John Imlay*, an Account of the sale of the Sloop *Putnam*, and a Receipt for one hundred and seventy Pounds, was read, and the consideration thereof deferred for the present.

—

4 ho. P. M., November 4th, 1776.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, President.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, * Mr. *Adgate*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ULSTER—* Mr. *Cantine*.
TRYON—* Mr. *Newkirk*.
ORANGE—* Colonel *Allison*.
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *V. Cortlandt*.

The Letter from *John Imlay*, the Receipt for one hundred

and seventy Pounds, and the Account sales, was again read, and committed to Mr. *Roosevelt* and Colonel *Brasher* to report thereon.

Mr. *Abraham Yates*, from the Committee to whom was referred the consideration for ways and means to convey and obtain intelligence from *Albany*, report:

"That they conceive it will be necessary that a Rider be hired to set out to *Albany* next *Wednesday;* that he be ordered to ride so as to arrive in the City of *Albany* no later than eleven o'clock in the morning; that he then wait the direction of the Committee of this House (or in their absence the Sub-Committee of the City and County of *Albany*) when to set out, provided he be detained no longer than twelve o'clock the *Saturday* following, and on his return he be no longer by the way than *Tuesday* following at twelve o'clock; that he alternately ride on the east and west side of the River; that the following letter be wrote to the Deputy Postmaster at *Albany*, that he direct the Post to give warning to this Convention in his way going to and returning from *Albany*, so that intelligence may be sent by him in the mean time."

—

Tuesday morning, November 5th, 1776—at 10 o'clock.

Present: Colonel *V. Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*.
TRYON—* Mr. *Newkirk*.
ALBANY—Mr. *Yates*, * Mr. *Adgate*.
ORANGE—Mr. *Wisner*, * Colonel *Allison*.
SUFFOLK—* Mr. *Wm. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*.
ULSTER—* Mr. *Cantine*.
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *V. Cortlandt*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.

The gentlemen whose names are marked with asterisms are a quorum of the Committee of Safety.

Mr. *Wisner* applied for an Order for one hundred Pounds on account, to pay sundry accounts for Spears made in *Orange* County for the Militia of this State.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Henry Wisner*, Esq., on his receipt, the sum of one hundred Pounds on account, to be by him applied to pay for the Spears made in *Orange* County.

Mr. *Roosevelt* reported to the Committee that Colonel *Brasher* and himself had examined the Muster-Rolls, Account sales and Papers relative to the Schooner *General Putnam*, and find, that for want of proper papers and more full information, it will be impracticable to settle with *Thomas Quigley*, the late Lieutenant of that vessel, for the crew.

Thereupon *Resolved and Ordered*, That *John Imlay* and *Comfort Sands*, Esqs., be, and hereby are authorized and empowered to examine and settle accounts relative to the Schooner *General Putnam*, and to settle with and discharge the crew of that vessel in the most frugal manner possible; and for that purpose that they be and hereby are authorized to apply the net amount of sales of the vessel and appurtenances. That *Comfort Sands*, Esq., be requested to take with him such papers or extract of papers or accounts from his own or the Treasurer's office, and to advance such sum of money as may be necessary for that purpose.

A Letter from *Comfort Sands*, Esq., dated this day, was read, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Fishkill, November 5th, 1776.

"SIR: Captain *Belknap*, one of the Captains of the Rangers ordered to be raised in *Ulster* County, has applied for the pay and subsistence and half bounty of his Company. The former I have settled; the latter want your directions about. It appears there has been moneys sent to the different County Committees for the one-half bounty, but as the company is not more than one half full, there must be money yet remaining in the hands of the Committee, which I think it would be best to draw out and settle their bounty there, for while money is continually advanced to different Committees and persons it will be impossible for me ever to get the publick accounts settled.

"I am, sir, your very humble servant,

"COMFORT SANDS.

"To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

Whereas it appears by a Certificate signed by the Chairman of the County Committee of *Ulster* County, that Captain *Isaac Belknap*, and the other Officers of his Company, are duly qualified according to the Resolutions of the Convention of this State; and by the Muster-Roll of the said Company, signed and subscribed by the Officers, it appears that the said Company consists of twenty-one Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates:

*Ordered*, That *Robert Boyd*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Ulster* County, pay to Captain *Isaac Belknap* two hundred and sixty-two Dollars and one half of a Dollar, in full for the second or last moiety of the Bounty of the said twenty-one Rangers raised in *Ulster* County, out of the money formerly deposited in his hands for advancing the first moiety of the Bounty to the said Rangers; that Mr. *Boyd* take duplicates of the receipt from Captain *Belknap* for that money: the duplicates of that receipt to be of the same tenour and date, and declaring that they are duplicates, and for the same sum. The said Muster-Roll is filed in the Auditor-General's office.

A Letter from *Comfort Sands*, relative to the pay of Barrackmaster *G. Roorback*, requesting directions what shall be his pay and rations.

Mr. *Curtenius* was called in and advised with relative to that claim. Thereupon the further consideration thereof was postponed till the afternoon. And Mr. *Sands* is requested to attend in the afternoon, to give the Committee information relating to the said Barrackmaster.

Mr. *Curtenius* was heard as to the Clothing purchased for Troops. The Committee spent some time in considering the propriety of delivering the whole to the Quartermaster-General, and the further consideration thereof is postponed.

*Egbert Benson*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Dutchess* County, attending, was admitted. He informed that it is necessary to procure a number of hands to be employed to build Barracks, and proposed that a draft should be made from the Militia of *Dutchess* County for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Allison* and Major *Landon* be a Committee to consider and report thereon.

—

November 5th, P. M., 4 ho.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. V. Cortlandt*, Esquire, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Roosevelt*.
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Van Cortlandt*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Jos. Smith*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *Smith*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *Landon*.

The Report of the Committee for calling in Labourers to build Barracks, was read, and the consideration thereof postponed till to-morrow.

A Letter from *Samuel Brewster*, Esquire, Chairman of the Committee of *New-Windsor*, covering an Affidavit relating to one *Conner* and *Montgomery*, was read.

The said Affidavit and Letter set forth sundry matters which rendered it very probable that certain quantities of Butter and Flour purchased by the said *Conner* and *Montgomery* were purchased with an intent to supply the enemy.

*Ordered*, That the said Papers be referred to a Committee, say the Committee for detecting Conspiracies.

The Committee, on considering the Letter of *Francis Lewis* and *Philip Livingston*, Esquires, requesting another Delegate to be sent to *Philadelphia*, &c.:

*Ordered*, That Mr. *McKesson*, as Secretary, write a Letter to Mr. *Duane*, and inform him that the attendance of another Delegate is necessary at Congress; that the publick Accounts of this State are ready to be laid before the Continental Auditors; that it is apprehended his attendance at Congress when those Accounts are under consideration of the proper Board will be peculiarly useful to this State; and therefore that he is requested to return to *Fishkill*, that he assist to perfect the arrangement of the Army and prepare to attend at Congress.

Wednesday morning, November 6th, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.

ALBANY—Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Yates*, Jun.
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Drake*, Colonel *V. Cortlandt*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Nicoll*.
DUTCHESS—Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Landon*.
ULSTER—Mr. *Contine*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *J. Smith*.
TRYON—Mr. *Newkirk*.

A Letter from Colonel *Benjamin Tusteen*, dated *Goshen, November* the 4th, 1776, relative to some Cloths he has purchased, and requests to know whether he shall have Clothes made for the Soldiers, was received and read, and referred to the Committee appointed to have the Goods made up at *Fishkill*.

A Letter from *Johannes Sleght*, dated at *Kingston*, relative to Salt, of which there is a great scarcity, was read.

A draft of an answer to said Letter was read and approved, and is as follows:

"SIR: Your letter having been read in Committee of Safety, they are of opinion that it would have come more properly through your Committee. They lament the wants of your people, but are ignorant of any store of salt at *Albany* or *Dutchess* Counties, both of which they are satisfied are by no means supplied; but should it be otherwise, they make no doubt that you may purchase on the same terms as the people of those Counties. As this Committee have no thought of interfering, without the most absolute necessity, in the regulation of the prices of any article of merchandise whatever, since its only tendency is to increase the scarcity and injure individuals.

"I am, sir, &c.

"*Johannes Sleght*, Esquire."

A Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated at *Albany, November* 3d, 1776, was received and read, and is as follows, to wit:

"Albany, 3d November, 1776.

"SIR: I do myself the honour to enclose you an extract of a letter from General *Gates*, of the 31st ultimo, with copy of one from Major *Hoisington* to him. If Sir *Jno. Johnson* left *Canada* at the time the deserters mention, he has probably met with such difficulties as have obliged him to return, as I think he could not subsist from that time to this in the woods. We have no less than eleven different scouts traversing the country between *Tyconderoga* and *Fort Stanwix*, so that I am in hopes, should the enemy attempt to penetrate to the *Mohawk* River, we shall have such early information as to enable us to meet him with a sufficient force. I have already ordered two regiments from *Tyconderoga* to *Tryon* County, and about one thousand of the Militia, so that our force there, exclusive of the Militia of that County, will amount to two thousand men, besides the garrison of *Fort Schuyler*.

"I wish the Convention would order the depth and breadth of *Hudson's* River to be carefully taken at such places as they conceive would be most proper effectually to obstruct the navigation. *Verplanck's Point* or *Jan Kanten Hook* may be proper places, perhaps the latter the most eligible of any. I propose taking the earliest opportunity that is offered me to prepare every thing for it. At present I cannot, as I have neither troops nor carpenters—the latter being all employed in constructing barracks.

"I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

"PHIL. SCHUYLER.

"*P. R. Livingston*, Esquire, President, &c."

The abstract of a Letter from General *Gates*, dated at *Ticonderoga* on the 31st ultimo, giving an account of the movements of the enemy on *Lake Champlain*, enclosed in General *Schuyler's* Letter, was also read.

Also, a copy of a Letter from Major *Joab Hoisington* to General *Gates*, dated at *Newbury, October* the 12th, 1776, communicating the intelligence given by four Deserters from *Canada*, that previous to their leaving *Montreal*, on the 25th of *September*, that Sir *John Johnson*, with the *Indians* and *Canadians* and Eighth Regiment, had marched to attack the inhabitants on the *Mohawk* River and meet General *Burgoin* in *Albany*, was also read.

*Ordered*, That an extract of General *Schuyler's* Letter which relates to taking the Soundings of *Hudson's* River, be transmitted to the Secret Committee now at the Forts in the Highlands, and said Committee cause the Soundings to be made.

A Letter from *John Taylor*, Esq., dated at *Albany, November* 3d, 1776, enclosing a Notification signed by Mr. *Matthew*, Town-Clerk, dated at *New-Marlborough, October* 4th, 1776, requesting the inhabitants to meet and give their sense relative to their revolting from *New-York*, was read and filed.

Whereas, by the decease of *Theodorus Van Wyck* and *Andrew Barclay*, Loan Officers of the City and County of *New-York*, in this State, the Loan Office Books and Seal has fallen into the hands of *Nicholas Governeur*, only surviving Loan Officer, who, from his residence in *New-Jersey*, is incapable of carrying on the business of the office:

*Ordered therefore*, That said Books and Seal be delivered into the hands of the Treasurer of this State, or *Gerard Bancker*, his Deputy, and that he be directed to act as Loan Officer until further order of this Convention.

*Ordered*, That the said Treasurer or his Deputy's receipt shall, on payment of the Money, be considered as a full discharge for any money due to the Loan Office.

*Ordered*, That the Executors of *Theodorus Van Wyck*, deceased, account with and pay into the hands of the said Treasurer or his said Deputy, all the Money due from the Estate of their testator to the Loan Office of this State.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above be served on the Treasurer of this State, and that Mr. *Gerard Bancker* apply to Mr. *Gouvernier* for the Books, Seal, and Accounts above-mentioned, and to the Executors of *Theodorus Van Wyck* for the sums in their hands, and serve them with a copy hereof.

*Robert Yates*, Esq., from the Committee appointed on the 19th of *October* last to coöperate with Major-General *Schuyler* in devising and carrying into execution all such measures as they should deem most effectual for repelling the invasion of the enemy's Army on the northern and western frontiers of this State, made the following Report:

"A majority of your Committee, viz: *Evert Bancker, Jacob Cuyler, John Tayler, James Duane, Robert R. Livingston, Robert Yates, John Ten Broeck*, Jr., convened at the City of *Albany* on the 24th day of *October* last, agreeable to order, to perform the duties assigned them; and receiving intelligence from Mr. *Tayler*, one of your Committee, who had just arrived from *Cumberland*, that the Militia of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march on their receiving intelligence that the enemy were besieging *Ticonderoga*, and that it was their intention to take the route through the country to that place, a letter was addressed to General *Schuyler*, advising him thereof, (knowing the scarcity of provisions at that garrison,) and communicating also our belief, that from certain affidavits, (copies whereof had been transmitted to him by the Committee at *Albany*,) some part of the enemy's force proposed making incursions into the western frontier, we therefore lamented the necessity that called Colonel *Dayton's* regiment to *Ticonderoga*, and left so important a communication to be guarded chiefly by Militia, and submitted the propriety of employing active scouts, who should go from the head of *Hudson's* River to *Ticonderoga*, and to whom rewards should be offered in their bringing intelligence of the enemy's approach.

"Having received information of a most dangerous conspiracy of the Tories at *Helenbergh*, we despatched an express to Colonel *Van Ness*, who was at *Schuyler's Ferry*, on his march to *Fort Edward*, to recall his regiment, to employ them against the insurgents. Of this measure, also, we informed General *Schuyler;* and in order to discover the numbers, motions, and designs of the insurgents, a soldier recommended by Colonel *Van Schaick* for that purpose, was sent as a Spy, with instructions, and a promise of a reward of ten pounds if he should perform the service satisfactory. On the 25th of *October*, a letter was received from Colonel *Whiting*, of *King's* District, giving information of the number and hostile designs of the Tories in that District. Whereupon Captain *Baldwin*, with fifteen men of the *Albany* Rangers, was immediately despatched to assist in securing the said insurgents, and Colonel *Whiting* was di-

rected and authorized to raise and detain all the well-affected Militia remaining in that District for the same service, and also to call on the nearest towns in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* for such a number of men as would, together with his own and the Rangers, make up an hundred, and also that he should see the men properly supplied with provisions, agreeable to Continental allowance. The whole to be commanded by Colonel *Whiting* until superseded.

"Mr. *Avery*, Deputy Commissary, furnished a report of all the flour remaining at *Ticonderoga*, and the several stages between that and *Albany*, from which, after deducting what was probably expended, or would be consumed in the course of fourteen days, there would then only remain about two thousand five hundred and twenty barrels.

"A representation having been made to your Committee that Doctor *Henry Van Dyck*, *Cornelius Glen*, *Benjamin French*, *Jacob A. Lansing*, *John Stevenson*, *Henry Ten Eyck*, *John Van Allen*, *Jus. Visscher* of *Schenectady*, Major *Eminston*, *Peter Van Schaick*, *Peter Vosburgh*, *Robert Oakley*, *James Dole*, *Baker*, *John Fryer*, were persons disaffected to the cause of *American* liberty, and that their stay in the County of *Albany* would be dangerous:

"It was therefore *Resolved*, That the Members of the Committee who were Members also of the Committee of *Albany*, wait on the Committee of the said County, and submit it to their consideration, if they have just grounds of the unfriendly dispositions of the said persons, to remove them immediately out of this State.

"It being also represented to the said Committee that there were many disaffected persons in the Manor of *Livingston* and its neighbourhood, and that the remaining Militia who can be relied on are few in number and badly armed:

"It was therefore *Resolved*, That a Letter be sent to the Commanding Officer of the Manor Regiment, informing him to detain the Militia there, and hold them in readiness to suppress any insurrections among the disaffected in that part of the State, or wherever else they may be ordered by your Committee or the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*.

"A Resolution was also passed requiring the Committee of the Manor of *Livingston* immediately to arm and equip the company of Rangers raised in that District, and order them to be quartered at or near the place of rendezvous, and kept in readiness for immediate service. A copy of said resolution was sent to Colonel *Henry Livingston*, of the Manor of *Livingston*.

"Your Committee, by a letter to *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President of the Convention, advised them of the progress they had made in the execution of the duties assigned them.

"*John Vondenburgh*, who resides near *Helleburgh*, and supposed to be well acquainted with the designs of the disaffected in that neighbourhood, was examined, and reluctantly disclosed that he had attended a meeting at the *Helleburgh*, and was there advised not to march with the Militia to the northward; that there were present at that meeting *John Reed*, *Joaghim Huyck*, *Jacobus Long*, *Hans Segar*, *Jacobus Oliver*, *Jacob Huyck*, *John Cummins*, *Arnet Werner*, *Adam Sagar*, *Christian Huyck*, *Jacob Bradt*, *Garret Bradt*; and that one *Richard Ridley* had in his possession the proclamation of General *Howe*; that their plan was to assemble in three parties, of about thirty men each, to resist any troops that might attack them; that the one party, under command of *Albertus Van Alstyne*, to meet at the *Helleburgh*, another, under the command of *John Cummins*, at *Norman's Kill*, and the third, under the command of *Arent Wormer*, at *Neskitaw*; that the party attacked were to notify the others, that they might coöperate in their resistance. *Hans Segar* said he could get *Indians* at *Schoharie* to assist, if he would go for them; that a constant correspondence is kept up between the said parties and the disaffected of *Stickook* and *Coxakie*, between whom it was understood that they were to act on the defensive until the King's troops arrived, and then join them.

"A messenger was despatched to Colonel *Vondenburgh* and Captain *Slingerlandt*, requesting their attendance, that they might be informed of the situation of the country in and about the places alluded to in the said examination of *Vondenburg*, and march with Colonel *Van Ness's* regiment as guides to those places.

"On the 26th of *October*, Colonel *Vondenbergh* and Captain *Slingerlandt* attended, according to request, and the Colonel produced the returns of such persons in his regiment, amounting to eighty-two, who have not marched up with the Militia of the County, most of which absentees, it appears by other information, are such as have collected themselves in and about the *Hellebergh*, for the purpose of opposing by force the measures of Congress. An express was sent with a letter to Captain *John Bradt*, of *Coxakie*, advising him of the movement of the disaffected in the neighbourhood of the *Hellebergh*, and requesting him, if he could spare any part of his force, to despatch the *Schoharie* company and the Rangers that way as soon as possible, and by the most direct route; and that a party should be despatched from *Albany* to meet and coöperate with them.

"Colonel *Van Schaick*, on application, consented to spare about fifty of his Continental troops for two or three days, to be commanded by Captain *Hicks*, and marched to the *Hellebergh* under the directions of your Committee, and to be in readiness as soon as possible.

"Captain *Baldwin* was directed that the fifteen men of his company of Rangers should hold themselves in readiness; and Colonel *Van Ness* was ordered to detach eighty men of his regiment on the same service, while the remainder of his regiment should continue in *Albany*, and do the duty of the troops ordered out.

"Captain *Abraham Slingerlandt*, of Col. *Vandenbergh's* regiment of Militia, was ordered to attend the said detachments as a guide in the route they were to take for the apprehension of the disaffected, and Major *Ford*, who was appointed to the command, was apprised of the nature of the service, and instructed to march the detachment to *Conradt Luke's* or *Tunis Kingerlandt's*, where his men were to be refreshed until near daybreak, when he was to march from thence to the *Hellebergh*, and endeavour to take and disperse the disaffected who have been or are now assembled in arms, or in general all others between the age of sixteen and fifty who can prove no good reason for their not having marched with the rest of the Militia agreeable to order; if they should not be at that place, to follow them to *Norman's Rale*, *Nestakew*, or the *Beaver Dam*, or wherever else they may be assembled, advising on this head with the guide; also, that he always march with good intelligent scouts ahead, and flanking parties, to prevent surprise or being discovered by persons lurking in the woods for that purpose, and to detain all those whom he might expect designed to give intelligence of his movements; that he should also be particularly careful to prevent the men under his command from plundering or maltreating the inhabitants of the County, whatever might be their political character; to be attentive to secure those persons whose names he was furnished with; and send daily communications of his motions to your Committee at *Albany*, in order that he might be reinforced if necessary, or supplied with provisions if his stay should be longer than was expected.

"On the 27th of *October*, a letter was received from General *Schuyler*, dated at *Saratoga* on the 26th, acknowledging the receipt of the letter and affidavits transmitted him on the 24th, in which he says, that although said affidavits would countenance the supposition that the enemy intend an irruption on the *Mohawk* River, yet he cannot suppose they will attempt it, unless they should be successful at *Ticonderoga*. He did not like to move *Dayton's* corps from the westward, but was pressed to do it in such terms by General *Gates* that he could not prudently refuse it. Lest, however, any accident should happen, he advises that Colonel *Van Ness*, with his regiment, should, on his return from *Coxsackie*, march to *Schenectady*, or such place where he can be of most service in case of an attack. The scouts from *Johnstown*, *Fort George*, and *Fort Edward*, agree there is no appearance of an enemy on the northern quarters. General *Schuyler* enclosed in said letter a copy of a letter he had received from General *Gates*, at *Ticonderoga*, dated the 24th of *October*, wherein, after enumerating such articles and supplies as are most wanted at that garrison, General *Gates* observes, 'that General *Carleton* lies close at '*Crown-Point*, with his navy on his flanks; that he ap-'prehends an attack may soon be expected, but that the

'communication between *Otter Creek* and *Mount Indepen-*
'*dence* was not yet interrupted by the enemy's scouts.'

"A letter was received from *John McKesson*, Esquire, Secretary of the Convention, dated at *Fishkill*, on the 24th, giving advice of the apprehension and condemnation, by a Court-Martial where Lord *Stirling* presided, of three traitors or deserters taken in arms; and also enclosing a copy of a letter from *Tench Tilghman*, Esq., to the Convention, dated at Head-Quarters, *Valentine's Hill*, the 22d instant, mentioning that early on the morning of the 21st, one hundred and fifty men, detached from the First and Third *Virginia* regiments, and commanded by Major *Green*, supported by Colonel *Haslet's*, of *Delaware*, with six hundred men, attacked and put to flight *Rogers's* Rangers, taking many blankets, sixty stand of arms, and thirty-six prisoners.

"Your Committee immediately acknowledged the receipt of the letter of *John McKesson*, Esq., with its enclosure, and suggested the propriety of the Committee of Correspondence establishing expresses to *Albany*, as good news published by authority might have a happy effect on the Army and on the people.

"On the meeting of the Committee on the 28th of *October*, a letter from General *Schuyler*, dated at *Saratoga*, on the 27th *October* instant, covering a letter from Captain *Lathrop Allen*, commanding at *Fort Dalgton*, the 21st of *October*, and another from General *Herkimer*, dated at *Canajoharie*, on the 25th of *October*, was laid before your Committee.

"Captain *Allen* states, that on hearing some news from Lake to our disadvantage, a consultation was held at *Canajoharie* Castle, between the *Indians* and Tories, since which many of the latter have absconded to join the enemy; that the *Indians* are also moving up. He concludes by requesting the General, as an invasion may shortly be expected, to forward a supply of ammunition, there not being more than twelve pounds of powder to supply the garrison, consisting of one hundred and twenty-three effective men.

"General *Herkimer* informs General *Schuyler* that *Peter Ten Broeck*, of the *Fallkills*, *Hanjoost Schuyler*, *Kachyaho Johnson*, with about one hundred and twenty others, from the *Klace Burragh*, have gone off to the enemy; he learns they are gone to *Oswego*, expecting to meet the enemy there; that the leaders of those runaways have received advice by letter, that within six days from their escape the enemy would be assembled in force at *Oswegos*,—Sir *John Johnson* to command six hundred regulars, and that twenty-two nations of *Indians* had joined them. A squaw was the bearer of said letter to *Canajoharie* Castle, and a belt was sent from the hostile nations to the *Oneidas*, to invite them to join them, threatening that if they would not agree to their proposals they (the *Oneidas*) should be attacked first and that not a child's life would be then spared. General *Herkimer* added, this hostile invasion may soon be expected, and certainly on the *Mohawk*, and that the circumstances of the country are such that they cannot resist such a force, and must expect to be slaughtered and drove off at the pleasure of the enemy. He therefore begged and solicited for expeditious succour in troops to oppose such powerful invaders, to frustrate their wicked intentions; that without such aid, the major part of the inhabitants would lay down their arms.

"General *Schuyler*, in his letter enclosing copies of those of General *Herkimer* and Captain *Allen*, remarked that he thinks it absolutely necessary that a body of troops be sent immediately to the *Mohawk's* River, and concludes by observing: 'I have ordered Colonel *Dayton* with his regiment, 'which is at *Canistighenna*, or *Half-Moon*, to halt until they 'shall hear from you. If you can send such a body of 'Militia into *Tryon* County as will in all probability secure 'that part of the country, I then wish you to send orders to 'Colonel *Dayton* to prosecute his march to *Ticonderoga*, 'where he is much wanted; if not, you will order him back 'to that County, he having my orders to obey your direc-'tions.'

"The Committee thereupon resolved and determined to detain the following troops for the defence of the western frontiers, namely:

| | |
|---|---|
| "Captain *Bradt's* Rangers, who have performed the service at *Coxakie*, - - - - - - - - - - | 50 |
| "A detachment of Captain *Baldwin's* Company of Rangers, - - - - - - - - - - - - - | 20 |
| "A detachment under Major *Ford*, of Colonel *Van Ness's* Regiment of *Claverack* Militia, - - - | 80 |
| "A detachment of *Scoharie* Militia, under Captain *Hager*, - - - - - - - - - - - - - | 55 |
| | 205 |
| "Captain *Hicks's* and *M'Cracken's* Companies, of Colonel *Van Schaick's* Continental Regiment, - | 120 |
| | 325 |

"If there be added to the troops now on that service, and the *Tryon* Militia, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| "*Elmons's* Regiment, - - - - - - | 443 | |
| "*Nichols's* do. - - - - - - | 150 | |
| "*Tryon* County Rangers, - - - - | 150 | |
| "Militia supposed at - - - - - - | 1,000 | |
| | | 1,743 |
| "The whole will be - - - - - - Men | | 2,068 |

"Your Committee then sent a letter by express to General *Schuyler*, enclosing copies of the above resolutions; and having previously received intelligence from Major *Ford* and Captain *Bradt*, we mentioned to the General, that on the night of the 26th the detachment was despatched against the disaffected at the *Helleburgh* and its neighbourhood, which was attended with the wished-for success, as they dispersed (the disaffected) without opposition, and many of them were taken. Captain *Bradt*, who was despatched on a similar enterprise to *Coxakie*, had written to us by express, that he had successfully performed the service he was sent upon, and that he thought the *Coxakie* and *Catskill* companies would be sufficient for any further business in that quarter. Indeed it appeared to us that the report of the disaffected there had been greatly exaggerated, since the Committee of this District had thought fit to discharge some—those who were apprehended as Tories; which, however inexpedient, was at best a proof they were not thought dangerous. These vigorous measures having so happily suppressed domestick insurrections, put it in our power to detach the troops which with the forces already on the western frontiers, and particularly specified in our resolutions, of their competency we suppose General *Schuyler* could best judge, and therefore submitted it to his determination whether Colonel *Dayton's* regiment should be sent forward to *Ticonderoga*, or commanded to their former station. It appeared to us of the utmost moment that an active and spirited officer, in the then conjuncture, should be invested with the command on the western frontiers, especially as the apprehensions on the part of the Continentals, as well as the Militia, seemed greater than the intelligence communicated to us could justify. We submit it to the consideration of the General, that as we were strangers to Colonel *Elmer*, if his military character was not sufficiently established, whether Colonel *Dayton*, (in case his regiment should proceed to *Ticonderoga*,) Colonel *Van Schaick*, or some other officer of known abilities, ought not to be appointed to that important department. We determined that such of the proposed detachment as consisted of Militia, should march without delay. The two companies of Continental troops, not being under our directions, we informed the General must attend his orders; and should the arrangement meet with his approbation, Captain *Lush's* company of Town-Guards, seventy of Colonel *Van Ness's* regiment under his command, besides the , would remain for town duty.

"Your Committee then wrote to Major *Ford*, requesting him to return with the detachment under his command to *Albany*, as soon as the service whereon he was sent was despatched, and at the same time forwarded a letter to Captain *Bratt*, commanding the party at *Coxakie* to march said party to *Albany* as soon as their business was accomplished. An order was also given Mr. *Avery* to furnish the detachment under Major *Ford* with three days' provisions, which was forwarded immediately.

"*John Vandenbergh* again appeared before the Committee, and was examined; and discovering nothing further respecting the Tories at *Hellebergh*, he was dismissed, and for his former services was given forty-eight shillings.

"*Dirck Swart* was called in, and informed your Committee, that while at *Bennington* he understood that letters had been received by the Committee of that place, from Deputy Commissary *Trumbull*, and Deputy Commissary

*Yauncey*, which mentioned that some evil-disposed persons near *Albany* had stopped the provisions going forward to *Ticonderoga*, and alleged they had orders to purchase the wheat and send it to the mills; that the wheat was accordingly purchased at five shillings and six pence lawful; on hearing which, some of the Militia that were going up were much enraged, and wished *Albany* in flames. As Mr. *Swart* neither saw said letters nor heard them read, it was not thought proper to take any measures relative thereto, until more precise information could be obtained of their contents.

On the 29th of *October*, Major *Ford*, with the detachment under his command, returned from the *Hellebergh*, and reported that he could not discover any parties of disaffected persons assembled together; that he had traversed the country, and found that most of the inhabitants had absconded; that he has apprehended, however, *John Reid*, *John Lang*, *Garrit Slingerlandt*, *Myndert Bradt*, *John Seeger*, *Jeremiah Pemberton*, *John Hallenneck*, (who he has, however, since discharged,) *Garret Seeger*, *Matthys Hoghtaling*, (who he released but detained his arms.)

"Your Committee immediately proceeded to examine *John Reid*, *John Lang*, and *Myndert Bradt*. The character of *Reid* appeared suspicious; he was therefore remanded to Jail. As to *Lang*, he appeared to be misled, and professing his hearty repentance and promising a ready concurrence with the measures of Congress, was thereupon dismissed, upon his promise to go and join his Militia regiment at *Fort Edward*. On receiving a solemn promise not to reveal his name, the said *John Lang*, of *Meadhic*, stated, that being warned to go to *Fort Edward*, he prepared himself to go accordingly, but on his way was dissuaded from proceeding by *Frederick Oliver* and *Philip Luke*, son to *John Luke*, who were the principal persons that dissuaded people, alleging that they would not go to be slaughtered by the Regulars, who would have this country in a month's time. That thereupon he went to *Arnet Wormer's*, where there were about one hundred, who engaged not to go up, nor to injure any person, but if the Rangers or Militia of *Albany* came against them, they would resist them. They then agreed to keep scouts in the road, and that they should notify each other upon any alarm. That besides the above persons, *Frederick Wormer*, *Frederick Cransie*, *John Commens*, were at the meeting; that the views of those people, when assembled, was to hold out until the Regulars should come, and then join them; that *Arnet Wormer* was to direct one of the parties, *Bat Hallenbeck* another, and *Frederick Oliver* the third party. The said *John Lang* being further examined, stated that there were present in the above company *George Swan*, *Peter Classe*, *Peter Bradt*, *Staats Bradt*, *Wonter* and *George Slingerlandt*, *Storen Bradt*, *Myndert Bradt*, *Garret Bradt*, *John Commens*, (a principal,) *Jacobus Oliver*, *Jacob Bell*, a Captain of *Beaver Dam*, (which latter he has heard to declare he would not go up at all,) *Henry Warner*, *Jacobus Haughtaling*, *Johannes Seeger*, *Adam Seeger*, *Jellis Creeble*, and *John Wedewman*.

"We proceeded to examine *Myndert Bradt*, who appeared to be an ignorant lad of about seventeen years of age; he not being sufficiently candid, was thereupon remanded to jail.

"We then received from General *Schuyler* a letter of the 29th of *October*, dated at *Saratoga*, in answer to that of yesterday, acquainting your Committee that he had ordered Colonel *Dayton's* regiment to prosecute their march to the northward, and that about four hundred of the Militia were ordered to march from *Fort Edward* to *Tryon* County, to be under the command of General *Herkimer* or Colonel *Van Schaick*, who he had ordered into that quarter with the two companies of his regiment.

"Mr. *Avery*, the Deputy Commissary-General, was immediately made acquainted with this movement, that he might be ready to furnish these troops with provisions. Captain *Bradt* was ordered to march with his company of Rangers into *Tryon* County, and to put himself under the command of Colonel *Van Schaick;* and Captain *Huger*, with the party of Militia under his command, was directed to return to *Schoharie*, and hold themselves in constant readiness to march at a moment's warning to the defence of the western frontiers, whenever they shall receive orders from Colonel *Van Schaick*, that they may contribute, with the rest of their fellow-citizens who are now in arms, to the utmost of their power, in the defence of the rights and liberties of their country.

"On the 30th *October*, your Committee addressed a letter to General *Herkimer*, advising him, that although they considered the information of an intended irruption of the enemy in that quarter to be such as not to be fully relied on, yet it was possible they might send small scouting parties, as a great force cannot come at this season; and as to the twenty-two nations of *Indians*, it is too improbable to deserve the least credit. We could not help expressing our surprise, that at a time when the Militia are all called out for the defence of our country, invaded on the north and south, that the Militia of a County which had hitherto been respected for its zeal and spirit, should entertain the most distant idea of submitting to their inveterate enemy, and that, too, before they had seen or tried their force. We took the liberty to remind him that there is already in that County, exclusive of their own Militia, seven hundred and forty-three men, which, when joined by the troops under his command, would, we apprehend, be greatly superiour to any force the enemy could send. We informed the General we had, however, sent him two companies of Continental troops under command of Colonel *Van Schaick*, with whom we wished him to consult about the proper disposition of the troops, and also one company of Rangers, and that General *Schuyler* had ordered to their assistance four hundred men of the Militia; these would cross from *Fort Edward*. We added: 'These are sent in compliance with 'your wishes, though we really think them unnecessary if 'the people of your County will exert any degree of that 'spirit which we have reason to expect of men animated 'by the glorious cause in which they are engaged. We 'doubt not but that you will be careful to inspire them 'with proper sentiments on this subject. It would be advi-'sable for you to order one hundred of your Militia, who will 'be rewarded for their services, to be raised, equipped, and 'sent to their proper stations; in which case they will be 'allowed Continental pay and rations. Captain *Hager*, 'with fifty men of the *Schoharie* Militia, are now sent home, 'and have orders to hold themselves in readiness at a mo-'ment's warning, whenever you may think it necessary to 'call upon them. You will be careful to keep out scouts on 'every quarter, who will be rewarded for their trouble.'

"Your Committee then addressed a letter to General *Schuyler*, suggesting, in case of an invasion from the west, which was very probable, whether it would not still be prudent to detain *Dayton's* regiment at *Fort George*, so that they might be in readiness to proceed to *Ticonderoga*, or the western frontier, as the progress of the enemy might render necessary. Also, communicating the orders given to Colonel *Van Schaick*, Captain *Bradt*, and Lieutenant *Hager*, and General *Herkimer;* and that Colonel *Van Ness's* detachment of one hundred and forty men were to be detained under his command for town duty, leaving Lieutenant *Conyer*, who is one of our recruiting officers, to assist and advise Colonel *Van Ness* in the conduct of his department, on account of his inexperience in the military line. We also communicated the result of the expedition to *Helleburgh*, and certain intelligence from Major *Ford*, received by him from *Hendrick Hoff*, who pretends to be a deserter from General *Carleton*, that would countenance the belief that we might hourly expect an irruption into the eastern frontier by the Tories, *Canadians*, and *Indians*, under the command of Sir *John Johnson*. We also informed the General that nothing before us would warrant a longer continuance at *Albany*, especially as our assistance was much wanted in Convention, the military arrangement, which is so essential, being delayed until our return to *Fishkill*.

"On the 31st *October*, your Committee received a letter from General *Schuyler*, by express, in answer to the one addressed to him the preceding day, in which he mentions, that by information received from Colonel *Ogden*, who left *Ticonderoga* on the morning preceding, there were not more than two hundred tents at *Crown-Point;* consequently General *Carleton* has only a small part of his Army there. This circumstance, the information of *Hoff*, and the movement of the Tories in this quarter, induced General *Schuyler* to suspect that the enemy intend to penetrate by the *Mohawk* River, or throw themselves on some part of the communication between *Saratoga* and *Fort George*. It became difficult to say what measures would be most eligible, but that he will venture to send down part of the Militia, *Dayton's* regiment being already near *Skeensborough*, and his men

extremely averse to return to *Tryon* County; he therefore earnestly entreated us not to leave *Albany* at so critical a juncture. He also informed us that he would despatch an express to General *Gates*, to request him to send a scout of forty or fifty men to the westward, and if he finds that any body of the enemy have marched to the *Mohawk* River, then instantly to despatch three regiments to that quarter, or more, according to the number of the enemy that may have taken that route. That similar orders would be sent to General *Ten Broeck* and Colonel *Gansevoort*, that we might thus have the more early and most certain intelligence of the enemy's movements, and be enabled to take proper measures to defeat their purposes.

"The despatches which General *Schuyler* enclosed for Colonel *Van Schaick* and Major *Cochran*, of *Tryon* County, were immediately forwarded to them by express.

"Your Committee, on the same day, received a letter from Colonel *Whiting*, giving an account of *King's* District, and referring to the affidavits of *Peabody* and *Allen*, taken before *John Younglove*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Bennington*, copies whereof were sent to the Committee of Safety by the Committee of *Albany*, and referred to your Committee on the 23d *October*, from which examinations it appeared that *Isaac Peabody* and *Samuel Allen* called at the house of *Seth Chace*, at *Little White Creek*, on the 12th of *October;* suspecting, from some observations they heard, that *Chase* was disaffected, they feigned to be of the same sentiments, pretending they came from *Kinderhook*, and were offered lodgings and concealment on the suggestion of a Mr. *Hough*, which they declined; they asked Mr. *Hough* whether they had seen any of their *Kinderhook* friends, or whether it was practicable for them to get through northward to *Burgoyne's* Army. *Hough* said no; but there was a much safer way of making their escape, for there was eighty men from *Arlington* and *Sunderland* who were to march the next night. That there were two of the King's armies coming down: *Burgoyne* was to come round the Lakes, and Sir *John Johnson* down the *Mohawk;* it would be best for the *Kinderhook* Tories to join the latter, which they could meet in three days and be out of danger; which opinion *Hough* said he would communicate to the Tories at *Kinderhook*. That while at *Chase's* they were advised not to go to *Cambridge*, or they would be taken up, for the people there were as fierce as the devil, and would have ruined the disaffected at *White Creek* but for the friends they had in the Committee. *Hough* stated that most of the neighbourhood were disaffected; that they had a meeting at *Chase's*, and determined to march off and join *Burgoyne* on the 13th. *Samuel Allen* went to inform the Committee of *Cambridge* of what had passed, while Captain *Peabody* returned to *Chase's*, to gather further intelligence, and inquired for *Hough*, and was told by *Chase* that *Hough* had communicated to him the substance of the conversation the preceding night; that he had certain intelligence that *Burgoyne* with his Army was coming round the Lakes; that Colonel *Mann* had sent a page to *Arlington*, who was at his house the night of the 11th on his return, and told that the Colonel's orders to the people of *Arlington* were to remain quiet unless their intentions were discovered, until further orders from him, for he found from intelligence from *Burgoyne* he would not get through his march so soon as he expected, but if discovered to make the best of their way to him. The page also stated that the people of *Arlington* had made such preparations for their march that they could not postpone it without being discovered, and would therefore march that night. He also said the people of *White Creek* are secure; they would not march until further orders from Colonel *Mann*. He likewise said that Colonel *Mann* had twelve fat oxen for the purpose of victualling the friends of Government on their march to join the King's Army, and others had several more for the same purpose; and on inquiring by what plan our *Kinderhook* friends could get safe to the King's Army, he told me Colonel *Mann* had given countersigns at two places, and if these countersigns could be conveyed to our friends they could pass safe and obtain all necessary intelligence. He then produced a paper and handed it to me, saying, 'Now I give you my life.' The contents of the paper were these:

"'At Landlord *Northrup's* the countersign is *Tryon*.'

"'At *Jacob Lawring's* Ferry the countersign is *Burgoyne*.'

"Upon the giving of which countersigns, he said, at these two places, we could be secreted, have provisions, or helped on our way, or any thing we desired to forward us.

"That *Simon Covill* was a great friend to Government, and thus examined, need not fear him. While the friends of Government were on their march to join *Burgoyne*, it was directed by Colonel *Mann*, that in the daytime they should keep the woods, and in the night to take the road; to go twenty in a body, a mile distant from each other, and before each detachment a scout to be placed, distant in the advance about ten rods, to give notice of persons approaching in front; and the rear guard in like manner, to notify the approach of pursuers, in which case the parties to skulk into the woods.

"Your Committee perceiving, from the last intelligence received from General *Schuyler*, that probably no attack would be made on *Ticonderoga*, it strengthened the apprehension of an invasion of our western frontiers. In such case the defenceless situation of those frontiers would be lamented, and by those probably who judge only from events. Convinced that an inexperienced Militia cannot be relied on, especially when their fears may be excited on account of the *Indians*, under those difficult circumstances, increased by General *Gates's* importunity for *Dayton's* regiment, though all the Continental troops (two companies only excepted) were already at *Ticonderoga* and on the communication, we could easily account for the embarrassment of General *Schuyler*, in which we participated; and by a letter of the 31st *October*, we communicated our reflections on the subject, and advised him of the intelligence received of *Peter Ten Broeck* and the four other disaffected, who have lately gone over to the enemy from *Tryon* County, being pursued by a party of the *Oneidas*, until those friendly *Indians* were given to understand by the *Onondagas* that it was disagreeable to them, and that the *Oneidas* should suffer if they did not desist. We submitted to the General whether it would not be proper for him to send a spirited message to the *Onondagas*, by Major *Fonda*, or such other manner as he might judge best, complaining and demanding satisfaction for this unprovoked infraction on the treaty, and insisting peremptorily to know whether they are to be considered as enemies or friends, that they might be treated accordingly, which would at least show a vigilant attention to their conduct and contempt of their enmity, which, if it should not convert, might intimidate and keep them in awe, not to mention the necessity of our being apprised of the terms we stand upon with a neighbour, who, in proportion to the measure of our deception, would be able to injure and distress us. We also communicated the intelligence from *King's* District, and the reports from the southeast end of *Rensselaerwyck*, from which it would seem that the disaffected were about to collect and to march to the northward, under the disguise of Militia and friends to Congress, until they could be met by the *Canadians* and *Indians*, who would conduct them to the enemy, or until they could reach *Fort George*, which they would seize and hold for the enemy; which accounts, though probably greatly exaggerated, they suggest the necessity of our being on our guard. The General was at the same time apprised, that previous to the receipt of his letter containing a request that your Committee should continue in *Albany*, that *Robert R. Livingston* had set out on his return, and as that part of the Committee for arranging the Army which were to the southward have got back to *Fishkill*, we considered ourselves under the necessity of joining them; and considering the nature of our powers, which respected chiefly the Militia, which were now all in motion, we could not perceive that our stay in *Albany* would be serviceable.

"Your Committee then addressed a letter to Colonel *Whiting*, informing him that they had ordered Colonel *Robert Rensselaer*, with one hundred and fifty of the *Claverack* Militia, to march into *King's* District, and requesting that, as Colonel *Rensselaer's* detachment would be much wanted for an important service in another quarter, that he might be detained no longer than the safety of the district and the condition of the disaffected rendered absolutely necessary. Those vigorous measures, it was expected, would convince our internal enemies both of our vigilance and power, and intimidate the disaffected and induce them to disperse, so that a guard of forty or fifty men, kept in constant motion, would be sufficient to protect and preserve tranquillity in that District; and being assured by the messenger, Mr.

, that so many could be armed in the District, it was recommended to Colonel *Whiting* to imbody them accordingly, it not being in our power to furnish either arms or accoutrements. Colonel *Rensselaer* was at the same time requested to march his detachment to *Albany* as speedily as the condition of the disaffected against whom he was employed would possibly admit.

"By the return of the express on the 1st *November*, your Committee received your letter of the 29th ultimo, enclosing copies of certain resolutions adopted for providing provisions for the Northern and Southern Armies, together with a copy of a letter from *Tench Tilghman*, from Head-Quarters.

"Your Committee, approving said resolutions, and in order to give them efficacy in the Northern Department,

"*Resolved*, That an Agent be appointed and empowered to purchase Wheat for the use of the Continental Army, and that he cause the same to be manufactured into Flour, and transported to such places where the same may be manufactured with the utmost despatch.

"*Resolved*, That if any should so far disregard the safety and preservation of this country as to refuse to dispose of their Wheat, or other commodities necessary for the Army, on reasonable terms, (which the Committee can have no cause to apprehend,) that the names of all such persons be forthwith returned to the Committee of Safety or Convention of this State, in order that proper measures may be devised for preventing the publick interest from being sacrificed by the disaffection or rapacity of individuals.

"*Resolved*, That such Agent (if necessary) be authorized to impress Drivers, Wagons, Teams, Ox-Carts, or other carriages, for the purpose of executing, with the utmost despatch, the Resolutions of this Committee.

"These resolutions your Committee immediately enclosed to Mr. *Avery*, Deputy Commissary for the Northern Army, at the same time expressing their readiness to assign him as agent fully authorized to carry the same into effect, so far as relates to the purchase and manufacture of wheat with vigour and despatch; adding, that if he could suggest any measure more effectual, or stand in need of further advice or support, respecting his department, we would cheerfully assist him, it being our determination and intention to leave nothing undone which, at this arduous conjuncture, might contribute to the important purpose of supplying the Northern Army with provisions.

"On the 2d *November* Captain *Lush* furnished your Committee with a copy of a letter, dated at *Ticonderoga* on the 20th *October*, 1776, from *Joseph Trumbull*, Esq., Commissary-General, to the Committee of *Bennington;* also a copy of a letter from *James Yancey*, Deputy Commissary, to the said Committee, of the same date, being the letters referred to in the information communicated by *Dirck Swart* on the 28th of *October;* which copies the Committee of *Albany* County had requested Captain *Lush* to procure. Mr. *Trumbull* observes: 'The late success of the enemies of '*American* liberty on this lake render it probable, I might 'say certain, that this post will very soon be attacked; in 'that case, as the enemy may perhaps attempt a blockade 'rather than an immediate attack on our lines, a large 'supply of provisions will be absolutely necessary; you are 'therefore requested, gentlemen, to lend all the assistance 'in your power in forwarding provisions of every kind from '*Bennington* to this place, by way of *Skeensburgh*. The 'badness of the road may render it necessary to send flour 'on pack-horses in bags; if no other method is practicable, 'make use of that; regard not the expense. Mr. *Yancey*, 'Deputy Commissary-General, has the General's orders to 'pay every necessary expense and charge that may arise.'

"The letter of Mr. *Yancey* was in these words:

"'This is to inform you that in consequence of a number 'of disaffected persons (in and about *Albany*) to the common 'safety of this Continent, there is great danger of a too long 'delay of the contracted provisions for this Army from that 'place, and in particular the article of flour, and that we 'have not more than will answer for bread for the Army at 'present than about sixteen days. And as the advances of 'the enemy may be slow, and in order for a blockade, and to 'cut off all communications to this place, all which makes it 'of the utmost consequence that we have an immediate sup-'ply; and as I am appointed and empowered to act and 'contract for every necessary provision for this department 'by the Commissary-General, *Joseph Trumbull*, Esq., I 'thought it of the utmost importance to make this pressing 'application, that you would contract and immediately for-'ward to *Skeensborough* landing all the flour that can be 'purchased for the Army in the Northern Department; and 'relying, gentlemen, on your publick patriotism to serve 'your country, I make not the least doubt that you will 'comply with this request. I will furnish you, from time to 'time, with the Continental currency, as fast as my present 'hurry of business will permit; and beg you will forward me 'your answer immediately, how much you will be able to 'supply me with, and in what time, so that I may be able to 'satisfy the Commander-in-Chief at this place with this very 'important business.'

"On reading whereof, it was agreed to send for Mr. *Avery*, in order to be informed whether he had given information to Head-Quarters at *Ticonderoga*, that would justify the reflections against the County of *Albany*, contained in the letter of Mr. *Yancey*, and also to know his reasons for not answering our letter of yesterday. Mr. *Avery* was accordingly called in, and said that he would have waited on your Committee before, but being much engaged was prevented. That he expects and has received considerable quantities of provisions. He was then told that the Committee were ready to give him their assistance, and that no exertions in the power of this State would be wanting to supply the Army; and that if he could point out any thing that would be serviceable it should be taken into consideration. He answered that he would choose that an agent should be appointed, agreeable to our proposal, to purchase wheat for the manufacturing one thousand barrels of flour, and that he would also be in want of coopers. Whereupon the Committee showed him the resolutions of Convention of 29th *October*, respecting the exemption of coopers from military duty, and that your Committee had already acquainted the Committee of *Albany* with said resolves, and requested them to recall the coopers already.

"He also said that he wanted about one thousand bushels of peas; that he does not know that he has met with any obstructions in transporting the provisions. That the Committee of *Albany* had promised him all the assistance in their power; but that when he was in want of wagons when the Militia were called out, he could not get ready assistance, though he does not know but that the Committee did all in their power to assist him. That he has made no complaints to General *Gates*, but that he has wrote to the Commissary that there was a difficulty in getting wagons because the Militia were called up that way. Mr. *Duane*, one of your Committee, thereupon read to him Mr. *Yancey's* letter to the Committee of *Burlington*, as also Mr. *Trumbull's* letter to the said Committee.

"Thereupon he was asked from whom this information could be derived? He said he had never given the Commissary any other information respecting the want of wagons or the obstruction of the transportation, than what he before related, and particularly that he had laid no blame to the inhabitants of the County of *Albany;* that the Committee of *Albany* had always behaved genteelly to him, and have readily offered their services to assist him. That the interruption of transporting provisions occasioned by the calling out of the Militia continued for a short time only.

"Whereupon your Committee declared, that as nothing would work a greater prejudice to the publick service than sowing the seeds of jealousy and distrust at such a critical juncture, the Committee should think it their duty to make the strictest inquiry into *Yancey's* letter and information, and the motives which induced him to write it; for that as on the one hand they would have taken care that any person that might have been guilty of obstructing the transportation should be punished with the utmost severity, so it was equally their duty, if the charge in that letter was groundless, to have it publickly exposed, that the ill impressions which it had occasioned might be removed; and for this purpose they must request Mr. *Avery*, if he could do it consistently, to furnish the Committee with extracts or copies of such letters as he has lately sent to *Ticonderoga* upon the subject of transporting provisions, either to General *Gates* or the Commissary there. He answered that he would, and thereupon withdrew.

"In the afternoon of the same day he again waited on your Committee and acquainted them 'that he had not kept

'copies of the letters which he had lately sent to *Ticonderoga*.'

"Your Committee having, at their first interview with Mr. *Avery*, inquired what quantity of provisions the Deputy Commissary-General had delivered over to him when he entered upon his office, answered, a 'sufficient quantity of beef, though but little flour.' Your Committee thereupon directed *Walter Livingston*, Esquire, the late Deputy Commissary, to lay before them a return of the flour delivered over by him to Mr. *Avery*; which he accordingly did; by which it appears the quantity so delivered over amounted to fourteen tierces and sixteen barrels of bread, fifty-four *Connecticut* barrels and three thousand two hundred and nine *New-York* barrels of flour, being fifty-nine days' rations for eleven thousand men.

"At the interview with Mr. *Avery* on the 2d of *November*, the said return was produced to him, which he perused.

"General *Schuyler* having arrived in *Albany*, after conferring with him respecting the situation of *Tryon* County, it was

"*Resolved*, That General *Schuyler* be requested and authorized to issue his orders to the Commanding or other Officer in *Tryon* County, in case the enemy should invade the western frontier of this State, to cause all the Cattle, Sheep, and Swine, and Provisions, which may be exposed to their Rangers, to be driven in and secured; and if that shall not be practicable, destroyed, that at all events they may not fall into the hands of the enemy; and for this purpose they be empowered to impress Horses and Carriages.

"Your Committee also conferred with General *Schuyler* respecting the state of supplies for the Northern Army; and, among other things, inquired of him whether the transportation of provisions had been obstructed by the calling out of the Militia, or from any other cause?

"In answer, the General informed your Committee that the Militia being attended with a great number of baggage-wagons, he had immediately given orders for detaining and employing those carriages on the communication; that he had further ordered all the Militia of *Half-Moon* District who chose, to be excused from military duty, on condition that they would assist with their teams in transporting provisions, which a great number of them accordingly did; that in consequence of these measures, the transportation, instead of being obstructed by calling out the Militia, had been greatly facilitated; that he had never heard, nor did he believe, that the transportation had met with the least obstruction from any cause whatever, but, on the contrary, that provisions had been carried forward as soon as they were ready to be delivered by the Commissary; that during the present struggle he had experienced so much readiness in the inhabitants of the County of *Albany* to assist in the transportation, that he had in no instance been under the necessity of impressing a single carriage.

"On the 3d *November* your Committee adopted the following Resolution, viz:

"*Resolved*, That *Cornelius Cuyler* and *Peter Cantine* be, and they are hereby appointed Agents to assist Mr. *Avery*, agreeable to his request, in purchasing Wheat and manufacturing the same into Flour, to the amount of about one thousand barrels, and also purchase one thousand bushels of Peas; and that they acquaint Mr. *Avery* from time to time of their proceedings, and take his directions as to the dispositions of the said Provisions, and to apply to him to furnish them with money for that purpose."

*Resolved*, That this Committee of Safety do fully approve of, and justify, the proceedings of the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That that part of the Report of the said Committee which relates to Mr. *Yancey's* and Mr. *Trumbull's* Letters, together with all their other transactions relative to the purchase of or transportation of Provisions which is contained in their Report, be committed to a Committee, consisting of Mr. *Robert R. Livingston*, Mr. *Robert Yates*, and Mr. *Duane*.

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Wednesday, 9 ho. P. M., November 6, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President.
Colonel *Brasher*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Little*, Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Joseph Smith*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Adgate*, Col. *Van Rensselaer*, Mr. *A. Yates*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *W. Smith*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *G. Drake*, Judge *Graham*, Colonel *Van Cortlandt*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Cantine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.

Captain *Patrick Dennis's* request for the advance of £500, on account of the Vessels by him purchased and the moneys he has advanced for the purpose of obstructing the navigation of the *East* River, was taken into consideration.

Thereupon *Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Patrick Dennis* the sum of £500, on account of the moneys that have become due him in pursuance of the directions for obstructing the *East* River navigation.

*Comfort Sands*, Esq., Auditor-General of this State, by his certificate dated yesterday, has certified that he has examined the Account of *Peter T. Curtenius*, Esq., Commissary to the Convention of this State, commencing the 12th day of *June* last, and ending the 24th day of *October* last, as also his several vouchers accompanying it, all which he finds just and true; and that the sum of £9,293 15*s.* 5*d.* is the balance due him.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State do immediately pay to the said *Peter T. Curtenius*, on his receipt, the said sum of £9,293 15*s.* 5*d.*, in full for the balance due to him, the said *Peter T. Curtenius*, to the said 24th day of *October* last, included.

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Thursday, November 7th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Colonel *Brasher*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Col. *Van Rensselaer*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Cantine*—ULSTER.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.

Colonel *Curtenius* attending, informed the Committee that he stands indebted in large sums of money by contracts made for the purchasing of Clothing and other articles, as Commissary of the Convention of this State, and pursuant to their order; that many of the accounts he has not yet received, and therefore requested a sum of money on account.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *Peter T. Curtenius*, Esq., on account, the sum of £5,706 4*s.* 7*d.*, taking a proper receipt for the same.

A Letter from *Comfort Sands*, Esq., Auditor-General, dated yesterday, enclosing an account of Arms and Accoutrements delivered by Mr. *Norwood*, the Commissary to General *Scott's* Brigade, and for which stoppages were to be made out of the pay of the men who received them, was read.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the said Account be sent to General *Scott* without delay.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, Esquire, dated the 5th instant, to the Committee of Correspondence, giving intelligence of the Army, was received and read.

The following Resolutions, moved by *Robert R. Livingston*, Esq., were read and agreed to, viz:

As great abuses are daily committed in the granting of Passes without sufficient examination to persons inimical to the State, in order to remedy the same as well as to prevent and detect counterfeit Passes:

*Ordered*, That every County Committee throughout this State appoint two judicious men, of known attachment to its interest, in each Precinct, Manor, or District, who shall grant the Passes hereinafter mentioned, to such persons only of whose principles they shall be fully satisfied.

*Ordered*, That four thousand Passes be printed, leaving a blank for the date, name, and place of abode of the person, and the place to which he may proceed; that they be signed by either of the Secretaries of the Convention of this State, and sent to the several Counties, to be lodged in the hands of the Commissioners above-mentioned.

*Ordered*, That when any person shall apply for a Pass, the blank in the same shall be filled up with his name in the

handwriting of the person so applying, and the Commissioner granting shall endorse the same.

*Resolved*, That from and after the twentieth day of this month, no person be permitted to travel out of the District, Manor, or Precinct, in which he usually resides, unless he comes from some other State, and brings a Pass for the same, without such a Pass as above described, or such as may be granted by the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State; but shall be liable to be arrested and detained by any member of either County, District, Manor, or Precinct Committee, or any military officer, till discharged by order either of the Committee of the District, Manor, or Precinct in which he was so arrested, or by the General Committee of the County in which he is detained.

*Resolved*, That each Commissioner be allowed the sum of sixpence for every Pass which he shall grant, to be paid by the person applying for the same.

*Ordered*, That two hundred copies of these Resolutions be printed in handbills, and a number of them transmitted to each County Committee in this State, who are hereby directed to transmit copies thereof to the several District, Manor, or Precinct Committees within their respective Counties.

A Letter from General *Scott*, dated the 5th instant, and directed to the Convention, giving an account of the state and movements of the Army, and recommending Major *Fish* for a commission on the establishment, was read and referred to the Committee of Arrangement.

A Letter from Colonel *Malcolm* to Mr. *McKesson*, recommending several of the Officers for commissions on the establishment, was received and read. Referred to the Committee of Arrangement.

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Thursday afternoon, November 7th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Brasher*—New-York.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Colonel *Drake*—Westchester.
Mr. *Adgate*—Albany.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—Orange.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Contine*—Ulster.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—Dutchess.

A Letter from *Ebenezer Hazard*, enclosing sundry Newspapers containing Plans of Government, was received and read.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, Esq., dated yesterday, informing the Committee of the enemy's Army being moved towards *New-York*.

A Letter from *Gerard Bancker*, Esq., dated this day, requesting that some person may be appointed to take charge of the Treasury Books and Papers until the Treasurer shall appoint some person in his stead, was read.

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to Messrs. *Duane*, *Robert R. Livingston*, and Colonel *Drake*.

A Letter from *Comfort Sands*, Esq., Auditor-General, dated this day, relative to his having power to take with him to *Philadelphia* all the Accounts, with the Vouchers, and a discretionary power to settle the Continental Accounts in the best manner he can, was read.

*Ordered*, That the same be committed to the same Committee as Mr. *Bancker's* Letter, with the addition of Mr. *Roosevelt*.

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Friday morning, November 8th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Colonel *Brasher*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Duane*—New-York.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Colonel *Drake*, Judge *Graham*—Westchester.
Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Colonel *Van Rensselaer*—Albany.
Mr. *Landon*, Captain *Platt*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—Dutchess.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Duer*—Charlotte.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *Contine*, Colonel *De Witt*—Ulster.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Jos. Smith*, Mr. *Little*—Orange.

*Resolved*, That this Committee will pay Wages and the value of their Rations remaining due, to such of the officers and men belonging to Colonel *Smith's* Regiment as are now actually within such parts of this or the neighbouring States as are not in the possession of the enemy, for the time they have respectively been in service.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above Resolutions be served on Lieutenant-Colonel *Sands*, and that he be directed to procure Muster-Rolls to be returned to this Committee or Convention of this State, under the oath of the officers commanding companies, containing the names of those men only who are now within such parts of this or the neighbouring States as are not in the possession of the enemy.

*Resolved*, That the President, Vice President, and the Chairman of each respective County Committee in this State be, and they are hereby empowered to administer such oath.

Mr. *Duer* informed the Committee of Safety that the Committee for detecting Conspiracies have in custody a person who they have reason to believe is an officer of the *Savage* ship-of-war, and who has been engaged in inlisting men to serve in the Army of *Great Britain* against the *American* States. Mr. *Duer* requests the sense of the Committee whether the said Prisoner ought not to be sent to Head-Quarters, to be tried by law martial.

*Resolved*, (as the opinion of this Committee,) That the Committee of Conspiracies, &c., do cause the said Prisoner to be conveyed under a proper guard to the *American* Camp, in *Westchester* County; and that they transmit to his Excellency General *Washington* all examinations and witnesses relative to the said person.

*Resolved*, That *Henry J. Van Rensselaer*, Esq., be and hereby is appointed Commissioner to superintend the Loan Office in this State, for the purpose of receiving money on loans on the credit of and for the use of the *United States of America*, pursuant to the Resolutions of the honourable the Congress of the said State, passed the 3d day of *October* last past.

Whereas his Excellency General *Washington* hath directed that Barracks for the accommodation of two thousand men should be erected at or near this place: And whereas it hath been represented to this Committee, in the report of the Quartermaster-General, that as boards are exceedingly scarce, and a sufficient number cannot possibly be procured for all the Barracks that will be wanted for the winter quarters of the Army, it will be necessary to build those Barracks with mud walls: And whereas the season proper for this business being almost expired, it is requisite a number of men should be immediately employed in order that the Barracks may be finished with expedition: And whereas application hath this day been made by *William Duer*, Esq., Superintendent for building the said Barracks, to this Committee for one hundred men of the Militia of this County, to labour in constructing the said Barracks:

*Resolved, therefore*, That one hundred men of the Militia of this State, be immediately ordered out for the above purpose.

*Resolved*, (as the opinion of this Committee,) That the men to be employed in this service, as they will be constantly on fatigue, ought to be allowed three-eighths of a dollar per day, and Continental rations.

Whereas the Militia of the District of the Manor of *Livingston*, *Coxacky*, *Cattskill*, *Luningburgh*, and *Groetembergh*, in the County of *Albany*, either through want of zeal in, or disaffection to, the cause of *American* freedom, have not, on a late occasion, turned out with arms, or in other respects borne an equal part in the defence of their country with the other inhabitants of this State; and it being highly just and equitable, in the present critical situation of the State, when nothing less than the personal service of the subject will suffice, that such as, through enmity or cowardice, will not step forth as soldiers should contribute an equivalent in labour:

*Resolved, therefore*, That the Commanding Officers of the Militia of the said District immediately detach out of the same one hundred men, to wit: Fifty from the Manor of *Livingston*, and fifty from the District of *Coxacky*, *Catts-*

*kill, Luwingburgh,* and *Groetenboght;* and such persons as shall in general repute be of the character above described; and that they proceed without delay to this place, to work and labour in erecting the said Barracks; each man to provide himself with either a good felling-axe, a spade, an iron shovel, or a corn-hoe. The detachment of the Manor of *Livingston* to be commanded by a Captain, and the detachments from the other Districts by two Subalterns of known attachment to the cause of *America.* These officers to be appointed by the commanding officers of the Militia of the above-mentioned Districts; to be continued in service for one month, unless sooner discharged; and the officers to be allowed Continental pay and rations.

*Resolved,* That if any person or persons to be detached as aforesaid should refuse to march, that the Commanding Officer of the Militia in such case be authorized to call upon Captain *Peter Gaasbeck,* for the assistance of his Company in order to compel them.

*Resolved,* That three days' Wages be allowed to each man for coming, and as many for going or returning home, together with one penny per mile for his maintenance upon the road.

*Resolved,* That any person detached as above may send any Slave or able-bodied man accustomed to labour, in his stead.

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Saturday morning, November 9th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt,* Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*—New-York.
Mr. *Landon*—Dutchess.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *Adgate,* Mr. *R. Yates,* Mr. *Cuyler,* Colonel *Van Rensselaer*—Albany.
Mr. *Smith,* Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt,* Judge *Graham*—Westchester.
Colonel *De Witt,* Mr. *Contine*—Ulster.
Mr. *Little,* Colonel *Allison*—Orange.

Colonel *De Witt,* a member of the Committee for inquiring into Conspiracies, &c., informed the Committee of Safety that a number of disaffected persons, now in confinement in this place, and who have been apprehended by order of the said Committee, are to be sent to the neighbouring States to be there confined, and that the said Committee stand in need of at least five hundred Pounds to defray the expenses of transporting and guarding the said Prisoners to the places destined for their residence and confinement:

Thereupon, *Ordered,* That the Treasurer of this State advance to the Committee appointed by the Convention of this State for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all Conspiracies formed in this State against the liberties of *America,* the sum of five hundred Pounds, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of conveying and guarding a number of disaffected persons, now under confinement in this place, to such parts of the neighbouring States as shall be determined on by the said Committee.

On motion of Mr. *Joshua Smith,*

*Ordered,* That the President write a Letter to *Thomas Outwater,* Esq., a Member for *Orange* County, requesting his attendance immediately, or show cause, on pain of contempt.

A Letter from *Robert Boyd,* Chairman of the Committee of *Ulster* District, directed to the Members of *Ulster* in Convention, relative to the members of Committee being exempted from military duty.

*Ordered,* To lie on the table till a fuller House.

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Saturday afternoon, November 9th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt,* Vice President.
Mr. *Duane,* Colonel *Brasher*—New-York.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt,* Judge *Graham*—Westchester.
Mr. *Adgate,* Mr. *Cuyler,* Mr. *R. Yates,* Colonel *Van Rensselaer*—Albany.
Mr. *Smith,* Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *Contine*—Ulster.
Colonel *Allison,* Mr. *Little*—Orange.
Mr. *R. Livingston*—Dutchess.

An Account of *Benjamin Birdsall, Thomas Brush,* and *Carl Kitchum,* amounting to £10 1*s.* 6*d.,* for their trouble and expenses in guarding and conveying two Prisoners (who were brought from *Long-Island,* and who were very active and engaged in the enemy's service) from *Norwich,* in *Connecticut,* to *Fishkill,* in *Dutchess* County, was read.

*Ordered,* That the Treasurer of the State pay to the said *Benjamin Birdsall, Thomas Bush,* and *Carl Kitchum,* or either of them, the above sum of £10 1*s.* 6*d.,* and take his or their receipt for the same.

*Stephen Ward,* Esq., attending, informed the Committee that he finds it very unprofitable, if not impracticable, for him to procure the Hides of the cattle by him drove down to the *American* Army in *Westchester* County, pursuant to the Resolutions of the Convention of this State.

*Ordered,* That Mr. *Ward* be authorized to purchase, on the most reasonable terms, on account of this State, all the Hides he can, and cause them to be conveyed to this place by water from *Peekskill.*

Whereas the Committee appointed by the Convention of this State for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating Conspiracies which may be formed in this State against the liberties of *America* have represented to this Committee that they find it expedient to employ *Egbert Benson,* Esq., to repair to the General Court of the State of *New-Hampshire* to solicit their reception of a number of prisoners whom the said Committee have directed to be removed from this State: And whereas certain circumstances may arise in the execution of the trusts reposed in him, the said *Egbert Benson,* by the said Committee, which may occasion a greater expense than is at present apprehended:

*Resolved,* That the General Court of the State of *New-Hampshire* be and they hereby are requested to advance to the said *Egbert Benson* any sum of money he may apply to them for, not exceeding one thousand Dollars; and this Committee do pledge to them the faith of this State for the repayment of the money they may so advance to him.

*Ordered,* That a Letter be sent to Colonel *Gilbert Drake,* requesting him and the other Members of the County of *Westchester* to attend without delay; and that another Letter be sent to Major *Landon* on the same subject.

A Letter from *Tench Tilghman,* Esq., dated yesterday, informing that the enemy are at *Dobbs's Ferry,* with a great number of Boats, perhaps to go into *Jersey* or proceed up the river, was received and read.

Thereupon a draft of a Letter to General *Schuyler* was read and approved of, relative to sending down Boats from *Albany* to transport our Troops across the *Hudson* River, if necessary; and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Fishkill, November 9th, 1776.

"Sir: The Committee of Safety having been informed that the enemy have brought all their boats to *Dobbs's Ferry,* where the principal part of their Army now are, apprehend that they may possibly intend to transport themselves over to the *Jerseys,* and march up from thence, in which case a number of boats will be wanted for our Army. As no time should be lost, we take the liberty of suggesting to you the propriety of ordering such as can be spared from *Albany* to be sent down to this place. We shall write to General *Washington* upon the subject, and doubt not but he will approve of the measure. If you are at a loss for oars, there are a number belonging to the Secret Committee of this Convention which may be had by applying to Mr. *Ph. Van Rensselaer,* who will take an account of them.

"I am, sir, yours, &c. By order:

"Major-General *Schuyler, Albany.*"

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Die Lunæ, 10 ho. A. M., November 11th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt,* Vice President.
Colonel *Brasher,* Mr. *Duane*—New-York.
Mr. *Miller,* Mr. *Smith*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Adgate,* Mr. *Cuyler*—Albany.
Mr. *Little,* Colonel *Allison*—Orange.
Mr. *Contine*—Ulster.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
*R. R. Livingston,* Esquire—Dutchess.
Colonel *Graham,* Colonel *Van Cortlandt*—Westchester.

A Letter from General *Schuyler*, requesting that fifty iron Stoves with Pipes be procured at the Furnace in the Highlands, and forwarded to him at *Albany*, was read.

*Ordered*, That a copy of General *Schuyler's* Letter for procuring fifty Stoves be sent by Mr. *Dyckman* to *Samuel Patrick*, at the *Fords of Dean* Furnace, and that he be requested immediately to proceed to furnish the said Stoves with all possible despatch.

General *Schuyler's* Letter of the 8th instant, advising General *Carleton* with his whole Army has retreated to *Canada;* that the last of his troops left *Crown Point* at ten o'clock on *Monday* morning, and that Sir *John Johnson* had accompanied him, was read.

A Letter from *Mat. Visscher*, dated the 8th instant, to *Abm. Yates*, Jun., giving the current intelligence, and informing that the Committee of *Albany* have appointed Messrs. *Gansevoort*, *Lush*, Doctor *Young*, and the said *Mat. Visscher*, a Committee of Correspondence with the Committee of Safety or Convention. Referred to the Committee for *Albany* Correspondence.

A Letter from *Leonard Gansevoort*, of 8th *November*, acknowledging on behalf of the *Albany* Committee the receipt of the Resolutions of this House, forwarded to them by express, was read.

A Letter from *Henry Wisner*, dated at *New-Windsor*, on the 9th instant, relative to Barracks at *Windsor*, for Troops, was read.

A Letter from *Robert Boyd*, Chairman of the Committee for *Ulster* County, dated the 10th instant, was read. He therein informs that he has sent by Colonel *McClaughry* two felons, by their information, one named *Henry Winck* and the other *James Briggs*, apprehended at *New-Windsor* for passing false money; that it appears that a three-dollar bill of the emission of this State, dated the 2d *September*, 1775, is altered into a thirty-dollar bill, and as such they have passed it.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman of the Committee of *Ulster* County take the examinations of the said *Henry Winck* and *James Briggs*, and by mittimus send them, under a proper guard of the *Ulster* County Rangers, to the Jail of *Ulster* County, at *Kingston*, and ordered to be safely committed; which mittimus the Keeper of the Jail of *Ulster* County is hereby directed to obey.

A Letter from *John Thomas*, dated the 8th instant, was read. He therein sets forth that he has purchased a quantity of Tea, which is now at *Kingston*, in *Ulster* County; that one box of it has been opened, and that the remainder of it, amounting to about two thousand weight, is in the custody of the Committee there, which they refuse to deliver to him without an order from the Representatives of this State.

*Ordered*, That the Committee of *Kingston*, in *Ulster* County, permit the said *John Thomas* to take his said Tea.

A Letter from *Comfort Sands*, Esq., Auditor-General, dated the 8th of *November*, was received and read, and is in the words following, viz:

"Fishkill, November 8th, 1776.

"Sir: I find charged in the publick accounts three different sums advanced for manufacturing of arms, viz: about a twelve month ago to Mr. *Robert Boyd*, who is now here, one hundred pounds. Upon inquiring of him, I find he has returned only six gun-barrels. To Mr. *Watkey* fifty pounds. I find he has returned none; am told he is poor, and now removed to *Brunswick*, in *Jersey*. To Mr. *Atherton* three hundred and fifty pounds. He returned none, that I can learn. I submit to the Convention whether some steps ought not to be taken to get the arms, (as they are now much wanted,) or the money repaid.

"I am, sir, your very humble servant,

"Comfort Sands.

"To *P. Van Cortlandt*, Esquire."

A Letter from *Comfort Sands*, Esq., dated the 8th instant, enclosing the Treasurer's Accounts, was also read, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Fishkill, November 8th, 1776.

"Sir: Here enclosed I send you the Treasurer's Account Current, No. 1, from the 17th *June*, 1775, to the 30th *April* last, as audited by the Committee of Pay-Table; also his Account Current, No. 2, from the 1st *May* last to this day. Balance in his hands £4,523 5*s.* 2½*d.*

"These papers I think necessary to send in, that they may be filed with the Records of the Convention, if it shall be thought necessary.

"I am, sir, your most humble servant.

"Comfort Sands.

"*P. Van Cortlandt*, Esquire."

The two Accounts therein mentioned were also read, and are as follows, that is to say:

Dr.—*The Convention of the State of* New-York, *in Account Current with* P. V. B. Livingston, *Treasurer.*

| 1776. | Dr. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Nov'r* 9. | To amount of an account of the several payments that have been made by me from the 1st day of *May* last to this day, which Account, signed by the Auditor-General, *Comfort Sands*, and by my Deputy, is this day produced to the said Auditor-General, together with all the Accounts and Receipts referred to in said Account, amounting to | £130,352 | 4 | 0¾ |
| | To balance due to the Convention | 4,523 | 5 | 2½ |
| | | £134,875 | 9 | 3¼ |

| 1776. | Cr. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *May* 1. | By balance of old Account | £1,957 | 8 | 8½ |
| *June* 6. | By Cash received of *Moses Ogden*, he returns | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| | By ditto of *John Berrian*, for Powder | 23 | 15 | 6 |
| | By ditto of *Comfort Sands*, for ditto | 12 | 10 | 0 |
| " 17. | By ditto of *Daniel Dunscomb*, he repays so much I formerly paid *Simon Van Antwerp* for Salt | 26 | 12 | 6 |
| " 26. | By ditto of *Richard Norwood* for Powder | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| " 27. | By ditto of *Gillian Varrick* for ditto | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| *July* 15. | By ditto of *Nathaniel Sacket*, the balance of an Account for transporting Lead | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| " 21. | By ditto of *Isaac Roosevelt* in different payments, money he had printed, and signed by order of Convention | 55,300 | 0 | 0 |
| | By ditto of *Peter T. Curtenius*, per Mr. *Duer*, he lends | 2,182 | 19 | 0 |
| | By ditto of General *Washington*, per Mr. *Duer*, in part of the £20,000 he advances to this State | 8,000 | 0 | 0 |
| *Aug.* 10. | By ditto of Colonel *Trumbull*, for Flour, &c., sold him | 23,840 | 16 | 0 |
| | By ditto of General *Washington* per *John Broome*, the remainder of the £20,000 which he advances | 12,000 | 0 | 0 |
| " 20. | By ditto of Captain *Henry Benson*, he returns | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| *Sept.* 16. | By ditto of *Ezra L'Hommedieu*, Loan-Office money, for *Suffolk* County | 428 | 0 | 0 |
| *October* 9. | By ditto of *Direck Swart*, by *Abraham Yates*, Jun., the balance of his Account for transporting stores from *Ticonderoga*, No. 186 | 190 | 0 | 7 |
| | By ditto of *Jh. Livingston*, for 100 bushels of Peas sold and delivered him in the Highlands, at 6*s.* 6*d.* | 32 | 10 | 0 |
| | By ditto of ditto, balance of his Commissary Account, No. 952 | 1,410 | 18 | 9 |
| " 12. | By ditto of Continental Congress, per *New-York* Delegates | 40,000 | 0 | 0 |
| " 23. | By ditto of ditto, per *William Floyd* to purchase Clothing | 4,000 | 0 | 0 |
| | By ditto of *Henry Wisner*, balance of his Account, No. 835, forwarding Lead, &c., to *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties | 20 | 0 | 6 |
| *Nov'r* 9. | By ditto from Messrs. *Livingston* and *Palmer*, a balance of their Account, for building *Fort Montgomery* | 7 | 17 | 4¾ |
| | By ditto of Colonel *Trumbull*, on account for Pork sold him | 5,040 | 0 | 0 |
| | By ditto of Commissary *Paulding*, on account, for Moneys expended by Messrs. *Van Cortlandt* and *Platt* | 1,200 | 0 | 0 |
| | | £134,875 | 9 | 3¼ |

Errours excepted.

For P. V. B. Livingston, *Treasurer:*

Gerard Bancker.

Fishkill, *November* 9th, 1776.

Examined and allowed the above-mentioned sum of four thousand five hundred and twenty-three pounds five shillings and two pence half penny, to be the true balance due to the Convention of the State of *New-York*, *November* 9th, 1776. Comfort Sands.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer do not pay out any part of the money appropriated to purchase Clothing, for any other purpose but that for which it was designed.

The Committee appointed to form an arrangement of the Continental Regiments to be raised in this State, having obtained leave, in order to proceed on this important business, acquainted the Committee of Safety that they can only form a quorum of their Committee at present; that but one of the gentlemen who went to *King's Bridge*, and is now present, in many instances received information, with Colonel *De Witt*, who is absent; and therefore they request the directions of the Committee of Safety in the premises.

Thereupon, *Ordered*, That a Messenger be despatched

to Colonel *De Witt*, to request his immediate attendance at *Fishkill*, to assist the Committee of Arrangement, that the necessary business of arranging the Army may not be delayed.

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Tuesday morning, November 12th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Colonel *Brasher*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *P. Van Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Little*, Colonel *Allison*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Contine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.

A Letter from *Jacob Hornbeeck*, Chairman of the Committee of *Rochester*, dated the 9th instant, was read. He therein sets forth the distresses of the inhabitants for want of Salt to preserve their meat, and requests a supply of Salt, if the Convention has it, and if not, that they may have information where it may be purchased, at any price, that they may go and procure it.

A Letter to the Committee of *Rochester* was read and approved, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Fishkill, November 12th, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN; In answer to your letter we must inform you that it is not in our power to supply you with salt; nor can we direct you where you can get any in this State.

"An advertisement has lately been published in the *New-Haven* papers, to preserve beef with a small quantity of salt, which may be of great use to you and others: Four pounds of salt, four ounces of saltpetre, and two pounds of sugar, added to four gallons of water, will be sufficient for a barrel of beef, if the quantity of liquor cover the beef; if not, add more of the same till the beef is covered. It is likely a larger quantity of the same materials may be necessary to save pork.

"It is expected that considerable quantities of salt will arrive at the eastward before Christmas, so that people may have a supply.

"We are, gentlemen, your obedient servants."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be engrossed, signed by the President, and transmitted immediately.

*Resolved*, That notice* be forthwith given to the County Committees of each respective County not in the possession of the enemy, that the Convention are now proceeding on the business of forming a system of Government, and that it is necessary that the Members give their attendance without delay.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the preceding Resolution be entered by the Secretary to the Convention, and sent to the Chairman of each County.

*Resolved*, That the like notice be given by the sending to the Members of *New-York*, *Suffolk*, *Queen's*, and *King's* Counties, who are not in the power of the enemy.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to take the general superintendence of the Poor, to receive and examine applications, to give directions to such persons as they shall think proper for setting them at work, to issue orders to the several County Committees for providing them with provisions, for putting out the children of such Poor, and for examining and auditing all accounts of charges accrued by their means.

*Resolved*, That the said Committee have power to remove all the Poor belonging to this State from any neighbouring State into this, it being the design of this State to maintain their poor within the same.

*IN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE STATE OF NEW-YORK, } FISHKILLS, November 12, 1776. }

*Resolved*, That notice be given to the County Committees of each respective County in this State not in the possession of the enemy, that the Convention are now proceeding on the business of framing a system of Government, and that it is necessary that the Members give their attendance, without delay.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the preceding Resolution be enclosed by the Secretary to the Chairman of each of the said County Committees.

*Resolved*, That the like notice be given, by the Secretary, to the Members of *New-York*, *Suffolk*, *Queen's*, and *King's* Counties, who are not in the power of the enemy.

Extract from the Minutes: JOHN MCKESSON, *Secretary*.

*Resolved*, That the above Committee be requested to write to Governour *Trumbull* to send all the Poor belonging to this State, and which are now at the charge of *Connecticut*, into *Dutchess* County, in the State of *New-York*.

*Resolved*, That this State will pay or reimburse the expense incurred by such removal.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Colonel *Allison*, and Mr. *Adgate*, be a Committee for the purposes aforesaid.

*Resolved*, That the superintendence of the Poor, committed to Messrs. *L'Hommedieu*, Colonel *Allison*, and Mr. *Adgate*, as a Committee, by Resolutions of this Committee, shall only extend to the Poor removed from those Counties now in possession of the enemy, and such Poor the heads of whose families have been, by order, removed from this State as inimical to the cause of *America*.

A Letter from *John R. Livingston*, with an Invoice of Goods, &c., was received, and referred to Colonel *Brashier*, *Robert Yates*, and Mr. *L'Hommedieu*.

The Letter and Accounts of *Samuel Brown*, of *Guilford*, in *Connecticut*, for removing Stock from *Long-Island*, were read, and ordered to remain till a Convention meets.

*Resolved*, That all Muster-Rolls hereafter to be delivered or brought into the Convention of this State shall, before the allowance thereof, be attested by the Captain or other Officer commanding each respective Company, in the manner following, namely:

"I, A B, Captain of a Company of Foot raised in the County of , do solemnly declare that the within is a just and true Muster-Roll of my Company for the month [*specifying the month.*] containing the names of the Officers and Privates of the said Company, and the times of their respective inlistment and service."

*Resolved*, That every such Muster-Roll be so attested before the President or Vice President of the Convention of this State or the Chairman of the Committee of the County in which such Company was raised, who are hereby respectively empowered to administer such oath.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the two last Resolutions be delivered to the Auditor-General.

—

Die Mercurii, 10 ho. A. M., November 13th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Colonel *Brasher*—NEW-YORK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*, Colonel *Drake*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Little*, Colonel *Allison*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*—ULSTER.
*R. R. Livingston*, Major *Schenck*—DUTCHESS.

*Ordered*, That a Messenger be sent to Major *Schenck*, Mr. *Sacket*, and Mr. *Platt*, and to such Members of the City of *New-York* as are in the neighbourhood of *Fishkill*, to desire their punctual attendance at ten o'clock to-morrow morning, in order to form a Convention.

*Samuel Dyckman* reported that he delivered the letter directed to Mr. *Samuel Patrick*, yesterday; that he engaged to deliver fifty Stoves in three weeks; that if the Convention will send sheet-iron, he will furnish the doors in the same time. The dimensions of the Stoves are: the bottom two feet six inches long, fourteen inches wide, one foot eight inches high. The door, fourteen inches high and seven inches wide.

Mr. *Dyckman* further reports, that Mr. *Patrick* informed him that *Samuel Boyd*, a soldier of *Fort Montgomery*, understood the method of making Pipes for the Stoves.

Thereupon the following Resolutions were read, and approved of:

Whereas General *Schuyler*, by letter dated the 8th instant, requests the Committee or Convention of this State that as Mr. *Livingston's* furnace is not in blast, and that at *Salisbury* employed in casting Cannon, he is disappointed in getting Stoves for the Barracks for the Northern Army, and therefore desires this Convention to get fifty cast, of the largest sort in common use, at the furnace at the *Forest of Dean*, near *Fort Montgomery*; and *Samuel Patrick*, Iron-

master at the said works, having engaged to deliver the said Stoves in three weeks, if he can be furnished with sheet-iron for the doors, and this Convention being informed that a large quantity of sheet-iron has been contracted for by his Excellency General *Washington* for the use of the Army:

*Resolved, therefore,* That the said *Samuel Patrick* be directed to cast and complete the said Stoves with the utmost expedition, and to send them, as fast as they shall be finished, to *Fort Montgomery*, to be transported to *Albany*.

*Resolved,* That the General or Commanding Officer at *Peekskill* be presented with a copy of General *Schuyler's* letter, and that he be requested to give orders for sending to (which is on the way to the said iron-works) a sufficient quantity of sheet-iron for doors for the said fifty Stoves.

A draft of a Letter to General *Schuyler* was read and approved of, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Fishkill, 13 November, 1776.

"SIR: We received your favour of the 8th instant, and immediately despatched our Rider to Mr. *Samuel Patrick*, the Iron-master of the works at the *Forest of Deane*, near *Fort Montgomery*. His answer, and our resolutions in consequence of it, are enclosed. We presume you will be able to furnish the pipes, or supply the want of them by some expedient; if that should not be the case, and there should not be sheet-iron at *Peekskill*, we fear you will be obliged to have recourse to *Philadelphia* or *New-Jersey*, there being none to be had, as we can learn, in this State.

"I am yours, &c.

"General *Schuyler*."

A Letter from *John R. Livingston*, with an Invoice of Goods, &c., was read, and referred to Colonel *Brasher*, *Robert Yates*, and Mr. *L'Hommedieu*.

The Committee of Safety were informed that a person at *New-Windsor* has a quantity of Linens of different kinds to dispose of, which he is ready to give the Committee the preference of in the purchase, and the vender is attending for that purpose.

*Ordered*, That Major *Parks* and Mr. *Newkirk* be a Committee to examine the quality and prices of those goods, and report thereon.

—

Die Jovis, 10 ho. A. M., November 14th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Colonel *Brasher*—NEW-YORK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*, Colonel *Drake*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Little*, Colonel *Allison*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*—ULSTER.
*R. R. Livingston*, Major *Schenck*—DUTCHESS.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *John Sleght* be requested to go to the store of *Ebenezer S. Burling*, at the house of *Cornell Sands*, and examine the goods there, and report to this Committee what parts of them are fit for the use of the Army, and the prices of such goods; and that in the mean time the owners of those goods be requested to retain them until the further order of this Committee or the Convention of this State.

The whole business of arranging and recruiting the Army being delayed by the absence of Colonel *De Witt*, to the unspeakable detriment of this State,

*Ordered*, That *Sampson Dyckman*, the Messenger, do proceed, without delay, as a messenger, to Colonel *De Witt*, to request his immediate attendance; and that if Colonel *De Witt* should be from home, the said Messenger search for him until he shall find him, and deliver him a copy of this Order.

*Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of a Committee consisting of Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Duane*, and himself, lately sent to *Albany* to form an arrangement for recruiting the Army, delivered in the Account of their disbursements, with sundry Vouchers for the same.

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts and Vouchers be referred to Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Contine*, and Mr. *Miller*, to report thereon.

A Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated *Albany*, the 12th current, was read, and is as follows, viz:

"Albany, October 12th, 1776.

"SIR: Your favour of the 9th instant I had the honour to receive last night. I have already despatched an express to General *Gates* to hasten down all the regiments whose term of inlistment was expired. I make no doubt but that both officers and men will continue to serve with alacrity for some time longer on this critical occasion.

"I have happily conveyed such a quantity of flour from hence for some days past as will suffice for fifty days for the whole Army to the northward. This enables me to send you all the batteaux I have here, but they are only ten or eleven in number, besides what may come from *Schenectady*. Fifty more are ordered from *Lake George*, in which and in sloops I shall send down the regiments I expect from *Ticonderoga*.

"Colonel *Van Schaick*, from whom I received a line last night, apprehends an attack in that quarter, from the intelligence received by two *Indians* just arrived from *Canada*. He has detained the Militia. Two regiments which I ordered from *Ticonderoga* on the 2d instant are not yet arrived—I fear not even sent, although the order arrived there on the 5th instant. I have remanded the order.

"Lieutenant-Colonel *De Roos* takes charge of the batteaux down to *Fishkills*, and will wait on you for your orders.

"I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

"PH. SCHUYLER.

"To the Honourable *P. V. Cortlandt*, Vice President of the Convention."

*Resolved*, That the superintendence of the Poor committed to Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Colonel *Allison*, and Mr. *Adgate*, as a Committee by resolutions of this Committee passed on the 12th instant, shall only extend to the poor removed from those Counties now in possession of the enemy, and such poor the heads of whose families have been by order of this Committee removed from this State as inimical to the cause and liberties of *America*.

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Friday, November 15th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Colonel *Brasher*, Mr. *Roosevelt*—NEW-YORK.
*R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Schenck*, Mr. *Platt*—DUTCHESS.
Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Little*, Colonel *Allison*—ORANGE.
Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *Drake*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Contine*, Major *Parks*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.

An Account of *Gerret Roorback*, of the City of *New-York*, for his disbursements for sweeping the chimneys of the houses wherein the Continental soldiers were quartered; as also for his wages, and that of his clerk and two assistants, was presented to the Committee:

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Roorback* be directed to apply to the Barrackmaster-General for a Certificate that the said Mr. *Roorback* has acted as Barrackmaster, and that his two Assistants and Clerks have under him acted in that department, and that he believes the said Account to be just and true. That the said *Gerret Roorback* do present the said Account to the Paymaster-General for payment, and that on his refusal to pay the same, and to certify such refusal, that Mr. *Roorback* do return his said Account, with proper Vouchers, to the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State.

Mr. *Roosevelt*, from the Committee appointed yesterday to examine the account of expenses and disbursements of the Committee appointed to repair to *Albany* to form an arrangement of Officers, and the Committee appointed to coöperate with General *Schuyler*, reported that they have examined the same and find it just.

*Ordered*, That the said Account be delivered to the Auditor-General, and that the balance remaining in the hands of the said Committee be paid into the Treasury.

*

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State do pay unto Mr. *Garrit Roorback* the sum of four Pounds, for riding express to *Albany* with publick despatches to General *Schuyler*, and that the same be charged to the Continental account.

Mr. *L'Hommedieu* presented to the Committee a Certificate in the words following, viz:

"In Committee, Southold, August 19th, 1776.

"These certify, that the Committee of *Southold* have expended twenty-four pounds seventeen shillings and four pence, in mounting four cannon as field-pieces for the protection of the east end of *Long-Island*.

"By order: "ROBERT HEMPSTEAD, *Chairman*."

Mr. *L'Hommedieu* informed the Committee of Safety that the said Cannon are now at *Saybrook;* that the Cannon at *Saybrook* belonging to this State are one twelve-pounder, four six-pounders, one four-pounder, and one three-pounder.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *L'Hommedieu* and Mr. *Gelston*, or either of them, be, and hereby are, authorized to sell and dispose of the said three-pounder, and apply the amount of sales to discharge the said twenty-four pounds seventeen shillings and four pence, and render an account of the sales to the Convention or Committee of Safety of this State.

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Die Jovis, 4 ho. P. M., November 21st, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Colonel *Brasher*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Jay*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Major *Lockwood*, Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Wisner*—ORANGE.
Colonel *De Witt*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Platt*, Mr. *G. Livingston*, Major *Schenck*—DUTCHESS.
Major *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*—CHARLOTTE.

A Letter from General *Washington*, dated the 16th instant, was read, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"General Greene's Quarters, November 16, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: I do myself the honour to transmit to you a copy of sundry resolves of Congress, which came to hand yesterday evening. By these you will perceive that they have entered into some new regulations respecting the inlistment of the new Army, and reprobating the measures which I presume you have heard have been adopted by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* for raising the quota to be furnished by them. My view in doing this, is to inform you of their sense upon this subject, and that they will admit of no departure from the terms they themselves have heretofore published, except in the instances mentioned in these resolves. They are plain and explicit, and I will take the liberty to add, should form a part of the instructions to be given to the officers who may be appointed to recruit.

"I would also beg leave to observe, that the necessity of raising the new Army becomes more and more urgent, and is such as calls for every possible exertion to effect it. The Congress, convinced of this, and seeing the delays of some of the States in carrying the resolves recommended to them into execution, have empowered and requested me to nominate officers to the regiments of such States as have not sent commissions to the Army for that purpose. As this is a matter in which I would not wish to interfere at this time, further than compelled by their direction and the situation of our affairs, I shall be happy to know what progress you have made in this instance, and whether the arrangement for your regiments is completed. If it is not finished, let me entreat you to do it as speedily as possible; the necessity is obvious, and must be felt by every one. Till the officers are appointed no measures can be pursued for inlisting the men. If the bounty allowed by Congress could be paid down, it is more than probable it might induce many to engage more willingly. Under this idea, I shall be ready to advance to such officers as you appoint to the command of the regiments, upon your requisition, such sums of money as may be sufficient for that purpose, if provision has not or shall not be otherwise made by Congress for the same.

"I am sorry to inform you that this day, about twelve o'clock, the enemy made a general attack upon our lines about *Fort Washington*, which having carried, the garrison retired within the fort. Colonel *McGaw*, finding there was no prospect of retreating across the *North* River, surrendered the post. We do not yet know our own loss, or that of the enemy in forcing the lines, but I imagine it must have been pretty considerable on both sides, as the fire in some parts was of long continuance and heavy; neither do I know the terms of capitulation. The force of the garrison before the attack was about two thousand men.

"I have the honour to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient servant, "GO. WASHINGTON.

"Convention of *New-York*."

A Letter from *Jacob Garrigue*, at *Peekskill*, dated *November* 14, 1776, and directed to Colonel *Brasher*, was read. It informs that there is no Sheet-Iron at *Peekskill;* that there is about half a ton at *North-Castle*, under the care of Mr. *Brower*, which may supply Pipes for Stoves now casting by order of this Committee at request of General *Schuyler*.

A Letter from *Robert Boyd*, dated the 18th *November*, directed *P. Van Cortlandt*. He acknowledges that he has received a Letter from the Vice President, relative to the distressed Continental Troops raised and returning to *New-Jersey*, who are now at *New-Windsor;* he will assist or endeavour to lend his aid in forwarding the said Troops to *New-Jersey*.

A Letter from *T. Tilghman*, Esq., to *Robert R. Livingston*, Esq., dated at *Hackensack*, the 17th *November*, 1776. He therein mentions a heavy loss suffered yesterday by the loss of *Fort Washington*, and its garrison, consisting of about two thousand men, chiefly made prisoners of war, and what were not slain in the action; that the Army was posting on that side from *Newark* to *Amboy*, as places easy of communication with each other, and through which the enemy must pass to *Philadelphia*, or any place to the southward of their Army.

The Committee appointed by the Convention to form an arrangement of Officers for four Battalions, pursuant to sundry Resolutions of Congress, came into the Committee of Safety, and *Robert Yates*, Esq., the Chairman of that Committee of Arrangement, brought in the Report; which he read in his place, and delivered in at the table, when the same was again read. The said Report being then read by paragraphs, the Committee of Safety agreed to and adopted that part of the Report which relates to a request of permission to raise a fifth Battalion, to be raised and commanded by Colonel *D. Bois*, and is in the following words, viz:

"The Committee appointed for carrying into execution the Resolves of Congress relative to the new arrangement of Officers, &c., beg leave to report, that in pursuance of the orders of the Convention, and agreeable to the directions of the General Congress, your Committee have completed an arrangement of Officers for the four Battalions ordered to be raised in this State, which arrangement is annexed to report.

"They further beg leave to report, that in forming the above-mentioned arrangement, so far as the officers of Colonel *Dubois's* regiment were concerned in it, your Committee considered them as entitled to no other rank than what they held prior to their appointment in that regiment, which was done without the recommendation or intervention of the Convention of this State, contrary to the uniform practice in all similar cases, and in prejudice of other officers of higher rank and equal merit.

"That your Committee were constrained by those principles to omit Colonel *Du Bois's* name in the present arrangement; that Colonel *Du Bois* hath been well recommended to this Committee as an exceeding good officer, capable of commanding a regiment with credit to himself and advantage to his country.

"That from the quota of this State being assessed so low as four Battalions, many good officers will be unprovided for; that sundry applications have been made to your Committee for commissions by young gentlemen of fortune and family, whose services your Committee were under the disagreeable necessity of declining to accept.

"That your Committee are clearly of opinion that another Battalion might be raised in this State, and they therefore earnestly recommend it to the Convention to use their influ-

ence with the General Congress to obtain their permission and order for that purpose; and Colonel *De Bois* to command the said Battalion so to be raised, and to have the rank of fourth Colonel of the *New-York* forces.

"That the officers whose names are contained in the annexed arrangement have been well recommended to this Committee as proper for the offices assigned them, and that the Committee have no doubt but that the troops under their command will do honour to this State.

"And your Committee further beg leave to report, that the importance of military discipline is so obvious, and the honour and safety of this State so deeply concerned in the behaviour and credit of their troops, that it is absolutely necessary that the most effectual means should be adopted for perfecting them in military evolutions and discipline. That a good part of this State being already possessed by powerful armies of the enemy, whose disposition and motives will probably render it necessary to call those troops into immediate service and to divide the Battalions into detachments, it is to be apprehended, that unless some extraordinary provision shall be made, many of the soldiers must be deprived of the opportunity of being taught their military exercises by experienced and capable disciplinarians.

"From these considerations your Committee beg leave earnestly to recommend it to the Convention to request of the General Congress to commission, on their recommendation, an Aid-Major to each of the Battalions of this State. The Aid-Majors to be appointed to be paid by this State, and to hold such rank as they would have been respectively entitled to had they been provided for in any of the Companies of the Battalions of, or raised in, this State.

"ROBERT YATES, *Chairman*."

The residue of the same Report being read, it was ordered to be recommitted to the same Committee.

*Ordered*, That a Letter be written to the honourable the Continental Congress, requesting their approbation of the Resolutions for raising a fifth Battalion in this State, to be commanded by Colonel *Dubois*; and another Letter to General *Washington*, requesting his countenance to that measure: and that the Committee for arranging Battalions prepare and report drafts of such Letters.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance, on Continental account, for the purpose of recruiting the four Battalions of Continental Troops to be raised in this State, the further sum of twelve thousand Pounds, to wit: To Colonel *Goose Van Schaick* the sum of three thousand Pounds; to Colonel *Philip Van Cortlandt*, the sum of three thousand Pounds; to Colonel *Peter Gansevoort*, the sum of three thousand Pounds; and to Colonel *Henry B. Livingston*, the like sum of three thousand Pounds; to enable them, the said Colonels, to disburse the Bounty money to their Recruiting officers: each respective Colonel to give his receipt to be accountable for the expenditure of the sum he shall receive by virtue of this order.

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Die Veneris, 10 ho. A. M., November 22d, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Colonel *Brasher*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *R. Harper*—NEW-YORK.
Major *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Wisner*—ORANGE.
Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Judge *Graham*, Major *Lockwood*—WESTCHESTER.
Colonel *De Witt*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Sacket*, Mr. *G. Livingston*, Mr. *Platt*, Major *Schenck*—DUTCHESS.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.

The Committee appointed by the Convention to form an arrangement of the Battalions raising in this State, brought in the residue of their Report, which was yesterday recommitted. The same was read by *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of that Committee, and delivered in at the table, when the same was again read, and, being amended, was agreed to, and adopted by the Committee of Safety, and is in the words following, that is to say:

*A List of Officers of four Battalions to be raised in the State of* NEW-YORK, *arranged by a Committee of Convention of the said State, November 21st,* 1776.

FIRST BATTALION.

1. Goose Van Schaick, Esquire.....*Colonel.*
3. Cornelius Van Dyck, Esquire.....*Lieutenant Colonel.*
2. Christopher P. Yates, Esquire.....*Major.*
Peter T. Tears.....*Adjutant.*
Henry Van Woert.....*Quartermaster.*

2. Joseph McCracken, 1st Capt.
4. Leonard Bleecker, 1st Lieut.
5. John Dinny, 2d Lieut.
7. John Werner, Ensign.

14. David Van Ness, 5th Capt.
11. John Hooghhert, 1st Lieut.
11. Ab'm Hardenbergh, 2d Lieut.
Jacob H. Wendell, Ensign.

3. John Graham, 2d Capt.
9. Nichs. Van Rensselaer, 1st Lt.
29. John Lansing, Jun., 2d Lieut.
4. John Ten Eyck, Ensign.

17. Samuel Van Weght, Capt.
12. John E. Ten Brower, Lieut.
10. William Scuder, 2d Lieut.
9. Peter S. Hoseboone, Ensign.

6. Andrew Finck, 3d Capt.
19. Tobias Van Veghten, 1st Lt.
32. P. Van Velkenbergh, 2d Lieut.
3. Abraham J. Lansing, Ensign.

18. John H. Wendell, Capt.
14. A. Sherwood, Lieut.
9. John Ostrander, 2d Lieut.
5. Peter J. Schuyler, Ensign.

12. Ben. Hicks, 4th Capt.
13. Charles Parsons, 1st Lieut.
26. Samuel Thorne, 2d Lieut.
Wilhelmus Ryckman, Ensign.

19. Garret J. Veeder, Capt.
15. Barent S. Salisbury, Lieut.
12. Ephraim Snow, 2d Lieut.

Abraham Ten Eyck.....*Paymaster.*

SECOND BATTALION.

2. Philip Van Cortlandt, Esquire.....*Colonel.*
1. Frederick Wisenfels, Esquire.....*Lieutenant Colonel.*
Elisha Marshall.....*Adjutant.*
Levi De Witt.....*Quartermaster.*

22. Richard Platt, 5th Capt.
31. Robert Wood, 1st Lieut.
13. Gilbert James Livingston, 2d Lt.
15. Wm. Glenny, Ensign.

2. Matthew Clark, 1st Lieut.
4. William Mundy, 2d Lieut.
8. Peter Dolson, Ensign.

9. Benj'n Pelton, 2d Capt.
8. James McHughs, 1st Lieut.
1. Wm. Tapp, 2d Lieut.
13. T. Beekman, Ensign.

2. Elijah Hunter, Capt.
6. Isaac Van Wirt, Lieut.
16. Charles Weisenfeels, 2d Lieut.
11. Thomas Bushfield, Ensign.

8. Charles Graham, 3d Capt.
20. James Miller, 1st Lieut.
15. James Fairly, 2d Lieut.
9. Timothy Smith, Ensign.

25. Jonathan Hallet, Capt.
29. Peter Benedict, Lieut.
17. Christopher Codwise, 2d Lieut.
14. Joseph Herring, Ensign.

21. Samuel T. Pell, 4th Capt.
26. Isaac Sherwood, 1st Lieut.
14. E. Johnson, 2d Lieut.
10. Andrew White, Ensign.

27. Edward Lounsberry, Capt.
23. Charles Newkirk.
8 Jeremiah Clark.
12. Wm. Nottingham.

Hunlock Woodruff received by Colonel Wesenfells as Surgeon.

THIRD BATTALION.

3. Peter Gansevoort, Esquire.....*Colonel.*
2. Marinus Willet, Esquire.....*Lieutenant Colonel.*
3. Robert Cockran, Esquire.....*Major.*
George Sythes.....*Adjutant.*
Tho's Williams.....*Quartermaster.*

7. Elias Van Rensselaer, Capt.
1. Jonathan Pearsey, Lieut.
22. Thomas Costradieur, 2d Lieut.

20. Aaron Austin, 5th Capt.
21. John Ball, 1st Lieut.
25. Garret Staats, 2d Lieut.

10. Thomas De Witt, 2d Capt.
24. Henry Pawling, 1st Lieut.
21. Benjamin Bogardus, 2d Lieut.

20. James Gregg, Capt.
27. Levi Stockwell, Lieut.
James Blake, 2d Lieut.

11. C. T. Janson, 3d Capt.
25. N. Vander Heyden, 1st Lieut.
21. James Dubois, 2d Lieut.
2. Samuel English, Ensign.

29. Henry Tiebout, Capt.
30. Isaac Bogart, Lieut.
27. William Meade.

16. Ab'm Swartwouds, 4th Capt.
32. Philip Conine, 1st Lieut.
3. Gilbert R. G. Livingston, 2d Lt.

32. John Houston, Capt.
24. John Welder, Lieut.
19. Prentice Brower, 2d Lieut.

FOURTH BATTALION.

4. Henry B. Livingston.....*Colonel.*
4. Ben. Ledyard.....*Major.*
Peter Sacket.....*Adjutant.*
—— Van Wyck.....*Quartermaster.*
John Peter Detard.....*Chaplain.*

4. Samuel Sacket, Capt.
3. Nath'l Norton, 1st Lieut.
2. George Smith, 2d Lieut.
19. Joshua Drake, Ensign.

24. Nath'l Strong, 5th Capt.
22. Edward Concklin, 1st Lieut.
2d Lieut.
21. Joshua Young, Ensign.

5. John Davis, 2d Capt.
5. Wm. Havens, 1st Lieut.
7. Silvanus Conklin, 2d Lieut.
20. Caleb Brewster, Ensign.

26. Benj'n Walker, Capt.

Jacobus Boucrans, Capt.
16. Simeon Tryon, 1st Lieut.
23. Peter Van Benschooten, 2d Lt.
James Campbell, Ensign.

30. Israel Smith, Capt.
17. Pelton Jackson, Lieut.
30. Thomas Hunt, 2d Lieut.

15. William Jackson, 4th Capt.
10. Thomas Lee, 1st Lieut.
20. Ebenezer Mott, 2d Lieut.
1. Joseph Frylock, Ensign.

31. Jonathan Titus, Capt.
18. John Lloyd, Lieut.
28. Ab'm Hyatt, 2d Lieut.
Melancton Lloyd Woolsey, Ens.

Thereupon, *Resolved*, That the Committee of Safety does agree with the Committee of Arrangement in the whole of their Report.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary prepare a copy of the said Report, to be transmitted to the honourable Congress, and another copy to be transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*.

A Letter from *Samuel Tudor* and *Augustine Lawrence*, dated the 21st *November*, was read, and referred to the following gentlemen to report thereon, that is to say: Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Gilbert Livingston*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Platt*, and Mr. *Cuyler*.

Mr. *William Duer* informed the Committee that large quantities of Hay and Corn were purchased by the Quartermaster-General, for the use of the Continental Army in the eastern parts of this County and the western parts of *Connecticut*, and that it would be hardly practicable to convey the same to the Army, unless the roads leading from the *Oblong* and *Fredericksburg*, towards *Reze's Bridge* and *North-Castle*, were better repaired; he therefore, in behalf of General *Mifflin*, Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army, prayed that this House would devise ways and means of facilitating the above-mentioned communication, not doubting but so necessary an expenditure would be cheerfully reimbursed from the Continental Treasury.

On taking the application of Mr. *Duer* into consideration,

*Resolved*, That it will be necessary to repair the following Roads, in order to facilitate the cartage of forage to the Continental Army: from the house of *John Miller* towards the house of Colonel *Henry Livingston*, thence to *Samuel Washburn's*, being eight miles; the Road which runs east from Colonel *Harry Luddington's* to the store of *Malcom Morrison*, and thence south to the mills of *Samuel Washburn*, being twelve miles.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Luddington* detach from his Regiment one hundred men for the purpose of repairing that part of the Road which is first mentioned, being in distance eight miles.

*Resolved*, That Captain *H. Meade* be appointed Superintendent for repairing the above Roads.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Field* detach one hundred men from his Regiment of Militia for the purpose of repairing that part of the Road which is last mentioned in the first Resolution, being in distance twelve miles.

*Resolved*, That Captain *David Heacock* be appointed Superintendent for repairing the said Road.

*Resolved*, That the Superintendents above appointed be allowed ten shillings per day for their trouble, exclusive of their subsistence; and that they be respectively authorized to hire or impress teams and carts for the purpose aforesaid, paying for each ox-cart with two yoke of cattle, finding themselves, sixteen shillings per day; for each wagon, finding themselves, twelve shillings per day.

*Resolved*, That the said Superintendents keep and render to this Convention regular accounts of their expenditures and proceedings.

*Resolved*, That the above-mentioned detachments of Militia while employed in repairing the Road, be under the direction of the Superintendents aforesaid, and that while actually employed as aforesaid, they be allowed at the rate of four shillings per day to each man finding himself.

*Ordered*, That copies of these Resolutions be immediately transmitted to the Superintendents above-mentioned, who are hereby directed to communicate them, without loss of time, to Colonels *Field* and *Luddington*.

*Resolved*, That the sum of one hundred Pounds be advanced to each of the Superintendents for the repairs aforesaid.

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Die Sabbati, 9 ho. A. M., November 23d, 1776.

The Committee met, &c.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.

Mr. *Dunscomb*—New-York.
Major *Lockwood*, Colonel *Van Cortlandt*—Westchester.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*—Albany.
Mr. *Wisner*—Orange.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *G. Livingston*—Dutchess.
Major *Webster*—Charlotte.

A Letter from *Henry Outhout* and *Anthony Van Bergen*, dated the 21st instant, relative to the prices of the goods which they were directed to purchase for soldiers' use. They therein mention the prices of each respective article; and on account of the very high prices, they desire the direction of the Convention in the premises.

The Committee of Safety are of opinion that the said goods and articles are so dear that it will not answer to purchase them.

A draft of a Letter to those gentlemen was read and approved, and is in the words following, viz:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, Fishkill, 23d November, 1776.

"We have under consideration your letter dated the 21st instant, in respect to sundry articles to be purchased for the use of the Army, and find that the prices are so high that we judge you best not buy them. The matters you have already bought you will please to furnish an account thereof, and you will be paid.

"I am, gentlemen, yours. By order.

"To *Henry Outhout* and *Anthony Van Bergen*."

*Ordered*, That the same be engrossed and sent them.

Mr. *John Sleght's* Account of fourteen shillings for going to view goods at *Monmerskill* ordered to be paid.

An Account of Mr. *Thomas Wickes*, amounting to four pounds sixteen shillings, for the services of himself and of *Eliphalet Brush*, in *May* and *June* last, six days in carrying into execution the orders of the then Provincial Congress, in apprehending and conveying to *New-York Isaac Ketchum*, *Isaac Youngs*, *Henry Dawkins*, *Philip Youngs*, and others, who have counterfeited and issued Continental Bills of Credit of thirty dollars, and Bills of Credit of *Connecticut* and *Massachusetts-Bay* State, each for forty shillings. Payment considered and approved of.

And another Account of the said *Thomas Wickes* thereto annexed, for riding express to *Albany* with sundry Letters from Head-Quarters and other places, directed to the General and Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Continental Army, five days at sixteen shillings per day, amounting to four pounds, was also exhibited for payment, considered, and approved of.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to the said *Thomas Wickes* the sum of eight pounds sixteen shillings, in full for the said two Accounts, taking a receipt for the same, and charge the same to Continental account.

A Letter from *Nicholas Governeur*, dated the 14th of *November*, was read, and committed to the Committee for detecting Conspirators.

A Letter from *Johannes Sleght*, Esq., Chairman of *Kingston*, dated the 18th instant, stating that County to have, till within a few days, been a peaceable people, but they are now daily alarmed, and their streets filled with mobs from different parts of the country, breaking of doors and committing of outrages, to the disturbance of the peace of the good people of said town, owing, as they believe, to the misfortune of having that detestable article called Tea, stored there.

Mr. *Wisner* and *Gilbert Livingston's* Report was read, and is as follows:

*Resolved*, That a copy of the said Report be transmitted to General *Schuyler*, with a request that he will favour the Convention with his advice on the best and most effectual plan for obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River; and that the Committee of the Convention of this State, appointed to obstruct the navigation of *Hudson's* River, be instructed to cause a nautical survey to be made of such parts of the River as may be most effectually obstructed, so as not only to impede the navigation, but likewise to prevent the landing of Troops below such obstruction; that they endeavour to procure the advice of the General Officers and Engineers respecting the said obstructions.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to obstruct the navigation of *Hudson's* River be instructed not to pay the Blacksmiths who made the Chain which was lately drawn across the said River, and broken by the tide, until such time as the sufficiency of their work can be properly examined; and that the said Committee take proper measures for that purpose.

A Letter from General *Heath*, of the 20th, requesting the Convention to assist Colonel *Chevers* in procuring a repository for a large quantity of Military Stores, was read, and referred to Mr. *Duane* and Mr. *Platt*, to prepare an answer.

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Saturday, 3 ho. P. M., November 23d, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Colonel *Brasher*, Mr. *Jay*, and Mr. *Harper*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *G. Livingston*, Colonel *Platt*—DUTCHESS.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Major *Lockwood*, Colonel *Graham*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Smith*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *De Witt*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Wisner*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Major *Webster*, Colonel *Duer*—CHARLOTTE.

A Letter from General *Heath*, dated the 23d instant, was read. He requests a copy for the encouragement offered by the honourable the Continental Congress to such as shall engage to serve in the next Army.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary furnish General *Heath* with a copy of the same.

A Letter from General *George Clinton* was received and read, and is as follows:

A draft of the River enclosed, was also exhibited, and committed to the Committee of the Convention of this State appointed to obstruct the navigation of *Hudson's* River.

A Letter from Messrs. *Augustine Lawrence* and *Samuel Tudor*, dated this day, was received and read.

A draft of an Answer thereunto was read and approved of, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"In Committee of Safety, Fishkill, 23d November, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: Your letter of yesterday, concerning a quantity of rigging to be furnished by you, by an order of the Marine Committee, is under consideration; and the order is explicit; we advise you to comply with it immediately.

"Captain *Ivers* represents to us that it is impracticable to carry the cables by land, but that he has yarn sufficient to make the cables of, and that they cannot be safely carried until they are warped and tarred; this matter we leave with you, and advise, if it be the only practicable method, that it be pursued, and that Mr. *Ivers* go with the yarn and finish the cables. In case you cannot hire wagons or teams to carry the quantity of rigging wanted, you are hereby empowered to impress them, giving sixteen shillings per day for each ox-team with drivers, (say four oxen,) and twelve shillings per day for each wagon and horses and drivers, they finding themselves, to carry the same to the first town in *Connecticut*, on the road leading to *Middletown*.

"I am, gentlemen, with respect, your very humble serv't.
"By order.

"To Captains *Lawrence* and *Tudor*."

A draft of a Letter to the Honourable *John Hancock*, President of the Continental Congress, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, viz:

"In Committee of Safety, Fishkills, 23d November, 1776.

"SIR: The Convention received the honour of your favour of the 9th of *October*, enclosing the resolutions of the honourable Continental Congress for raising four battalions in this State. A Committee of Convention immediately repaired to the armies to the northward and at *King's Bridge*, to inquire into the characters of the officers of the *New-York* battalions in the service of the *United States*, that an arrangement might be formed according to the rank and military abilities of the respective officers. The loss at that juncture of the fleet on *Lake Champlain*, the apprehension of an invasion both of our northern and western frontiers, and the necessity of vigorous efforts to suppress domestick insurrection, urges forward the Militia of this State; and to supply both them and the garrison at *Ticonderoga* with provisions, obliges us to detain at *Albany* that part of the Committee which was appointed to transact the business to the northward. It was with great reluctance we consented to this measure, which was necessarily productive of delaying the arrangement; but the safety of the Army and the good of the service in our opinion demanded it. Recruiting officers were, however, immediately appointed and money advanced for the bounty, and a considerable number of men are raised.

"The Committee have now completed the arrangement, which we have the honour to transmit. They assure us that it is formed agreeable to the directions of the honourable Congress; that they have consulted the General Officers in the respective departments where the troops of this State were stationed, and have appointed only such as were well recommended for their honour and abilities, and we flatter ourselves that they will do credit to this State, and be of service to the glorious cause in which we are engaged.

"Colonel *Nicholson's* regiment, which was formed in *Canada* by General *Wooster*, consists of about one hundred and fifty privates, whose period of service expires next spring. They have been stationed since their return from *Canada* at the *German Flats*, where they still remain. The Committee inform us that they have promoted only two officers of that battalion in the present arrangement, none else having been recommended. The circumstances of Colonel *Du Bois's* battalion are particularly mentioned in the report of the Committee of Arrangement, which we need not repeat. Another battalion we think may be raised, as too many of our inhabitants, reduced to want by the invasion of this State, the progress of the enemy, and their cruel devastations, will look up to the Army as a provision for their distressed families. Add to this, that military ardour and a spirit of resentment increasing in proportion to the injuries we have suffered, several young gentlemen of fortune, who have hitherto remained inactive, are disposed to enter into the service of their country, and to contribute to its preservation and independence.

"From these considerations we earnestly request the honourable Congress to grant us permission to raise a fifth battalion, to be commanded by Colonel *Du Bois*, of whose courage and military talents we have a high opinion. The Committee of Arrangement, sensible how much the *American* Army have suffered for want of discipline, have strongly recommended the necessity of appointing an Aid-Major for each of the *New-York* battalions, to be paid by this State. The reason by them for this measure appears to us so cogent that we shall cheerfully consent to the expense, if it meets with the approbation of Congress."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Vice President, and transmitted.

A draft of a Letter to General *Washington*, in answer to his Letter of the 16th instant, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Committee of Safety, November 23d, 1776.

"SIR: The Committee of Safety have the honour of your Excellency's letter of the 16th, which was immediately referred to the Committee for arranging the officers to serve in the four battalions to be raised in this State.

"The Committee are extremely happy to find that the measure adopted by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, for augmenting the pay of their troops, has been reprobated by the General Congress, as such a precedent must either have produced among the other troops a discontent and jealousy, which might have been attended with the most fatal consequences, or have reduced the Representatives of this State to impose further burthens on their constituents, many of whom are already impoverished by the havock and destruction of the present campaign.

"It is with equal pleasure that they have perused the alteration in the mode of inlistment, which will, in all probability, tend to expedite the completing of the levies.

"We are informed by the Committee of Arrangement that they have made these resolutions of the General Congress a part of their instructions to their recruiting officers.

"The Committee coincide in opinion with your Excellency, that the welfare of the *United States* is deeply interested in the expeditious raising of the new Army; and they lament the cruel necessity which has prevented the arrangement from being completed with the despatch they wished. Many causes have conspired to occasion this delay, which it may not be unnecessary to submit to your Excellency's consideration.

"Immediately on the receipt of the resolutions of Con-

gress of the 8th of *October*, two Committees were appointed by the Convention of this State, the one to repair to the Northern and the other to the Southern Army, in order to confer with the General Officers concerning the characters of each of the officers as were fit to be employed on the new establishment. Soon after their departure from this place, an account was received of the destruction of our fleet on *Lake Champlain;* in consequence of which, it became necessary to appoint a Committee to coöperate with General *Schuyler* in calling for the Militia, in furnishing provisions to the Northern Army, and in curbing the attempts of our internal enemies on the frontiers, and to add to this Committee the gentlemen who composed the Committee of Arrangement.

"On their arrival at *Albany*, a large field of business was opened to their view, which necessarily detained them for a much longer time than was expected. To this cause, and to the extreme difficulty which the Committee of Arrangement found in discharging their trusts in such a manner as to give the least disgust possible to such officers of merit who, from the reduction of the quota of troops to be raised in this State, must necessarily be unprovided for, may be imputed the delay of the arrangement.

"I have now the honour of transmitting to your Excellency a copy of the arrangement of the four battalions to be raised by this State, together with a copy of a report of the Committee of Arrangement to the Committee of Safety, which has been considered and approved of.

"The Committee of Safety, agreeing in opinion with the Committee of Arrangement, that another battalion may be raised in this State, with advantage to the publick cause, and that the appointment of a supplemental officer, called an Aid-Major, to each battalion, at the expense of this State, will tend to perfect the troops in their discipline, have directed me to request your Excellency's interposition with the General Congress in getting those measures approved of, should the reasons urged by the Committee of Arrangement appear satisfactory with respect to the arrangement. We have only to observe, that we have been assured by the Committee of Arrangement that they have taken infinite pains in forming it, and that they entertain no doubt but that the troops under the command of the officers by them appointed, will serve with credit to themselves, with honour to the State, and with advantage to the great cause in which the *United States* are at present engaged.

"Your Excellency is deservedly entitled to the thanks of this Committee for your readiness to advance the quota of bounty necessary for the inlistment of our battalions; but as a sum of money has been appropriated by the Convention for that purpose, and is now remitted to the proper officers, we shall have no occasion to accept of this proposal.

"The delicacy which your Excellency has ever observed with respect to the civil power of this State merits their warmest acknowledgments, and will always induce them the more cheerfully and strenuously to coöperate with your Excellency in every measure that may be deemed conducive to the publick weal.

"The Committee are sorry to hear of the reduction of *Mount Washington*, and feel deeply for the loss of the gallant officers and soldiers who perished in its defence, or who are now captives. They trust, however, that the minds of the Representatives of this State can bear with fortitude this heavy blow, and even other calamities of greater weight; and that, under the influence of the councils of the General Congress and the auspices of your command, the liberties of the *United States* will at length be established upon a wise and firm basis.

"Lieutenant-Colonel *Welsh*, who commands a detachment of the *New-Hampshire* Militia which is stationed at this place, has informed the Committee that the term of inlistment of the men under his command expires on the 1st of *December*, and begs to know whether it is your Excellency's pleasure that they should return home or wait further orders. The Committee for detecting Conspiracies in this State have made such progress lately in removing the disaffected, that we shall not want their longer stay at this place, unless some event at present unforeseen should happen.

"We beg leave to inform your Excellency, that as the Convention of this State have no occasion for the services of the Continental Troop of Horse which your Excellency stationed here under their direction, and as they necessarily consume a great deal of forage which might otherwise be spared for the use of the Army, we submit to your Excellency's discretion the propriety of removing them.

"We have the honour to be your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servants. By order.

"To His Excellency General *George Washington.*"

—

Die Lunæ, 9 ho. A. M., 25th November, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, *R. Harper*—New-York.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *R. Yates*—Albany.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Major *Webster*—Charlotte.
Major *Lockwood*—Westchester.
Mr. *Wisner*—Orange.

Major *Flores Bancker*, in behalf of Colonel *Johannes Snyder* and the officers of his regiment, presented to the Committee a number of queries, which were read, and are in the following words:

*Ordered*, That the said queries be referred to Mr. *L'Hommedieu* and Mr. , to report thereon.

—

Die Lunæ, P. M., 4 ho., November 25th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*—New-York.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*—Albany.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Lockwood*—Westchester.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *Wisner*—Orange.
Major *Webster*—Charlotte.

Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, from the Committee to whom was referred the queries presented by *Flores Bancker* this morning, made a Report, which was approved of and agreed to, in the words following, that is to say:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, Fishkill, November 25th, 1776.

"Major *Flores Bancker*, in behalf of Colonel *Johannes Snyder* and sundry of the officers of his regiment, presented a number of queries in writing to this Committee, whereupon the Committee came to the following determinations:

"As to the first and second queries,

"*Resolved*, That the Deputy Treasurer of this State be appointed to pay the said Regiment speedily before they leave the service.

"As to the third and fourth queries,

"*Resolved*, That each Captain make and return a Muster-Roll of his Company to Colonel *Snyder*, and subscribe an affidavit, to be endorsed thereon and sworn to before the said Colonel, that the same contains a true and faithful list of the deponent's Company, in Colonel *Snyder's* Regiment.

"*Resolved*, That the Pay-Rolls be made out in common form, by the Captains of the Companies respectively, and attested on oath before the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, in manner following, that is to say:

"I, , do solemnly swear on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, that the within roll, by me subscribed, is a just and true roll of my Company, and that each of the officers and privates in the said roll named have been in service in the respective stations therein mentioned, at the fortifications in the Highlands, in pursuance of the resolutions of the Representatives of the Convention of the State of *New-York* of the 7th of *September* last, and that the time charged for each person respectively is the just and true time of his service, including one day for every twenty miles such person has marched from his house or home to the said fortifications; and that the sums charged in the said roll for pay and subsistence are justly and truly charged, and are justly due and owing to the officers and privates of the company therein named.

"As to the fifth query, a provision is made by a resolution of the Committee of Safety this day, to which you are referred.

"As to the sixth and seventh queries,

"*Resolved*, That the Officers are entitled to Continental Rations from the time of their march to their return, and the Deputy Treasurer will pay the money for those rations they have not or shall not receive.

"As to the pay of the Officers,

"*Resolved*, That the same commence from the time of their march, and continue to the time of their return.

"*Resolved*, That those who shall continue in service agreeable to the Resolutions above referred to, instead of one penny shall be allowed two pence, *New-York* money, per mile for their travelling expenses home."

Certain Resolutions reported by Mr. *Duane*, for continuing General *Scott's* Brigade and Colonel *Snyder's* Regiment in service one month longer, was read and agreed to, and is in the words following, viz:

Whereas the period of service of the brigade of Militia of this State, under the command of Brigadier-General *Scott*, as well as that of the detachment of Militia stationed in the Forts in the Highlands, commanded by Colonel *Snyder*, will soon expire; and whereas, from the invasion of this State in different parts, and the measures necessary for its protection and security, an unavoidable delay has been occasioned in the inlisting and raising the four Battalions of troops in this State for the Continental service; and whereas our merciless enemy, who have laid waste with unrelenting fury such parts of this State as unhappily became a prey to their vengeance and rapacity, have been encouraged by a season uncommonly favourable, and the hopes of the diminution of the Continental forces and the Militia, on account of the expiration of their times of service, to protect their military operations, and to proceed in spreading ruin and desolation throughout such parts of this injured country as they find defenceless and exposed to their barbarous incursions; and the further services of the said brigade and detachment of Militia being from these important considerations indispensable; and forasmuch as, from the present motions of the enemy, it is highly probable that all the Militia of this State will speedily be called forth into actual service; this Committee of Safety do therefore

*Resolve*, That in their opinion the said Brigade and Detachment of Militia ought to continue in service until the last day of *December*, unless, from the situation of the enemy, they can sooner be discharged with safety, on the same pay and rations which have hitherto been claimed and provided for them.

And this Committee are persuaded that when they sincerely reflect on the situation of their bleeding country, the miseries to which their friends and families must be exposed by the further progress of their inhuman enemy, and the disgraces of deserting the service at so critical a period; when they consider that their retiring can procure them but a few days of ease, inglorious to the enjoyment and bitter in reflection, since it must invite their inveterate foes to pursue and seek them out in their very habitations; when they remember the righteous cause in which they are engaged in common with the whole Continent, and the inestimable value of the blessings of freedom and security, for which they contend; and when, finally, they contemplate the glory which must be acquired in bravely defending their country against the hand of tyranny and oppression, their fathers, their families, their relations, and their friends, from rapine, plunder and slaughter, and their families from indignities worse than death;—from motives so powerful; from every argument of interest, honour, duty and self-preservation, as well as from past experience of their courage and patriotism, the Committee entertains not the least doubt but that the officers and privates of the said brigade and detachment of the Militia will with the utmost cheerfulness and alacrity comply with the resolve, and continue to exert and distinguish themselves as brave, steady, and virtuous citizens and soldiers, and thus recommend themselves to the protection of Heaven and the regard and gratitude of their distressed country.

*Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be immediately transmitted to General *James Clinton* and General *Scott*, and that the same be published at the head of every Regiment in General *Scott's* Brigade, and of every Company of the Detachment commanded by Colonel *Snyder*.

Tuesday morning, November 26, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*—Albany.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Mr. *Lockwood*—Westchester.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Webster*—Charlotte.
Mr. *Contine*—Ulster.
Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *Wisner*, Colonel *Allison*—Orange.

As Colonel *Philip Van Cortlandt* is at present at *Ticonderoga*, and not soon expected, and the raising of the troops may thereby be retarded:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the sum of three thousand Pounds, ordered on the 21st instant to be paid to him, be paid to his Lieutenant-Colonel, *Fred'k Wiesenfels*, for the purposes and under the restrictions mentioned in the said order: the Treasurer deducting out of the said money the sums he has advanced for recruiting to any of the officers belonging to the Second Battalion.

The defence of *Hudson's* River being not only absolutely necessary for the security of this State, but also for the defence of the *United American States*, and keeping up a communication between the Eastern and Southern States,

*Resolved*, That the Committee heretofore appointed to obstruct the navigation of *Hudson's* River, or any three of them, be directed to report some form of a plan for perfecting the same with all convenient speed.

A Letter from *Augustine Lawrence* and *Samuel Tudor*, dated at *Poughkeepsie*, the 25th instant, relative to the removal of the ships at *Poughkeepsie*, was read.

*Ordered*, That it be referred to Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Platt*, Mr. *Gilbert Livingston*, Mr. *Cuyler*, and the other members of the Committee appointed on the last for that purpose.

A Letter from *Linde Lord*, Esq., dated at , on the 25th instant, relative to Mr. *Matthews* and the *Youngs'* escape.

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee of Conspiracies to report thereon.

A Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel *Johannes Hardenbergh*, dated at camp near *Peekskill*, was read; he informs that a parcel of arms, cartouch-boxes, and belts, were delivered to him for the use of his Regiment, and requesting directions to whom to deliver the said arms and accoutrements. Referred to Mr. *Duane* to report a draft of an answer giving proper directions.

The Petition of *Alexander Stewart*,* a prisoner, praying for the allowance of a prisoner of war; and the case of *Metcalf*, a Midshipman, stated by Mr. *McKesson*, was referred to Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, and Mr. *Miller*.

The Committee of Safety were informed that Lieutenant-Colonel *Welsh* has placed several sick in the house where *William Barnes* and two other poor families now reside; that it is necessary that some hospital be provided for his sick; and no place being considered so proper for an hospital as the said house,

*Ordered*, That Captain *Theodorus Bratt* do provide houses or proper places for the said families, and carriages to remove the said three families, that the said house may be used as an Hospital.

The Committee of Safety were further informed that part of a Regiment of *Connecticut* Troops are arrived here from *Hackensack*, many of them sick, and the whole destitute of provisions:

*Ordered*, That Mr. *L'Hommedieu* and Major *Lockwood*

* *To the Honourable Convention of the Representatives of the State of* New-York:

Humbly showeth: That your petitioner having been duly made by said Convention a prisoner as a subject to the King of *Great Britain* on the twentieth and seventh day of *July* last, and hath not, from that time to this date, ever received the least support from said States, and hath since that time been obliged to give his honour in pledge for payment of said maintenance; and your petitioner doth think himself duly entitled to the provision made by the honourable Convention for prisoners of war: And whereas your petitioner hath by no means any other resource from which he can be supplied, doth humbly beg the assistance of this Convention to assist me in my unhappy circumstances; and if it seem good to have the said arrears paid.

From your humble petitioner, Alexander Stewart.

Tuesday Morning, *November* 26th, 1776.

be a Committee to inquire into the cause of the said *Connecticut* Troops, and if Colonel *Welsh* shall refuse to take charge of them, then to give proper orders for their relief.

A Pay-Roll and a Subsistence-Roll of Captain *Jacob Rutzen De Witt's* Company of Rangers, raised in *Ulster* County, were delivered in for payment:

*Ordered*, That they be referred for examination to Mr. *Newkirk* and Mr. *Contine*.

A Bill of Credit of *Rhode-Island*, altered and changed so as to appear to be of a greater value than that for which it was issued, viz: appearing to be a bill of twenty shillings lawful, when in fact it is a bill of one shilling lawful, was laid before the Committee of Safety; and the Committee of Safety were informed that one *Gilchrist*, a soldier in Captain *William Jackson's* Company, at *Fort Constitution*, had passed the said bill to the wife of *Isaac Schults*, at *New-Windsor*, for twenty shillings lawful, and refused to receive the said bill and repay the money for the same:

*Ordered*, That the Commanding Officer at *Fort Constitution* send the said *Gilchrist* to the Chairman of the Committee of *Ulster* County; that the said Chairman take all proper examinations in the premises, and if it shall appear to him that the said *Gilchrist* knew, or had reason to believe, that the said Bill of Credit was altered, and not of the value of twenty shillings, lawful money, that he cause him to be committed to the jail in *Ulster* County, there to be kept in safe custody until he shall be thence delivered by due course of law.

Whereas there are several Accounts due from this State to the inhabitants of the State of *Connecticut*, on account of expenses accrued by reason of the removal of stock and the poor inhabitants from *Long-Island*:

*Ordered*, That be a Committee to collect and state those Accounts, together with the names of persons bought of, the quantity of stock, and the names of the persons to whom they belonged, together with the place of their present residence, and report the same to the Convention of this State as soon as possible.

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Tuesday afternoon, 26th November, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*—NEW-YORK.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*—ORANGE.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Contine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Lockwood*—WESTCHESTER.
Major *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.

A Letter from Major-General *Heath*, of the 25th, was read.

*Ordered*, That a Letter be written to General *Heath*, with the thanks of this Committee for his attention, and that Mr. *Duane* report the draft of such Letter.

Mr. *Miller*, from the Committee to whom was referred the Memorial of *Alexander Stewart*, and the case of *William Metcalf*, do report, that the said *Alexander Stewart* was committed to the keeper of the jail of *Westchester* County on the twenty-seventh day of *July* last, there to remain until further order; that about the twentieth day of *October* last, the said *Alexander Stewart*, with the other prisoners who were in that jail, were sent to *Fishkill* under guard, where the said *Alexander Stewart* has since remained without any allowance for support known to your Committee. That the said *William Metcalf*, after he was taken a prisoner of war, was sent to the care of the Committee at *Poundridge*; that to prevent his making his escape from thence, and for misbehaviour, he was, by order of the said Committee, on the 24th of *September* last, committed to *Westchester* jail, from thence he was sent to *Fishkill* about the 20th of *October*. That your Committee are of opinion that an allowance be made to each of them, the said *William Metcalf* and *Alexander Stewart*, of the like rations as the troops in the service of the *United States*, from the 20th day of *October* last: that is to say, in money at the rate of eight-ninetieth parts of a dollar per ration, or in provisions, at their election.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances of that part of Colonel *Bradley's* Regiment which is arrived from *Hackensack* to this place, report, that it appears that those troops being near *Fort Lee*, on the approach of the enemy, they were directed to retire out of their reach and join the first or nearest corps of the Army of the *United States*; that some of them are fit for duty, but that a number of them are sick.

*Ordered*, That the Lieutenant be desired immediately to repair to *Peekskill* with those fit for duty, and apply to Colonel *Heath*. That Doctor *Graham* take care of the sick at Continental expense until General *Heath* shall send a physician to take charge of them, or give directions concerning them, and that the Commissary at *Fishkill* supply them with provisions.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Robert Livingston* be requested to repair to *Peekskill* and *North-Castle*, to confer with Generals *Lee*, *Heath*, and *Clinton*, on the situation of the enemy within this State; the passes necessary to be secured on both sides of the Highlands, and the means proper for that purpose; and also for obstructing the *Hudson's* River, near *Pollepel's Island*, agreeable to the plan recommended by General *Clinton*.

*Resolved*, That the navigation of *Hudson's* River be obstructed near *Pollepel's Island*, at the northern entrance of the Highlands, agreeable to the plan recommended by General *James Clinton*; and that the Convention of this State will exert every measure necessary for that purpose.

A Letter from *John Campbell*, one of the Agents of the Quartermaster-General, dated the 25th instant, and directed to *Wm. Duer*, Esquire, was read. Information is therein contained that there is a large quantity of Hay, to the amount of thirty or forty tons, on the east side of *Van Cortlandt's* Manor, belonging to persons who have gone over to the enemy.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That Mr. *Duer*, one of the Members, be and is hereby authorized to send proper persons to take the said Hay, and have the same valued and delivered for the use of the Continental Army, and that the price of the said Hay at its full value be deposited in the Treasury of this State, reserving so much as may be necessary for the support of the present stock on each farm; and if there shall be on any such farm a larger stock of cattle than is necessary for the support of the families of such persons who have so gone over to the enemy, that the parts of the said stock as is not necessary for the support of each such family be, together with such Hay, appraised by three respectable freeholders in the neighbourhood and sold to the best advantage, and the amount of the sales thereof deposited in the Treasury of this State.

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Wednesday A. M., November 27th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Esquire, Vice President.
Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Rutgers*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Colonel *Allison*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *W. Smith*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Mr. *Lockwood*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Contine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Platt*—DUTCHESS.
Major *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*—CHARLOTTE.

A Letter from General *Scott*, dated the 26th instant, was received and read, and is as follows, viz:

"Haverstraw, November 26th, 1776.

"SIR: Upon some alarming accounts from Colonel *Hay* of a probability that the enemy would attempt a landing from their shipping, and of the defenceless state of the country, as well as the danger that many well-wishers would be reduced by fear to a submission, General *Heath* thought proper to send me over with my brigade. Upon my arrival here I heard a distinct firing, supposed to be at *Acquacknock*, where I am assured our Army was determined to engage the enemy this day. I am told the firing began early this morning. I hope to be able to communicate something agreeable to you, which, if in my power, I shall not fail to do by express.

"The sole design of this letter is most earnestly to request the interposition of Convention to prevent the disbanding of my brigade on *Sunday* next. I have sent an express to General *Heath*, with a request to send me two more regiments and a field-piece or two. But what will that succour avail if the service is to last only till *Sunday?* I hope my request will not be imputed to interested motives, when I assure you of my desire to serve my country one month longer without pay. I flatter myself the officers will be ashamed to refuse their service. If our Convention would think proper to furnish me with a bounty for the men, I think I can hold them. You cannot think, sir, of what infinite consequence it will be to this part of the country. Without some proper support, if our troops below should not succeed, the country below the mountains must submit to the enemy. If my views can be seconded by Convention, and General *Heath* should comply with my requisition, I flatter myself, that with the Militia of the County, numbers of whom I am sure will join me if we countenance those by some suitable support, I may fall on the rear of the enemy with two thousand men. You may easily judge that if General *Washington* keeps them well employed in front, the expedient I propose may be successful; at least, if I can be strengthened I am determined to risk it, if I should fall in the attempt.

"In short, sir, our cunctandos have put me out of all patience. Let me not forget to tell you that thirty men were inlisted last *Sunday* into the enemy's service; and can you think, sir, that two thousand men marched southward from this would not check the growing mischief? Be pleased, sir, to make my respectful compliments acceptable to Convention; assure them of my readiness to obey all their commands; reward the expresses, (I keep no account with the publick;) and believe me to be, sir, with undissembled respect and esteem, yours and the publick's, most devotedly,

"JOHN MORIN SCOTT.

"To the President of the Honourable Convention, State of *New-York*."

A Letter from General *Heath*, dated yesterday, and appearing to be wrote in the afternoon, was read in the words following, viz:

"Peekskill, November 26, 1776.

"SIR: The time to which the several regiments of General *Scott's* brigade stand engaged expires on *Saturday* next, as does that part of the garrison at Forts *Montgomery* and *Constitution*, and Colonel *Tash's* regiment of Militia from the State of *New Hampshire*, which is now at this post. I also expect that part of the other troops now here will be ordered to march southward. Should this be the case, a pass of vast importance, and now enhanced by the loss of *Fort Lee* and the enemy having the entire possession of the river up to the forts, will, I think, be much exposed. I think it my duty, therefore, to give you this hint; that if his Excellency General *Washington* has not wrote to the honourable Convention on the subject, such measures may be adopted as the honourable Convention may think proper. I think that if the several regiments whose time is nearly expired, could be prevailed upon to continue a little longer, it would greatly promote the service. But of this I despair, having been too often convinced that it is hard to persuade them.

"If any of the before-mentioned troops have received arms, accoutrements, or ammunitions, from the State of *New-York*, I submit it to you whether it would not be expedient to appoint some person or persons to receive them from the soldiery.

"I have not received any thing lately from the southward, either particular or interesting.

"I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most obedient and very humble servant,

"W. HEATH.

"Honourable *P. Van Cortlandt*, Esq."

Committed to Mr. *Duane*, to be answered with General *Heath's* other Letters.

A Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated the 19th instant, with respect to iron Stove Doors and Latches, &c., was read.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Samuel Patrick* be requested to have the Latches and Hinges for the doors of those Stoves made and forwarded with the Stoves.

On motion of Mr. *Duer*,

*Resolved*, 1st, That the thanks of the Representatives of this State be given to Brigadier-General *Scott* for his patriotick offer of continuing in service for the space of one month without any pay, in order to stop the ravages of a cruel enemy.

*Resolved*, That Brigadier-General *Scott* be authorized and requested to continue in service for the space of one month, and that he be entitled to the same appointments with the other Brigadier-Generals in the Continental service.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Representatives of this State be given to the Officers and Men of General *Scott's* Regiment for the spirit, alacrity, and perseverance which they have exercised in the defence of their injured and invaded country.

*Resolved*, That the sum of £1,500 be given as a gratuity unto the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates inlisted in this State, who at present compose General *Scott's* Brigade; and General *Scott* and the Officers of the *New-York* Regiments in his Brigade are requested to dispose of the same in such a manner as they shall deem most equitable and advantageous to the publick interest.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this State transmit the said sum of £1,500 to General *Scott*, taking his receipt for the same.

Mr. *Jay* dissenting to the granting and the order for the money.

Mr. *Robert R. Livingston* moved sundry Resolutions relative to obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River, and engaging General *Schuyler* in that service.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Platt*, and Mr. *Robert Yates*, be a Committee to consider the proposed Resolutions, and report thereon at five o'clock this afternoon.

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5 ho. P. M., November 27th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President.
Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Duane*—NEW-YORK.
Major *Lockwood*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *R. Yates*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Moore*—TRYON.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Major *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Contine*—ULSTER.
*R. R. Livingston*, Esq., *Gil. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*—ORANGE.

A draft of a Letter to *Lynde Lord* was read and approved of, and is in the words following:

"SIR: Your favour has been laid before the Convention and referred to a Committee; but the operations of the enemy at this critical juncture calling for the utmost attention and exertions of this State, there is no probability that it can soon be reported or determined upon. We therefore have desired the express to return, assuring you that the first opportunity shall be embraced to give you a satisfactory answer.

"I am, sir, your most obedient servant.

"By order."

*Ordered*, That a copy be engrossed, signed by the President, and transmitted.

Mr. *Duane*, who was appointed for that purpose, reported a draft of a Letter to Colonel *Hardenburgh*, which was read and approved of, and is in the words following:

"SIR: Your letter of the 23d instant has been laid before the Committee of Safety, who have desired me to direct you, that as soon as the Militia shall be discharged or leave the service, you carefully secure all the arms in your battalion belonging to this State, and see them safely delivered at this place. You are, for this purpose, to hire and, if not otherwise to be had, to impress boats, if practicable to bring them by water; otherwise carriages, the expense of which shall be defrayed by this State. I am further requested to direct you to give copies of this letter to the commanding officers of such of the battalions as have used any of the publick arms belonging to this State, and also to forward a

copy to General *Scott*. This is intended as a general direction to all the commanding officers of such regiments.

"I am, sir, your most humble servant,

"By order.

"Colonel *Johannes Hardenbergh*."

An Account of *Ebenezer Dayton*, for going express on the 12th and 13th days of *October* last, to recall *Gerard Bancker*, Esquire, when on his way to *Philadelphia*, was exhibited. He therein charges for hire of a fresh horse, ferriages, and extraordinary expenses, eighteen shillings.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to the said *Ebenezer Dayton*, on his receipt, for his time, services, and all his expenses and disbursements in the premises, the sum of £3.

A Pay-Roll of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates of Captain *Jacob Rutsen De Witt's* Company of Rangers, from the 6th day of *October* to the 4th day of *November*, both days included, was laid before the Committee. On the face of the said Roll is endorsed a certificate, in the words following, to wit:

"I do hereby certify, on the oath I have taken before the Committee of the County of *Ulster*, that the Pay-Roll is just and true. J. R. D. Witt."

Thereon is also endorsed a Certificate, in the words following:

"We, the subscribers, a Committee this day appointed by the Committee of Safety to audit this Pay-Roll, do hereby certify that we have examined the same, and allow the sum of £184 16s. to be paid to *Jacob R. D. Witt* therefor.

"Matthew Cantine,
"Benj'n Newkirk.

"November 26th, 1776."

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Andries Rutsen D. Witt*, on his receipt, the sum of £184 16*s*., in full for the pay of his Company from the 6th day of *October* last to the 4th instant, both days included.

A Pay-Roll, in lieu of Rations of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates, belonging to Captain *Jacob Rutsen D. Witt's* Company of Rangers, raised and imbodied in the County of *Ulster*, from the 6th day of *October* last to the 4th day of *November* instant, both days included, was laid before the Committee. On the face of said Roll, is endorsed a Certificate in the words following, to wit:

"I do hereby certify, on the oath I have taken before the Chairman of the Committee of the County of *Ulster*, that this Subsistence Roll is just and true. J. R. D. Witt.

"November 21st, 1776."

Thereon is endorsed a Certificate in the words following:

"We, the subscribers, appointed by the Committee of Safety to audit the Subsistence Roll, do hereby certify that we have examined the same, and allow the sum of one hundred and thirty-five pounds sixteen shillings and two pence to be due Captain *J. R. D. Witt* therefor.

"Matthew Cantine,
"Benj'n Newkirk.

"November 26, 1776."

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Jacob Rutzen D. Witt* the sum of £135 16*s*. 2*d*., in full for the subsistence of the said Company of Rangers from the 6th day of *October* last to the 4th day of *November* instant, both days included.

The Committee to whom was committed the Resolutions moved by *R. R. Livingston* this morning, relative to the obstructing the *Hudson's* River, reported the same, which was read, agreed to, and approved of, and are in the words following, viz:

"P. M., November 27th, 1776.

"Whereas this Committee did, on the 26th instant, resolve that the navigation of *Hudson's* River should be obstructed near *Poleple's Island*, at the north entrance of the Highlands: And whereas the termination of the northern campaign hath probably given General *Schuyler* leisure to attend to other objects of publick use and importance: And whereas, from that gentleman's well-known abilities and activity, as well as from the advantages resulting from his military command, there is the greatest reason to believe that the business of obstructing the navigation of the said River will be successfully carried on and completed under his direction:

"*Resolved*, That a Letter be immediately written to Major-General *Schuyler*, informing him of the survey that has been taken of *Hudson's* River, at *Poliple's Island*, and requesting him to take on himself the superintendence and direction of such works as he may think necessary, either there or elsewhere, for the security of *Hudson's* River.

"*Ordered*, That a copy be engrossed and sent to General *Schuyler*.

"*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to the honourable the Continental Congress, informing them of the measures that have been pursued for obstructing *Hudson's* River; suggesting the necessity of more effectually securing the posts and passes in the Highlands, employing the Carpenters who are now discharged from the shipping in preparing Fire-Ships and whatever else may be thought necessary for the defence of the River and annoying the enemy on their passage up; and requesting that they will be pleased to put the management thereof under the direction of Major-General *Schuyler*, whose abilities, knowledge of the country, and military command, will give him great advantages in the execution thereof.

"*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to his Excellency General *Washington*, enclosing the above Resolves, and requesting his concurrence therein.

"*Resolved*, That if the gentleman appointed to confer with the Generals at *Peekskill* and *North-Castle* shall not receive sufficient information with respect to the number of men to be stationed for the defence of the passes in the Highlands, that in that case he be instructed to write to his Excellency General *Washington*, and obtain the necessary information from him."

November 27th, 1776.

An Inventory of personal Estate late belonging to *Thomas Barclay*, of *Ulster* County, was produced to the Committee of Safety. The said *Thomas Barclay* having some months since gone over to the enemy on *Nassau Island*, and the Hay, Forage, and Grain on the Farm late in his possession (the said *Thomas Barclay*) being necessary for the support of the *American* Army:

*Resolved and Ordered*, That *William Duer*, Esq., be and is hereby authorized to send proper persons to take all the Hay, Forage, and Grain on the said Farm, except so much as may be necessary for the support of the family and stock to remain on the said Farm, and have the same delivered for the use of the Continental Army; that the said Hay, Forage, and Grain, before its removal, be valued and appraised by *James Hunter*, *Dirck Roosa*, and *James Howel*, who are hereby appointed and authorized to appraise the same; that the price of the said Hay, Forage, and Grain, at its appraisement, be deposited in the Treasury of this State, there to abide the future order of the Convention of Representatives or future Legislature of this State.

*Resolved and Ordered further*, That all the Stock on the said Farm, except so much as the Commissioners hereafter named may judge necessary for the support of the overseer, his family, and the slaves on the said Farm, be sold at publick auction, to the best advantage, by *James Hunter*, *Dirck Roosa*, and *James Howell*, who are hereby appointed Commissioners for that purpose, and directed to return to the said Representatives an inventory of their appraisement and account of sales; that the said Commissioners give publick notice, by advertisements dispersed in the most publick manner, of the time and place of such sales, and take care that the moneys thence arising be deposited in the Treasury of this State, there to abide the further order of the Convention of Representatives, or future Legislature of this State.

*Resolved and Ordered*, That *Fowler*, the present Overseer of the Farm late in the possession of the said *Thomas Barclay*, continue to take care of the said Hay, Forage, Grain, and Stock, until the removal and sale of the same, and continue his care and charge of the other property on the said Farm until further order of the said Convention of Representatives, or future Legislature of this State.

A draft of a Letter to General *Scott*, to enclose the Resolutions respecting his Brigade passed this forenoon, was read and approved of, and is in the following words, viz:

"Sir: I have the pleasure to forward the enclosed resolutions of Congress, which took place in consequence of

your favour of the 26th instant, together with the fifteen hundred pounds voted as a gratuity for the non-commissioned officers and privates of your brigade. The State is highly sensible of their past services, and have no doubt but the same virtuous principles which called them forth into the service of their country, will animate them to persevere with courage and fortitude to the end of the campaign. I hope, sir, the honourable testimonial which they give of your zeal and patriotism, in this critical juncture, will prove acceptable.

"I am directed to add, that frequent advices of the disposition of the enemy and the events of the campaign, will be singularly useful, as they are necessary to regulate our councils.

"The obstructing *Hudson's* River at *Pollopel's Island*, is this day concluded upon.

"I am, with great respect, sir, your most ob't humble servant.

"P. S. Be pleased to pass your receipt to the Treasurer for the £1,500, and return it by the express.

"To Brigadier-General *Scott*.

"Fishkills, November 27th, 1776."

A draft of a Letter to General *Heath*, commanding at *Peekskill*, was to enclose certain Resolutions relative to a part of *Bradley's* Regiment, were read and approved of, in the words following, that is to say:

"SIR: I have the honour to transmit you the enclosed resolution respecting a part of Colonel *Bradley's* regiment, who lately came to this place. Several of the members have taken the liberty to advise one of the Lieutenants to repair to *Peekskill*, with such of his men as are fit for duty. I presume he waits for a more formal command. We have directed a physician to take care of the sick until your directions are received. This small village is so much crowded that it is badly calculated for a hospital, and we fear the present mode of relieving the sick will be very expensive.

"I am, sir, with great respect, yours, &c.

"General *Heath, Peekskill*."

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Thursday morning, November 28th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Roosevelt*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *R. Yates*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Wm. Smith*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Contine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Gil. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Moore*—TRYON.
Major *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*—WESTCHESTER.

Mr. *Duer* produced the Pay-Rolls of the *Charlotte* Rangers, to be paid. They are committed to Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Contine*, and Mr. *Adgate*, to audit and report on the same.

Mr. *Moore* produced the Pay-Roll of *Tryon* County Rangers, to be paid. They are committed to the same Committee.

Mr. *Robert Yates* reported the draft of a Letter to General *Schuyler*, which was read and approved of, and is in the words following:

"Fishkill, November 28th, 1776.

"SIR: The measures pursued for obstructing *Hudson's* River have hitherto proved ineffectual; and the necessity of preventing the enemy's penetrating into the northern part of this State is obvious. The Committee of Safety have taken this matter into consideration, and entered into resolves, of which I have the honour of enclosing you a copy.

"They look up to you, sir, for the accomplishment of this work, sensible that your abilities and extensive command will enable you to devise a plan and direct such measures as will speedily effect it.

"General *George Clinton*, who has this point much at heart, has made a survey of the river opposite *Pollepel's Island*, with the soundings, at two different stations: a copy thereof I also herewith enclose to you.

"I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.

"Major General *Schuyler*."

Mr. *R. R. Livingston* reported a draft of a Letter to General *Washington*; which was read and approved of, in the words following, viz:

"Fishkill, 28th November, 1776.

"SIR: Agreeable to the directions of the Committee of Safety of this State, I do myself the honour to transmit the enclosed resolutions, and to request, if your Excellency should concur with them in sentiment, that you would, by uniting in, add weight to their application to the honourable the Congress.

"The enemy have long manifested an intention to possess themselves of this State; to which, indeed, its central and commanding situation very naturally invites them. Past experience, with the blessings of Heaven upon your Excellency's vigilance and skill, must ere now have convinced them that this is impracticable, unless by means of their Navy, against which every motive concurs in inducing us to guard. Your Excellency will easily conceive the reasons which influenced the Committee to wish that this business may be confided to General *Schuyler*, whose activity, aided by his knowledge of the country and its resources, together with the leisure afforded him by the retreat of the enemy from the northern frontier, gives him many advantages over any gentleman in whom those circumstances do not so happily unite; they cannot therefore but hope that the whole of the enclosed resolves will meet with your Excellency's approbation.

"If, unfortunately, they should be deceived in this hope, they will, when your Excellency favours them with your sentiments thereon, endeavour to render them conformable to your wishes.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"To his Excellency General *Washington*."

A Muster-Roll of a part of Captain *John Wisner's* Company, from *Orange* County, in Colonel *Nicoll's* Regiment, was produced to the Committee for payment of the bounty, and committed to Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Contine*, and Mr. *Adgate*, to audit and report thereon.

A Pay-List of men belonging to Colonel *Nicoll's* Regiment, who had, through sickness or otherwise, been prevented from joining the Regiment when mustered, was presented, and committed to the same Committee.

A Pay-Roll of a Detachment of the Ninth Regiment of *Albany* Militia, from the 5th to the 16th days of *October* last, while employed in hunting Tories in *Kinderhook* and *King's* Districts, amounting to £84 11*s.* 6½*d.*

A Billeting-Roll of the same Detachment, amounting to £18 7*s.* 1*d.*, was also produced, and committed to the Committee above-mentioned.

Mr. *Wisner*, from the Committee appointed for securing the Frigates, made the following Report:

"Your Committee to whom was referred the securing of the Frigates at *Poughkeepsie*, report the following Resolves, to be served on Captains *Tuder* and *Lawrence* respectively:

"1st. That they fit their respective ships *Congress* and *Montgomery*, with all the despatch possible, with so much rigging as is necessary to remove them from *Poughkeepsie*.

"2d. That they proceed up the river with the first fair wind after the ships are ready, as far as *Rondout Kill* or *Creek*, near *Esopus* Landing, where they are to be wintered, if, after carefully sounding the depth of the water on the bar at the mouth of the creek, they find they can be safely carried in.

"3d. If, upon strict examination, there is not found water enough safely to carry the said ships into the creek, then they are to proceed with all the despatch possible, (after taking on board the best Pilots they can procure,) to *Clavcrack* Dock, and there secure the ships in the best manner in their power.

"4th. That the quantity of lead in possession of the Convention of this State is so small, that there is none at present to be spared for any other use than musket-ball.

"HENRY WISNER, *Chairman*."

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Safety agrees with their Committee in the said Report, and that the same stand confirmed.

A Letter from *Elihu Marvin*, Chairman of *Orange* County, dated the 18th, was read; wherein he repuests the

direction of the Committee as to what they shall do with *Cornelius Thorp* and one *Murrie*, who have altered Congress money bills, one of whom, *Thorp*, is in jail at *Goshen*.

*Ordered*, That the consideration thereof be deferred.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to report the frame of a Constitution and Government for this State meet every afternoon at four o'clock.

—

Die Jovis, 4 ho. P. M., November 28th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *R. Harper*, Mr. *Dunscomb*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *G. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Contine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Moore*—TRYON.
Major *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.

The Committee to whom were referred the Muster-Roll of Captain *John Wisner's* Company, and the Roll of other men belonging to different Companies in Colonel *Nicoll's* Regiment, who had not received their whole bounty, reported a stated account of the bounty of the whole Regiment, with a Certificate endorsed thereon in the words following, to wit:

"Your Committee appointed this day to audit the several Muster-Rolls of Colonel *Isaac Nicoll*, do certify that the sum of one hundred and eight Pounds is a balance due to the said Colonel *Nicoll*, for the bounty of his Regiment, agreeable to the within Account.

"MATTHEW CANTINE,
"MAT. ADGATE,
"BENJ'N NEWKIRK.

"November 28th, 1776."

The said Committee further reported, that the sum of forty-four Pounds, part of a sum of sixteen hundred Pounds advanced to the County Committee of *Orange* County to pay the first moiety of the bounty of that Regiment, remains in the hands of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the County Committee of *Orange* County, or one of them, unappropriated, which, in the opinion of the Committee, ought to be paid to Captain *Nicoll*, as part of the money due to him for the balance of the bounty due to his Regiment.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Colonel *Nicoll* the sum of sixty-four Pounds, for the bounty of his Regiment, taking Colonel *Nicoll's* receipt for the same.

And *Ordered*, That the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee of *Orange* County, or one of them, pay to Colonel *Isaac Nicoll* the said sum of forty-four Pounds, in full for the bounty due to his Regiment.

Mr. *Duane* reported the draft of a Letter to *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Continental Congress, which was read and approved of, in the words following, to wit:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, November 28th, 1776. }

"SIR: I have the honour to enclose you resolutions of the Committee of Safety respecting the more effectual obstruction of *Hudson's* River. No object appears to them of more importance when they consider either the safety of this State, the supply of the Continental Army, or the preservation of the communication between the Southern and Eastern States. Experience has evinced, that if the navigation had been rendered impassable opposite to *Fort Washington*, it must have been attended with infinite advantage; among which, even the security of the garrison and military stores at that fort is not the most considerable; indeed, it is no presumption to suppose, that after the fruitless attempt of the *British* Army to penetrate the country through the *White-Plains*, they must have closed the campaign, at least in this quarter, with disappointment and disgrace. Their success in reducing the fort revived their spirits; and the evacuation of *Fort Lee*, in consequence of it, opened a passage for them into the defenceless parts of *New-Jersey*.

"In projecting the obstruction between *Anthony's Nose*, on the eastern shore, and *Fort Montgomery*, we endeavoured to avail ourselves of the model of that which had proved effectual in the river *Delaware*, and were assisted by the advice and experience of Captain *Hazelwood*. But the great length of the chain, being upwards of eighteen hundred feet, the bulk of the logs which were necessary to support it, the immense weight of water which it accumulated, and the rapidity of the tide, have baffled all our efforts. It separated twice after holding only a few hours, A; and we have too much reason to despair of its ever fully answering the important purpose for which it was constructed. A like disappointment we are informed happened at *Portsmouth;* the chain intended to obstruct the navigation of that harbour proved equally ineffectual.

"These considerations have induced us to explore the depth of the river throughout the Highlands, in which a Committee of Convention have been assisted by General *George Clinton*. The distance and depth of water at the north entrance, which on this experiment is found to be the fittest place, will be seen by the enclosed plan B. It is proposed, with the approbation of the honourable Congress, to obstruct the navigation of this part by cassoons, which it is conceived will be very practicable. The Convention wish, on account of General *Washington's* distance from the place, and the multiplicity of business with which he is encumbered, that the direction of this work may be committed to Major-General *Schuyler*, who we believe every way qualified to insure its success. Timber and stones can be conveniently procured, and when the campaign terminates the troops cantoned in this part of the country may be employed in rotation to assist in the work. But no time is to be lost in preparing the materials, and we shall wait with anxiety for the determination of the honourable Congress on a subject which, in the opinion of the Committee, is of the utmost moment to the *United States*.

"If the enemy persevere in their plan of subjugating these States to the yoke of *Great Britain*, they must, in proportion to their knowledge of the country, be more and more convinced of the necessity of their becoming masters of the *Hudson's* River, which will give them the entire command of the water communication with the *Indian* nations, effectually prevent all intercourse between the Eastern and Southern Confederates, divide our strength, and enfeeble every effort for our common preservation and security. That this was their original plan, and that General *Carleton*, and General *Howe* flattered themselves with the delusive hopes of uniting their forces at *Albany*, every intelligence confirms. And it appears to the Committee that they will not give up this grand object until they shall finally relinquish the project of enslaving *America*.

"The Committee take the liberty to submit these reflections to the honourable Congress. If they are well founded, an early and vigorous preparation to oppose the progress of the enemy in this quarter must be indispensable, and the defence and security of *Hudson's* River a principal object of that preparation.

"We are informed that some merchants in the Eastern States are pursuing the scheme of transporting flaxseed to *France*, to be shipped, as is apprehended, from thence to *Ireland*. If it is necessary to make *Great Britain* feel the distresses of the war by obstructing the manufacture of linen, this project will demand the attention of Congress; and in the opinion of this Committee, nothing less than the entire prohibition of the exportation of flaxseed will afford an adequate remedy. Another very important advantage must arise from such a measure: it will encourage the linen manufactory in the States, to which, of all others, they are the most competent.

"However severe the sudden reverse of fortune which we have lately experienced; however melancholy the loss of our metropolis, sea-coast, and four of our Counties, and the aspect of that part of our State which has been plundered and desolated by a retreating enemy, barbarous beyond all description; and however great the number of our ruined friends who are left naked and destitute in an inclement season, and a country without commerce or the means of affording them clothing, I have the satisfaction to assure you that the fortitude of this State, and their zeal for the glorious cause in which we are engaged, is not abated; on the contrary, we are prepared to meet even severer misfortunes with a spirit of firmness becoming the generous advocates for liberty. Unhappy am I to add, that amidst all our sufferings the Army employed for the protection of *America* have not refrained from embittering even the calamities of

war. At a time when the utmost resources of this State were laid open to their wants, and the members of Convention personally submitted to the labour and fatigue which were necessary on a sudden emergency; and after frequent losses of provisions and barracks, to supply too numerous armies, augmented by the Militia, with every article which they required, the Court-House and the remains of the village of *White-Plains*, which had been spared on the retreat of our forces, were, even after the enemy had in their turn retired, wantonly destroyed without the orders and to the infinite regret of our worthy General; besides, in spite of all his Excellency's efforts, wherever our troops have marched or been stationed, they have done infinite damage to the possessions and farms, and pilfered the property of the people.* I am directed, sir, to submit it to the honourable Congress, whether some effectual remedy ought not to be provided against such disorderly and disgraceful proceedings. The soldier who plunders the country he is employed to protect, is no better than a robber, and ought to be treated accordingly; and a severe example ought, in the opinion of the Committee, to be made of the officer who, without any necessity or his General's permission, set fire to the Court-House at the *White-Plains:* he is guilty of the crime of arson, and if he cannot be punished by the articles of war, ought to be given up to the laws of the land. If so glaring a violation of every sentiment of humanity should be passed over in silence; if the Army is not seasonably restrained from such acts of barbarity, the consequence must be fatal to the cause of a people whose exalted glory it is to be advocates for the rights of mankind against the tyranny and oppression of lawless power.

"The resolutions which the Committee of Safety have passed upon this subject are herewith transmitted.

"I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant.

"By order:

"PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice President.*

"To the Honourable *John Hancock*, President of the Congress of the *United States.*"

Mr. *Duane* produced the draft of a Letter to Major-General *Heath;* which was read and approved of, in the words following, viz:

"P. M., November 28th, 1776.

"SIR: The Convention of this State, impressed with a sense of your politeness and attention to them, have directed me in the strongest terms to return their thanks for your several favours—the intelligence communicated, the anxiety you express for the better security of this State, and the success of our common cause, by obstructing *Hudson's* River and preserving the important communication between the Eastern and Southern Governments.

"We have taken into consideration the plan suggested by Brigadier-General *Clinton*, for obstructing the river opposite to *Pollepel's Island;* and conceiving it to be practicable, we are determined, with the permission of Congress, to proceed

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* DUTCHESS *County, ss:*

*John Martine*, of the Manor of *Philipse*, near the *White-Plains*, in the County of *Westchester*, State of *New-York*, Farmer, of full age, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: That from the beginning of the present struggles he hath been a zealous and active friend to the *American* cause; that he has a son who hath borne arms in defence of the country in Captain *Townsend's* company; that after the enemy's army had penetrated into the County of *Westchester*, to wit, on or about the 28th of *October* last, this deponent, being at home, saw a considerable body of troops at a distance, advancing on their way towards his house, and form about three quarters of a mile thereof; that he took those troops to be part of the enemy's army, and therefore fled from his house; that in the night of the same day he, this deponent, returned to his house, and found it plundered, or almost all the effects he had left in it carried away; that before his return he had discovered the troops above-mentioned were of the *American* Army, namely, Colonel *Brewer's* regiment of *Massachusetts*, and Colonel *Webb's* of *Connecticut*, troops; that the next day he went to Colonel *Webb*, and complained to him of his having been robbed, as aforesaid, by his men; that Colonel *Webb* told him that if his men had taken any of his things, they should be returned to him, and gave verbal orders to the officers and soldiers about him to deliver to the deponent such of his goods as they might have taken from him, and told the deponent to go and look among them to see if he could find any of his goods; the deponent accordingly went, and soon discovered some of his beds and blankets, which he took; that he also found some linen hid under the encampment; that he complained also to Major *Bacon*, of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment, who gave orders that the deponent should search for his goods among his men, which he accordingly did, and found sundry of his goods upon them; that this deponent was engaged two days in looking for his goods as aforesaid; that the said regiments then marched to *North-Castle*, and this deponent, having regained but few of his effects, followed the said regiments to that place; that on his way thither, he found Colonel *Brewer*, then on his way going to *Peekskill;* that he made known his complaint aforesaid to him; that Colonel *Brewer* declined saying much about the matter, and went his way; that when the deponent came to *North-Castle* he again saw Major *Bacon;* that Major *Bacon* told the deponent (privately) that a thorough search should be made for his goods as well among the officers as among the soldiers, and that his chest should be first searched; that the deponent accordingly searched the Major's chest and baggage, without finding any of his effects; that the Captains *Hilliard* and *Gale*, both of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment, went with this deponent and *Marmaduke Forster* (who had also been plundered) to a room in which there were a number of chests and baggage belonging to the regiment; that they examined the said chests and baggage, and found considerable of their things; that they found a pillow belonging to the deponent in the chest of Captain *Gale;* that on the same day this deponent discovered on a baggage cart a green rug which he took to be his, and challenged it in the presence of Major *Bacon;* that the deponent called out, Who has taken this? that some of the soldiers said, it belongs to Major *Bacon;* that Major *Bacon* thereupon said it had been thrown into Colonel *Brewer's* tent with a bed, and that he and the Colonel had lain two nights upon it; that the next day the deponent went to the encampment of Captain *Shaddock's* company, of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment; that they complied of their treatment as aforesaid to Captain *Shaddock;* that Captain *Shaddock* paraded his men, and caused their baggage to be searched; that the deponent there found a considerable quantity of their effects; that among other things he found a quantity of tow cloth, which they had divided among them. And this deponent further saith, that the goods and articles mentioned in the list subjoined to this affidavit, and which he verily believes were taken from his house at the time and by the regiments aforesaid, are still missing, and that the prices affixed to them respectively do not exceed their true value. And this deponent saith that he hath often hospitably and kindly entertained many of the *American* officers and soldiers, as well of those regiments as of many others, and hath on all occasions endeavoured to promote the service of the *American* cause. And this deponent further saith that divers of the inhabitants of the country about this deponent have also been cruelly plundered by the *American* troops, and particularly that he saw in the possession of some of Captain *Ford's* men, of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment, bed curtains, which they confessed they had taken out of the house of *Tolmon Pugsley*, and that Captain *Ford* confessed to this deponent that he had got sundry things out of that house. And further this deponent saith not. JOHN MARLINE.

Sworn the 13th *November*, 1776. Before me,
PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *V. President.*

A true copy of the original. Examined by
ROBERT BENSON, *Sec'y.*

*A Memorandum of Goods plundered from* JOHN MARLINE, *October the 28th, 1776, by the Provincials.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 blankets | £3 0 0 | 1 stub hoe | £0 6 0 |
| 3 pair of leather breeches | 2 5 0 | 1 ox-chain | 1 0 0 |
| 1 pair of new trousers | 0 12 0 | 1 leaf-table | 1 8 0 |
| 2 half-worn watch-coats | 1 10 0 | 1 half-bushel | 0 4 6 |
| About 18 pounds of feathers, at 3s. | 2 14 0 | 1 cedar washing tub | 0 12 0 |
| 12 pounds of wool at 2s. per lb. | 1 4 0 | 1 churn | 0 14 0 |
| 22 yards of tow cloth at 5s. per yard | 5 10 0 | 11 keelers, at 3s. each | 1 13 0 |
| 1 desk: cost | 4 16 0 | 3 pails | 0 9 0 |
| 1 round tea-table | 0 16 0 | 2 sets of sleigh harness | 2 8 0 |
| 1 do. | 0 15 0 | 1 pair of headstalls, and bits | 0 6 0 |
| 6 locks, one a stock lock | 1 2 0 | 3 cream-pots, at 3s. each | 0 9 0 |
| 1 whitening pot | 0 6 0 | 1 barrel of soap | 1 10 0 |
| 2 skin sieves, at 4s. each | 0 8 0 | 2 skips of bees | 3 0 0 |
| 1 pair andirons | 1 10 0 | 1 woman's hat | 0 16 0 |
| 1 gun and bayonet | 5 4 0 | 43 lbs. of butter | 2 3 0 |
| 1 side pouch | 0 8 6 | 3 butter tubs | 0 7 6 |
| 2 bayonet belts | 0 7 0 | 2 turned bowls and 3 ladles | 0 4 6 |
| 2 bayonet scabbards | 0 6 0 | 1 tea-kettle | 1 6 0 |
| 2 swords | 1 6 0 | 1 quarter of beef | 1 6 0 |
| 1 brass kettle | 3 0 0 | About 60 weight of pork | 1 10 0 |
| Set of linen curtains | 1 5 0 | 4 hogsheads of cider | 16 0 0 |
| 1 looking-glass | 0 16 0 | 5 bbls. do., at 20s. pr. bbl. | 5 0 0 |
| 1 small copper kettle | 0 8 0 | 12 weaver's spools | 0 6 0 |
| Shoemakers' tools, the value of | 0 5 0 | 1 gridiron | 0 6 0 |
| 3 narrow axes | 1 0 0 | 1 frying pan | 0 8 0 |
| 1 broad do. | 0 8 0 | 1 tea canister | 0 1 6 |
| 5 augers | 0 16 0 | 1 pair of shears | 0 2 6 |
| 4 chisels | 0 8 0 | 1 square | 0 2 6 |
| 1 gouge | 0 1 6 | 3 qrs. of a pound of pepper | 0 7 6 |
| 2 adzes | 0 12 0 | 51½ lbs. of stocking yarn at 5s. per lb. | 1 7 6 |
| 2 handsaws | 0 12 0 | 63¼ lbs. of worsted yarn, at 6s. 9d. per lb. | 2 0 6 |
| 1 jointer | 0 10 0 | 1 lead glue-pot | 0 2 6 |
| 4 smoothing planes | 0 10 0 | 1 small great-coat | 0 16 0 |
| 1 cornice plane | 0 8 0 | 1 negro's bed and 3 blankets | 2 12 0 |
| Plough do. | 0 8 0 | Total | £99 18 0 |
| 1 draw knife | 0 6 0 | | |
| 1 stock, and bits | 0 8 0 | | |
| 2 brass cocks | 0 5 0 | | |
| 2 broad hoes | 0 8 0 | | |

FISHKILL, in DUTCHESS *County:*

*Marmaduke Forster*, of the City of *New-York*, but of late residing in the Manor of *Philipsburgh*, near *White-Plains*, in *Westchester* County, in the State of *New-York*, Carpenter, of full age, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: That from the beginning of the present struggle he hath been a zealous and active friend to the *American* cause; that he held a commission of First Lieutenant in Captain *Samuel Johnson's* company of Militia in the City of *New-York*, in the execution of which he exerted himself to the utmost of his abilities; that last *May* he removed his family, with most of his effects, to his father-in-law's, *John Martine*, in the Manor of *Philipsburgh*, in *Westchester* County, aforesaid; that on the next day after the first ships of war sailed up the *North* River, he procured a certificate and permit from the Committee of *New-York*, and removed himself to his father-in-law's aforesaid, where he continued to reside till on or about the 28th of *October* last; that about four o'clock in the afternoon of that day he was at the rear of his father-in-law's house, when his said father-in-law called to him and informed him that the enemy's troops (who some time before were landed in *Westchester* County) were

with the utmost vigour to carry it into effect. The assistance you so cheerfully promise will be very essential, and we shall, from time to time, avail ourselves of it.

—

Die Veneris, 9 ho. A. M., 29th November, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Jay*—NEW-YORK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Colonel *Drake*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Major *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Harper*—TRYON.
Mr. *Contine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Wisner*, Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.
Mr. *G. Livingston*, Mr. *Sacket*—DUTCHESS.

On reading the Letter of *Isaac Paris*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Tryon* County, dated the 13th instant, informing of the commitment of Captain *John Winn* to *Tryon* County jail, on a charge of having killed one of his men by a push of the muzzle of his gun into his belly,

*Resolved*, That the Committee of *Tryon* County have acted prudently, and as became guardians of the lives and liberties of their fellow-citizens, in committing *John Winn* to confinement for trial.

*Resolved*, That the said Captain *John Winn* be continued in confinement until he shall be tried in a regular court of justice.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of *Tryon* County be authorized and requested to appoint a Jailor *pro tempore*, to take charge of the jail of *Tryon* County and prisoners therein, until further order of the Convention of the Representatives or future Legislature of this State.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the above Resolutions be transmitted to *Isaac Paris*, Esq., Chairman of that Committee.

A Member informed the Committee that Captain *James Stewart** is attending at this place, and complains that he is without a commission, and that Colonel *Malcolm* alleges that he cannot pay him until he settles with Convention for

in sight and coming towards the house; that the deponent and his said father-in-law retired to some distance from the house, and where they had an opportunity of viewing the said troops; that from the dress and uniform of the said troops the deponent and his father-in-law believed them to be *Hessians;* that the deponent thereupon fled, as did also his father-in-law, to prevent falling into their hands; that the next day the deponent, on hearing that they were not the enemy's troops, attempted to return to the said house, but was stopped by the guards of the *American* Army by order of Lord *Stirling;* that the deponent then went back about three miles to a house where he had left his wife the night before. He there heard that his father-in-law had been to his house, from whence they fled on the appearance of the supposed enemy; that the troops which they had seen coming to the house when they left it were of the *American* Army, and that they had plundered and carried off every thing which was in the house, and that his father-in-law was at the *White-Plains* endeavouring to regain them; that the next morning the deponent went to the *White-Plains* and found his father-in-law there, who had got back sundry of his things and some books belonging to the deponent; that he was told immediately on his coming to the *White-Plains*, by some of the men of Captain *Post's* company of Artificers, that he must inquire among the men of Captain *Ford's* company, of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment, for his things, for they had seen many of his carpenter's tools among them which they knew; that the deponent went to Captain *Ford's* quarters, but could not find him, and then went to Captain *Shaddock*, of the same regiment, who told the deponent that if he could procure a written order and prove himself a friend to the country, his things should be delivered to him if any of them were in the possession of his men; that the deponent then went to Major *Bacon*, of the same regiment, and informed him that he had been plundered of his effects, and that some of Captain *Post's* men had told him that they had seen some of his carpenter's tools among the men of Captain *Ford's* company, and that Captain *Shaddock* had directed the deponent to the commanding officer for a written order to search for them, and that if he could procure such an order he should have them; that the Major did not give the deponent a written order, but told him he should have such of his things as were in the possession of any of the men in the regiment, and in a great hurry broke off; that the deponent then went to his father-in-law's house to see particularly what things were still remaining and what carried off; that he found his tool-chest broke open, the irons taken out of all his planes and carried away, together with his saws, chisels, and all his other tools; that the deponent then made his complaint to General *McDougall*, who referred him to Colonel *Brewer;* that on his applying to Colonel *Brewer* the Colonel promised him that the next morning the regiment should be paraded, and that such things as were found among them belonging to the deponent should be delivered to him, and that the deponent should call on him the next day and receive them; that the next day the deponent went accordingly, but the regiment was removed to *North-Castle;* that two or three days after the deponent and his said father-in-law, in going to *North-Castle* to inquire for the said regiment, met Colonel *Brewer* on his way to *Peek's Kill;* that the deponent told him he was returned to *North-Castle;* that Colonel *Brewer* did not incline to say much on the subject, but told the deponent that he must go to Major *Bacon;* that on the deponent's coming to Major *Bacon*, at *North-Castle*, the Major ordered his men's chests and baggage to be searched in the deponent's presence; that some bound books belonging to the deponent were found in some of the men's knapsacks, and a brass kettle hanging on a baggage cart; that the next day the deponent, with his father-in-law, went to Captain *Shaddock's* (of said regiment) encampment; that the said Captain ordered his men to be paraded, and to bring out with them all their things; that the deponent discovered in the possession of a Lieutenant of the said company a blanket which he, the deponent, claimed; that the said Lieutenant refused to deliver to the deponent the said blanket unless he would pay him five shillings and four pence for bringing it so far, which sum the deponent paid; that Lieutenant *Hitchins*, of Captain *Pollard's* company, has told this deponent that he had liberty to go out with the party on the day they went to the deponent's father-in-law's house, but on finding that their intention was to plunder, he declined going; that the said Lieutenant *Hitchins's* father told this deponent that he had heard that Captain *Ford* had sent off two men with plunder to *New-England;* that Captain *Pollard* told the deponent that the said Captain *Ford* has now in his possession a horse which he has plundered in *Westchester* County. And this deponent further saith, that the goods and articles mentioned in the list subjoined to this affidavit, and which he verily believes were taken from his father-in-law's house at the time and by the regiment aforesaid, are still missing, and that the prices affixed to them respectively do not exceed their true value. And further saith not.

MARMADUKE FORSTER.

Sworn to this 13th *November*, 1776. Before me:
PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT,
*V. President of the Convention of* NEW-YORK.

*The following is a List of Articles taken by the Soldiers from* MARMADUKE FORSTER, *at* PHILIPSBURGH, *near the* WHITE-PLAINS, *on* MONDAY, *the* 28*th of* OCTOBER, *or some days after:*

| | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 tool-chest | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 1 broad-axe | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 6 augers | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 1 gutter adz | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 1 doz. primers | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 3 framing chisels | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 3 doz. scubing gouges | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 1 do. scubing gouges | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| 4 carving do | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 4 draw bores | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 1 scale, four feet long | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 6 squares | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 1 hand-saw, cast-steel | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 1 do., common | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 tenant do. | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 1 sash do. | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 1 dovetail cast-steel do | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 2 compass saws | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 1 jack-plane | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 fore-planes | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 joiner | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 do., with three irons | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 1 smoothing-plane | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 1 double iron fore-plane, 3 irons | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 1 smooth do | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 hammers | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 pair of pincers | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 moving philisters | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 1 ogee and bead | 0 | 8 | 6 |
| 1 back ogee double-square | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 1 square plane | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 10 inch bits | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 1 pair rasing planes | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 1 pair do. | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 2 pair floor grooves | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 1 pair do. inch | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| 18 pairs hollows and rounds | 5 | 17 | 0 |
| 1 screw plow, with nine irons | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 1 common do., with 6 irons | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 1 pair ducks and bits, 2½ do. | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| 8 ogees, at 4s. | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 1 do., with a handle | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 5 beads with slips, at 5s. 6d. | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 3 beads boxes, at 4s. 6d. | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| 5 quarter rounds, at 3s. 6d. | 0 | 17 | 6 |
| 1 pair sash planes | 0 | 8 | 6 |
| 1 filister | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 1 doz. mortise chisels | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 1 side rabbet plane | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 3 square rabbets | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 3 do. skew | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| 2 do. skew, with 3 irons | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 1 compass, smooth | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 1 do., rabbet | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 1 fluting plane | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 astragal | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 1 strike block, 4 irons | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 3 cornice planes, two bed moulds | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| 1 spring plane | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| 2 pair compasses, 1 pair dividers | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Gimlets, brads, and screws | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 2 chalk-lines, 1 doz. brad-awls | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 1 doz. hand-saw files, 6s., six half round, 6s. | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| ½ fishskin 8s., 6 lbs. glue 12s. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 Turkey-stone | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 4 brass boxed pullies | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 brass charet locks | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Common locks, hinges, and pulleys | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| 4 skeins 4-strand pathline | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 1 doz. plane irons | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| | £53 | 8 | 0 |
| 1 desk and book-case | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| ½ doz. red chairs | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Tea-kettle £1 9s., chafing dish 12s. | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2 saucepans | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| 1 skimmer and iron ladle | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Earthen pots 16s., lantern 3s. 9d. | 0 | 19 | 9 |
| Whiting pot 6s., trays and bowls | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| Bellows, shovel and tongs | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 2 trammels 14s., 3 washtubs 23s. | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| 2 pails 10s., 2 tubs for butter 12s. | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Scales and weights 40s., half barrel 4s. | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Meat tub 11s., round bottles 16s. | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Books to the value of | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 feather bed | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 case of bottles 9s., 2 doz. tea 6s. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 barrel of soap 30s., a set of bed screws 6s. 6d. | 1 | 16 | 6 |
| 2 bed cords 7s., a sacking bottom 18s. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| 5 yards oznaburgs at 2s., 2 pairs sheats 16s. | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Tea tackling | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 chest £1 4s., and 2 spades 14s. | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| 4 glue pots | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2½ quires of writing-paper at 2s. 6d. | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| | £62 | 11 | 9 |
| | 53 | 8 | 0 |
| | £115 | 19 | 9 |

* *To the Honourable Congress of the State of* NEW-YORK. *The Memorial of* JAMES STEWART *showeth:*

That your memorialist, by order, having raised (but not complete) a company for the service of the *American United States*, which company was joined to the *New-York* Second Battalion under Colonel *Malcom;* that your memorialist received a sum towards defraying the bounty and billeting the said company. Colonel *Malcom* having received orders to stop his pay until he settled for the money he received, your memorialist now attends the honourable Congress to settle for the same. Your memorialist humbly prays the honourable Congress will be pleased to order a settlement for his past services, and let him know if there is provision made for him in the new arrangement. And your memorialist, as in duty bound, shall pray, &c.

FISHKILL, 28th *November*, 1776.

the money he has received. Captain *Stewart* also desires to know whether he is to be continued in service.

*Ordered*, That the case of Captain *James Stewart* and his accounts be referred to Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Adgate*, and Mr. *Newkirk*, to report thereon; and that they report their opinion whether it is proper to continue him in service.

Mr. *Adgate* gave notice that he shall to-morrow move to have the Resolutions passed on the 12th and 14th inst., appointing Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Colonel *Allison*, and himself, a Committee to take care of the Poor, and giving them powers for that purpose, reconsidered.

The Committee appointed yesterday to examine the Pay-Roll and the Subsistence-Roll of a Detachment of the Militia of the Ninth Regiment of the Militia of *Albany*, ordered to hunt for and apprehend Tories in *Kinderhook* and *King's* District, in the County of *Albany*, from the 5th to the 16th day of *October*, 1776, inclusive, delivered back the said two Rolls, with an endorsement on each in the words following, viz:

"Your Committee appointed to audit the within Roll, do report, that they are not furnished with any proper vouchers for the calling out said Militia, therefore are of opinion they cannot properly audit the said Roll.

"BENJ'N NEWKIRK,
"MAT. ADGATE,
"29th November, 1776." "MATHEW CANTINE.

*Ordered*, That the said Pay and Subsistence Roll be returned.

—

Die Sabbati, 10 ho. A. M., November 30, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Harper*, Colonel *Lott*—NEW-YORK.
Colonel *G. Drake*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *R. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Major *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Homnedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Harper*—TRYON.
Mr. *Cantine*—ULSTER.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.
Mr. *G. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.

Mr. *L'Hommedieu* informed the Committee of Safety that the gentlemen appointed with him to report on the invoice of Goods purchased by *Abr. E. Lott* and *John R. Livingston*, at *Boston*,

Mr. *Gilbert Livingston*, one of the Secret Committee, requested an Order on the Treasurer for £2,000, to enable him to discharge sundry demands for money brought against the said Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *Gilbert Livingston*, Esq., one of the members of the Secret Committee, the sum of £2,000, towards defraying the expenses incurred by said Committee, he to be accountable to this Commtittee, or Convention of this State, for the same.

On motion of *William Duer*,

*Ordered*, That the Secret Committee do report the Proceedings and Expenditures of the said Committee to this Committee, or the Convention of this State, on or before the 20th of *December* next.

A Letter from *Hugh Hughes*, Assistant Quartermaster-General, relative to Cattle which were drove up to the lines, with Account of said Stock enclosed; referred to Colonel *Drake* and Mr. *Little*.

A Letter from *A. Hawkes Hay* to *John McKesson* was read. Therein is contained an Account for Provisions due to *Edward W. Keirs*, amounting to upwards of £400, and an Account for Liquors, amounting to upwards of £155.

Ordered to be referred to a Committee to audit and report thereon.

*Robert R. Livingston* informed the Committee that he had, agreeable to their request, conferred with Major-General *Heath* and Brigadier-General *Clinton* on the subject of the resolutions of the 26th instant. That he had endeavoured, from the best evidence he could collect of the enemy's motions, to form some judgment of their intentions; that from this he was led to believe that they did not intend to make any attack on the Highlands, or at least not upon any other than the passes on the post-road, which they might possibly attempt by landing their troops at *Peekskill*; that all their forces appear to be drawn from *Westchester* County, so that they do not probably intend to march up to the *White-Plains* this season; that General *Heath's* division, including those of the Forts in the Highlands, consists of about two thousand men, without counting General *Scott's* Brigade; that it is the opinion of the Generals that, considering the strength of the ground, this will be sufficient to repel the enemy and maintain the pass till they can be reinforced; that Mr. *Livingston* had reason to believe that General *Lee* had already crossed the river with his division, to join General *Washington*, for which reason he did not think it necessary to go to the *Plains*, in one particular, as there was no apparent danger that the posts occupied by General *Lee* would be attacked, and he was able to obtain every necessary information from the Generals, with whom he conversed at *Peekskill*; that from them he collected that, after the removal of General *Lee's* division, there would remain under the command of General *Spencer*, about the *White-Plains* and places adjacent, about three thousand men, which, with the works already erected, and the natural strength of the ground, the Generals were of opinion were sufficient to maintain those passes; that they were also of opinion that the passes on the west side of the river were sufficiently secured; that they did not therefore think necessary at present to call out the Militia, but wished to have those of *Ulster* and *Orange* Counties put under marching orders. That, as Mr. *Livingston* was apprehensive of the enemy's being able to cross *Hudson's* River with much more expedition than our Army, he had inquired of the Generals what number of boats we were furnished with, and had the satisfaction to find that we had sufficient to transport one brigade at each trip.

Mr. *Livingston* further informed the Convention that he had conferred with Major-General *Heath* and Brigadier-General *Clinton* about obstructing *Hudson's* River at *Pollepel's Island*, (at which conference Mr. *Machin* assisted;) that it appeared to them to be extremely practicable, and that he had the pleasure of assuring the Convention that both Generals seemed strongly impressed with a sense of the importance of that work, but determined to give every assistance in their power to perfect the same, or rather to take it upon themselves, which his Excellency General *Washington's* orders on that head (which General *Heath* was so obliging as to communicate to Mr. *Livingston*) happily enabled them to do; that in this conference it was determined that five hundred men, under the command of Brigadier-General *Clinton*, should this day march for *Fort Constitution*, in order to begin the work on *Sunday* morning, in case they can be provided with three hundred axes by this Convention, all other tools having been furnished out of the Continental stores.

Mr. *Livingston* further informed the Convention, that having conferred with Mr. *Machin* about the chain, he had reason to believe that, with proper alterations, it might still be made very useful; that he had therefore taken the liberty to direct him to make the necessary alterations in the mode of fixing the same, and removing it to any situation where it can be most advantageously placed; of which measure, if the Convention approve, he begs some resolution to justify his proceedings therein.

That from the whole of the above conference, Mr. *Livingston* was of opinion that the following Resolutions were necessary, which he therefore begs leave to recommend:

*Resolved*, 1st, That Mr. *Cuyler* and Mr. *Duer* be authorized and required to employ such and so many persons as they shall think fit to purchase and collect three hundred Felling Axes; and that they have power to impress the same where there is more than one in a family, paying the full value or offering to return the same on or before the first day of *January* next; and that they advance such sums of money as they shall think necessary for the purpose, which this Committee will repay; that the Axes so obtained be delivered to General *George Clinton*, or his agent, taking a receipt therefor as so many Axes delivered into the Continental store.

*Resolved*, 2d, That the persons so employed set out on this business immediately, and return all the Axes they shall obtain this day to General *Clinton*, or his agent, at *New-Windsor*, by seven o'clock on *Sunday* morning or as soon after as possible; that in order to compensate their extraordinary fatigue, one shilling will be paid to each agent for every Axe by him delivered over and above his wages and expenses of carriage.

*Resolved*, 3d, That *John Teller*, *John Elmendorff*, *Jeremiah Clark*, and *Nicholas Brewer*, Junior, be appointed agents to collect, within one week, as many Boats, Scows, and Crafts as are fit for carrying Stone; that they have power to hire or impress the same, Ferry Boats excepted, permitting the owner of every Boat with sails to put one hand on board, if he shall choose it, and giving a receipt therefor, which receipt shall specify the hire agreed for; that the Boats be delivered to General *Clinton*, or to his agent, at *New-Windsor*, with all possible despatch; that on such delivery to General *Clinton*, they be respectively appraised by three respectable freeholders, and a similar receipt taken therefor by the persons delivering the same.

*Resolved*, 4th, That Mr. *Gilbert Livingston* cause the Spars and Timber purchased by the Secret Committee to be immediately rafted to *New-Windsor*, and delivered to General *Clinton* or his order, and that a receipt be taken therefor.

*Resolved*, 5th, That *Gilbert Livingston*, Esq., be empowered to cause three tons of Iron, of an inch and a half and one inch and three-quarters thick, bearing an equal quantity of each, or such other quantities and sizes as General *Clinton* may direct, to be delivered as soon as possible at *New-Windsor*.

*Resolved*, 6th, That Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Cantine*, and Colonel *Allison*, be a Committee to supply such other necessaries as General *George Clinton* may apply for, in order to perfect the obstructions of the navigation of *Hudson's* River; and that they be empowered to draw on the Treasury for a sum not exceeding four hundred Pounds, to defray the expense thereof.

*Resolved*, 7th, That all the Troops of this State who are not, by the terms of their inlistments, confined to particular Counties, except those in the Counties of *Charlotte*, *Tryon*, *Cumberland*, and *Gloucester*, be ordered down to *Fort Constitution*, and be annexed to General *George Clinton's* Brigade, till the 1st day of *January* next; and that Letters be written to the Chairman of the County Committees where the Troops are under their direction.

*Resolved*, 8th, That the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, to oppose the invasion of the enemy on the west side of *Hudson's* River; that Brigadier-General *Clinton* issue orders accordingly; and that they march for that purpose on receiving the orders of Major-General *Heath*, provided such orders shall be given within one month.

*Resolved and Ordered*, 9th, That a copy of the last preceding Resolution be transmitted to Major-General *Heath* and Brigadier-Generals *Clinton* and *Scott*.

*Resolved*, 10th, That this Committee agree with Mr. *Livingston* in his Report in the preceding Resolution as amended.

*Resolved*, 11th, That Mr. *Machin* be requested and authorized to alter and fix the Chain intended for the obstruction of *Hudson* River, in such manner and at such place as he thinks best calculated to answer the purpose for which it was intended; and that this Committee will advance the money necessary to defray the expense thereof.

*Ordered*, 12th, That a copy of the preceding Resolutions be transmitted to Major-General *Heath* and Brigadier-General *George Clinton*.

*Resolved*, 13th, That the draft of the Letter to the honourable Continental Congress agreed upon by the Committee, and directed to be despatched, be altered [to conform] to the preceding Report and Resolutions, and that Mr. *Duer* be requested to prepare the and alterations.

*Resolved*, 14th, That a copy of the preceding Resolutions be transmitted, in a Letter, to Major-General *Schuyler;* and that he be requested to meet and consult with General *Clinton* on the plan for obstructing *Hudson's* River, near *Pollepus Island;* and that Mr. *Duane* prepare a draft of the said Letter.

A Letter was received from General *Scott*, dated at *Haverstraw*, on the 28th, representing the exposed situation of that part of the country, and the uncertainty of his being able to retain his Brigade in service a month longer, notwithstanding all his efforts. Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That a copy of such parts of General *Scott's* Letter of the 28th as relates to his present situation, of his dread of that part of the country, be sent to General *Heath*, and that General be requested to give such relief to General *Scott* as the particular circumstances of that part of the country may require.

Mr. *Duer*, pursuant to a Resolution of this morning, reported certain alterations he had made in the draft of a Letter to the honourable the President of the Continental Congress, agreed to on the 28th instant; which were approved of, and by which the following was substituted instead of that part of said Letter contained between the words "defenceless parts of *New-Jersey*," in conclusion of the first paragraph, and the words "however severe the sudden reverse of fortune," in beginning of the last paragraph, viz:

"In perfecting the obstruction between *Anthony's Nose*, on the eastern shore, and *Fort Montgomery*, we endeavoured to avail ourselves of the model of that which had proved effectual in the river *Delaware*, and were assisted by the advice and experience of Captain *Hazlewood;* but the great length of the chain, being upwards of eighteen hundred feet, the bulk of the logs which were necessary to support it, the immense weight of water which it accumulated, and the rapidity of the tide, have baffled all our efforts: it separated twice, after holding only a few hours.

"Mr. *Machin*, the Engineer of *Fort Montgomery*, is of opinion that, with proper alterations, it may still be of service in another part of the river; and we have, with General *Heath's* concurrence, directed him to make the trial. But we have too much reason to despair of its ever fully answering the important purpose for which it was constructed. A like disappointment, we are informed, happened at *Portsmouth*, the chain intended to obstruct the navigation of that harbour proving equally ineffectual.

"These considerations have induced us to explore the depth of the river throughout the Highlands, in which a Committee of the Convention have been assisted by General *George Clinton*. The distance and depth of water at the north entrance, which, on the experiment, is found to be the fittest place, will be seen by the enclosed plan. General *Heath*, on a conference with General *Clinton*, has been pleased to recommend the obstruction of the navigation in this part of the river by cassoons; and the Committee of Safety, after mature deliberation, conceiving it to be very practicable, have agreed to the further resolutions which are herewith transmitted. They wish, on account of General *Washington's* distance and the multiplicity of business with which he is encumbered, that the direction of this work may be committed to Major-General *Schuyler*, who we believe to be every way qualified to ensure its success. Timber and stones can be conveniently procured; and when the campaign terminates, the troops cantoned in this part of the country may be employed in rotation to assist in the work. If the enemy persevere in their plan of subjugating the States to the yoke of *Great Britain*, they must, in proportion to their knowledge of the country, be more and more convinced of the necessity of their becoming masters of *Hudson's* River, which will give them the entire command of the water communication with the *Indian* nations, effectually prevent all intercourse between the Eastern and Southern Confederates, divide our strength, and enfeeble every effort for our common preservation and security. That this was their original plan, and that General *Carleton* and General *Howe* flattered themselves with the delusive hopes of uniting their forces at *Albany*, every intelligence confirms; and it appears to the Committee that they will not give up this grand object until they shall finally relinquish the project of enslaving *America*.

"The Committee take the liberty to submit these reflections to the honourable Congress. If they are well founded, an early and vigorous preparation to oppose the progress of the enemy in this quarter must be indispensable, and the defence and security of *Hudson's* River a principal object of that preparation."

*Ordered*, That a copy of the said Letter as amended be engrossed and signed by the President and transmitted.

Sunday P. M., December 1st, 1776.

Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Colonel *Lott*—New-York.
Mr. *A. Yates*—Albany.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Colonel *Drake*, Colonel *Van Cortlandt*.

Mr. *Duane* presented the draft of a Letter to Major-General *Schuyler*; which was read and approved of, and is in the words following, viz:

"Sir: At a late conference between Mr. *Livingston*, one of our members, and the Generals *Heath* and *George Clinton*, at *Peekskill*, the obstruction of *Hudson's* River, near *Polopel's Island*, was determined upon, and the necessary preparations are making, by impressing axes and boats, and drawing together a number of men, for carrying on the work with vigour and despatch.

"It is a favourite plan of General *Clinton's*, who is for the present permitted to attend to its execution; and we wish it may be in your power at least to give him the advantage of your opinion and advice. The disappointment of two attempts to obstruct the river at *Fort Washington* and *Fort Montgomery* increases our anxiety for the success of the present effort.

"It was discovered, to our great satisfaction, that General *Heath's* instructions from General *Washington*, which he willingly communicated to the conference, enabled him to proceed in this important work all at the Continental expense, without further authority from the honourable Congress. We are very sensible they would cheerfully have concurred in every expedient for the security of *Hudson's* River, on which the safety of this State, the neutrality of the *Indian* nations, and the communication between the Southern and Eastern Confederates absolutely depend; yet we foresaw that if their approbation had been essential, the preparations must have been suspended so long that the execution of the business might have become impracticable. I have the honour to transmit to you the resolutions of the Committee of Safety on this subject.

"I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant. By order.

"Major-General *Schuyler*."

*Ordered*, That a copy be engrossed and signed by the President and transmitted.

Mr. *Duane* reported the draft of a Letter to Brigadier-General *Scott*, which was read and approved of, in the words following, viz:

"Sir: Your favour of the has been laid before the Committee of Safety. Upon a late conference between Mr. *Livingston*, who attended for that purpose, and Generals *Heath* and *Clinton*, at *Peekskill*, the obstruction of *Hudson's* River, at *Pollepel's Island*, has been resolved upon, and the necessary preparations are making for carrying on the work with the utmost vigour and despatch. Orders are likewise given to the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties to hold themselves in readiness at a moment's warning to oppose the invasion of the enemy on the west side of *Hudson's* River, and to march on receiving notice from General *Heath*, it having been concluded at the conference that this measure was preferable, and for the present sufficient.

"Your last despatches had not at this time come to hand. An extract on the subject of the reinforcement you think necessary, was therefore directed to be transmitted to General *Heath*. Some of the Continental regiments which have been employed to the northward are now returning; they have still a month to serve, and may, if General *Heath* approves of it, be sent to support you without increasing the publick expense and distressing the State by moving the Militia; but this is a measure out of our province.

"The Committee of Safety intended that £1,500 as a gratuity to your brigade for their past services. They leave the disposal and distribution of it to your judgment, agreeable to their former resolutions.

"I am, sir, your most obedient servant.

"Brigadier-General *Scott*."

A draft of a Letter to be addressed to *John Teller*, *John Elmendorf*, *Jeremiah Clark*, and *Nicholas Brewer*, Jun., appointed agents for collecting Boats, Scows, and Crafts, by the third Resolution passed yesterday for obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River, was read and approved of, in the following words, viz:

"December 1, 1776.

"Sir: The necessity of obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River, near *Pollepel's Island*, having been resolved upon as an object of the utmost moment to the safety of this State, the enclosed resolutions have been adopted.

"The advanced season of the year requires that the preparations should be made with the utmost vigour; and from an opinion which the Committee of Safety entertain of your activity and your zeal for the common cause in which we are engaged, they have unanimously appointed you to the trust mentioned in the said resolutions. They entertain no doubt that you will execute it with fidelity, despatch, and cheerfulness.

"I am, sir, your very ob't servant. By order."

—

Monday morning, 2d December, 1776.

The Committee met.

Present: Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Colonel *Lott*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscomb*—New-York.
Mr. *Webster*—Charlotte.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Adgate*—Albany.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—Orange.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—Suffolk.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Colonel *Drake*—Westchester.
Mr. *Cantine*—Ulster.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—Dutchess.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Harper*—Tryon.

A Letter from *Henry Wisner*, Esq., dated *Goshen*, *November* 30, 1776, relative to a drove of Cattle for the use of the *American* Army, was read and filed.

*Ordered*, That a Letter be written to the person who has the charge of the said drove of Cattle, directing him to apply for directions of the Commissary-General.

*Ordered*, That a Committee be appointed to write to Colonel *Trumbull* relative to Salt, &c., and that Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, and Mr. *Cuyler*, be that Committee.

A Letter from *William Miller*, dated *Harrison's Purchase*, *November* 28, 1776, relative to the Records of the County, and requesting the advice of Convention relative to his conduct as an executor to an estate, was read and filed.

*Ordered*, To be referred to the same Committee.

Mr. *R. R. Livingston* delivered in sundry Accounts which were put into his hands by *Frederick Jay*, Esquire, from the Committee of *Westchester* County.

*Ordered*, That they be referred to Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cantine*, and Mr. *Newkirk*.

An Account of Major *Abeel* for sundry expenses incurred in apprehending sundry disaffected persons on *Long-Island* by order of *Philip Livingston* and the other gentlemen of the Committee appointed for that purpose in *New-York*.

Referred to Mr. *Roosevelt* and Mr. *Dunscomb*.

A Certificate, signed by Captain *Abraham Swartwout*, at *Fort Montgomery*, *November* 9th, 1776, certifying that there is due to Ensign *T. Finch* his inlisting money for ten men inlisted for Captain *Swartwout's* Company.

Referred to the above Committee.

A draft of a Letter to *Stephen Gilbert*, the person who has charge of the Cattle mentioned in Mr. *Wisner's* letter received and read this day, was read and approved, in the following words:

"Committee of Safety, Fishkill, December 2, 1776.

"Sir: Mr. *Wisner* informs the Committee of Safety that about four hundred and fifty cattle purchased for the use of the Continental Army, are now at *Smith's Clove*, under your care, and desires our opinion how they ought to be disposed of. We desire you to apply to the Commissary-General for his directions. We have not authority to interfere; and if we thought it advisable to have the cattle killed and put up, we have no salt. If the cattle are ordered to follow the Army, your own prudence will suggest the necessity of using such caution as will prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy.

"I am, sir, your humble servant,

"Pierre Van Cortlandt, *V. Pres't.*

"Mr. *Stephen Gilbert*."

*

*Ordered*, That the same be transmitted.

Colonel *Drake* delivered in the Report of the Committee relative to Cattle, Stock, &c., in *Westchester* County; which was read and recommitted, and Mr. *Duane* added to the Committee.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Memorial of Captain *James Stewart*, delivered in their Report; which was read, and is in the words following, viz:

"That on examining the muster and subsistence rolls of Captain *Stewart* to the time of his having joined Colonel *Malcom's* regiment, on the 22d of *August* last, as also what money was paid to the said Captain *Stewart*, they find a balance of £31 2*s*. due to him for bounty and subsistence for his company, and that as Captain *Stewart* has fully accounted for the money advanced to him by this State, he ought to receive his pay."

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Safety agree with their Committee in the said Report.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *James Stewart* the sum of £31 2*s*., in full for bounty and subsistence due to his Company until it became a part of Colonel *Malcom's* Regiment.

The Committee to whom was referred the Pay and Subsistence Rolls of *Charlotte* County Rangers, delivered in their Report; which was read and agreed to, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"Your Committee, to whom was referred the pay and subsistence rolls of *Charlotte* County Rangers, do report: On examining the said pay and subsistence rolls, we find that by the incorrectness of the original rolls that are signed by the Captains, they have been necessarily redrawn and corrected; and as the Captains have not signed and attested said rolls, we give it as our opinion that the said pay and subsistence rolls be sent to the Committee of *Charlotte* County, and that the form of the oaths, as directed by this House, be wrote on the back of each of said rolls, and signed by the Captains, that thereby proper vouchers may appear to said rolls, and returned to this Convention.

"And whereas great difficulties may arise to said men for want of said pay, we give it as our opinion that the balance of £434 3*s*. 5¾*d*. due on said rolls be sent to the Chairman of the Committee of the County of *Charlotte*, to be paid to said Rangers, with this particular resolution, that the officers, before they receive any of said pay or subsistence money, first make and subscribe the oath wrote on the back of said pay and subsistence roll; and that a letter be written by the Secretary to the Chairman of said Committee, enclosing a copy of this report, together with said pay and subsistence roll.

"Mat. Adgate,
"Benj'n Newkirk,
"Mathew Cantine."

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer pay to Major *Alexander Webster* the sum of £464 3*s*. 5¾*d*., to be transmitted to the Committee of *Charlotte* County, for the pay and subsistence of the Rangers, taking a receipt of said Major *Webster* for the same, and that the said Committee regulate themselves in paying the said money, agreeable to the resolutions of the Convention of the Representatives of this State, on the 23d day of *July* last, for raising, mustering, and paying the said Rangers, and the resolves and instructions of this Committee of the 21st of *October*, for the same purpose, and the resolutions of this Committee of the 12th *November*. That the Muster-Rolls be delivered on oath, as therein directed, by each Commissioned Officer of each Company making return, before it is transmitted to Convention, and that they do not advance any part of this money for any Rangers but such as armed and accoutred agreeable to said resolutions of the 23d of *July* last.

A Pay-Roll of Captain *Isaac Belknap's* Company of Rangers, raised in *Ulster* County, from the 10th day of *October* to the 8th day of *November*, 1776, both days included, was delivered by the Committee to whom it was referred. A Certificate is thereon endorsed in the words following, to wit:

"I do hereby certify, on the oath I have taken before the Committee of the County of *Ulster*, that this Pay-Roll is just and true. "Isaac Belknap.

"November 24th, 1776."

"We the subscribers, a Committee appointed by the Committee of Safety to audit this Pay-Roll, do certify that we have examined the same, and allow the sum of £92 13*s*. 3*d*. to be due to Captain *Isaac Belknap* therefor.

"Benj. Newkirk,
"Mat. Adgate,
"Mat. Cantine."

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Isaac Belknap*, on his receipt, the sum of £92 13*s*. 3*d*., in full for the pay of his Company from the 10th day of *October* to the 8th day of *November*, both days included.

A Roll of Subsistence or Billeting of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates of Captain *Belknap's* said Company, from the 10th day of *October* to the 8th day of *November*, both days included, was also delivered in, certified and audited by the same gentlemen, in a manner similar to the above-mentioned Pay-Roll, whereby it is certified that they allow the sum of £54 17*s*. 6*d*. to be due to the said *Isaac Belknap* for the billeting of his Company.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to the said Captain *Isaac Belknap*, on his receipt, the sum of £54 17*s*. 6*d*., in full for the billeting and subsistence of his Company from the 10th day of *October* to the 8th day of *November*, both days included.

A Pay-Roll of a Second Lieutenant, two Non-Commissioned Officers, and eight Privates, late part of Captain *William Ludlum's* Company, in Colonel *Josiah Smith's* Regiment, was delivered to the Committee of Safety. Thereon is wrote an affidavit of *Ephraim Marston*, the said Second Lieutenant, sworn before the Vice President, that the persons therein named are in such parts of this and the neighbouring States not in the possession of the enemy; that they served the time therein mentioned, to wit: one month and seven days. Thereon is also endorsed a Certificate in the words following, to wit:

"Your Committee appointed by the Committee of Safety to audit this Pay-Roll, having examined the same, do allow the sum of £44 12*s*. 4*d*. due to Lieutenant *Ephraim Marston*, and the persons therein-mentioned.

"Ben. Newkirk,
"Mat. Adgate,
"Mat. Cantine.

"December 2d, 1776."

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Lieutenant *Ephraim Marston* the sum of £44 12*s*. 4*d*., in full for the wages due to himself and the other persons named in the said Muster-Roll, taking Lieutenant *Marston's* receipt for the same.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Major *James Abeel* the sum of £25 0*s*. 6*d*., in full for his disbursements for subsisting sundry men under his command to *Long-Island*, for the purpose of apprehending a number of disaffected persons, by order of the Committee appointed for that purpose, agreeable to an account delivered in and sworn to by Major *Abeel*.

The Committee to whom was referred the Account transmitted by Colonel *Hay*, delivered in their Report; which was read and agreed to, and is as follows, to wit:

"Your Committee to whom was referred the letter of *A. Hawkes Hay*, report, that they have examined the account, that which was therein enclosed from the Precinct of *Haverstraw*, and find it unaccompanied by any vouchers, except one for £155 19*s*. 9*d*., for liquors. That by a certificate at the foot of the account, they find that *A. Hawkes Hay*, Esq., has in his possession vouchers for every article therein charged. That as the account is for a very considerable sum, they are desirous of having the vouchers with it, and therefore are of opinion that the following Letter be wrote to Mr. *Hay*, to wit:

"Sir: The account which you enclosed to Mr. *John McKesson*, from the Precinct of *Haverstraw*, for necessaries furnished the troops who guarded the shore in *July* and *August* last, has been laid before the Committee of Safety, but being unaccompanied by any receipts or vouchers, cannot well be audited. I therefore beg that you will send the several vouchers, which, by a certificate at the foot of the general account signed by you, I find are in your possession.

"I am, &c.

"Mat. Adgate,
"Mat. Cantine,
"Ben. Newkirk.

"*A. Hawkes Hay*, Esq."

*Ordered*, That the said Letter be engrossed, signed by the President, and transmitted.

Sundry Resolutions relative to burning the Court-House at *White-Plains*, were read and agreed to, and are as follows:

Whereas this Committee have been informed that sundry of the inhabitants of this State have been unjustly plundered of their property by the Troops of the Continental Army, and that the publick and private buildings at the *White-Plains*, in the County of *Westchester*, have been wantonly and wickedly burned by, as this Convention are informed, an officer and a party under his command, without orders from his superiour officers:

Therefore, *Resolved*, first, That the laws of the country are not suspended or superseded by the military code, or the presence of the Army.

Second. That in all cases where both the party offending and the party injured are not inlisted in the Continental Army, that the offenders are amenable to the laws of the country.

Third. That by the laws of this State the burning of Dwelling-Houses is felony, without the benefit of clergy, and punishable with death.

Fourth. That a letter be written to General *Washington*, requesting that the officer directing the burning of the Court-House and Dwelling-Houses at the *White-Plains* be delivered to this Committee or the Convention of this State, in order to his being tried by the laws of the State, and, if guilty, punished thereby.

Fifth. That the honourable Continental Congress be informed of these Resolutions, and requested to make such alterations in the military law as more effectually to prevent the robbery and plunder of the inhabitants of those States in which the Armies are, and to General *Washington*, asking his concurrence in such request.

Sixth. That this State will make every sacrifice necessary for the safety of the general cause of *America*. At the same time they will use their utmost endeavours to repress any or needless destruction of their country or violation of the rights of its inhabitants.

*Ordered*, That a copy be engrossed and transmitted to Congress, and that another copy be transmitted to General *Washington;* and that Mr. *R. R. Livingston* prepare and report a draft of a letter to General *Washington* to enclose the same.

A draft of a Letter to Congress was read and approved.

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be engrossed and transmitted.

The Committee to whom was recommitted a letter from Mr. *Hughes*, Assistant Quartermaster-General in the Continental Army, respecting a quantity of Stock driven off by order of General *Lee* from the lower part of the County of *Westchester* to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, have, according to order, brought the same into Convention, and do report the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Stock lately removed from the lower part of the County of *Westchester* to the pasture of Colonel *McDaniel*, in *Bedford*, be put under the direction of Major *Jos. Strong* and *Joseph Young*, who are authorized to notify, in the most publick manner, the artificial marks of the said Stock, and that such of them as belong to the good subjects of this State will be delivered to the owners on a day to be prefixed in the said notice, and that the same shall be delivered accordingly. And that such parts of the said Stock as belong to traitors to this State who have joined the enemy, or fled, or are known to be inimical to the *United States*, or which shall not be claimed as aforesaid by the good subjects of this State, shall be disposed of to the best advantage by the persons appointed to take the care thereof, who shall keep a regular account of the marks of the Stock and the price at which each head so sold, and transmit the account and money to be deposited in the Treasury of this State, and be allowed a reasonable recompense for their trouble, provided that such parts of the said Stock as shall be delivered to the owners in pursuance of this resolution shall, if not immediately sold, be secured out of the reach of the enemy, and not returned to the place from whence they were removed by order of General *Lee*.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the preceding Resolution be immediately transmitted to Mr. *Jos. Strong* and *Jos. Young*.

*Ordered*, That two copies thereof be engrossed, and one transmitted to each of the Agents therein named.

A draft of a Letter to General *Washington* was read and approved, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Sir: Agreeable to the directions of the Committee of Safety, I do myself the honour to send your Excellency the enclosed resolutions, and to assure you that it is with extreme pain that they find themselves under the necessity of passing them. The singular wantonness and cruelty of the persons concerned in burning the publick and private buildings at the *White-Plains*, which even a barbarous enemy had left uninjured, has excited a general indignation, and may render many careless about the event of our cause, who may have reason to apprehend as great evils from the licentiousness of their friends as from the hostilities of the enemy.

"Other complaints have been offered against the rapine of the soldiers, who are accused of plundering a people who, from the unavoidable miseries of war, would, when most tenderly treated, be objects of compassion.

"The Committee are too well satisfied of your Excellency's benevolence and justice to think that any thing of this kind which comes to your knowledge will escape the punishment you are empowered to inflict, but which, unhappily, is in many cases far short of what the crime merits. To this they impute the frequency of offences; and have therefore troubled your Excellency with the request that you will be pleased to concur with them in representing to the honourable the Congress the necessity of making it capital for any officer or soldier to pillage the inhabitants, or, without your Excellency's command, to ravage the country, which they can with pleasure declare they have the highest reason to believe will never be given but when the interest of the community should require it. To this they flatter themselves their past resolutions have shown that they are not unwilling to venture every proper sacrifice. In the mean time think it their duty to declare that the presence of the Army does not supersede the laws of the country, and pray your Excellency's assistance in enabling them to execute them upon those who are immediately under your command.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"His Excellency General *Washington*."

*Ordered*, To be engrossed.

A Letter from General *Scott*, of the 30th *November*, was read and filed, wherein he states, that from the Returns he finds the number of his Brigade who are willing to continue in service for another month are too inconsiderable to be retained.

A Letter from Major *Lockwood*, giving intelligence of the enemy in the Sound, was read and filed.

The Committee was informed that Colonel *Lott* is in advance a considerable sum as one of the Committee appointed to cause the Poor to be removed from the City of *New-York*.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance and pay to Colonel *Lott* the sum of one hundred Pounds, on account of the moneys by him advanced in causing the poor inhabitants to be removed from the City of *New-York* by order of the Convention of the Representatives of this State.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

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Monday, 4 ho. P. M., December 2d, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met on the summons of the Vice President.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Harper*—New-York.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*—Westchester.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*—Albany.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—Orange.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.
Major *Webster*—Charlotte.
Mr. *Cantine*—Ulster.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—Dutchess.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Mr. *Ben. Hinchman*, on his receipt, ten Dollars, for his trouble and disbursements and his time delayed as an express to General *Scott*, at *Haverstraw*, with a gratuity sent to be given to General *Scott's* Brigade.

Mr. *Robert Harper* informed the Committee of Safety that the Members of Convention appointed a Committee to procure the Clothing on hand belonging to the State to be made up for soldiers' use, have disbursed some of their own cloth to pay poor women, tailors, and others by them employed in that business, and in purchasing thread and other materials; that they are yet indebted for the like purposes, and will have daily occasion to make further expenditures, and therefore beg an order on the Treasurer for £400.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Mr. *Robert Harper*, as one of the Committee, on his receipt, the sum of £400, for the purpose of such expenditures in procuring Clothing to be made for the Continental troops, for which sum the said Committee shall account to the Convention or the Committee of Safety of this State.

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Die Martis, 10 ho. A. M., December 3d, 1776.

Present: *P. Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Rutgers*, General *Scott*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*—ALBANY.
Major *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Little*, Mr. *Allison*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Cantine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, General *Morris*—WESTCHESTER.

A Letter from Colonel *Isaac Nicoll*, dated at *Peekskill*, on the first day of *December* instant, and directed to Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, was read. He therein informs that there is a considerable quantity of goods and household furniture in stores near *Orange-Town*, belonging to Colonel *William Bayard*, and sundry other disaffected persons, who are now actually with the enemy; that there is a considerable amount of goods in and about the camp, and two horses, one yoke of oxen and cart, belonging to *Joshua Barnes*, which goods were taken on their way to the enemy; that he could have them secured for the good of the State, if directed.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Moore*, and Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, be a Committee to consider of and report on the said Letter, and to devise an Ordinance for securing all estates and effects which are deserted by the owners, or which, though under the care of others, belonging to the enemy, or who have absconded.

Whereas the Committee of Safety are informed that Mr. *Joseph Young* has declined the trust reposed in him by the Resolution of yesterday for disposing of the Stock in Colonel *McDaniel's* pastures at *Bedford*,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *William Miller* be and he is hereby appointed a Commissioner in the place of *Joseph Young*, and that that part of the said Resolution passed yesterday which directs advertising the artificial marks of the said Stock, be dispensed with.

A Letter from Dr. *John Bard*, dated the 1st instant, was read. The Doctor therein mentions, that as teams appear at present much wanted at the *Fishkills*, he has taken the liberty to offer his for the publick service for a week, which he begs may be at his private expense.

A Letter to Doctor *Bard* was thereupon drawn, agreed to, and sent, in the words following, to wit:

"SIR: The Committee of Safety have received your polite letter and generous offer of the use of your team for the publick without reward. Mr. *Duer*, who has the direction of the Quartermaster's Department, informs us that he will be able to procure a sufficient number of teams for the service. The Committee of Safety have therefore desired me to give orders that yours be immediately returned, and to assure you that they entertain a proper sense of your regard for your country in the critical situation of our publick affairs.

"I am, with great respect, &c."

A Letter from *Francis Lewis*, Esq., one of the Marine Committee of Congress, dated the 27th ultimo, was read, and is as follows:

"GENTLEMEN: Upon the information given to the Marine Committee by Captain *Patrick Dennis* of the then state of the frigates built at *Poughkeepsie*, the said Committee desired me to inform you that it was their opinion those ships, being launched, should as soon as possible be sent up to *Esopus* Creek, to be there laid up for the winter, as there appears at present no prospect of bringing them into service for this year. And it is their opinion that a Lieutenant of Marines be appointed, with orders given him to immediately inlist thirty marines to guard those frigates during winter, and that all such stores that are remaining, together with those belonging to such vessels as were ordered to be sunk in the *North* and *East* Rivers be also put under the care of said Lieutenant of Marines.

"That Captain *Dennis*, who has at present the custody of all the rigging, &c., belonging to the vessels so sunk, be directed to deliver the same to said Lieutenant, furnishing him with an inventory of the particulars, a copy thereof to be signed by the Lieutenant and transmitted to the Marine Committee, who apprehend the stores aforesaid will be this winter wanted by General *Schuyler*.

"In regard to the destination of the frigates for the winter, if you see any likelihood of their being brought into use, they are submitted entirely to your direction. Upon your nominating the Lieutenant, his commission will be sent up to you, as you are more immediately upon the spot. In regard to the frigates, the Marine Committee refers it to your judgment to direct what may be necessary to be done with them, and desires you would advise them thereof.

"I am, respectfully, sirs, your very humble servant,
"F. LEWIS.

"Philadelphia, 27 November, 1776."

A Letter from Captain *Samuel Tudor*, dated at *Poughkeepsie*, on the 2d instant, was received and read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Poughkeepsie, 2d December, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: We have just received a letter from the Marine Committee, directing us in every matter to take your directions. We shall proceed with the ships as soon as wind will permit. When we leave the yard there will be a quantity of plank, timber, and stores left, which we beg your advice what to do with. We think it would be prudent to pile up the plank and timber, and lock the stores up in the shops. It may likewise be prudent to have a man to take care of them. It has been hinted to us that you intend building floating batteries; if so, we conceive our carpenters (the bulk we have just discharged) would be very useful to you, and may now engage, though some are daily going away. The sooner you let us know whether you want them the better.

"We are, gentlemen, your very humble servant,
"SAML. TUDER."

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Wm. Smith*, Mr. *Rutgers*, and Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, be a Committee to consider of the Letter of *Francis Lewis*, Esq., and Captain *Samuel Tuder*, and report thereon, with all convenient speed.

A Letter from General *George Clinton*, dated the first instant, was received and read, and is as follows:

"Fort Constitution, 1st December, 1776.

"SIR: I arrived here yesterday evening, with two regiments, consisting of about five hundred men, destined for garrisoning this fort, and obstructing the navigation of the river near *Polopil's Island*, agreeable to the resolve of the Convention. I immediately sent off the Engineer, with about one hundred men, to get timber for the purpose; but I am so unfortunate as not to have axes for the tenth part of the number, though I have used my best endeavours to procure as many as I possibly could. Axes, therefore, three or four light anchors and cables, drag-ropes, screws, scows and other boats for collecting of stores, I must beg the Convention will endeavour to supply me with as quick as possible; the business otherwise must in a great measure stand still. I have smiths employed making axes; and I shall make them work day and night, to replace those you may supply me with; and when General *Lee's* division passes the river, (and they are now at *Peekskill*,) we shall be able to get a number of boats from that quarter; but for the present we must be supplied by Convention if possible. I have about forty artificers, which are as many as can well be employed, and being furnished with the above articles only, I hope I shall be able to carry on the work without troubling your honourable House in some time for any other supplies.

"Captain *Bedlow* has hitherto acted here as a Commissary of Stores, and Mr. *Lawrence* as Clerk of the Check; and

as there are no other persons appointed to take charge of the stores, tools, &c., or keep the accounts which will be necessarily multiplied by this new business, I am of opinion it will be best to continue them. I am sure if they do their duty, as I don't doubt they will, they will save ten times more than their wages, especially as it will be out of my power to do my own duty and attend particularly to that part of the business.

"There are three or four artificers who have been for some time past employed here, (though not belonging to the Army;) and as I am informed they are industrious, active men, I would wish to continue them, as I believe it will be of advantage; but I shall not engage any of them to remain in the service till I can have the advice of Convention.

"The bearer, Captain *Bedlow*, who will wait your answer, and bring down such of the wanted articles as you can furnish us with, will inform you of the scandalous manner some of the Militia left this place without returning the ammunition, or other publick stores they had been furnished with.

"Mr. *Livingston* gave me reason to hope I should have three companies of Rangers join me. I wish to have them, as we shall want all the aid Convention can give us, and I have a strong desire to work those gentry a little. If they should object against going out of their County, as I have heard they do, I'll fix them in it. They will be equally convenient to the work.

"I am, with due respect, your most obedient servant,

"GEORGE CLINTON.

"To the Honourable the President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

*Ordered*, That this Letter be committed to Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Cuyler*, and Mr. *Cantine*, the Committee appointed to furnish such necessaries as General *Clinton* may have occasion for in the obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River.

A Petition of *Phebe Oakley* was read, and is in the words following, that is to say:

"*To the Honourable the Representatives of the State of* NEW-YORK *in Convention assembled.*

"*The Petition of* PHŒBE OAKLEY, *of the Borough Town of* WESTCHESTER, *in the County of* WESTCHESTER, *and State of* NEW-YORK, *humbly showeth:*

"That your petitioner, to avoid the depredations of a cruel enemy, who had then landed at *Frog's Neck*, sent divers of her effects to her brother-in-law, *Talman Pugsley*, at the Manor of *Phillipse*; that your petitioner hath been inhumanly robbed and plundered of her said effects by Captain *Ford* and his company, of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment; that your petitioner hath not as yet been able to recover any of her effects; for the particulars of which, and the manner in which the same were taken from her and divided among the plunderers, your petitioner begs leave to refer to the affidavits subjoined to this petition. That your petitioner hath been informed that such base and unmanly ravages are not countenanced by the regulations prescribed for the government of the *American* Army, but, on the contrary, hath been advised that the Generals of the said Army will, on application, deliver to the civil authority of this State all such persons as wantonly trespass against the laws thereof, and particularly in the cases of theft, robbery, and other felonies.

"Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that this Convention, who are and ought to be the guardians of the rights of the people of this State, will be pleased to assert the same, by taking cognizance of the crimes committed by Captain *Ford* against your petitioner, and extending to him the laws for such cases provided. And further, that application may be made to the honourable the General Congress for a resolution to compel Captain *Ford* and his company to make restitution to the many unhappy sufferers whom they have basely stripped and pilfered. And your petitioner shall ever pray.

"PHŒBE OAKLEY."

"DUTCHESS *County, ss:*

"*Phebe Oakley*, of the Borough Town of *Westchester*, in the County of *Westchester*, single woman, of full age, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, That on the day the enemy took possession of *Frog's Neck*, she sent a trunk, covered with seal-skin, and filled with linen and cloths and some writings of great value, to her brother-in-law, *Talman Pugsley's*, on the Manor of *Phillipse*, in order that the same might be out of the way of the enemy; and that together with the said trunk she also sent to the same place five feather beds and bedding, one looking-glass, one copper coffee kettle with lamp and stand, two muffs in cases, a long blue cloth cloak, one pair of brass-knobbed andirons, one painted and one woollen floor-cloth, one copper tea-kettle, two pewter dishes and one dozen of plates, a whole set of tea China, and a small red trunk, belonging to Captain *John Berrian*, two large willow baskets, with a variety of articles and clothing in them, and a pair of boots almost new, a pair of brass candlesticks and some books. That she remembers there were in the said trunk ten yards of pea-green taffeta, a light brown mantua gown, a plain satin cloak, a light blue silk quilt, a dark chintz gown, a blue copperplate gown, a chintz frock for a child, one calico bed-quilt, fifty yards of new linen, furniture for one bed of blue and white calico, furniture for one bed of white diaper, furniture for one bed of very dark blue and white calico, furniture for another bed of white diaper, furniture for one bed of white cotton and linen, nine diaper table-cloths of different figures, one dozen of diaper napkins, ten homespun and bought linen shifts, one dozen of homespun and bought linen shirts, half a dozen of muslin sacks, ten pair of linen sheets and ten pair of pillowcases, a striped silk and cotton jacket, three pair of white drilling breeches, one red morocco pocket-book, one white satin hat, one dozen pair of linen and cotton stockings, a half a dozen linen and cotton stockings in another parcel, besides a number of caps, handkerchiefs, aprons, and children's clothing, the particulars of which she cannot remember; that in the said trunk were books of accounts, bonds, notes, receipts, and title-deeds, belonging to her father, the late Alderman *Oakley's* estate. That this deponent continued at the Borough town of *Westchester*, with her brother's widow, till the enemy had evacuated that place. That then the deponent went to the Manor of *Philipse* in quest of her trunk and other effects, sent there as aforesaid; that on coming there she was informed by her said brother-in-law, *Talman Pugsley*, that he had received the said trunk and other things sent to him as aforesaid, but that while he was gone from home with some of his effects, and before he could return for another load, his house was plundered, as he was informed and believed to be true, by Captain *Ford* and his company, of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment of the *Massachusetts*, in the *American* Army, and that this deponent's effects aforesaid had been carried away by them; that her said brother-in-law further told her he had applied to Captain *Ford* for restitution of the said effects; that Captain *Ford* confessed that he had some of them, but would not deliver them up or let him see them; that thereupon this deponent applied to General *Heath*, who behaved to her as a gentleman and man of honour; that the General told her that he would put him under arrest; that this deponent has never received any of the said effects, but has heard that part of them were sold, and Captain *Pollard* told her he was informed that Captain *Ford* had sent off two or three men to *Connecticut* with plunder. And further this deponent saith not.

"PHEBE OAKLEY.

"Sworn the 2d *December*, 1776. Before me:

"PIERRE V. CORTLANDT, *V. President*."

"DUTCHESS *County, ss:*

"*Tolmon Pugsley*, of the Manor of *Philipse*, Yeoman, in the aforesaid affidavit mentioned, of full age, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: That he received the trunk and other effects mentioned in the said affidavit to have been sent to his house by his sister-in-law, *Phebe Oakley*. That on the day the battle was fought at *Chatterton Hill*, at the *White-Plains*, this deponent began to remove his effects to the house of his father, who lived about six miles to the northward of him; that he arrived at his father's in the evening of the said day with a load of goods; that he stayed all night at his father's; that the next morning he returned home with intent to remove the rest of his effects, but to his surprise was informed by his neighbours that his house had in his absence been plundered by Captain *Ford* and his company, who were encamped in the neighbourhood; that the deponent went in pursuit of her said effects, but had

never been able to recover any of them; that on his application to Captain *Ford* for the said effects, Captain *Ford* said he had some things, but did not believe they belonged to this deponent; that the deponent then described a suit of curtains, bed quilt, and other articles, and desired Captain *Ford* to examine with this deponent the things he confessed he had, to see if they were not among them; that Captain *Ford* replied, he would not show this deponent where the said goods were, or what they were, and gave this deponent a great deal of very abusive language. And further this deponent saith not.

"TOLMON PUGSLEY.

"Sworn the 2d day of *December*, 1776. Before me:
"PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *V. President.*"

"DUTCHESS *County, ss:*

"*Ebenezer Burrill*, of *Lynn*, in the County of *Essex*, in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, a private in Captain *Pollard's* company, of Colonel *Brewer's* regiment of Artificers, of full age, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: That the day after the fight at *Chatterton Hill*, at the *White-Plains*, this deponent was at *Young's* Tavern, on the Manor of *Philipse*, where he was taking care of some carpenter's tools by order of his Captain; that this deponent went the said day from thence, in company with one *Besset*, of Captain *Ford's* company, to his Captain's quarters for further orders respecting the said tools; that in his way thither he passed by an encampment, which the said *Bossel* told this deponent was Captain *Ford's* company, and at which the said *Bossel* stopped; and this deponent further saith, that on his return from his Captain's, he stopped at the said encampment to inquire for the said *Bassel*, who had promised to return with this deponent if he would call for him; that on inquiring for him, this deponent was informed that *Bassel* had gone on; that while this deponent was in the said encampment he saw several men whom he knew to be of Captain *Ford's* company, from which circumstances, and from what *Bassel* had, as aforesaid, told him, he has no doubt but that the said encampment was the encampment of Captain *Ford's* company; that while he was in the said encampment he saw a number of men dividing divers articles of clothing and household furniture, some of which were hanging on the bushes near their tents, and others spread on the ground; that while they were making the division he heard one of the men say, 'Captain *Ford* must have an equal share;' that another answered, 'Captain *Ford* has had a number of little notions already;' to which the first replied, 'Never mind that, he has used us well, and he ought to have an equal share, if he has got a few little things;' that among the said goods this deponent well remembers to have seen a piece of green silk, a light cloth-coloured silk woman's gown, two pair of white drilling men's breeches, and sundry sheets, pillow-cases, table-cloths, shifts, shirts, and a variety of other articles. And further this deponent saith not.

"EBENEZER BURRILL.

"Sworn the 2d day of *December*, 1776. Before me:
"PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *V. Pres't.*"

On reading the said Petition and Affidavits,

*Resolved*, That it is the duty of this Committee to take proper means for bringing the said Captain *Ford* to justice.

And the Committee being informed that he is now under arrest at *Peekskill* for the crime specified in the said Petition and Affidavits,

*Resolved*, That a copy of the said Petition and Affidavits, and these Resolutions, be transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*, with a Letter requesting that the said *Ford* be detained, to be tried for the said offences in a due course of law.

*Resolved*, That another Letter be written to Major-General *Heath*, requesting him to detain the said *Ford* in custody till an answer to the above application can be received from General *Washington*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Moore*, and Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, be a Committee to prepare drafts of said Letters.

Mr. *Duane*, from the above-mentioned Committee, produced the draft of a Letter to General *Heath*, which, being read and approved, is in the words following:

"SIR: A petition, supported by a number of affidavits, was this day presented to the Committee of Safety, complaining of depredations committed by Captain *Ford* and his company, belonging to Colonel *Brewer's* regiment, of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, and requesting the interposition of the civil authority. You, sir, have, we presume, but too much evidence before you of the rapacity of our troops, who seem to have conspired with a cruel enemy in increasing the misfortunes of those who have unhappily fallen victims to the calamities of war.

"From your known humanity and benevolence, you cannot but resent ravages which disgrace the arms taken up in the most virtuous of all causes with abhorrence.

"Called upon by numberless complaints of the suffering inhabitants of this State, it has become our duty to see that at least some of the principal offenders be brought to justice, that a stop may be put to such pernicious excesses for the future; and the Committee of Safety have accordingly passed suitable resolutions, which will be transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*, with a request that Captain *Ford* be delivered up, in order to answer for his misconduct in a court of justice.

"In the mean time I am directed to request you to detain Captain *Ford* in custody, and to give orders for securing such of the plundered effects as may still be found.

"I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem, sir, your most obedient servant. By order.

"To the Honourable Major-General *Heath.*"

*Ordered*, That a copy of the said Letter be engrossed, and signed by the President, and transmitted.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *L'Hommedieu* be requested to draft a Letter to Colonel *Henry B. Livingston*, desiring him to transmit an account of the Families, Stock, and Effects, by him removed from *Long-Island*, and the manner in which they are disposed of.

Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, according to order, reported a draft of the said Letter; which was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

"SIR: The Committee of Safety have received accounts from different towns in *Connecticut*, with their demands for transporting stock and effects from *Long-Island*. Some are sent in by private persons as employed by you for that purpose. I am directed to desire you to send me as particular an account as you can of the stock and other effects you have brought off *Long-Island*, with the number of cattle, sheep, and other stock, the names of the persons to whom they belonged, and in what manner the same was disposed of, and to whom, with such vouchers for the same as you have taken. You will likewise inform us of the number of families brought off by your order, with the names of the heads of each family, as far as it is in your power; with any other particulars you may think necessary respecting the transportation and disposing of the same.

"I am, respectfully, sir, &c.

"To Colonel *H. B. Livingston.*"

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the Vice President, and transmitted.

A Letter from Brigadier-General *James Clinton*, recommending Captain *I. Rosekrans* to be continued in service, and provided for in the new arrangement of the Continental Battalions raising in this State, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee of Arrangement.

A Letter from *Benjamin Birdsall*, Esq., dated the 12th instant, respecting his former services and an appointment in the Army, was received and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Deputies of *Suffolk* County and to Mr. *Abraham Yates*, to report thereon.

A Letter from *John Gibson*, Esq., Auditor-General, dated at *Philadelphia* the 21st *November* last, requesting that the publick Accounts of this State may be sent to Commissioners, was read, and is as follows:

"Treasury Office, Philadelphia, November 21, 1776.

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: The Commissioners for adjusting the accounts of the Army of *New-York* and the *Jerseys*, under the command of General *Washington*, are now engaged in executing that business, and are in immediate want of all the accounts of advances made by the several States for paying or subsisting the said Army. I

am therefore to request you to order an account of such advances by your State to be forthwith transmitted to the Commissioners, that the proper stoppages may be made, and the State reimbursed accordingly.

"When the accounts are prepared, you will please to order them to *William Denning*, *Thomas Smith*, and *James Stephenson*, Esquires, or either of them, at Head-Quarters, at *New-York* or the *Jerseys*.

"I have the honour to be, in the name of the Superintendents of the Treasury, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

"JOHN GIBSON, *Auditor-General*.

"To the Honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

A Letter from the same Auditor-General, some time since received, dated the 31st of *October*, and directing the publick Accounts in the Northern Department to be laid before the Commissioners at *Albany*, was read, and follows, to wit:

"Treasury Office, Philadelphia, 31 October, 1776.

"HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: As Commissioners have been appointed to liquidate and adjust the publick accounts in the Northern Department, and are now assembled at *Albany* for that purpose, it is necessary that they should be furnished by each State with an account of the several advances and payments to the officers and others who have been entrusted with publick money, to enable them to settle the accounts. We have therefore to request you would be pleased as soon as possible to order an account of such advances as your State may have made the settlement of which may properly fall within the Northern Department, to be drawn out, and forward them to the Commissioners by express, in order that, the proper stoppages being made, your State may be reimbursed by Congress. The names of the Commissioners are *James Hillegan*, *John Carter*, and *John Wells*, Esquires.

"I have the honour to be, in the name of the Superintendents of the Treasury, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

"JOHN GIBSON, *Auditor-General*.

"To the Honourable the Convention of *New-York*."

*Ordered*, That General *Scott* and Mr. *Duane* be a Committee to take into consideration the two last preceding Letters, and report thereon.

The Committee to whom was referred the Letter of Mr. *John R. Livingston* respecting goods purchased by him in *Boston* for this State, and also the arms brought from *Long-Island*, report, that those goods are much wanted for the use of the soldiers to be raised in this State, and that it is necessary they be brought here from *Boston* with all convenient speed, for which purpose your Committee recommend that *James Weeks* be appointed to go to *Boston* and receive Mr. *Livingston's* order on Mr. for these goods; and that the sum of one hundred pounds be delivered to him by the Treasurer of this State, that he may be enabled to bring or hire teams for the transportation of those goods in the cheapest and best manner.

As to the arms brought from *Long-Island* to *Connecticut* by Colonel *Livingston*, your Committee are informed that Mr. *L'Hommedieu* will soon go into *Connecticut*, and take such measures respecting the same as the Committee of Safety direct.

Whereupon it was *Resolved and Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Jacob Cuyler*, *Ezra L'Hommedieu*, and *John Moore*, Esquires, the sum of £100, on account, for the purpose of transporting the goods lately purchased by *John R. Livingston*, Esq., at *Boston*, on account of this State, to this place, and for the purpose of transporting the Arms belonging to the inhabitants of *Nassau Island*, and brought into *Connecticut* by Colonel *Livingston* to this place.

General *Scott* represented to the Committee of Safety that his brigade was disbanded except about one hundred and fifty men, who it is probable will continue in service fourteen days, under the command of Colonel *Malcom*; that the sum of £1,500, put into his hands as a gratuity for the non-commissioned officers and privates of the said brigade, has not been distributed:

*Resolved*, That the sum of six hundred Dollars of that money be, by General *Scott*, transmitted in such manner that it may be delivered to Colonel *Malcom*. And Colonel *Malcom* is hereby directed and authorized to pay to each non-commissioned officer and private who shall continue fourteen days in service under his command, four Dollars, as a gratuity for their past services, and as a testimony of the esteem this Committee entertains of their zeal and spirit in the service of their invaded and distressed country.

And in case any greater number than one hundred and fifty non-commissioned officers and privates shall so continue in service with Colonel *Malcom*,

*Resolved*, That he be, and is hereby requested to advance a gratuity of four Dollars to each of them, for which he shall be reimbursed by the Representatives from the Treasury of this State.

On considering the Letter from the Chairman of the Committee of *Orange* County, relative to *Cornelius Thorp*, confined in *Orange* County Jail for having altered and passed Continental Bills of Credit for true bills,

*Resolved*, That all persons who are or shall be charged with altering or counterfeiting the Bills of Credit of the *United States*, or of this or any other of the *United States*, or of passing the same knowing them to be counterfeit or altered, or with any other criminal offence, be confined in jail or secured, according to the nature of the offence, in order to take their trials in a due course of law. And that the Committee of the several Counties of this State be authorized to take effectual means for that purpose, and to appoint Jailers in the several Counties which they represent in Committee, and where they shall find it necessary, upon whose fidelity they can rely. And further, that such criminals and offenders be apprehended and maintained at the charge of the County where the fact shall have been committed, as heretofore accustomed.

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Die Mercurii, 10 ho. A. M., December 4, 1776.

Present: Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
NEW-YORK—Mr. *Harpur*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, General *Scott*, Mr. *Duane*.
ALBANY—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Adgate*.
TRYON—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*.
SUFFOLK—Mr. *W. Smith*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*.
ORANGE—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*.
CHARLOTTE—Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Duer*.
WESTCHESTER—Colonel *Van Cortlandt*.

*Resolved*, That the sum of £100, which the Treasurer of this State did, on the 14th day of *August* last, advance to Captain *James Stewart* to enable him to disburse bounty money for inlisting his Company, and which £100, by the resolution of the Convention of the 26th day of *July* last, the said *James Stewart* was then entitled to receive of the Chairman of the Committee of *Albany*, be by the said Treasurer placed to the debit of the State on the said 14th of *August*, or at any time since; the Committee of the Representatives of this State who examined and reported on Captain *Stewart's* Muster and Pay-Rolls, having credited on his accounts for pay and subsistence of his Company the said sum of £100, and thereby fully paid and indemified this State for the same.

A Pay-Roll of Captain *Nathaniel Scribner's* Company, raised and imbodied in *Dutchess* County, agreeable to a Resolution of the Committee of Safety of this State, of the 9th of *October* last. The said Pay-Roll stating the pay of the individuals of the said Company from the respective times of their inlistment to the first day of *December* inclusive, was exhibited for payment.

A Billeting-Roll of the individuals of the said Company, agreeable to the said Resolution of the ninth day of *October* last, was also exhibited for payment.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Cantine*, and Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Newkirk*, and Major *Webster*, be a Committee to examine the said two Rolls, and that they, or a major part of them, report thereon.

A Muster-Roll of a Company of the Second Battalion of Continental Troops, raised in this State in Anno 1775, and whereof *George White* was Captain, was exhibited to the Committee of Safety to entitle Captain *White* and his officers to the reward allowed by the Provincial Congress in that year to the officers for the men by them inlisted in the service:

*Ordered*, That the said Muster-Roll be referred to the Committee last above-mentioned, to report thereon.

The Committee to whom was referred the Letter from *Francis Lewis*, Esq., of the 27th of *November* last; and also, the Letter from Captain *Samuel Tuder*, of the 2d instant, reported certain Resolutions; which, being read by paragraphs, were amended and adopted, viz:

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Victor Bicker*, Jun., be nominated Lieutenant of Marines for the Ship *Congress*, and directed to inlist thirty Marines for the Ship *Congress* for the same term as the other Continental troops, whose duty it shall be during this winter to guard the Ships *Congress* and *Montgomery*, and such other vessels and stores belonging to the Continent as may be laid up with them. That they be allowed the Continental bounty, pay, and rations.

That Captain *Patrick Dennis* be furnished with a copy of the Letter from *Francis Lewis*, Esq., to the honourable the Convention, and be requested to deliver over the Continental Stores and Rigging in the custody to the said Lieutenant *Bicker*, who is directed to sign duplicates of the Inventory, and receipt therefor, and transmit them to the Convention of this State, in order that one of them may be sent to the Marine Committee of Congress at *Philadelphia*, and the other to remain with the Convention.

That the two Continental Frigates at *Poughkeepsie* be secured in the manner directed by the Resolution of the Committee of Safety of the 28th day of *November;* and that the other Continental and publick Vessels be laid up in the same place, if they can be accommodated; if not, that the Agents for the said Ships make an immediate report thereof to the Convention of this State, and suggest some place where they can find a secure harbour for them.

That all convenient expedition should be used by the managers, Messrs. *Tuder* and *Lawrence*, together with the Captains of the Frigates, to get the same rigged and their cannon mounted by the spring, as, in the opinion of the Committee, they may be of use in the defence of *Hudson's* River, which will most probably be exposed to the attempts of the enemy.

*Resolved*, That Carriages for the Guns be immediately begun by the Carpenters, if they can be supplied with seasoned stuff; and if not, that stuff be prepared for seasoning, on which work they may be employed till the Convention receive an answer to a letter written to the honourable the Congress, on the subject of fortifying *Hudson's* River, and building Floating Batteries, &c., thereon.

*Resolved*, That the managers take such measures as they conceive proper for the Plank and Stores that are left at *Poughkeepsie*, and direct one of the inhabitants of the said place to take charge thereof.

*Ordered*, That the managers of the said Ships be furnished with copies of the above Resolutions; that a copy thereof be transmitted to *Francis Lewis*, Esq., and that another copy be sent to Lieutenant *Victor Bicker*.

A Letter from Mr. *Henry Quackenboss*, enclosing an Invoice of Goods purchased by him for this State, pursuant to a Resolution of the Committee of Safety of the 9th of *October* last, and requesting that the amount of the said Invoice, together with his commissions thereon, should be paid to Mr. *Cuyler*, was read. Thereupon,

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Jacob Cuyler*, Esq., for account of *Henry Quackenboss*, of *Albany*, on receipt for the sum of £532 12*s.*, in full for the Goods purchased by him for this Convention, together with his commissions thereon, at five per cent., agreeable to his Invoice and Account thereof bearing date 19th of *November* last.

General *George Clinton* forwarded to the Committee of Safety a memorandum of Articles, viz:

"Wanted, by the detachment employed in obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* River, near *Pollopin's Island*, viz: Six thousand bricks, for forges for blacksmith shops, and a few ovens to bake bread for the soldiers, as it is a great waste of time to bake in the ordinary camp way, especially when the business is such that all hands ought to be out on fatigue; as many boards as can possibly be spared, to cover blacksmiths' and other artificers' shops, and make temporary barracks for the men, as the weather is too cold for those who have to work in the water all day to sleep in tents at night.

"The logs at *Poughkeepsie* ought to be brought down; and we shall want (after all the supply of boats we shall be able to get at *Peekskill*) a number of scows for collecting of stone, &c. Indeed, some person in the Quartermaster's Department ought to be on the spot, as teams and many other articles will be daily wanted which ought properly to be supplied by him; and it is not doubted but was General *Heath* applied to on that head by Convention, he would order one of the Quartermaster's deputies this way. This would save Convention a great deal of trouble and bring things in their proper channel."

Whereas the Committee of Safety being informed that Major-General *Heath*, in pursuance of the authority vested in him by his Excellency General *Washington*, hath directed that further obstructions of the navigation of *Hudson's* River, near *Pollipo's Island*, and this Committee having the success of this salutary measure much at heart, and being disposed to contribute all in their power to its despatch, and by a resolution agreed to advance such sums as might be required for the purpose, on the credit of the *United States;* and a Sub-Committee is appointed to furnish such necessaries as General *Clinton*, who superintends the said obstruction, may require: And whereas, upon further consideration, it appears that, as the said obstruction is to be made at the Continental expense, it will be more proper that one of the Continental Assistant Quartermaster-Generals should be employed to collect and purchase the materials for the said obstruction than a Sub-Committee or Agent appointed by this Committee; and Major *Taylor*, one of the Acting Deputy Quartermaster-Generals in the Continental Army, being recommended to this Committee as an active and well-qualified officer, capable of executing that business with advantage and despatch; and Mr. *Duer* having been applied to, and declaring that he can have no objection against Major *Taylor's* being employed in this service, provided it should be agreeable to General *Heath:*

*Resolved, therefore*, That a Letter be written to General *Heath*, requesting that Major *Taylor* may be employed in the said department.

It was represented to the Committee of Safety that Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, some months ago, left a sum of Money in the hands of *Gerard Bancker*, Esq., which Money Mr. *L'Hommedieu* had received as a Loan Officer of *Suffolk* County; that by an order of on the day of last, Mr. *Bancker* paid that Money to *Egbert Benson*, Esq., Chairman of *Dutchess* County, for the publick use therein mentioned; that Mr. *L'Hommedieu* has given security as a Loan Officer of *Suffolk* County, and is apprehensive that his securities may be prosecuted for the same money; wherefore he conceives it equitable that he should be indemnified by this Convention, that the sum mentioned in the said order was not the sum by him lodged in the hands of *Evert Bancker*, Esq., and that the same facts are not well stated in the said Resolution:

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Roosevelt* and Mr. *Duane* be a Committee to consider the said Order, and to report to this Committee such proper resolution or entry as may be expedient or necessary on that subject.

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CONVENTION.

Fishkill, 5th December, 1776.

The Covention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.

New-York—Mr. *Rutgers*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *R. Harper*, General *Scott*, Mr. *Duane*.

Charlotte—Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*.

Albany—Mr. *A. Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cuyler*.

Westchester—Mr. *Van Cortlandt*.

Dutchess—Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Sackett*.

Tryon—Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Wm. Harper*.

Suffolk—Mr. *Wm. Smith*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*.

Orange—Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Little*.

Ulster—Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Rea*.

A draft of a Letter to Major-General *Heath*, was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Sir: The Committee of Safety having much at heart the plan of obstructing *Hudson's* River, near *Pollepel's Island*, cannot but be attentive to every thing which may contribute to its success.

"In their opinion the appointment of an active assistant Quartermaster immediately for this service will be highly necessary.

"Major *Taylor* being recommended as every way qualified for the department, the Committee have expressed their wishes to Mr. *Duer* that he may be employed, who has assured them that if he is agreeable to you, he can have no objection.

"I am directed, therefore, to request your approbation, and that you will be pleased, if it shall not interfere with the service, to give orders accordingly.

"I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant.

"The Honourable Major General *Heath*."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be engrossed, and signed by the President, and transmitted.

A draft of a Letter to *Francis Lewis*, Esq., a Member of the Marine Committee, was read and approved of, in the words following, to wit:

"SIR: Your favour of the 27th of *November* has been laid before the Committee of Safety, who, in consequence thereof, have agreed to the resolutions a copy of which I am directed to transmit. You will be pleased to assure the Marine Committee that we shall be attentive to every thing which is required of us; and when the Continental vessels of war and the stores in this river are in a place of safety, shall not fail to give them information and transmit the inventory they require.

"Lieutenant *Victor Bicker* being recommended for his courage, activity, and integrity, they have nominated him to be Lieutenant of Marines to the *Congress*, and hope it will meet with approbation.

"Captain *Hetfield*, who commands a Continental brig purchased by General *Mifflin*, and now in this river, has still a few seamen who have the care of the brig. We are informed a Continental sloop is in the same situation. Be pleased to inquire from the Marine Committee whether the Captains and men are to be discharged, or how they wish them to be disposed of.

"I am, sir, your very humble servant.

"To *Francis Lewis*, Esq."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be transmitted and signed by the President.

*Resolved*, That a majority of the votes of the several Counties of this State, to wit: a representation of so many Counties as shall in the whole amount to twenty-six or more votes, or a representation of seven different Counties, shall hence form a Convention to represent this State.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of Safety be and is hereby formed for this State; that the said Committee of Safety consist of at least ten Members, seven of whom shall be from seven different Counties, beside the President or Vice President, unless in case of the sickness or other necessary absence of both, in which case the Committee of Safety are empowered to choose a Chairman; that this Committee exist until the next meeting of Convention; that every member who shall or may attend shall have a voice.

The Committee appointed to prepare the frame of Government, and sundry other Members of the Convention, having withdrawn, the remainder present proceeded to business as a COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, viz:

*Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esquire, Vice President.
Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscomb*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Rea*, Mr. *Cantine*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*—CHARLOTTE.
Colonel *Allison*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Platt*, Mr. *Sackett*—DUTCHESS.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, General *Morris*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *W. Harper*—TRYON.

A draft of a Letter to *John Gibson*, Esq., Auditor-General, was read by Mr. *Duane*, and approved, in the words following, viz:

"SIR: Your several favours of the 31st *October* and 21st *November*, respecting a settlement of the accounts of disbursements of this State for the military operations, have been laid before the Committee of Safety and duly considered. I am directed to assure you that they have the accomplishment of this necessary business much at heart, and that the publick accounts up to the 9th of *November* have been for some time, though from many difficulties not so soon as they wished, stated and prepared for examination.

"The mode which the Board of Treasury has been pleased to prescribe will, I fear, be attended with embarrassment. Your first instructions refer the audit of charges for the Northern Army to the Commissioners at *Albany*, and the last direct that such as relate to the Southern Army shall be adjusted by the Commissioners at Head-Quarters, either in *New-York* or *New-Jersey*. However desirous of giving the highest satisfaction to the honourable Congress, I must take the liberty to suggest the objections which lie in the way of this method:

"First. When the preparations began and the battalions were ordered to be raised, no idea was entertained that the expenditures for the service at the City of *New-York* and those for the Northern Army were to be separated and stated in distinct accounts. Whether such a discrimination is now practicable I cannot take upon me to determine, but if it is absolutely necessary, it must, however difficult, be at least attempted, although it would save a great deal of trouble and time if it could be dispensed with.

"Secondly. The vouchers to our publick accounts comprehend a multitude of charges, which not only relate to this State particularly but to both the military departments, and as they must necessarily be produced to the Commissioners, the accounts of one department cannot be proceeded upon until those of the other are adjusted; and if the first set of Commissioners should insist on declaring the vouchers complicated with the expenditures of both, no final adjustment can take place in the manner prescribed.

"Thirdly. Our Auditor-General and State Commissary, who have arranged the accounts and must occasionally be present at the settlement, cannot attend both sets of Commissioners at the same time.

"Fourthly. In the uncertain and fluctuating circumstances of our military operations, it may not be prudent to expose vouchers of great importance to this State as well as to the Continent to the danger of falling into the hands of the enemy, or of being lost by frequent removals.

"Upon all these considerations I am directed to express the wishes of the Committee of Safety that the whole accounts of this State with the Continent may be audited before the Commissioners at *Albany*, and their opinion that it will upon the whole be most advisable. You will be pleased, however, to assure the Board of Treasury that they will pursue with cheerfulness any practicable method which may be more satisfactory for the final adjustment of their publick accounts, if the reasons before assigned for referring them to the Commissioners at *Albany* shall not be thought conclusive.

"I am, sir, your most obedient servant.

"Fishkill, 6th December, 1776.

"*John Gibson*, Esq., Auditor-General of the *United States*, *Philadelphia*."

*Nicholas Brewer*, Jun., Esq., and *Jeremiah Clark*, two of the persons appointed to procure Boats and Scows for the publick service, represented that they find difficulty in procuring Men and Boats, from the exorbitant prices demanded, and praying that the Convention would establish regulations or grant them instructions relative thereto.

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *Jeremiah Clark*, *Nicholas Brewer*, Jun., *John Elmendorf*, and *John Teller*, who are appointed to hire or impress Boats and Crafts for the purpose of carrying on the obstructions in *Hudson's* River, near *Pollepel's Island*, be respectively, and hereby are, directed to agree for and allow twenty-four shillings per day for each good Sloop, of the burthen of forty tons or thereabouts, supplied with one active man on board of her and with a good Scow. That they agree for and allow in proportion, according to their best judgment, for Sloops of inferiour burthen, or those without a hand, or without a Scow, and that they agree and allow for Pettiaugers and other small vessels such prices as they may think a reasonable allowance.

And *Resolved*, That they be, and hereby are, authorized and respectively directed to impress the Vessels, Boats and Scows of any person or persons who may refuse to accept of such hire for the same, as above mentioned, having their

value ascertained by appraisement, as heretofore directed by this Committee.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *William Harper*, Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Cuyler*, and Mr. *Dunscomb*, be a Committee to devise ways and means for procuring Salt for the relief of the back inhabitants of this State, who are greatly distressed for want of that article.

The Committee to whom was recommitted the Resolutions of yesterday, for procuring Cannon for the Ships in *Hudson's* River, report, that it is their opinion it would be imprudent to delay the casting of Cannon for the Ships, and therefore, that the resolution to have Cannon cast at *Salisbury* be reassumed.

The Committee appointed yesterday to examine the Pay-Roll of Captain *Scribner's* Company, raised in *Dutchess* County, delivered in the same, wherein is charged their pay from the times of their respective inlistment, to the 1st day of *December*, both days included. Thereon is endorsed an affidavit, sworn before *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President, and subscribed by the said *Nathaniel Scribner*, that the same is a just and true Muster and Pay-Roll of his Company for the time herein specified, containing the names of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the said company, and the times of their respective inlistment and service.

On the said Pay-Roll is also endorsed a Certificate by the said Committee, in the words following, viz:

"We the subscribers, a Committee appointed by the Committee of Safety to audit this Pay-Roll, do certify, that we have examined the same, and allow the sum of £127 7*s.* 4*d.*, due to Captain *Scribner*.

"MAT. ADGATE,
"BEN. NEWKIRK,
"ALEX'R WEBSTER."

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Nathaniel Scribner* £127 7*s.* 4*d.*, in full for the pay of his Company to the 1st day of *December* included.

A Billeting-Roll of Captain *Nathaniel Scribner's* said Company, from the time of their respective inlistments to the 1st day of *December* included, was also delivered in by the said Committee, with a similar Affidavit endorsed thereon. Thereon is also endorsed a Certificate by the said Committee, in the words following, that is:

"We the subscribers, a Committee appointed by the Committee of Safety to audit this Billet-Roll, do certify, that we have examined the same, and allow the sum of £87 6*s.* 5*d.*, due to Captain *Nathaniel Scribner*.

"BENJ'N NEWKIRK,
"MAT. ADGATE,
"December 4th, 1776." "ALEX'R WEBSTER.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Nathaniel Scribner*, on his receipt, the sum of £87 6*s.* 5*d.*, in full for the billeting expenses of his Company to the 1st day of *December* inclusive.

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CONVENTION.

Die Veneris, 10 ho. A. M., December 6, 1776.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
General *Scott*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Robert Harper*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Jay*—NEW-YORK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Major *Lockwood*—WESTCHESTER.
Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Cuyler*, Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*, Mr. *Wisner*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Ray*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.

The Memorial of Colonel *Hathorne*, stating that a number of disorderly persons had forcibly carried away his Salt from the store of *William Allison*, and praying relief, was read.

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, and Mr. *Ray*.

A Letter from *John Elmendorf* to the Vice President, dated the 3d *December* instant, stating that he cannot accept the trust of procuring Boats, &c., on account of the riots.

Part of a Letter from *John Elmendorf* to *Mat. Cantine*, Esq., dated the 4th instant, relative to riots about Tea, was read. Referred to the Committee above-named.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Safety of yesterday be revived in the same words; and

*Ordered*, That the Committee on Government retire to consider that business.

And they withdrew accordingly, and the remaining Members proceeded as a COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, viz:

In Committee of Safety, &c.

Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Rutgers*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Contine*, Mr. *Ray*—ULSTER.
Major *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Moore*—TRYON.
Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.

*William Duer*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York*, for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all conspiracies which may be formed in the said State against the liberties of *America*, brought in the Report of the said Committee in the case of *Abraham C. Cuyler*, Esq., late Mayor of the City of *Albany*, which was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Captain *Platt*, from the Committee to whom the case of Mr. *Abraham C. Cuyler*, late Mayor of the City of *Albany*, was referred, applied to this Committee to know whether they should examine into the original cause of his commitment, or only inquire whether he had broken his parole; and if it should appear that he had, order him to be sent to *Connecticut*, or such other place of confinement as the Committee may think proper.

"*Resolved*, That if it shall appear that Mr. *Cuyler* has broke his parole in leaving *Connecticut*, that he be ordered by the Committee to such place of confinement as they may think proper; and that if he has reason to complain of hard treatment in his original commitment, this Committee will at their leisure inquire into it, and do him ample justice; but they will not authorize any persons, under pretence of obtaining a rehearing, to break their paroles, or contemn the power by which they were committed."

*Resolved, unanimously*, That the Representatives of this State, in Committee of Safety assembled, do agree with the said Committee for detecting and defeating Conspiracies, in their said Report.

A Letter from *Henry Schenck*, Esq., dated this day, relating to a quantity of Tar and a number of Tents belonging to the Continent, which are wasting and rotting on a wharf at *Fishkill Landing*, was read, and recommending *Petrus Bogardus* to take charge of the said articles.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Petrus Bogardus* be requested and directed to take charge of the said Tar and Tents, and have the said Tar coopered and preserved from wasting, and the Tents dried and preserved in the best manner, until further order, or the person whose duty it is to take charge of them, and that a suitable allowance shall be made to him for his trouble; and the said *Petrus Bogardus* is hereby directed to obtain the best information in his power, and report to this Committee who brought and left the said stores at that wharf.

A draft of a Letter to General *Heath* was read and approved of, in the words following, viz:

"SIR: I am directed by the Committee of Safety to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 3d instant, and assure you that your offers of assistance, accompanied with General *Washington's* approbation of your generous aid in carrying on the obstructing of *Hudson's* River, and your attention to the passes of the Highlands, afford them the highest satisfaction.

"The sick of Colonel *Bradley's* regiment we had caused to be taken care of by a physician of this place until Doctor *McKnight* arrived; and be assured, sir, the non-attendance of a Doctor or Surgeon was not ascribed to any inattention of yours. Such parts of the unfinished Academy as are in any wise tenantable at this season of the year, were lately assigned for a distressed party of sick from General *McDou-*

*gall's* brigade; but we are informed by *William Duer*, Esq., under whose direction the barracks between *Peekskill* and this place are, that those in the north entrance of the Highlands, and also that near *Hoit's*, intended to contain upwards of one thousand men, are nearly completed. Those who are sick of your division may now be made comfortable; and if the building of any other Hospital shall be necessary, you may be assured the Convention will be ready to afford every necessary aid in their power for that purpose.

"I am, with great respect."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the President, and transmitted.

The Committee to whom was referred the application of Doctor *Hunlock Woodruff*, for a place of cover for two hundred and thirty troops belonging to General *McDougall's* brigade, under the command of Captain *Wildie*, now lying at *Peekskill*, and also a letter received from General *Heath*, of the 3d instant, reported the following Resolve:

*Resolved*, That the sick Soldiers of General *McDougall's* Brigade, now lying at *Peekskill*, be permitted to occupy such parts of the Academy at *Fishkill* as are tenantable for an Hospital, until they can be otherwise provided for.

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Saturday morning, December 7th, 1776.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President.
Mr. *Roosevelt*, General *Scott*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Rea*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Major *Lockwood*—WESTCHESTER.
Major *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*—CHARLOTTE.

A Letter from *William Heath*, Major-General, dated 6th *December*, 1776, respecting a Hospital, was read.

A Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated 2d *December*, 1776, relative to the obstructing of *Hudson's* River, was read.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *L'Hommedieu* and Mr. *Wisner* wait on Mr. *Clinton*, with General *Schuyler's* Letter, and General *Arnold's* Letter and Plan of Obstruction.

The Committee to whom was referred the Muster-Roll of a Company raised and inlisted in this State by Captain *George White*, as a part of the Second Battalion of Continental Troops, raised in the year 1775, brought in the said Muster-Roll. Thereon is endorsed a certificate of *Gunning Bedford*, Deputy Mustermaster-General, of his having mustered said Company. The said Committee reported thereon, that agreeably to a Resolution of the Provincial Congress, passed on the 1st day of *August*, 1775, they allow, as due to the said Captain *George White* and his subaltern officers, the sum of sixty-eight Dollars, for having inlisted a Company of sixty-eight non-commissioned officers and privates.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to the said *George White*, on his receipt, for the use of himself and the late subalterns of that Company, the sum of sixty-eight Dollars, in full for inlisting money for the said Company, pursuant to the Resolution of the Provincial Congress of the State of *New-York* on the 1st day of *August*, 1775.

A Muster-Roll of Captain *Micah Townsend's* Company, for the month of *October*, and a Pay and Billeting-Roll of the said Company, was brought in.

*Ordered*, That the said Rolls be committed to Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Cantine*, Major *Webster*, and Mr. *Newkirk*, to examine and report thereon.

Mr. *Adgate* moved, and was seconded, that that part of the Resolution of the Committee of Safety on the 12th of *November*, relative to the superintendence of the Poor, which directs a letter to be written to Governour *Trumbull* to send all the poor of this State which are now at the charge of *Connecticut*, into *Dutchess* County, in this State, be repealed and obliterated.

Debates arose thereon, and the question being put, it was carried in the negative.

Mr. *Adgate* then moved for the following amendment to the said Resolution, to wit:

That instead of the Committee writing a letter to Governour *Trumbull* for the removal of the poor, that the President be directed to write such letter; which was unanimously agreed to.

The Members of *Tryon* County informed the Committee that a Sergeant and twelve men of the *Tryon* County Rangers, who have been sent and arrived here, with sundry prisoners sent to this place by the *Tryon* County Committee, are destitute of either money or provisions to support them in their return home; that they have a considerable sum due to them for rations; and therefore requested that a small sum of money may be advanced in part of their billeting and subsistence money, to support them on their return home.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to *James Grinnell*, or order, on his receipt, for himself and the twelve Rangers with him, three Dollars each, viz: thirty-nine Dollars, in part of their billeting and subsistence money, to support them on their return to *Tryon* County.

*Ordered*, That the clause in the Letter to Mr. *Hancock* relating to Flaxseed, be obliterated.

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Saturday, 4 ho. P. M., December 7, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President.
Mr. *Dunscomb*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Rea*—ULSTER.
Colonel *Allison*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.
Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Harper*—TRYON.
Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Major *Lockwood*—WESTCHESTER.
Major *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.

A Pay-Roll of the late Company of Captain *Micah Townsend*, from the 2d of *October* to the 31st of *October*, both days included, and a Billeting-Roll or Account of the subsistence money due to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the said company, from and to the days aforesaid, both days included, were brought into the Committee. Thereon is endorsed an affidavit of the said *Micah Townsend*, sworn before the Vice President, that the said Rolls were a true Muster-Roll of his company for the month of *October*, containing the names of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the said company, and the times of their respective service since payment of their wages.

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to Messrs. *Adgate*, *Webster*, and *Newkirk*.

The Committee to whom was referred the said Pay and Subsistence Rolls, reported, that they had examined the same, and allow to Captain *Townsend*, on the said Pay-Roll, £119 12*s.* 10½*d.*; and also that they allow to the said Captain *Townsend*, on the Subsistence-Roll, the sum of £85 9*s.* 3½*d.*

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State pay to Captain *Micah Townsend*, on his receipt in full for the pay remaining due to himself and the other officers and men of the said company, £119 12*s.* 10½*d.*, and that the said Treasurer pay to the said *Micah Townsend*, on his receipt, the further sum of £85 9*s.* 3½*d.*, in full for all subsistence or allowance for billeting due the said company.

On motion of *R. R. Livingston*,

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three gentlemen be requested to go immediately to General *George Clinton*, at *New-Windsor*, and vested with full power, in conjunction with General *Clinton*, to call out the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties, and to station them at such places as they think will contribute most to the safety of this State and the general interest of *America*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Robert R. Livingston*, General *Scott*, and Mr. *Duer*, be the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to Major-General *Schuyler*, informing him of the intelligence we have received, and the steps we have taken, and requesting him to imbody and, if possible, clothe all the recruits arrived in the County of *Albany*, and send them down to this place, and put them under the direction of this Convention; suggesting the propriety of sending down as many of the troops as he can possibly spare from the northward, and of calling, at the same time, upon the Rangers of *Tryon* County to garrison the Fort.

Sunday morning, Fishkill, December 8, 1776.
SPECIAL MEETING.

A draft of a Letter to Governour *Trumbull* was read and approved of, in the words following, to wit:

"SIR: The confusion into which every thing has been thrown at *Philadelphia* by the enemy's rapid progress has, we suppose, prevented the Congress from applying to us or you for aid, much as at present they want it, of which you will judge when we inform you that General *Howe* is at *Brunswick* with ten thousand men; that General *Washington* is at *Trenton*, with an Army of about six thousand strong. We think it therefore our duty to mention these facts to you, and to entreat you, by that regard which you have hitherto testified for the glorious cause in which we are engaged, on this occasion speedily to exert your whole force.

"Should six thousand men cross into the *Jerseys*, where General *Lee* now is with two brigades, and unite themselves to him or General *Gates*, who is likewise on his march with some troops, the panick which universally prevails in *New-Jersey* would be removed, a considerable body of the Militia would probably flock in to your assistance, and the enemy, shut in between two armies, and having their supplies cut off, might dearly pay for their temerity.

"The fleet that has sailed up the *Sound* is evidently designed as a feint to draw your attention from the object that ought principally to engage it, and to keep any part of the force of the *New-England* States from acting where it is most manifestly wanted.

"Though this embarkation ought not to be neglected, yet as, from the number of the troops in *New-Jersey*, those that have gone up the Sound cannot be formidable, we cannot but hope that so fair an opportunity of distressing the enemy will not be foregone, especially as there is no telling what consequences may attend the enemy's uninterrupted progress through a country by no means free from disaffection.

"All that can be expected from us in our present weak and dismembered state, has and will be done. Nine hundred of our Militia, well armed and appointed, are already in the field, and occupy some passes at which General *Washington* has directed them to be stationed. The Militia of two Counties, under marching orders, are put under General *Heath's* command.

"You will be pleased to write immediately to the Eastern States on this important subject, and to let us know what number of troops you are like to collect, and whether we can give you any assistance in purchasing or forwarding provisions for them.

"Yours, &c."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Vice President, and transmitted by express.

A draft of a Letter to Major-General *Schuyler* was read and approved of, in the words following, to wit:

"[Secret.] Fishkill, 8th December, 1776.

"SIR: An officer is arrived here who gives the following intelligence: That he left General *Washington*, at the head of between five and six thousand men, at *Trenton* last *Friday*; that General *Howe* was then at *Brunswick*, with about ten thousand of the troops; that there had been a skirmish near *Brunswick*, where the *Hessian* General who commanded at the taking of *Fort Washington* was slain; that neither the *Jersey* nor the *Pennsylvania* Militia had joined General *Washington*, who proposed, if not soon reinforced, to cross *Trenton* river; that the Congress had moved to *Lancaster*. General *Lee* marched the day before yesterday, with about three thousand men, in pursuit of the enemy; and there is a flying report that he has had an engagement with them, near *Hackensack*, in which they suffered greatly. General *Gates* is to march with some troops from the northward, to join him or General *Washington*. As it is of the utmost importance to encourage the Militia of *New-Jersey*, who appear to be dispirited, it will be necessary to march a body of them immediately to their assistance. A Committee, authorized to call out the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster*, and to post them to the best advantage, is therefore gone over to *New-Windsor*, to confer with General *George Clinton*.

"The Convention have despatched an express to Governour *Trumbull*, with the above intelligence, strongly urging the propriety of imbodying six thousand men from the *New-England* States, in order to coöperate with General *Washington*, by falling on the rear of the enemy, who seem to act with astonishing temerity. A report prevails that seventy of the enemy's transports have proceeded up the *Sound*, whether as a feint to divide the American forces, or with intention to land at *Rhode-Island*, is uncertain.

"The Committee of Safety have, upon this intelligence, agreed to the resolution I have the honour to enclose. If this alarm had not happened, you would nevertheless have been requested to send down the recruits, to be quartered and disciplined at this place, where there are barracks for above two thousand men. They are there, too, under the eye of the Convention, and ready to defend the passes of the Highlands, on which the publick safety much depends. They hope the measures they have adopted will meet with your approbation. There can be no use in publishing this intelligence till we have it more authentick. It may discourage the weak and wavering at a time when all the vigour of the State is necessary.

"I am, with great respect, sir, your most ob't humble servant.

"By order of the Committee of Safety."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Vice President, and transmitted.

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Monday morning, December 9th, 1776.

Present: Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Rutgers*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Harper*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Abrahom Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *Ray*, Mr. *Cantine*—ULSTER.
Colonel *Allison*—ORANGE.
Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, Major *Lockwood*, *Mr. Morris*, General *Morris*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to Captain *John Houston*, of Colonel *Gansevoort's* Regiment, the sum of two hundred Pounds, on account of Bounty Money for his Company.

An Inventory of the Real and Personal Estates of sundry persons in the Town of *Salem* who have gone over to the enemy, dated *December* 6th, 1776, and signed by *Ezekiel Hawley*, Chairman of the Committee of said Town, was read and filed.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Duane* prepare a draft of a Letter to the said Committee.

Mr. *Duane* accordingly reported a draft of a Letter to the Chairman of the said Committee of *Salem*, which was approved of, in the words following, to wit:

"Fishkill, 9th December, 1776.

"SIR: Your favour of the 6th instant has this day been laid before the Committee of Safety, and I am directed to acquaint you that they highly approve of the conduct of the Committee of *Salem*, and of the prudent measures they have taken to ascertain and secure from waste and embezzlement the property of the disaffected who have joined the enemy. They request that you will continue your care of these effects, allowing a provision to the families who are left behind. The Committee have under consideration a report for the security and disposal of all estates under the like circumstances. It will not be long before you shall be furnished with these regulations.

"I am, &c.

"Mr. *Ezekiel Hawley*, Chairman of the Committee of *Salem*."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Vice President, and transmitted.

A Letter from the Committee of *Albany*, dated *November* 28, relative to the abuse in the weight of Flour, and of the Estates of persons who have gone over to the enemy, was read and filed.

*Ordered*, To be referred to Mr. *Morris*, Mr. *Yates*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, and Colonel *Allison*.

A Letter from Mrs. *Inglis*, (the wife of the Rev. Mr. *Inglis*,) directed to Mr. *Duane*, requesting permission to go

to her husband, who is in the City of *New-York*, with her family and effects, was read and filed, and committed to Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Morris*, and Mr. *Duane*.

At a meeting of the Committee appointed by the Representatives of the State of *New-York*, in Committee of Safety assembled, agreeable to a Resolution of the said Committee of *December* 8th, 1776,

Present: Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, Brigadier-General *Scott*, *R. R. Livingston*, Esq., *Wm. Duer*, Esq.

*December* 9th.—*Resolved*, That all the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties be forthwith ordered to march, properly armed and accoutred, and with four days' provision, to *Chester*, in *Orange* County, there to receive further orders from General *George Clinton* for effectually coöperating with Major-General *Lee* and Major-General *Gates*, in harassing and distressing the enemy, who have entered the State of *New-Jersey;* that the said Militia shall be allowed Continental pay and rations, and one penny per mile in lieu of rations till they come to the place of rendezvous.

*Resolved*, That Brigadier-General *George Clinton* be empowered to make use of the Arms and Accoutrements belonging to this State, and now at *New-Windsor*, for the purpose of equipping such of the said Militia as are not armed.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Malcolm* be requested and authorized to exert all the influence which he possibly can to induce the men under his command, and such others as he can procure, and engage in service till the last day of *December;* and that he be annexed to the brigade commanded by Brigadier-General *George Clinton*.

*Resolved*, That Brigadier-General *George Clinton* be empowered to give a gratuity of one dollar to each man of Colonel *Malcolm's* Regiment who will consent to remain in service till the last day of *December*.

And whereas, in the opinion of the honourable General Congress, and from the measures pursued by the enemy, the security of the *United States* principally depends upon preventing the passes of the Highlands, on *Hudson's* River, from falling into the hands of the enemy, yet it is the firm intention and the earnest desire of the Convention of this State to give every possible assistance to any of their sister States, or the *United States* in general, consistent with that grand object; and whereas the Committee of Safety have this day received information that Major-General *Lee* has taken post at *Morristown*, in *New-Jersey*, where he is assembling an army to act in concert with General *Washington* in opposing the enemy, who are marched towards *Philadelphia;* and whereas the security of the Highlands on the west side of *Hudson's* River, must greatly depend on the Militia of *Ulster* and *Orange* Counties, who for that reason ought not to be removed to so great a distance from the passes of the Highlands as to be unable to oppose any further designs of the enemy in that quarter:

*Resolved, therefore*, That General *George Clinton*, in coöperating with General *Lee* and General *Gates*, take especial care at all events to secure the said passes; and in case he shall not find it expedient to join the said Generals, he nevertheless march into the State of *New-Jersey* as far as he shall think serviceable, consistent with the preservation of the said passes; and that he exert himself to the utmost in collecting the Militia of *New-Jersey*, and raising their spirits, and in overawing and curbing the disaffected or revolted subjects of that State when called upon by the civil or military authorities thereof.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the above Resolutions be transmitted to General *Heath*, and that he be requested to give every necessary assistance to General *George Clinton* in carrying the same into execution.

*Resolved*, That the Regiments commanded by Colonel *Huntindon* and Colonel *Tyler* may with safety be put under the command of General *George Clinton*, as he will take care, from time to time, in case the motions of the enemy should require it, that the pass at *Ramapough* should be properly secured.

*Resolved*, That in case General *George Clinton* shall be permitted to draw off the above-mentioned Regiment from the pass at *Ramapough*, that he be empowered to supply their place with as many of the Militia under his command as he shall think necessary.

*Resolved*, That General *George Clinton* march, as a part of the Troops under his command, the Companies of Rangers raised in the County of *Ulster* under the command of Captain *De Witt* and Captain *Hasbrouck*.

*Resolved*, That General *George Clinton* should be supplied with two Field-pieces, forty-five thousand Cartridges, Tents for fifteen hundred men, and as many Small-Arms as shall be necessary for supplying the Militia who may stand in need of them, and that the same ought to be issued from the Continental Store.

*Resolved*, That a Deputy Commissary and one Assistant Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army should attend the Brigade of Militia under the command of General *George Clinton*.

*Resolved*, That the sum of six thousand Pounds be advanced to General *George Clinton* from the Treasury of this State, in order to defray any expense which may accrue in the execution of the above-mentioned Resolutions, and which is before unprovided for.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be sent express to Major-General *Gates*, enclosing copies of these Resolutions, and requesting him to forward copies of the same to Major-General *Lee*.

—

Tuesday morning, December 10th, 1776.

The Committee of Safety met.

Present: Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Rutgers*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Dunscomb*—New-York.
Mr. *Abraham Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*—Albany.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*—Suffolk.
Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Ray*—Ulster.
Mr. *Wisner*, Colonel *Allison*—Orange.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—Dutchess.
Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Morris*, General *Morris*—Westchester.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*—Tryon.
Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*—Charlotte.

The President and Vice President being absent, Mr. *Cantine* was unanimously chosen Chairman *pro tem.*, and he accordingly took the chair.

A Letter from General *McDougall*, dated at *Haverstraw*, on the 9th *December* instant, assigning reasons for sending three or four hundred men to protect *Orange-Town*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, and Mr. *R. R. Livingston*.

A Letter from *Samuel Tudor*, dated at *Poughkeepsie* on the 9th day of *December* instant, relative to the articles wanted for the equipment of the ships building at that place, was read and filed:

*Ordered*, That it be committed to Messrs. *Wisner*, *Smith*, and *L'Hommedieu*.

A Letter from the Delegates of this State in Congress, dated at *Philadelphia* on the 4th instant, was read and filed, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Philadelphia, 4th December, 1776.

"We received Mr. *McKesson's* letter dated the 25th *November*. We have, according to your request, applied to Congress for leave to our State to raise another battalion, to be commanded by Colonel *Du Bois*, which is agreed to, and a resolve to that purpose is enclosed, as also a resolve for employing five Aid-Majors at the expense of our State. Blank commissions for both the battalions and Aid-Majors are herewith sent. There are forty-five blanks, a few more than the number wanted, to serve in case some might be spoiled in filling up. The rank of the officers of the five battalions is with you to settle. The Congress does not interfere, under the new arrangement in the rank of officers appointed by the several States.

"General *Washington* is at *Trenton* with his Army; General *Cornwallis* at *Brunswick*. This city had been in great confusion for some days; the consternation was great, from an apprehension that the enemy would march into this place; but they have now in a great measure recovered their spirits, and are marching out in considerable numbers to join General *Washington*, and in a few days our Army will be strong enough to face the enemy. We have no accounts where our troops under General *Lee* are at present, but are in hopes if they are within march, as is said, that *Cornwallis* will not proceed any further this way too spee-

dily: if he delays a very few days longer, there is nothing to fear from him.

"We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,

"PHIL. LIVINGSTON,
"FRA. LEWIS,
"WM. FLOYD.

"To the Convention of the State of *New-York*."

A Resolution of Congress therein enclosed, dated the 26th of *November*, 1776, was read, as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Legislatures of the *United States* respectively, to pass such laws as will effectually prevent the counterfeiting or forging the tickets of the publick lottery.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Sec'y*."

And the Resolution of Congress therein enclosed, dated *November* 30th, 1776, was also read, as follows, viz:

"*Resolved*, That the State of *New-York* be empowered to raise another Battalion on the Continental establishment. That the Convention or Council of Safety of *New-York* be empowered to appoint an Aid-Major to each of the Battalions raised by that State, the pay and expense of which to be borne by that State.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Sec'y*."

*Ordered*, That the said Letter and Resolves be referred to the Committee of Arrangements.

*Resolved*, That the Rangers of *Tryon* County be allowed Continental Rations instead of their weekly subsistence money, during the time they remain in garrison.

A draft of a Letter to General *Schuyler* was read and approved of, in the words following, to wit:

"Fishkill, December 10th, 1776.

"SIR: By a return express from *Philadelphia*, we have received a letter from our Delegates, dated the 4th instant, enclosing a resolution of Congress for enabling this State to raise a fifth battalion, to be commanded by Colonel *Du Bois*, which was applied for by the Convention. Another resolution of Congress is also transmitted, directing the respective States to pass acts for preventing the forgery of lottery tickets.

"The following extract will show the condition of the two Armies on the date of the Delegates' letter:

"'General *Washington* is at *Trenton* with his army; General *Cornwallis* is at *Brunswick*. This city has been in 'great confusion for some days; the consternation was great, 'from an apprehension that the enemy would march on to 'this place; but they have now in a great measure recovered 'their spirits, and are marching out in considerable numbers 'to join General *Washington*, and in a few days our army 'will be strong enough to face the enemy. We have no 'account where our troops under General *Lee* are at present, but are in hopes they are on their march, as it is said 'that *Cornwallis* will not proceed any further this way too 'speedily: if he delays a very few days longer, there is 'nothing to fear from him.'

"You will have the pleasure to observe that the report suggested in our last, that Congress had removed to *Lancaster*, was without foundation.

"General *Lee*, we are well informed, was a few days since at *Morristown*, where he is assembling a force to act in concert with General *Washington*. The Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* are ordered to march under the command of Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, to coöperate with General *Lee*, revive the spirits of the *New-Jersey* Militia, and secure the passes in the Highlands.

"The Convention are of opinion, and have this day passed a resolution, that the Rangers of *Tryon* County ought to be allowed Continental rations instead of their weekly subsistence money, during the time they shall remain in garrison.

"I am directed to add that the Convention will soon send up the pay which is in arrear to the Rangers.

"I am, &c.

"General *Schuyler*."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Vice President and transmitted.

A draft of a Letter to General *McDougall* was read and approved of, and is in the words following, to wit:

"Fishkill, 10th December, 1776.

"SIR: We received your favour of yesterday, and in answer thereto have only to inform you, that previous to the receipt thereof we ordered a large body of the troops from the Counties of *Orange* and *Ulster*, under the command of Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, to march immediately through the Counties of *Orange* and *Bergen*, in order to protect the well-affected in that part of the country, and to coöperate with General *Lee*, as far as shall lie in his power, in distressing the enemy, raising and collecting the well-affected, and harassing and overawing the disaffected subjects of the State of *New-Jersey*. We submit to your prudence how far and to what persons this should be divulged before the arrival of General *Clinton's* corps.

"I am, &c.

"General *McDougall*."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Vice President and transmitted.

—

Wednesday morning, December 11th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Matthew Cantine*, Esq., Chairman.
Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Rutgers*, General *Scott*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Roosevelt*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Abraham Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Cantine*, Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Tappen*, Mr. *Ray*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Mr. *R. R. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.
Mr. *Wisner*—ORANGE.
Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Morris*, General *Morris*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Webster*, Colonel *Williams*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Sessions*—CUMBERLAND.

Mr. *Wisner* informed the House that two of the Members of *Orange* County, to wit: Doctor *Outwater* and Colonel *Sherwood* (as has been reported) have signified their intention of not attending the business of this House any longer as members of said County.

*Ordered*, That a Letter be written to the Chairman of the County of *Orange*, directing him to request the attendance of the southern Members of that County, or assign reasons for their non-attendance.

A Letter from General *Heath*, dated yesterday, informing the Convention of a Flag being come up with the Rev. Mr. *Inglis* and Mr. *Moore*, accompanying a number of Letters to persons about the country, was read. A list of Letters above referred to, is as follows, to wit:

A Letter from the Rev. *Charles Inglis*, dated 8th *December*, directed to Messrs. *Duane* and *R. R. Livingston*, soliciting a Permit for his wife and family to remove to *New-York*, with such parts of his furniture, books, and papers, as are at *New-Windsor*.

A Card from Mr. *Elliot* to Mr. *Duane*, dated 6th *December*, requesting permission for his son-in-law, *James Jauncey*, Jun., with his wife and servants, to return from *Middletown*, in *Connecticut*, to *New-York*.

A similar Card, of same date, to Mr. *Jay*, making the same request.

A Letter from *Jacob Watson*, dated 4th 12 mo., directed to *Daniel Terboss*, respecting the sale of Salt and purchase of Flaxseed.

A like Letter, of same date and for the like purpose, to *Daniel Birdsall*.

A long Letter from *John Moore*, dated 9th *December*, to *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, requesting the return of his wife.

A Letter from *Phil. J. Livingston* to *James Duane*, Esq., *John Jay*, and others, requesting his wife and family.

A Letter from *Phil. Livingston*, Esq., dated *Pensacola*, *January* 1, 1776, to *John Paterson*, Collector of *Philadelphia*.

A Letter from *Jane Knox* to Captain *Fred. Hunt*, and another to Captain *Piemart*, requesting her goods.

A Letter from Governour *Tryon* to *William Smith*, dated 4th *December*.

A Letter from Mrs. *Plenderleath* to *William Smith*, Esq.

A Letter from same to Mrs. *Smith*.

A Letter from *H. W.* to *William Smith*, Esq., dated 25th *April*.

A Letter from Mrs. *Plenderleath* to her mother.

A Letter from *J. Plenderleath* to *William Smith*, Esq., dated 25th *April*.

A further set of Resolutions relative to General *George Clinton* and the Militia ordered out yesterday, was read and agreed to, as follows, to wit:

*Resolved*, That the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties ordered to be raised by the Resolution of the Convention of this State, passed the 9th day of *December* instant, do not march further south than *Haverstraw*, or west than *Ringwood*, till the further orders of this Convention.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Malcolm*, with the Militia under his command, be annexed to General *George Clinton's* Brigade.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the above Resolutions be immediately transmitted to General *George Clinton*.

A Letter from Major-General *Heath* being read, informing the Convention that he was ordered to go over, with his Division, to the west side of *Hudson* River, by which the Defiles in the Highlands will be exposed.

The same being taken into consideration,

*Resolved*, That the safety of this State and the general interest of *America* require that the Defiles in the Highlands, on both sides of *Hudson* River, should be carefully and strongly guarded.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to his Excellency General *Washington*, enclosing the Resolutions passed on *Monday* last, stating the dangers attending the leaving the Passes through the Highlands unguarded, and requesting that the order for General *Heath's* Division to march may be countermanded.

*Resolved*, That the said Letter go by Express, who shall be, and hereby is, empowered to impress Horses every ten miles, and to ride night and day, both going and returning.

*Resolved*, That if the Express shall go and return in less than six days, that he shall be paid three Pounds per day, over and above his wages, for every day short of that time in which he shall perform the same; that is, if he shall perform the same in five days, he shall receive three Pounds; if in four days, six Pounds.

A draft of a Letter to General *Washington* was read and agreed to, in the words following, to wit:

"Fishkill, 11th December, 1776.

"SIR: I am directed by the Convention of the State of *New-York* to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed resolves, by which it will appear that we have made every exertion in favour of our sister States which our present situation will admit. But we are extremely sorry to find, by a letter received last night from General *Heath*, that he is ordered over to the western shore, by means of which the most important passes in *America* will be left unguarded, though within a short distance of the Army. Your Excellency must be fully satisfied, that though they, by marching through the flat country, may distress the inhabitants, yet that that measure will be productive of nothing decisive; whereas the fate of this country will probably depend upon their occupying the State of *New-York*, which is now in a great measure abandoned to them. We must therefore take the liberty to entreat your Excellency to countermand an order which, in our humble opinion, is putting every thing to the hazard, and leave the northeastern parts of *New-Jersey* to be strengthened in the way proposed by the within resolutions. If your Excellency should not be inclined to grant this request, we must beg to be favoured with an immediate answer, that we may not, by suffering our Militia to march, leave this State entirely defenceless, and thus abandon, with ourselves, the cause of *America*.

"Your Excellency will pardon the freedom with which we write. Our sanguine hopes of creating a very considerable diversion by the means pointed out in the enclosed resolves, without endangering the safety of this State, are, by the orders to General *Heath*, entirely vanished.

"I have the honour, &c.

"His Excellency General *Washington*."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Chairman and transmitted.

*Ordered*, That the several Letters following, to wit: a Letter from Governour *Tryon* to *William Smith*, Esq.; a Letter from Mrs. *Plenderleath* to the same; a Letter from the same person to Mrs. *Smith*; a Letter from *H. W.* to *William Smith*, Esq.; a Letter from Mrs. *Plenderleath* to Mrs. *Smith*; a Letter from the same person to *William Smith*, Esq.; and a Letter from the same person to Miss *Elizabeth Smith*, which were sent severally open, but enclosed together, be enclosed, sealed up, and certified by the President to have been sealed up in Convention, without having been perused; also, that the Letter from *John Moore* to his wife, and the Letter from Mrs. *Verplank* to her husband, be in like manner enclosed, sealed up, and certified; and that all the said Letters be sent to the respective persons to whom they were written.

Several Letters which were sent up to this Convention by Major-General *Heath*, as having been conveyed to him by a flag of truce, for the purpose of procuring liberty for sundry persons to go, with their effects, to the City of *New-York*, being read,

*Ordered*, That they be referred to Mr. *Roosevelt*, Mr. *Yates*, and General *Scott*, to take the said Letters.

Also, a Letter from *James Jauncey*, Jun., and a Memorial of *Frederick Phillipse*, being read, was referred to the same Committee; as also the case of Lady *Johnson*; and that the said Committee report on the matters aforesaid with all convenient speed.

Mr. *Robert R. Livingston* informed the Convention that he was informed by *Abraham Livingston*, son of *Philip Livingston*, Esq., that his said father had directed him to inform the Convention that in consequence of his long absence from his family, he will be under the necessity of leaving the Congress for the purpose of visiting his family at *Esopus*.

*Resolved*, That General *Morris* be directed to repair to *Philadelphia*, and take his seat in General Congress, in order that *Philip Livingston*, Esq., may be enabled to visit his family.

Mr. *R. R. Livingston* delivered in the Report on *Samuel Tudor's* Letter relative to *De Grushe*; which was read and agreed to, as follows, viz:

"The Committee to whom was referred a Letter from *Samuel Tudor* of the 9th instant, humbly report the following Letter and Resolution:

"SIR: The Convention have received yours of the 9th instant. They approve of your proposal to appoint Mr. *De Grushe* to do the business you mention, and have accordingly directed him to repair to *Poughkeepsie* for that purpose. You will be pleased to hire Mr. *Ivers's* tools on the most favourable terms in your power. The Convention would have you to proceed with all possible despatch in making the gun-carriages. You cannot be at a loss for the measure of the guns, since it will lay with you to give the necessary directions for making them.

"Mr. *Rutgers* declines having any agency in fitting out the ships; nor do we conceive that any other agent is necessary than those already employed, as the business is by no means so extensive as it was. You may agree with Mr. *Hendricks* to visit the stores once a day.

"We again repeat to you that it is essentially necessary for the security of the State that the ships be fitted for service by the spring.

"The Convention wish to know why the cables and anchors ordered to General *Clinton* have not yet been sent.

"*Resolved*, That Mr. *De Queshe* be directed to repair to *Poughkeepsie*, to assist in preparing the rigging of the Continental ships at that place, and that he be allowed the same wages as Mr. *Ivers*.

"Yours, &c.

"Captain *Samuel Tudor*."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Chairman and transmitted.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Robert Harper*, Mr. *William Harper*, Major *Lockwood*, and Mr. *Wisner*, be a Committee for the purpose of furnishing General *George Clinton* with Ammunition, and other necessaries, for the use of his Brigade.

Mr. *Wisner* moved and was seconded, for the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That such of the Deputies of this State as, by reason of the enemy's progress, cannot have access to the Committees of their respective Counties, be authorized and empowered, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, to draw upon and receive from the Treasurer of this State such sums of money as have been severally allowed to the Representatives of this State, for their attendance in the Convention of the same, and the Treasurer take receipts for, and place such sums to the debits of such Counties whose members shall receive the same.

*Ordered*, That the subject-matter of the said motion be referred to Mr. *Moore*, Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Adgate*, and Mr. *Ray*.

A Certificate, signed by General *James Clinton* and others, certifying the manner in which the Chain intended to obstruct *Hudson's* River broke, from which it appears the fault is not in the smith's work, was referred to the Committee formerly appointed to examine and fix the Chain.

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Thursday morning, December 12th, 1776.

The Convention met.

Present: *Matthew Cantine*, Esq., Chairman.
Mr. *Rutgers*, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*—NEW-YORK.
Mr. *Abraham Yates*, Mr. *Adgate*—ALBANY.
Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*—SUFFOLK.
Colonel *De Witt*, Major *Tappen*, Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Rhea*—ULSTER.
Mr. *Wisner*, Mr. *Little*—ORANGE.
Major *Landon*, Mr. *G. Livingston*—DUTCHESS.
Major *Lockwood*, General *Morris*—WESTCHESTER.
Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Harper*, Mr. *Newkirk*—TRYON.
Mr. *Webster*—CHARLOTTE.
Mr. *Sessions*—CUMBERLAND.

*Resolved*, That Major *Terboss* be and is hereby appointed to receive and take charge of and preserve all such Hides as shall from time to time be sent to *Fishkill Landing* by *Stephen Ward*, Esq., Agent for the purpose of purchasing Hides; and that Mr. *Isaac Van Wyck* be and he is hereby appointed to receive, take charge of, and preserve all such Hides as Mr. *Ward* shall from time to time send to *Fishkill* by land; and that Major *Terboss* and Mr. *Van Wyck* shall be allowed a reasonable compensation for their trouble and expense in executing this Resolution.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State advance to *Stephen Ward*, Esq., the sum of £600, on account of Hides by him purchased for the use of this State.

The Petition of the General Committee of *Westchester* County, praying for relief; that *Rogers*, with his Rangers, may be drove off, &c., was read and filed.

*Ordered*, That the said Petition be referred to Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Major *Lockwood*, General *Morris*, and Mr. *Morris*.

The Committee appointed to credit the Pay-Rolls of *Tryon* County Rangers, delivered in their Report; which was read, amended, and agreed to.

Mr. *Yates*, the Chairman of the Government Committee, gave notice that the said Committee will report this day eight days.

Mr. *Yates* requested that Mr. *McKesson* be directed to attend the Committee to copy said Report.

Mr. *Wisner* informed the House that it has been represented to him that Colonel *Blackwell* and Major *Jonathan Lawrence*, Members of the Convention of this State for the County of *Queen's*, are willing to give their attendance, if this House will receive them, notwithstanding the said County is in possession of the enemy:

*Ordered*, That the Secretary write Letters to these gentlemen, requesting their attendance as Members for the said County.

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of the General Committee of *Westchester* County, read this day, reported the draft of a Letter to General *George Clinton*; which was approved of, and is in the words following, viz:

"SIR: The Convention, on the application of the inhabitants of *Westchester* County, who complain of inroads made upon them by a party of Rangers under the command of Major *Rodgers*, have come to a resolution to despatch Colonels *Malcom* and *Thomas*, with their regiments, who will be joined by some of the Militia of *Westchester* County, and three companies of Rangers, in order to fall upon the troops of the enemy, and remove the stock and grain from the said County. You will be pleased, therefore, immediately to give the necessary orders.

"I am, sir, &c.

"To Brigadier-General *George Clinton*."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.

*Resolved*, That this Convention will allow unto *Samuel Loudon*, for printing and publishing in a weekly newspaper such acts and publications as they, or this Convention, or future Legislature of this State, shall direct, and which shall fall within the compass of such newspaper, after the rate of £200 per annum, in quarterly payments; and that the first quarterly payment commence and be advanced to him on his publishing his first newspaper; and that salary be payable by warrants drawn by the President of the Convention, and to be continued for one year, provided the said paper shall so long be regularly published.

The Committee to whom the Certificate of General *James Clinton* and others, relative to the Chain, which was received and read yesterday, was referred, delivered in their Report; which was read and approved.

Thereupon, *Resolved*, That the Committee to obstruct the navigation of the *Hudson* River be directed to pay the Blacksmiths who made the Chain which was lately drawn across the said river, according to their agreement with them.

*Resolved*, That the Chairman of this Committee write a Letter to Colonel *Henry B. Livingston*, requesting him, that if it shall be consistent with his instructions from his Excellency General *Washington*, he immediately repair with his troops under his command to this State, in order to oppose the ravages of the enemy in the County of *Westchester*.

A draft of a Letter to Colonel *Livingston* was read and approved of, and is in the words following, viz:

"[Secret.] Fishkill, 11th December, 1776.

"SIR: It is apprehended that a successful attack may be made against such of the enemy principally, if not solely, consisting of *Rogers's* Rangers, as are now ravaging without restraint or remorse the suffering inhabitants of the County of *Westchester*. I am therefore directed to request you, if it is in any way consistent with your instructions from his Excellency General *Washington*, immediately to repair to this State with the troops under your command, in order to coöperate with the forces which are imbodying for this expedition. I need not add, that no time is to be lost, as the operations of the enemy in *New-Jersey* give a favourable opening for a sudden and vigorous enterprise, which we have no reason to expect will be of long continuance.

"I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

"By order, &c."

*Ordered*, That a copy thereof be signed by the Chairman, and transmitted.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Moore* and Mr. *Little* be added to the Committee appointed on the 12th ultimo for taking care of the Poor in this State.

An account of Rations furnished to the Prisoners of War lately stationed at *Poundridge*, amounting to one hundred and seven Dollars and thirty-four-ninetieths of a Dollar, computed at eight-ninetieths of a Dollar per ration, was read. Thereto is annexed a charge of thirteen Dollars and four-ninetieths for taking care of *Jeremiah Reerdor* and *Cæsar Freeman*, and of two Dollars and twenty-two-ninetieths for Medicine and attendance by Doctor *Benjamin Miller;* which last charges, for taking care of the sick and for medicines, the Secretaries of the Convention alleged they, as Commissaries, are not authorized to discharge without the order of this Committee of Safety.

*Ordered*, That the Secretaries, or any one of them, discharge the said account for Medicine and attendance, at the same time that they discharge the account of Rations, and charge the same in and with the said account.

Major *Lockwood* informed the Committee of Safety that he had paid three Dollars to the Messenger he sent lately with intelligence to this Committee.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *McKesson*, one of the Secretaries,

pay the said three Dollars to Major *Lockwood*, and charge the same to this Committee.

The Covenant of the Convention of the *New-Hampshire Grants*, held at *Dorset* on the 25th of *September* last, was read.

Extracts from the Minutes of the said Convention held at *Dorset*, were also read.

*Ordered*, That they be committed to the Committee to whom was referred the Letter from the Committee of *Cumberland* County, dated the 21st day of *July* last.

And on request of Mr. *Duane* and the Members of *Cumberland*,

*Ordered*, That they be and are hereby discharged from that Committee; but that on request, they attend the said Committee to give them information of the temper of the inhabitants of *Charlotte*, *Cumberland*, and *Gloucester* Counties, or any other matter proposed to the gentlemen discharged from the Committee.

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Friday morning, December 13th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Matthew Cantine*, Esq., Chairman.

Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Dunscomb*, Mr. *Rutgers*, Mr. *Roosevelt*, General *Scott*, Mr. *Rob't Harper*—For New-York.

Mr. *Adgate*, Mr. *Abraham Yates*—Albany.

Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Miller*—Suffolk.

Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Cantine*, Mr. *Tappen*, Mr. *Ray*, General *George Clinton*—Ulster.

Mr. *Landon*, Mr. *R. R. Livingston*, Mr. *G. Livingston*—Dutchess.

Mr. *Little*, Mr. *Wisner*—Orange.

Colonel *Drake*, Major *Lockwood*, Mr. *Morris*, General *Morris*—Westchester.

Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Newkirk*, Mr. *Harper*—Tryon.

Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Webster*, Mr. *Duer*—Charlotte.

Mr. *Sessions*—Cumberland.

Mr. *Duer*, one of the Committee appointed on the instant, to go to *New-Windsor* and concert measures with General *George Clinton* relative to calling out the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties to join General *Gates* or General *Lee*, reported a Letter which he had wrote to General *Gates*. The said Letter is dated at *Dolson's* Tavern, *December* 9th, and is as follows, viz:

"Sir: Since the resolutions which are referred to and enclosed in the above letter were agreed to, General *Clinton* and myself were requested by the Committee to proceed to *Goshen*, where we understood you were expected this , in order to know the routes which the troops under your command propose taking, and confer with you on other matters which are the object of these resolutions. I am sorry we are not fortunate enough to meet with you, but from the intelligence we have received from your Aid-de-Camp, Major *Pierce*, and from the route General *Lee* has taken through , we find that the intention of both your armies is to join General *Washington*, and not to form a separate army, in order to fall on the enemy's rear. In compliance therefore with his orders, General *Clinton* will be under the necessity of conforming himself to the object specified in the resolution marked No. 7, unless he should learn from General *Lee* or yourself that your intentions are to form another army on the rear of the enemy.

"For this purpose he desires me to inform you that he will immediately order his troops to rendezvous at the place called the *City*, near , in *Orange* County, at the parting of the roads which lead to *Tappan* and *Pyramus*, when he will be ready to obey your orders as far as they are consistent with the object of the enclosed resolutions. The force he will have with him will consist of about fifteen hundred men.

"By the latest account we hear that General *Washington* is daily receiving strong reinforcements from the Militia of *Jersey* and *Pennsylvania*; in consequence of which he may probably be induced to form an army for the purpose of hanging on the enemy in rear. he made acquainted with the measures pursued by the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

"I have therefore to request the favour of you to have copies of the Committee's letter to you, of the enclosed resolutions, transmitted immediately by express to his Excellency General *Washington* and to Major-General *Lee*, in order that they may pursue such measures as they shall judge best calculated for the general good.

"I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient humble servant,

"Wm. Duer.

"Major-General *Gates*.

"Dolson's Tavern, December 9th, 1776—ten o'clock at night."

The Resolutions of yesterday, relative to the *Westchester* expedition, after some time spent thereon, were recommitted to the same Committee, and to General *Scott* and Colonel *Drake*.

General *George Clinton* informed the Committee that General *Schuyler* has, by letter, informed him that he had directed the Committee of *Albany* to forward Timber, Boards, and Tar, for the obstruction of *Hudson* River. The Committee are further well informed, that Logs sufficient for that purpose are easily obtained near the place of obstruction, and, from experiments already made, at a much cheaper rate than they can be procured from *Albany*, and perhaps cheaper than even the transportation from thence.

*Ordered*, That a Letter be written to Major-General *Schuyler*, requesting him to countermand procuring the Logs he has ordered, but to direct the Boards and Tar to be forwarded.

Whereas Arms are necessary to be lent to the ordered into present service—

[The remainder of the Proceedings are wanting.]

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## PETITIONS, RESOLVES, AND ORDERS IN COUNCIL, OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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### PETITION OF THE SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF CONCORD.

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives of the State of the* Massachusetts-Bay, New-England:

*The Petition of the Selectmen of the Town of* Concord, *in behalf of said Town, humbly showeth:*

That whereas, in the month of *December*, 1775, the honourable House of Representatives resolved to recommend to the town of *Concord* to send daily to the camp at *Cambridge* three cords of wood for the use of the Continental Army, and appointed a Committee to see the execution thereof; said Committee writing to us as Selectmen of said town, in the most pressing terms possible, setting forth the distresses that must and would ensue on our not exerting ourselves in that business, we thereupon endeavoured to the utmost of our power to comply with the said resolve, but could not, by reason that we in the town of *Concord* living at such a distance from the place the wood was destined to, the greater part of our wood in said town being eighteen or twenty miles from the camp, and at that time extreme bad travelling, that our people thought it very hard they must be obliged to cart their wood so far in such extreme weather and travelling, and have (as was the price the publick then gave) but twelve shillings half cord, being then reputed a sufficient load for a team of three or four good cattle. We therefore immediately called the town together, to see what further method the town would take to provide the Army with wood, as requested by said Committee. The town, when assembled, not considering their own particular profits, but the safety and welfare of the country, granted to all those who would exert themselves in conveying wood to the camp at *Cambridge* or *Winter-Hill* for the use of the Army, twelve shillings per cord over and above that was given by the Continent for wood, for six weeks then next to come from the first of *January* last, each man to produce a certificate from the Commissary of the number of feet in each load he should so carry; which was complied with.

The number of cords thus conveyed to *Cambridge* and *Winter-Hill* by the inhabitants of said town of *Concord*

within said space of time, as appeared by said certificates, was two hundred and nine cords two feet and a half, which amounts, at twelve shillings per cord, to one hundred and twenty-five pounds eleven shillings and nine pence, for which the town of *Concord* has been assessed.

We therefore, your petitioners, in behalf of said town of *Concord*, humbly pray your Honours to take the above just relation into your wise and impartial consideration; and, if it can be judged reasonable and equitable, to refund to the town of *Concord* the above-mentioned sums of money they thus expended for the publick good, or any part thereof, as you in your great wisdom shall see meet.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

By order of the Selectmen:

EPH'M WOOD, Jun., *Town-Clerk.*

Concord, October the 8th, 1776.

Please to pay to Captain *Joseph Hosmer* the sum allowed, and you will oblige your humble servants.

By order of the Selectmen:

EPH'M WOOD, Jun., *Town-Clerk.*

Concord, October the 9th, 1776.

*To the Selectmen of* CONCORD:

GENTLEMEN: The House of Representatives have resolved that it be recommended to your town to send daily to the camp at *Cambridge* three cords of wood, and have appointed a Committee to see that this resolve be fully executed. We therefore earnestly request that you will use your utmost endeavours that this resolve be complied with by your town, and if there be any deficiency, that you give immediate notice thereof to Mr. *Devens*, Chairman of the Committee of this Court for supplying wood, &c., at *Watertown*.

Your own safety and the welfare of your country depend on your exertions in this business. The distresses that would ensue to this country from a failure we will not attempt to delineate; they are beyond description; in short, we are undone!

SAMUEL PHILLIPS,
*Per order of the Committee.*

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PETITION OF JOHN CLARK.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in General Court assembled*, OCTOBER, 1776:

*The Petition of* JOHN CLARK, *of Hadley, in said State, humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner, being in the service of the *United States*, and having risked his all in their defence against their cruel and unnatural enemies, marched under the command of (now) Brigadier-General *Arnold*, amidst great fatigues and many hardships, through the wilderness to *Quebeck*, where, on the 31st day of *December* last past, he was (with others) taken prisoner in an attempt to storm the city, under the command of the late brave General *Montgomery*, by which means he had the misfortune to lose a gun (called "King's Arms") with a bayonet, valued at twelve dollars, and a new scarlet coat, valued at eight dollars, and a beaver hat, about half worn, valued at two and half dollars, besides many other articles not here mentioned. Your petitioner, therefore, prays allowance may be made him for the above articles, and that such measures may be taken for his relief as by your Honours shall be judged best.

And as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOHN CLARK.

HAMPSHIRE *ss.*, HADLEY, *October* 9, 1776:

Then Lieutenant *John Clark* made oath to the declaration above written, and that he lost the articles therein mentioned.

Test: E. PORTER, *Justice Peace.*

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PETITION OF WILLIAM FOSTER AND CHARLES SIGOURNEY.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable the Council of said State, the Petition of* WILLIAM FOSTER *and* CHARLES SIGOURNEY, *in behalf of themselves and the Owners of the armed Sloop* OLIVER CROMWELL, *humbly shows:*

That they have, at a great expense and trouble, been preparing said sloop for a cruise against the enemies of the States of *America* in general, but more particularly against a large fleet of transports expected daily upon the *American* coast from *Cork*; but for want of a few small carriage-guns, which they are not able at present to purchase, their attempts will be much retarded, if not altogether frustrated.

Encouraged by that indulgence which this honourable Council has ever shown to the smallest efforts of individuals against the common enemy, your petitioners humbly pray that your Honours would grant them the loan of, or sell them, for the purposes aforesaid, four three-pound cannon, taken in the armed schooner *Diligent*, and now lying on the Long Wharf in *Boston*, on such terms and conditions as to your Honours may seem fit.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

CHARLES SIGOURNEY,
WILLIAM FOSTER.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 9, 1776: Read and sent down.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

The Committee on the within Petition beg leave to report, as their opinion, that the guns petitioned for are not the property of this State, and that the petitioners have liberty to withdraw their Petition.

SAMUEL WHITTEMORE, *per order.*

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PETITION OF COMMITTEE OF NEWBURYPORT.

In Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, Newburyport, 3d October, 1776.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: The bearer, Captain *George Evans*, in the brigantine *Necessity*, was sent into this port the 27th ultimo by the privateer *Hancock*, Captain *Wingate Newman*, of *Philadelphia*. The owners of the privateer have discharged Captain *Evans* and his brigantine. He was bound from *Bermudas* to *Liverpool*, in *Nova-Scotia*, loaded with two thousand bushels of salt, five hogsheads of molasses, and twenty barrels of limes; he was from thence to carry lumber, masts, &c., to *Bermuda*. His vessel, by the register, appears to have been condemned in an Admiralty Court at *Bermuda* last *March*, and is here reported to belong to Mr. *Beveridge*, of *Philadelphia*. Now we beg your Honours' direction whether said Captain *Evans* shall here unload and sell his cargo, and whether he shall be permitted afterwards to load with any thing that may be shipped from hence to foreign parts; also, whether your Honours think it proper Mr. *Beveridge* should be informed of the vessel's being here brought in, and whether you will order your Secretary to give this information, or leave it to this Committee to do. Your answer by the return of Captain *Evans* will be punctually attended to, by your Honours' very obedient servant.

In behalf and per order of the Committee,

JACOB BOARDMAN, *Chairman P. T.*

IN COUNCIL, *October* 8, 1776.—Read, and thereupon *Ordered*, That *Benjamin Austin* and *Henry Gardner*, Esqs., be a Committee to take the above Petition into consideration, and report.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety of *Newburyport*, respecting the Brigantine *Necessity*, Captain *Evans*, have considered the same, and beg leave to report:

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 9th, 1776.

*Ordered*, That Captain *George Evans*, of the Brigantine *Necessity*, of the Island of *Bermuda*, sent into *Newburyport* by the Privateer Brigantine *Hancock*, Captain *Wingate Newman*, of *Philadelphia*, be and he, the said *Evans*, is hereby permitted to dispose of his cargo of Salt, Molasses, and Limes, in this State, (the owners of the said privateer having discharged her,) and that the said *Evans* be allowed to load the said Brigantine *Necessity* with such articles within this State, and for such ports, as are not forbid by any act or resolve of the honourable Congress or this State. And that the Committee of Safety, &c., inform Mr. *Beveridge* of the resolve of this Board respecting the said Brigantine.

### ORDER TO THE COMMISSARY-GENERAL.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 9th, 1776.

*Ordered*, That the Commissary-General be and he hereby is directed to send by water to *Salem*, to the Honourable *Richard Derby*, Jun., Esq., ten bolts Duck and one four-pounder Cannon, for the use of the armed Brigantine *Massachusetts*, *Daniel Souther* commander.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

### ORDER TO TIMOTHY PARSONS.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 9th, 1776.—Whereas the Prize lately taken by Captain *Souther*, commander of the Brigantine *Massachusetts*, was sent into *Townsend*, and has since been taken possession of by Mr. *Timothy Parsons*, Agent for the Eastern District, and by him removed from thence to *Wiscasset*, and there at present detained, which the captors apprehend may be very detrimental to their interest:

It is therefore *Ordered*, That Mr. *Timothy Parsons*, Agent for the Eastern District, be and hereby is directed to deliver the said Prize to Captain *Souther*, or to his order, to convey her to such port in this State as said *Souther* may think will be most conducive to the interest of all concerned.

### PETITION OF ADAM HELME.

*To the honourable Council for the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

ADAM HELME, *in behalf of* ADAM BABCOCK, *Esquire, humbly showeth:*

That the said *Babcock* is now loading a brigantine at *Dartmouth*, in the State aforesaid, by order and on account of Congress, as by contract may be seen; which brigantine it is thought necessary to arm in some degree. Your Honours are therefore requested to dispose of (to the said *Babcock*) for the purpose aforesaid, a pair of small cannon, three-pounders, belonging to this State, which are now at *Dartmouth* aforesaid, and entirely useless at present. And, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

ADAM HELME.

Watertown, October 9, 1776.

As the honourable Council, with respect to the above cannon, I would propose to their Honours the depositing in the hands of Mr. *Leonard Jarvis*, of *Dartmouth*, (in whose care they were left by *Thomas Durfey*, Esquire,) a pair of larger cannon, (six-pounders,) as security for the above three-pounders until their Honours shall think proper to receive pay for them, or until Mr. *Babcock* can replace them with a pair of the same size. ADAM HELME.

### ORDER FOR DELIVERING CANNON TO ADAM HELME.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 9, 1776.

It being represented to this Board that this State have two Cannon, three-pounders, at *Dartmouth*, which *Adam Helme* has petitioned may be disposed of to him, or will leave two other Cannon, six-pounders, in the room thereof until he shall replace the two three-pounders:

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Leonard Jarvis* (or such persons under whose care the said Cannon are placed) be desired to deliver Mr. *Adam Helme* the two Cannon, three-pounders, on his delivering the two Cannon, six-pounders, provided they are sound; the two Cannon so left to be subject to the orders and use of this State till the other two Cannon are returned, or paid for, at the option of this Board.

### PETITION OF CHARLES SIGOURNEY AND OTHERS.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* WILLIAM FOSTER, CHARLES SIGOURNEY, WILLIAM MOLINEUX, JOSHUA LORING, JACOB WILLIAMS, MARTIN BICKER, RICHARD WALKER, *and* JOHN LANGDON, *of* BOSTON, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the sloop called the *Oliver Cromwell*, burthen about eighty tons, armed with ten carriage guns, three and four pounders, ten swivels, five hundred weight of powder with shot in proportion, navigated by sixty men; has on board as provisions twenty barrels pork, twenty do. beef, and five thousand weight of bread. Said sloop is designed to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

The officers on board are as follows, viz: *John Tiley*, Captain; *Elisha Doan*, Senior Lieutenant; *David Brace*, Master.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission the said sloop and commander for the purpose above mentioned. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

CHAS. SIGOURNEY,
*In behalf of the concerned.*

Boston, October 8th, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 9, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-mentioned *John Tiley* as commander of said Sloop, on his giving bonds.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

### RESOLVE FOR ALTERING THE ARMED SLOOP FREEDOM INTO A BRIGANTINE.

Passed October 9, 1776.

Whereas the armed Sloop *Freedom*, Captain *John Clouston*, belonging to this State, has had the misfortune to have her mast split, and is thereby disabled from continuing on her cruise, and is now in the harbour of *Plymouth:* And whereas it will be much for the advantage of this State that the said Sloop should be altered into a Brigantine; and the masts, sails, and rigging of the Brigantine *Rising Empire*, belonging to this State, lately condemned, and now in said harbour, are every way suitable for that purpose:

*Ordered*, That *Ephraim Spooner*, Esq., of *Plymouth*, be desired, and is hereby empowered, in conjunction with Captain *Clouston*, to see that the masts, sails, and rigging belonging to the Brigantine *Rising Empire*, be taken out of her, and forthwith applied to equip the said Sloop as a Brigantine, that she may be able, as soon as possible, to proceed on her cruise.

### RESOLVE FOR THE DELIVERY OF FOWDER TO CHARLES SIGOURNEY.

Passed October 9, 1776.

On the Petition of *Charles Sigourney*, praying for permission to purchase five hundred weight of Powder:

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General be, and he is hereby directed to deliver to *Charles Sigourney*, or order, out of the Powder-Mill at *Andover*, four hundred pounds of Gunpowder, he paying six shillings per pound for the same.

### RESOLVE PERMITTING JOAN BERNARD OLLIVE TO SAIL.

Passed October 9, 1776.

On the Petition of *Joan Bernard Ollive*, praying that this Court would grant him permission to sail to the *West-Indies*, &c.:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the above Petition be granted; and that the petitioner be permitted to sail with his cargo of Lumber for the *West-Indies;* any law of this State to the contrary notwithstanding.

### RESOLVE PERMITTING ABRAHAM REDWOOD, ESQ., TO EXHIBIT HIS CLAIM.

Passed October 9, 1776.

On the Petition of *Henry Marchant*, in behalf of *Abraham Redwood*, Esq., praying that he may be allowed to exhibit his claim for ten hogsheads of Sugar, &c.:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the above Petition be granted, and the petitioner be allowed to exhibit his claim for said ten hogsheads of Sugar, at the said Superiour Court, when and where the said appeal is now pending.

### PETITION OF TIMOTHY MCDANIELL.

*To the honourable the House of Representatives of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Memorial of* TIMOTHY MCDANIEL, *of* SCARBOROUGH, *humbly showeth:*

That in the year of our Lord 1755 your memorialist

went on board his *Britannick* Majesty's ship *Mermaid*, *Washington Shirley*, Esq., commander, in the station of a Midshipman; in the year 1756 went to *England* in her, with his Excellency Governour *Shirley*; from the *Mermaid*, went on board the *Monmouth*, of sixty-four guns, with Captain *Shirley*, who being soon after superseded, your memorialist was discharged on board the *Duke*, of ninety guns, *Thomas Hanway*, Esquire, commander; and from her, on board the *Naman*, of ninety guns, *Peter Denis*, Esquire, commander; from her on board the *Royal George*, *Richard Dorril*, Esq., commander; and from thence on board the *Dorsetshire*, *Peter Denis*, Esq., commander; from thence on board the *Bellona*, *Peter Denis*, Esq., commander. In *April*, 1760, your memorialist passed an examination for a Lieutenant of the Royal Navy, and in *September*, 1762, was appointed by *Peter Denis*, Esquire, who was Commodore and Commander-in-Chief of all his Majesty's ships and vessels of war employed and to be employed in and about *Basque-Road*, on the coast of *France*, commander of the *Fanny*, armed tender, of six guns and forty-five hands, with Lieutenant's pay of a first rate; and in *November* to the *Duke-of-York*, armed cutter, of six carriage guns and fourteen swivels, which he commanded till *February*, 1763, when, it being peace, was paid off. Since the peace your memorialist has commanded several vessels in the merchant service.

Your memorialist has been in several smart engagements, particularly in that between Sir *Edward Hawke* and *Conflans*, and now begs leave to offer himself, if agreeable, to command some vessel in the *American* Navy. Should you, honourable gentlemen, be pleased to appoint him to such a trust, he hopes he shall be enabled so to act as not to be altogether unworthy your confidence. Your memorialist begs leave further to acquaint you, that ever since the commencement of the unhappy contest between *Great Britain* and *America*, his country has been pleased to repose some trust in him, as he has been one of the Corresponding Committee of *Scarborough* ever since its first institution, and was one of the Representatives of said town in County Congress, and was appointed by the honourable the Provincial Congress, in *April*, 1775, one of the County Committee for *Cumberland*, and in *February* last was appointed first Major in the Third Regiment of Militia in said County. If your Honours will condescend to consider that your memorialist, out of true affectionate zeal for this his dear native country, has (and that with pleasure) relinquished all his title to pay or preferment in the *British* Navy, it will, he hopes, induce you, when convenient, to comply with his humble memorial; and begs leave to subscribe himself, as in duty bound, honourable gentlemen, your dutiful and obedient servant,

TIMO. McDANIELL.

Watertown, October 10th, 1776.

These are to certify the honourable the principal Officers and Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy, that Mr. *Timothy McDaniel* served as rated Midshipman on board his Majesty's ship *Duke*, under my command, from the 4th day of *March*, 1757, to the day of the date hereof, during which time he behaved with diligence and sobriety, ever obedient to command.

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship *Duke*, in *Hamoza*, *July* 31, 1757.

THO'S HANWAY.

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PETITION OF THOMAS JONES AND OTHERS.

State of the Massachusetts Bay, Newburyport, 8th October, 1776.

*To the honourable Council for the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Memorial of* THOMAS JONES, JOHN STICKNEY, *and* JOSEPH MARQUAND, *all of* NEWBURY-PORT, *Merchants, owners of the Privateer Schooner called the* WASHINGTON, *humbly showeth:*

That whereas they have fitted out the said schooner *Washington*, burthen about fifty tons, with six carriage guns, eight swivels and cohorns, two hundred weight of powder, and balls answerable, navigated by forty men, with twenty barrels of beef and pork, and twenty barrels of bread, for a cruise against the enemies of the *United States of America:* Therefore your memorialists humbly pray your Honours to commissionate *Joseph Row* commander of said schooner *Washington*, for the purpose aforesaid. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

THOMAS JONES,
JOHN STICKNEY,
JOSEPH MARQUAND.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 10th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-named *Joseph Rowe*, as commander of said vessel, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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PETITION OF NATHANIEL FARLEY AND OTHERS.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The honourable Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* NATHANIEL FARLEY, BENJAMIN WOOD, JOHN HEARD, DANIEL GOODHUE, WILLIAM STOREY, JACOB TREADWELL, *of* IPSWICH, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the schooner called the *Fair-Lady*, burthen eighteen tons, armed with two carriage guns, two-pounders, and two swivels, two wall-pieces, five hundred weight powder, with ball in proportion, navigated by fifteen men, has on board six barrels pork and beef, six barrels bread. Said schooner is intended to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

Officers on board are as follows, viz: *Joseph Dennis*, Captain; *John Gibson*, Lieutenant; *Benj'n Davis*, Master.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission said schooner and commander for the purpose above-mentioned. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOSEPH DENNIS,
In behalf of the owners.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 10th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-mentioned *Joseph Dennis*, as commander of said Schooner, he complying with resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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PETITION OF TRISTRAM DALTON AND STEPHEN HOOPER.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* TRISTRAM DALTON *and* STEPHEN HOOPER, *of* NEWBURY-PORT, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the brigantine called the *Dalton*, burthen one hundred and sixty tons, armed with four six, fourteen four, and four two-pound carriage, and twenty swivels, fifteen hundred weight of powder, and four tons of shot, navigated by one hundred and twenty men; has on board, as provisions, one hundred and twenty butts of water. Said brigantine is designed to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

Your petitioners, therefore, would humbly request your Honours to commission said brigantine and commander for the purpose above mentioned. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Officers on board are as follows: *Eleazer Johnson*, Captain; *Anthony Knap*, First Lieutenant; *John Buntin*, Second Lieutenant; *Daniel Lunt*, Master.

Newbury-Port, October 7, 1776.

ELEAZER JOHNSON, Jr.,
In behalf of the owners.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 10th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-mentioned *Eleazer Johnson*, as commander of said Brigantine, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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PETITION OF LAWRENCE R. CAMPBELL.

Council Chamber, October 10th, 1776.

Upon the Petition of *Law. R. Campbell*, a prisoner of war in *Concord* Jail, praying for a release or a hearing:

*Resolved*, That the Petitioner be and he hereby is directed to attend this Board on *Tuesday* next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any he have, why the prayer of his Petition for a release should be granted; and that the said *Lawrence R. Campbell* cause that Captain

*George Kimbal*, Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence of the town of *Lunenburg*, or some one of that Committee, be served with a copy of this Resolve, that he may attend at the same time.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 10, 1776.—*Ordered*, That the Keeper of the Jail in *Concord* be and he hereby is directed and required to cause *Law. R. Campbell*, now a prisoner of war in *Concord* Jail, to appear at the Council Chamber in *Watertown* on *Tuesday* next, at eleven o'clock beforenoon, agreeable to a resolution of Council of this day, in answer to the petition of said *Lawrence R. Campbell*.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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*His Excellency* GEORGE WASHINGTON, *&c., &c., &c.*:

SIR: Induced by the great character of benevolence, humanity, and politeness, which you are so generally allowed to possess, and emboldened by my unhappy and cruel situation, confined to a common jail like the vilest criminal, have I ventured to take this liberty.

I shall not trouble you with a detail of the transactions between the Committee of *Lunenburg* (to which place I was ordered on signing my parole) and me: the enclosed petition, which I sent about a month ago, on my arrival here, to the General Council at *Watertown*, will inform you of the nature of my crime. Allow me to mention one circumstance: after the inadvertent speech I made, the Committee at *Lunenburg* ordered me before them, and was of opinion I had broke my parole by my speech, and sentenced me not to exceed half a mile from my lodgings; but reconsidering the matter some days after, liberated me to the full parole. I had enjoyed that liberty ten days, when the order from the Council came to confine me to *Concord* Jail.

I should be guilty of an act of injustice and ingratitude, did I not inform you that this order was entirely unknown to the Committee till it arrived, and have since the pleasure to understand they have interested themselves to get me liberated, but to no effect. As the Council has not been pleased to pay the least attention to my case, I have been ever since kept in a most cruel uncertainty. If on perusal of my letter and petition, you think I merit any alleviation to my distressed situation, I hope you will recommend it to be done as soon as the state of affairs will permit.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

LAW. R. CAMPBELL, *Captain 71st Regiment*.

Concord Jail, 19th September, 1776.

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*To the honourable the Council of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: In obedience to your orders to the Committee of *Lunenburg* I have left that place, and am now confined to *Concord* Jail; and as I am by this measure made very unhappy, I must entreat your Honours' attention to my case. I flatter myself that upon examination thereof, you will not conceive such unfavourable sentiments of me, as I am sure you must have done when you passed the order for my imprisonment.

I beg leave to observe to you, that a short time after my arrival in *Lunenburg*, in a familiar conversation with the man of the house where I lived, upon his saying he did not propose going into the Army, as near as I can recollect, I told him I believed he had better not, as it was my opinion *Britain* would beat the Colonies; or words to that effect. But to no other person have I said any thing on this subject; neither have I had the least inclination or desire so to do; and at the time of this conversation I did not advert to its being against my parole, or had I the least intention of biasing the judgment of the person I spoke with, or of injuring the cause of the *United Colonies*, but it rather proceeded from inattention than from any other cause; and as it is the intention that constitutes the crime, I flatter myself that with a representation of my fault, had there been mentioned the innocence of my intentions, which I declared to the Committee of *Lunenburg*, that humanity which this country so eminently possesses would have plead strongly in my favour, and if it had not entirely released me, would at least have pointed out a less rigorous punishment.

I have such an opinion of the justice of the Committee at *Lunenburg*, that I can't doubt but they will lay a state of this case, with all its circumstances, before you; when, I make no doubt, you will view it in a more favourable light than you do now. And as I am conscious to myself that I have during my abode at *Lunenburg* never intentionally departed from the engagement entered into by my parole, but, on the contrary, have at all times endeavoured to conduct in a manner the most unexceptionable, and have used my influence with the other officers to observe the same conduct, I am very desirous you would summons some of the intelligent and disinterested inhabitants of that town before you, that they may be inquired of touching these matters.

As cruelty is not the characteristick of your Honours, and I am confident you can have no disposition to increase my misfortune, I must entreat you to order my release from this place, or grant me the favour of a hearing at your honourable Board, where I shall be willing, on condition of enlargement, to make any concession becoming the gentleman,—other, I am sure you will not require,—and enter into any further engagement you may think proper.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

LAW. R. CAMPBELL.

Concord Jail, 28th August, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *August* 30th, 1776.—Read, and committed to *Jabez Fisher* and *John Taylor*, Esq., to confer on the subject-matter of the above Petition with Mr. *George Kimbal*, Representative from *Lunenburg*.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

Whereas, by the Report of the Committee appointed to hear Captain *Campbell's* Petition, it appears to this Board that which breach of his parole occasioned an order of this Board for his commitment to the Jail at *Concord*, in the County of *Middlesex*: And whereas by the Report of the Committee appointed to hear the said *Campbell* on his Petition, it appears to this Board that what he said to the above-mentioned *Thomas Dodge* was through inadvertence, and with no design to injure the cause of the *United States*, and that his conduct in other respects had been unexceptionable:

Therefore, *Ordered*, That he, the said *Campbell*, be liberated from the Jail at *Concord*, and proceed to *Reading*, there to reside, and not go beyond the limits prescribed by his parole; he paying all charges that have arisen in consequence of the said commitment. And the Keeper of the said Jail is hereby ordered to liberate him accordingly.

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PETITION OF JOSIAH BATCHELDER, JUN.

*To the honourable Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of* JOSIAH BATCHELDER, *Jun., in behalf of* JAMES BROWN *and* NATHAN BROWN, *of* NOVA-SCOTIA, *but late of* IPSWICH *in this State, humbly showeth:*

That the above-named *James* and *Nathan Brown* have resided at *Yarmouth*, in *Nova-Scotia*, for several years, and are now desirous of returning, with their effects, to this State, where they formerly belonged. Therefore your petitioner humbly prays your Honours to grant a protection to *James* and *Nathan Brown* to return, with their effects, unmolested, from *Yarmouth*, in *Nova-Scotia*, to *Ipswich*, in this State. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOSI. BATCHELDER, Jun.

Watertown, October 10th, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 10th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a similar Order to that given to *Ebenezer Porter*, *Richard Valpey*, and others, *October* 4th last, be granted to the above-named *James* and *Nathan Brown*.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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Yarmouth, Nova-Scotia, September the 28th, 1776.

*Captain* JOSIAH BATCHELDER:

SIR: We take leave now, at this difficult time, to write these few lines to you, hoping they will find you and yours in good health, as we are at this time; blessed be God for it.

Sir, we are informed you are one of the members of the House of General Assembly of that Province; therefore

we think best, with advice, to beg the favour of you which we are in need of; which is, a permit or protection from being made a prize of by the *American* vessels of war in our coming up there with our families and what little we can fetch with us. We don't suppose that a permit from any authority below, that we used to call the General Court, will be any protection. Mr. *Robert Harskell* advised us to write a petition and send up to you, to lay before the Congress. But we thought we could not form one in any formal manner; so we didn't; and we darsen't ask any one here to do it, lest we should be informed against at *Halifax*, and they should get authority to stop what little we can fetch away and us too. But if you think it best, and that it is likely we can obtain one by a petition, and not without, we pray that you will draw one for us in our names and behalf, and we will pay you for it, and for all other trouble you may be at in procuring it for us. Mr. *Haskell* says he will use best endeavours to convey it to us, if you can get it for us. So no more at present; but we remain your most humble servants and ever well-wishers.

JAMES BROWN,
NATHAN BROWN.

To Captain *Josiah Batchelder*, Jun., of *Beverly*.

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ORDER TO THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF BRISTOL.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The major part of the Council to the Sheriff of the County of* BRISTOL, *greeting:*

You are hereby directed and commanded to receive, from the Committee of Correspondence, Safety, &c., of the County of *Plimouth*, the bodies of *Benjamin Marston* and *Gideon White*, refugees from *Boston*, and them, the said *Benjamin Marston* and *Gideon White*, confine and keep in the common jail of the said County of *Bristol* till the further order of the major part of the Council, or they be otherwise discharged by due course of law.

Hereof fail not at your peril.

In the name and by order of the major part of the Council.

Council Chamber, October , 1776.

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BRISTOL *ss.:* DIGHTON, *June 24th*, 1776:

*To* EZRA RICHMOND, *of* DIGHTON, *in the County of* BRISTOL, *Esq., greeting:*

You are hereby required to take under your care and direction the prisoners lately committed to my custody by order of the honourable Council of the Colony of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, &c., duly observing the order of Council relative thereto; and I do hereby require all Under-Sheriffs, Deputies, and the good people within my district, to be aiding and assisting to you in managing and safe-keeping the same when thereunto required.

Given under my hand, at *Dighton*, in the County of *Bristol* aforesaid, the day and year above-mentioned.

SYLVESTER RICHMOND,
*Sheriff of the County of* BRISTOL.

SIR: The enclosed letter came under cover to the Assembly of this State, and by their direction I now forward it to you. It is desired you would send your answer through the same channel, that the Assembly may know the prisoners, and, without loss of time, take proper measure to collect them in some suitable place for the purpose of their being exchanged.

In the name and per order of Council.

I am your humble servant, JOHN AVERY.

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RESOLVE FOR THE DELIVERY OF POWDER TO JONATHAN HOBBY.

Passed October 10, 1776.

On the Petition of *Jonathan Hobby* praying for a supply of Powder,

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General be, and hereby is directed to deliver to *Jonathan Hobby*, or order, from the Powder-Mill at *Andover*, one hundred and fifty pounds of Gunpowder, he paying six shillings per pound for the same.

RESOLVE FOR PAYING SAMUEL PHILLIPS, JUN., £2,800, TO PAY FOR SALTPETRE.

Passed October 10, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury to Mr. *Samuel Phillips*, Jun., the sum of £2,800, to be paid by him to *Zebediah Abbot*, to enable him to pay for the Saltpetre received for this State; said *Abbot* to be accountable to this Court for the same.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING WILLIAM FROST £228 8*s.* 1¾*d.*

Passed October 10, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to Mr. *William Frost*, the sum of £228 8*s.* 1¾*d.*, in full discharge of the account referred to in his Petition.

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ORDER TO COLONEL CRAFTS.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 11, 1776.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Thomas Crafts* be, and he hereby is directed to secure the two Four-pounders now laying at *Plymouth*, the property of this State, and have them safely conveyed by water to *Boston*.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

*To the honourable Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: I would beg leave to acquaint your Honours, that I am informed there are two four-pounders now laying at *Plymouth*, the property of this State. As it is not improbable they may be taken away, thought it my duty to acquaint your Honours, that some orders may be given to secure them.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Honours' most obedient, humble servant,

T. CRAFTS, *Col. Artillery*.

Watertown, October 11, 1776.

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RESOLVE FOR THE DELIVERY OF FLOUR TO SAMUEL RUSSELL GERRY.

Passed October 11, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be, and he hereby is directed to deliver to *Samuel Russell Gerry*, Commissary for the sea-coast men, stationed at *Marblehead*, thirty barrels of Flour, now lying at *Marblehead*, for the use of the said sea-coast men; the said *Samuel Russell Gerry* giving his receipt for the same.

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RESOLVE FOR SUPPLYING THE INHABITANTS OF MACHIAS WITH CORN, &C.

Passed October 11, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to *David Gardner* the sum of £170, for the purchase of Corn, Rye, Pork, and Molasses, &c., to be by him delivered to the Committee of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection, for the township of *Machias*, to be by them distributed among the distressed inhabitants of said place, at the prime cost and necessary charges, he taking their note for said Corn, in behalf of themselves and their constituents, payable to the Treasurer of this State on or before the 18th day of *September*, 1777; which note shall be delivered to said Treasurer, and his receipt for the same shall indemnify said *David Gardner* from his receipt given the Treasurer for said sum.

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RESOLVE DISCHARGING SCHOONER DILIGENT, OFFICERS AND MEN.

Passed October 11, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Honourable *Richard Derby*, Jun., Esq., be, and he is hereby directed to discharge the Schooner *Diligent* from the service of this State, and take into his custody all the Cannon and all other stores that are on board said Schooner and are the property of this State; and the said Honourable *Richard Derby*, Esq., is hereby further directed to discharge Captain *John Lambert*, Commander of said Schooner *Diligent*, together with the Officers and Men under his command, from the service of this State.

RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF STEPHEN HALL AND PELEG CROCKER.

Passed October 11, 1776.

On the Petition of *Stephen Hall* and *Peleg Crocker*, praying that their Sloop may be restored to them again:

*Resolved*, That the Petitioners serve the Selectmen and Committee of Correspondence of *Boothbay*, or of any other Town or Plantation in the County of *Lincoln*, in whose custody the Sloop *Nancy*, lately commanded by *Peleg Crocker*, is or has been, with a copy of the order of this Court, dated *July* 5th, 1776, for the release of said Sloop, and also with a copy of the Petition upon which the said order was grounded; and that the said Selectmen and Committee of Correspondence be, and they hereby are directed, on the second *Wednesday* of *November* next, to show cause, if any they have, to this Court, why said order has not been complied with.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING HON. SAMUEL ADAMS, ESQ., £200.

Passed October 11, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the sum of £200 be paid out of the publick Treasury to the Honourable *Samuel Adams*, Esq., in part for his services as a Member of Congress for this State.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING JONATHAN BROWN £26 5*s*.

Passed October 11, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State unto *Jonathan Brown*, Esq., the sum of £26 5*s*., for his service as Commissary from the 22d of *April*, 1775, to the 4th of *August* following.

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RESOLVE FOR MAKING APPLICATION TO CONGRESS FOR £100,000.

Passed October 12, 1776.

Whereas this State has advanced on account of the Continent, for the purpose of carrying on the present war, a sum of money amounting to at least £125,000, lawful money, since the time of their exhibiting their last account to the Congress: And whereas the Committee appointed to prepare an account of these expenditures cannot get the same ready to forward at this time to Congress, and this State stand in need of an immediate supply of money:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the Delegates appointed to represent this State at Congress be, and they hereby are directed immediately to make application to the Congress, praying that they would advance this State at least £100,000, in part payment of the above-mentioned sum, and until the account above referred to can be forwarded to Congress.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING JONATHAN GLOVER, ESQUIRE, £249 15*s*. 9*d*.

Passed October 12, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Receiver-General be and he is hereby directed to pay to *Jonathan Glover*, Esq., or order, £249 15*s*. 9*d*., in full for sundries he supplied to Captain *Jeremiah Obrian* and *John Lambert*, whilst in the service of this State.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING PROVISIONS TO THE OFFICERS AND MARINERS OF ARMED VESSELS.

Passed October 12, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the allowance of Provisions to each Officer and Mariner of the Armed Vessels belonging to this State be: One pound of beef or pork per day; one pound of bread per day; one gill of rum per day; one gill of rice, or half pint of peas or beans, or one pound of potatoes or turnips per day; half pint of vinegar per day; three-quarters of a pound of butter per week.

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WILLIAM DREW, ESQ., ADDED TO THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR ALTERING THE SLOOP FREEDOM.

October 14, 1776.

Whereas this Court on the 9th instant appointed *Ephraim Spooner*, Esq., in conjunction with Captain *Cloustn*, to see that the masts, sails, and rigging belonging to the Brigantine *Rising Empire* be taken out of her and forthwith applied to equip the said sloop as a brig: And whereas it appears to this Court necessary that some person acquainted with building and rigging vessels should be upon the said Committee:

Therefore *Resolved*, That *William Drew*, Esq., be added to the Committee aforesaid, he to repair forthwith to *Plymouth*, and advise and direct in performing said business.

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF THE FIRST PARISH IN FALMOUTH.

Passed October 14, 1776.

On the Petition of the inhabitants of the first Parish in *Falmouth*, in the County of *Cumberland*, setting forth, that by means of the late cruel destruction of great part of said Parish many of the inhabitants thereof are removed to and do reside in neighbouring Towns and Parishes, where they will (unless this Court shall otherwise order) be liable to all Parish taxes, while the remaining inhabitants of said first Parish in *Falmouth* (where they frequently attend the publick worship of God) will, without their assistance, be unable to support their Ministers:

*Resolved*, That every person lately belonging to the first Parish in *Falmouth*, in the County of *Cumberland*, who, by means of the destruction lately suffered by a great part of said Parish, is removed to and reside in some neighbouring Town or Parish, shall, till the further order of the General Court of this State to the contrary, be assessed for their polls and personal estates, and faculties, towards the support of the Gospel Ministry in said first Parish in *Falmouth*, and not elsewhere: *Provided*, That such late inhabitants of said first Parish in *Falmouth* shall, on or before the last day of *November* next, and on or before the first day of *September* annually afterwards, signify to the Assessors of said first Parish, or any one of them, in writing, their desire to be assessed there, towards the support of the Gospel in said first Parish, and shall exhibit to the Clerk of the Town or Parish where they reside a certificate of their having so done, signed by one or more of the Assessors of said first Parish. And the Collector of taxes there for the time being shall have the same power and authority to collect and enforce payment of the rates of such persons thus assessed, as if they dwelt within the bounds of said Parish.

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PETITION OF NEHEMIAH SOMES.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The honourable Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* NEHEMIAH SOMES *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner is fitting out an armed vessel to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*, and is now ready equipped for sea; but they having three six-pounders and one four-pounder, which he apprehends are too heavy for his vessel, therefore humbly requests your Honours to exchange them for cannon of less metal, viz: six three-pounders, which he understands by Colonel *Crafts* are at present useless. If this proposal should not be agreeable to your Honours, he will obligate himself to procure six cannon of equal goodness, whenever called for, provided your Honours will grant the loan of them cannon mentioned as above.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

NEHEMIAH SOMES.

Boston, October 11, 1776.

Read, and *Ordered*, That *Moses Gill*, Esq., be a Committee to make inquiry relative to the Cannon mentioned in the above Petition, and report what is best to be done.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

Your Committee have attended the service appointed him by the within order, and have consulted with Colonel *Crafts* and other persons of judgment, and do report in favour of the within petition.

MOSES GILL.

October 15, 1776.

Read and accepted, and thereupon *Ordered*, That *Moses Gill*, Esq., be directed to draft an order for the above purpose.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 15, 1776.—*Ordered*, That Colonel

*Crafts* be directed to deliver to Captain *Nehemiah Somes* two three-pound Cannon now under his care. Also, four three-pounders from on board the Schooner *Diligent*, late commanded by Captain *Lambert;* and in exchange receive from said *Somes* three six-pound and one four-pound Cannon, the Council having this day agreed upon the exchange.

PETITION OF JACOB WILLIAMS AND OTHERS.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* JACOB WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN VINCENT, EBENEZER WALES, MOSES DAVIS, SOLOMON LOVELL, JOHN BATCHELER, JAMES FOSTER CONDY, STEPHEN BRUCE, HENRY BASS, WILLIAM PHILLIPS, *Jun.*, BENJAMIN COBB, GUSTAVUS FELLOWS, NEHEMIAH SOMES, *and* JOSEPH PIERCE, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the schooner *Active*, burthen eighty-four tons, armed with twelve carriage-guns, viz: eight three-pounders and four four-pounders, ten swivels, one thousand weight of powder and shot in proportion, navigated by eighty men, *Andrew Gardner* Commander, *Israel Turner* Senior Lieutenant, *James Berry* Master, has on board as provisions three tons of bread and thirty barrels beef and pork. Said schooner is intended to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission the said schooner and commander for the purpose above mentioned. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOSEPH PIERCE,
NEHEMIAH SOMES.

Boston, October 15th, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 15, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the said *Andrew Gardner* as Commander of the above Schooner *Active*, he complying with resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

RESOLVE FOR THE DELIVERING OF POWDER TO NATHANIEL GOODWIN.

Passed October 15, 1776.

On the Petition of *Nathaniel Goodwin*, praying for a supply of Powder,

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be and he hereby is directed to order to be delivered out of the Powder-Mill at *Stoughton*, to Mr. *Nathaniel Goodwin*, the within petitioner, one hundred and fifty weight of Gunpowder, said *Goodwin* making immediate payment for the same at the rate of six shillings per pound.

RESOLVE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF SLOOP MACHIAS LIBERTY, CAPTAIN OBRIAN AND MEN.

Passed October 15, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Honourable *Richard Derby*, Esq., be and he is hereby directed to discharge the Sloop *Machias Liberty* from the service of this State, and to take into his possession all the Cannon and other Stores which are on board said Sloop, and are the property of this State. And the said *Richard Derby*, Esq., is hereby further directed to discharge Captain *Jeremiah Obrian*, and the officers and men under his command, from the service of this State.

The House made choice, by ballot, of Mr. *George Saywood* as Second Lieutenant of the Company of Matrosses stationed at *Gloucester*.

Concurred by Council *October* 15, 1776.

RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF ALEXANDER SHEPARD, JUN.

Passed October 14, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be and he hereby is directed to deliver to *Alexander Shepard*, Jun., or his order, ten pieces of small damaged Cannon, if not already otherwise engaged; also, four Swivel Guns; to be used on board a vessel designed to cruise against the enemies of *America:* he, the said *Shepard*, obliging himself to repair said Cannon and Swivels at his own expense, and return the same after the first cruise, if so ordered by the General Assembly of this State.

RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF WILLIAM OWEN.

Passed October 14, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State the sum of £49 19*s.* 4*d.* to *William Owen*, in full for billeting the men whose names are expressed in the annexed roll, and in full for all accounts, as footed at the bottom of the roll.

RESOLVE FOR PAYING THE HONOURABLE JAMES BOWDOIN INTEREST, &c.

Passed October 15, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to the Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq., the two years' interest due to him on a Government note, signed by the late Treasurer *Gray;* and such part of the principal, also, as said *Bowdoin* may have occasion for, or require.

RESOLVE FOR THE DELIVERY OF FLOUR TO WILLIAM FROST, A COMMISSARY.

Passed October 15, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be and he hereby is directed to supply *William Frost*, Commissary of the forces stationed at *Falmouth*, with fifty barrels of Flour, if it can be spared, taking said *Frost's* receipt therefor: he to be accountable to this Court for the same.

PETITION OF DANIEL KNIGHT.

*To the Great and General Court now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* DANIEL KNIGHT *humbly showeth:*

That some time last spring said *Knight* sent up an account of the loss he sustained on *Damarris Cove*, being attested by him, in hopes that your Honours would have considered his case. And as there had been orders from the Congress requiring all those that had suffered damage by the common enemy to bring an account of any loss they sustained, therefore he expected that his loss would have been made up to him, in whole or in part, as you in your wisdom shall think best; yet he never received any part of said loss as yet. I heard some person threw in a remonstrance, saying I charged too high for my house, and creatures they took away; but I think I know the value of my house, sheep, and hogs, better than any other person. Now, gentlemen, if it be your pleasure to grant the whole, or any part you please of the value of the loss I sustained, you will greatly oblige your humble servant. And I, as in duty bound, shall ever pray. DANIEL KNIGHT.

Boothbay, 29th August, 1776.

Whereas it hath pleased the honourable Continental Congress to require an authenticated account of the damages done to the inhabitants of the *United Colonies* by our unnatural enemies, and the honourable the Great and General Court have appointed a Committee to receive such accounts as respects this Colony, and they have desired the inhabitants thereof to send them in as soon as may be:

Therefore, the subscribers, Selectmen of *Boothbay*, would hereby certify, that on the 12th of *October* ultimo a part of the *British* fleet, said to be under the command of Captain *Mowatt*, anchored in *Townsend* or *Boothbay* harbour, and, on the 14th of said month they sent a party ashore on *Damaris Cove*, an island belonging to the town, where they burnt the dwelling-house occupied by *John Wheeler*, the property of *Daniel Knights*, of this town, and carried off a number of live stock, of which the owners have this day given us the following account, with their estimation of the contents, which is humbly submitted to the honourable Committee appointed for this purpose, by their humble servants,

JOHN BEATH, } *Selectmen.*
WM. MCCOBB, }

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| VIZ: Seventy-eight Sheep, 10*s.* each, | - - | £39 | 0 0 |
| Three fat Hogs, value £2 13*s.* 4*d.* each, | | 8 | 0 0 |
| One dwelling-house, value | - - - - | 66 | 13 4 |
| Lawful money | - - - - - | £113 | 13 4 |

Lincoln, *ss.:* Boothbay, *January* 18, 1776:

*Daniel Knights*, above-named, personally appeared and made solemn oath that the above is a just and true account of the damage sustained by him and *John Wheeler*, by the means and at the time above-mentioned; that the said stock was carried off without his connivance, and that he hath neither directly nor indirectly received any thing by way of compensation for the same.

Before me: John Beath, *Town-Clerk.*

*Joseph Wheeler*, of lawful age, son of said *John Wheeler*, having been on board of said *Mowat's* ship at the time when said damages were sustained, it had been reported that he had received pay for the above-mentioned stock; that said *Joseph* was this day solemnly examined, and made oath that he received no pay, either directly or indirectly, only ten dollars.

Before me: John Beath, *Town-Clerk.*

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PETITION OF JAMES McCOBB AND JORDAN PARKER.

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives of the Colony of* Massachusetts-Bay:

*May it please your Honours, humbly showeth, the petition of* James McCobb *and* Jordan Parker, *inhabitants of* Georgetown, *on* Kennebeck *River, in the County of* Lincoln:

That no sooner had we received intelligence at this place of the memorable battle of *Lexington*, than the people judged it necessary, that they might not be surprised by the unexpected approach of an enemy, to have a guard stationed at the entrance of this river, especially as the river for a considerable distance from the sea is extremely accessible to the enemy's armed vessels, whereby they thought that not only their property and persons, but also a large quantity of the King's masts then lying in the river were much exposed to the depredations of the Navy; and as no regular authority was then established for that purpose, many of the inhabitants applied to your petitioners to provide and station a guard as aforesaid; and being convinced of the necessity of the measure, and urged by motives of publick utility, we not long after engaged and stationed as guards at the entrance of the river two persons in whose fidelity and vigilance we could confide where they continued in the faithful discharge of their duty eleven weeks, when they were relieved by the arrival of Captain *Lemont's* company.

As *Lexington* fight happened at a busy season of the year, when the people were necessarily employed in planting and sowing their lands, and every one engaged in making the best preparation in his power for the reception of the foe, your petitioners were put to great inconvenience and trouble in getting suitable persons for said purpose, and found themselves obliged to promise said guards forty-eight shillings per month each, allowing twenty-eight days to the month, exclusive of six shillings and eight pence per week each which your petitioners were obligated to pay for their billeting, the whole amounting to twenty pounds ten shillings and eight pence; which sum your petitioners have since advanced to said guards, out of our own pockets, and as we are conscious your Honours wish at all times to encourage and reward the exertions of individuals in favour of the common cause of *America*, we therefore humbly pray your Honours that the said sum of twenty pounds ten shillings and eight pence may be repaid to us out of the Colony Treasury.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

James McCobb,
Jordan Parker.

Georgetown, 8th June, 1776.

The Committee appointed to consider of the Petition of *James McCobb et al.*, relative to the payment of the Guards at the mouth of *Kennebeck* River, as within mentioned, have attended that service, and report, that it lay on your Honours' table until better evidence be produced.

Cha's Cushing, *per order, &c.*

July 1, 1776.

The Committee appointed to consider of the Petition of *James McCobb* and *Jordan Parker*, and the papers accompanying the same, relative to the payment of the Guards at the mouth of *Kennebeck* River, as within mentioned, have attended that service, and beg leave to report by way of a Resolve, viz:

In the House of Representatives, October 16, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to *James McCobb* and *Jordan Parker* twenty pounds, in full for the payment of the Guards and billeting of the same at the mouth of *Kennebeck* River.

August 20th, 1775.—Then received of *James McCobb*, Esq., and Esquire *Jordan Parker*, six pounds sixteen shillings for boarding of two men who was a watch at the entrances of *Kennebeck* River, eleven weeks, at six shillings and eight pence per week each.

Received by me: Thomas Pircey.

This may certify that we, the subscribers to *James McCobb*, Esq., and Captain *Jordan Parker*, hiring two men to keep a watch at the entrance of *Keneybeck* River, and we never heard any fault found, but that they attended their duty in said service for eleven weeks, the spring before last, until Captain *Lemont's* company was stationed there by the General Court, and was knowing to their wages being eight dollars per month and their victuals.

John Hinckley, } *Selectmen of* Georgetown.
Nath'l Wyman, }

Georgetown, September 13, 1776.

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ORDER TO COLONEL JOSIAH BREWER.

In Council, October 16, 1776.

*Ordered*, That the Guard of thirty men, ten of whom are *Indians*, raised by the General Court, the 11th *September* last, and placed on *Penobscot* River under the direction of *Andrew Gilman*, be now placed under the command of Colonel *Josiah Brewer*, said *Gilman* being employed in the Southern Army. And said Colonel *Josiah Brewer* is hereby directed to take said guard under his command, and order and discipline them agreeable to the rules observed by the several sea-coast companies stationed in this State.

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PETITION OF ELIJAH FREEMAN PAYNE.

*State of* Massachusetts-Bay:

*To the honourable the Council now setting in* Watertown:

*The Petition of* Elijah Freeman Payne, *of* Boston, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner, owner of the schooner called the *Eagle*, burthen sixty-three tons, armed with eight carriage guns, three-pounders, five hundred weight of powder, and shot in proportion, with small arms and cutlasses sufficient for the men; navigated by sixty men; *Barzillai Smith*, Commander; *John Wigglesworth*, Senior Lieutenant; *Andrew Ross*, Second ditto; *Samuel Studson*, Master; has on board as provisions thirty barrels beef and pork, two thousand weight of bread, one hogshead rum, ten barrels cider, forty bushels potatoes. Said schooner is designed to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*. Your petitioner would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission the said schooner and commander, for the purpose above-mentioned; and your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Elijah F. Payne.

Boston, October 15th, 1776.

In Council, *October* 16th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-named *Bazillai Smith* as Commander of the said Schooner *Eagle*, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

John Avery, *Deputy Secretary.*

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PETITION OF JOSIAH MORTON.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of the* Massachusetts-Bay, *and to the honourable the General Assembly for the same State:*

*The Petition of* Josiah Morton, *of* Plymouth, *in the County of* Plymouth, *keeper of the Jail in said County, humbly showeth:*

That a number of men called Refugees have been committed to his custody ever since the 24th of *April* last. During great part of the time they have maintained themselves, but for the space of three months past your petitioner has been obliged to support them, to his great detriment and loss. Your petitioner perceives that a petition now lays before the honourable Court for their enlargement, and therefore humbly prays your Honours to take his case into your wise

*

consideration, and order him such relief for their maintenance (before a discharge be granted) as your Honours in your wisdom shall see fit; and your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOSIAH MORTON.

Plymouth, October 8, 1776.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *October* 14, 1776. Read, and committed to the Committee on the Petition of Dr. *Stockbridge* and others, the refugees within-mentioned.

J. WARREN, *Speaker.*

IN COUNCIL, *October* 16.—Read, and concurred.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

—

Plymouth, 7th September, A. D. 1776.

*To the Committees of Correspondence of* SCITUATE, MARSHFIELD, DUXBURROUGH, PEMBROKE, and HANOVER:

GENTLEMEN: Your favour of the 3d instant, relative to the refugee Tories now holden in the County Jail, is come to hand. We, upon mature deliberation, think it can be no disadvantage to the *American* cause if these men be permitted to return to their respective homes, under proper limitations, as their continuance in jail can answer no valuable purpose. We think that it will be best that a watchful eye be kept over them, as they have been so ready in times past to sacrifice their country through timidity. We make no doubt but that your Committees will do every thing in your power for the publick security. We cannot accuse either of these men with any malevolent conduct respecting the publick cause since they have been with us.

We are, gentlemen, most respectfully, your brethren and sincere friends, the Committee of *Plymouth.*

JOHN TORREY, *Chairman.*

—

MASSACHUSETTS-BAY *State:*

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives of said State, now sitting at* WATERTOWN, *September the 9th, A. D.* 1776:

The Committees of Correspondence of five towns, viz: *Scituate, Marshfield, Duxborough, Pembrock,* and *Hanover,* who had the care and direction of twelve refugee Tories, viz: *Benjamin Stockbridge, John Tilden, Cornelius White, John Baker, Ephraim Little, Elisha Fourd, Sylvanus White, Stephen Tilden, Joseph Tilden, Warren White, Joseph Young,* and *Nathaniel Garnett,* who arrived at *Marshfield* in *April* last, from *Boston,* and were then sent to Jail in the County of *Plymouth,* by order of said Committee, there to remain till otherwise ordered by your Honours, humbly beg leave to represent that said refugees have continued there to this time, their conduct and behaviour unexceptionable. They appeared to be duly humbled for their past conduct, and well disposed to join their countrymen in defending the *United States of America,* by arms according to their several capacities and abilities, as may appear by the papers accompanying this.

We would further represent to your Honours, that the moneys, goods, and effects, that they had with them when they arrived, about two months past, was confiscated; their real estate mostly leased; that they now depend on their families, relations, and friends, for their daily subsistence. We would humbly submit the matter to your Honours, whether the common cause would not be best served by your Honours' ordering them to their several homes, under the care and watchful eye of the Committees of the towns to which they respectively belong, that they may have opportunity to prove the sincerity of their professions by their future conduct and behaviour. And, as in duty, &c.

Dated at Pembrook, this 9th day of September, A. D. 1776.

JOSEPH TOLMAN, *Chairman of Committee.*

—

*To the Committees of Correspondence of five Towns, viz:* SCITUATE, MARSHFIELD, DUXBOROUGH, PEMBROKE, *and* HANOVER, *in Joint Committee, to be assembled at Colonel* JEREMIAH HALL'S, *in* PEMBROKE, *on* MONDAY, *the 9th day of* SEPTEMBER, *A. D.* 1776:

*The Memorial of* BENJAMIN STOCKBRIDGE, JOHN TILDEN, CORNELIUS WHITE, JOHN BAKER, ELISHA FOORD, SYLVANUS WHITE, STEPHEN TILDEN, JOSEPH TILDEN, NATHANIEL GARNETT, WARREN WHITE, JOSEPH YOUNG, *and* EPHRAIM LITTLE, *humbly shows:*

Your memorialists that we have been absent from our several homes and families for the term of about sixteen months, twelve months of which time we ascribe to our own timidity, inconsiderateness, and folly; the remainder of said term, after we returned from our prison at *Boston,* we have wore away at the common Jail in the County of *Plymouth,* by your order and direction. We severally acknowledge, gentlemen, you have done us justice in thus ordering us, more than we did ourselves in our flight. We are able to let you know many things that affected our minds at the time we unhappily went off, but are unwilling to trouble you at present, and therefore proceed to matters that are deeply grievous to us. We sincerely lament our having lost the confidence of our native country, which in justice we ought to prefer to all others, and acknowledge we have given just grounds therefor, and have unhappily injured, if not ruined, our families; and though we returned with a full and settled purpose to join our country, and with our brethren to oppose and resist by arms every enemy, and every attack made against it, and are still firmly determined so to do, yet the loss of confidence and our confined situation have at present prevented us from proving our professions to be sincere and genuine by our works in our future behaviour. We now lay as a dead weight on our families, relations, friends, and countrymen. Our case, gentlemen, is most unhappy. We therefore humbly move that you would take our pitiable case into your serious consideration; and though we have erred and conducted utterly inconsistent with the duty we owe our country, yet, gentlemen, as all human nature are liable to errours, we are led to hope, from our own experience of the humanity of our countrymen, that you, in your well-known candour and humanity, will interpose in our behalf for our liberation, in such way and manner and under such restrictions as you think best, that we may have opportunity of witnessing the sincerity of our professions by our future conduct and behaviour toward our much-injured and oppressed country, according to our several capacities and abilities. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

| | |
|---|---|
| BENJ. STOCKBRIDGE, | SYLVANUS WHITE, |
| JOHN TILDEN, | STEPHEN TILDEN, |
| CORNELIUS WHITE, | JOSEPH TILDEN, |
| JOHN BAKER, | WARREN WHITE, |
| EPHRAIM LITTLE, | JOSEPH YOUNG, |
| ELISHA FOORD, | his<br>NATH'L × GARNETT.<br>mark. |

A true copy.

Attest: Per order, JEREMIAH HALL.

In Council, September 16, 1776.

Read, and thereupon *Resolved,* That *William Seaver* and *Benjamin Greenleaf,* Esqrs., with such as the honourable House shall join, be a Committee to take this Petition, with the papers accompanying the same, under consideration and report.

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*To the honourable the Council and the honourable the House of Representatives of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of* BENJAMIN STOCKBRIDGE, JOHN TILDEN, CORNELIUS WHITE, JOHN BAKER, ELISHA FOORD, SYLVANUS WHITE, STEPHEN TILDEN, JOSEPH TILDEN, NATHANIEL GARNETT, WARREN WHITE, JOS. YOUNG, *and* EPHRAIM LITTLE, *humbly shows:*

That your petitioners, from the formidable warlike preparations made against this State in the year 1775, and from the high fame of the invincible power of the *British* arms, were exceedingly apprehensive that a resistance to these arms would, without the least prospect of success, spread desolation and carnage through the whole State, and involve their neighbours and countrymen in greater calamities than those from which they sought a deliverance. Impressed with these sentiments, when hostilities were actually commenced, with every circumstance of cruelty that could operate on timid minds, your petitioners, in the first transports of their fears, imprudently fled to the town of *Boston* for refuge. Your petitioners frankly confess the unreasonableness of their flight, and that no principle of fear ought to have prevailed upon them to desert the sacred cause of their country in the very moment she wanted their aid, and can only urge in their justification the frailties of humanity. Your petitioners beg leave to inform your Honours, that on

finding their apprehensions to be groundless, they voluntarily returned to *Marshfield*, and threw themselves on the mercy of their countrymen; which conduct, your petitioners humbly conceive, is an evidence that timidity, and not any inimical designs against their country, at first influenced them to quit their habitations. Your petitioners, on their return, were committed to the common Jail at *Plymouth*, in the County of *Plymouth*, by order of the Committees of Correspondence of the towns of *Scituate*, *Marshfield*, *Duxborough*, *Pembroke*, and *Hanover*, where they have remained four months, entirely dependent on their relations and friends for their daily subsistence, their estates being, in consequence of a resolve of the honourable General Assembly, at the disposal of others. They are, however, so far from complaining of any injustice done them in this procedure, that they gratefully acknowledge the lenity and indulgence which they have experienced in many instances, and which are ever characteristick of the brave.

Your petitioners deem it the highest infelicity to have forfeited the confidence and affections of their countrymen by pusillanimously repairing for protection to an unnatual foe, as they have thereby in some measure incapacitated themselves from rendering those services to the publick which they came home with a full and determined purpose of performing, and which might make some atonement for their past misconduct and pusillanimity. It also gives them the most painful sensations to reflect, that by their own folly and indiscretion they have brought distress and misery on their guiltless families.

As this is the genuine state of your petitioners' minds, (which will appear from the testimony of the papers that accompany this petition,) as keeping them in their present confinement is really a punishment on their innocent connections and friends, as mistakes and errours are incident to human nature, and as free governments are distinguished by their moderation in punishing offenders, they humbly pray your Honours (if it can answer any salutary purposes to the community to continue them in imprisonment) to order that the places of their confinement may be the towns to which they respectively belong, under such further restrictions as are necessary for the publick safety, they giving such securities and bonds for their future good behaviour as your Honours in your wisdom shall direct. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

| | |
|---|---|
| Benjamin Stockbridge, | Sylva. White, |
| John Tilden, | Stephen Tilden, |
| Cornelius White, | Joseph Tilden, |
| John Baker, | Warren White, |
| Ephraim Little, | Joseph Young, |
| Elisha Foord, | his Nathaniel × Garnett, mark. |

The Committee of both Houses, to whom was referred the Petition of *Benjamin Stockbridge* and others, as also the Petition of *Josiah Morton*, having considered the same, report the following Resolve, which is submitted:

In Council, October , 1776.

*Resolved*, That *Benjamin Stockbridge*, *John Tilden*, *Cornelius White*, *John Baker*, *Ephraim Little*, *Elisha Foord*, *Sylvanus White*, *Stephen Tilden*, *Joseph Tilden*, and *Warren White*, who are now confined to the publick Jail in *Plymouth*, on defraying the expenses of their confinement in said Jail be allowed to depart the same, and return to and remain confined to their late dwelling-houses in said towns, and the lands to them appertaining and contiguous thereto; from whence they are not to depart, except to attend publick worship at their several Parish churches, without special license from the Committees of Correspondence, &c., of the town to which they respectively belong.

Also, *Resolved*, That *Joseph Young* and *Nathaniel Garnett*, who are also confined in the before-mentioned Jail, be allowed to depart the same and retire to the towns of *Scituate* and *Marshfield*, in which they lately resided, and remain within the limits of said towns until the further order of this Court.

And the Keeper of the publick Jail within said County is directed to lay his account of the expenses that have arisen for the support of the said *Joseph Young* and *Nathaniel Garnett* before this Court for allowance.

Also, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Committees of Correspondence, &c., of the towns of *Scituate* and *Marshfield*, to inspect the conduct of the several persons before-named; and said Committees are authorized (if they shall think it expedient) to extend the liberty granted to said *Benjamin Stockbridge* and others, to the limits of their respective towns.

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### RESOLVE FOR LENDING GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL ONE TON OF SULPHUR.

Passed October 16, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be, and he hereby is directed to deliver to the Honourable *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Connecticut*, or to such person or persons as he has or shall order to receive the same, upon loan, the full quantity of one ton of Sulphur; he or they giving a receipt for the same, to replace so soon as conveniently may be.

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### RESOLVE DIRECTING COMMITTEE OF SOUTH-HADLEY RELATIVE TO SURVEYS.

Passed October 17, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety of the Town of *South-Hadley* be, and hereby are directed to transmit to the Secretary of this State the Box mentioned in said Committee's letter, containing the sundry Surveys therein referred to; also, any Minutes of Surveys that Lieutenant *Knights* may be possessed of. The said Surveys and Minutes to be deposited in the Secretary's Office, until the further order of this Court.

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### RESOLVE RELATIVE TO PRISONERS OF WAR.

Passed October 17, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Council be desired to order the Sheriffs of the several Counties within this State to make an immediate return to them of all Prisoners belonging to the Land service of *Great Britain* within their respective Counties, with the names of the Commissioned and Staff-Officers, and to what Corps belonging, and the number of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, whether under their immediate care, or under the care of any Committee of Safety or others; and that they make like Returns of all Prisoners belonging to the *British* Navy; and these Returns (of the Navy and Army) to be made in separate and distinct lists: And the honourable Board are desired to transmit such Returns to his Excellency General *Washington*. That the said Prisoners remain in their present situations until advice is received from General *Washington* that a cartel is settled, and they ordered to be exchanged: And that General *Washington* be immediately advised that the Prisoners shall be collected and ready to embark at any time when his Excellency shall give orders therefor, and signify to this State that vessels for their embarkation are to be provided.

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### PETITION OF NEHEMIAH SOMES.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of* Massachusetts-Bay:

*The Petition of* Nehemiah Somes *humbly shows:*

That by permission of your Honours he has lately made an exchange with Colonel *Crafts* of three six and one four-pound cannon, for some three-pounders, four of which came out of the *Diligent* armed schooner, *William Lambert* late master; but your petitioner omitted in his request for the exchange of the cannon to include therein an exchange of shot suitable for the cannon; and as the shot suitable for said cannon still remain on board said schooner, and the cannon he obtained will be of no service unless he can likewise obtain the shot, and the vessel in which said cannon and shot are to be placed is now fitted and ready to proceed on her cruise, and is detained only for the said shot, your petitioner humbly prays that your Honours would be pleased to order said exchange to be made. And, as in duty bound, he will pray, &c.

Nehemiah Somes.

In Council, *October* 17, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That the prayer of the above Petitioner be granted, and that Colonel *Crafts* be, and he hereby is directed to make such exchange as he shall judge equitable.

John Avery, *Deputy Secretary.*

*Hon.* Moses Gill, *Esq.:*

Sir: Captain *Soames* is about making application to the honourable Board for an exchange of shot, for the four pieces of cannon they received from on board the *Diligent*, (which, by the way, are only two-pounders,) for some six-pounders they have by them; and as the State has no six-pound shot, I should think the exchange would be of real service to the State.

Your most obedient, humble servant,

T. Crafts, Jun.

Thursday morning, October 17, 1776.

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ORDER ON THE PETITION OF ROBERT CRAGG.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, in Council, October 17th, 1776.

On the Petition of *Robert Cragg*, praying he, the said *Cragg*, may have liberty to depart this State to the *West-Indies*, in any vessel that may hereafter be bound there,

*Ordered*, That he, the said *Robert Cragg*, have the liberty he petitions for, and that he have liberty to depart this State accordingly to the *West-Indies;* and it is recommended to the commanders of armed vessels and others to let the said *Cragg* pass unmolested accordingly.

John Avery, *Deputy Secretary.*

These may certify, that the bearer, *Robert Gragg*, late Chief Mate on board the ship *Anna Maria*, from *Barbadoes* for *London*, *William Pringle* commander, and taken by the privateer sloop *Revenge*, of *Salem*, *Joseph White* commander; that said *Gragg*, ever since he was set on shore here in *Salem*, has behaved in a very orderly and peaceable manner; is, we believe, a man of sound morals, of sobriety and temperance, in nowise given to bad company; a sincere friend to the cause of *America:* but being now well advanced in life, (upwards of sixty,) of a very infirm constitution, unable to endure the severities of this or the *English* climates, he humbly prays the favour of the honourable the Council of this State, that, of their goodness, they will grant him the liberty to go to the *West-Indies* in any vessel that may hereafter be bound there, a climate he, number of years past, has been accustomed to, that he may pass the small remainder of his life there in peace. He frankly and with gratitude acknowledges and declares, that on all occasions will acknowledge that he has been always treated with the greatest civility and kindness since his being made a captive. May please your Honours, as we are of opinion that he, said *Gragg*, is truly sincere in his above declaration, and a worthy, honest man, pray your Honours' indulgence in their case, and that his prayer may be granted.

Elias Hasket Derby, Edward Gibaut,
Joseph White, Joseph Lee,
Miles Greenwood, William Bartlett.

Salem, 1st October, 1776.

The honourable the Council of the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay.*

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PETITION OF RICHARD SILVESTER.

*To the honourable the Council of the* Massachusetts-Bay, *at* Watertown:

*The humble Petition of* Richard Silvester, *late Custom-House officer at* Cape-Ann, *showeth:*

That your Honours' petitioner, not being in any employ, neither can he get any, and being a prisoner at large, without any allowance, as winter is approaching, must suffer greatly. Your petitioner therefore most humbly prays that you'll be pleased to grant him liberty, and a protection, to use his endeavours to depart from this country. For that or any other favour you are pleased to confer on him, he will be gratefully thankful.

Richard Silvester.

In Council, *October* 16th, 1776.—Read, and committed to the same Committee to which was referred the Petition of *William Wallace.*

John Avery, *Deputy Secretary.*

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 17, 1776.

On reading the Petition of *Richard Silvester*, praying that this Board would grant him liberty to depart from this State,

*Ordered*, That the said *Richard Silvester* be, and hereby is permitted to leave this State; and it is recommended to the commanders of all armed and other vessels that they let the said *Richard Silvester* pass unmolested.

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RESOLVE ESTABLISHING THE FORM OF BEATING ORDERS, &c., FOR RAISING THIS STATE'S QUOTA OF THE ARMY.

Passed October 17, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the form of the Beating Orders and Inlistment for raising the fifteen Battalions apportioned by Congress to be raised by and of the inhabitants of this State for the defence of the *United American States*, from the time of their inlisting into said service till the end of the present war with *Britain*, be as follows, viz:

*Form of Beating Orders.*

*To*

You are hereby empowered immediately to inlist a Company, to consist of eighty-six able-bodied and effective men, including non-commissioned officers and privates, as soldiers in the service of, and for the defence of, the *United American States*, upon the establishment fixed by the honourable Congress, to continue in that service till the end of the present war; and that you cause said men, when so inlisted, to pass muster as soon as may be; the non-commissioned officers to be appointed by the Captain and Subalterns of each respective Company.

day of , 1776.

*Committee of* Massachusetts *State.*

*Inlistment.*

We, the subscribers, do hereby severally inlist ourselves into the service of the *United States of America*, to continue in that service till the end of the present war with *Britain*, unless sooner regularly discharged; and each of us do engage to furnish and carry with us into the service, a good effective fire-arm and bayonet, (if to be obtained,) cartridge-box, knapsack, and blanket, and if no bayonet, in lieu thereof a sword, hatchet, or tomahawk. And we severally consent to be formed by such persons as are or shall be appointed by the General Assembly of the *Massachusetts* as a Committee for that purpose, into a Company, under the command of such officers as said Committee shall appoint; and when formed, we engage to be under the command of the General Officers of the forces of the *United States of America* which are or may be appointed, and faithfully to observe and obey all such orders as we from time to time shall receive from our officers; and to be under such regulations, in every respect, as are or may be provided for the Army of the aforesaid States.

Dated this day of , A. D. 1776.

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RESOLVE FOR ADJOURNING THE INFERIOUR COURT IN THE COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY.

Passed October 17, 1776.

Whereas the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and Inferiour Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of *Dukes* County, is by law to be holden at *Tisbury*, in and for said County, on *Tuesday*, the 29th of *October* instant: And whereas there are not now, and there cannot be in said County, Justices authorized to hold a Court, agreeably to the late act of the General Court of this State for establishing the state of commissions, so soon as on the 29th of *October* instant:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That said Courts be, and they hereby are, adjourned to the first *Tuesday* of *March* next, being the time by law appointed for holding the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and Inferiour Court of Common Pleas at *Edgartown*, in and for said County of *Dukes* County; and that all pleas, processes, writs, actions, suits, issued or to be issued, complaints, precepts, recognizances, and all other matters and things returnable and having day, and that should have day, in the said Courts, if the same were holden at *Tisbury*, in said County, on the 29th of *October* instant, shall be returnable and have day in the said Courts to be holden at *Edgartown*, in and for said County, on the first *Tuesday* of *March* next, and shall abide and continue unto that time, and shall then be proceeded on and determined, to all intents and purposes, as effectually as if said Courts were held on the day and at the place by law appointed as aforesaid.

PETITION OF JOHN MERCER AND OTHERS.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* JOHN MERCER, PHILIP MOORE, WILLIAM DAVIS, THOMAS DONALDSON, PHILIP LIVINGSTON, JAMES THOMPSON, *and* JOHN MANLEY, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the brigantine *Rising-States*, burthen two hundred and ten tons, armed with sixteen carriage-guns, six-pounders, and four ditto three-pounders, sixteen swivels, seven cohorns, about forty small arms, and sixty cutlasses, twenty hundred weight of powder, and shot in proportion; navigated by one hundred men, *James Thompson*, Commander, *William McNeil*, Lieutenant, *Nathaniel Dowse*, Master; has on board as provisions sixty barrels beef, sixty ditto pork, six tons bread, two casks oatmeal, six ditto peas, six ditto flour: said brigantine is designed to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission the said brigantine and commander, for the purpose above-mentioned.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

WM. DAVIS,

For himself and the other owners.

Boston, October 18, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 18, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That the prayer of the Petition be granted, and that a Commission be issued out to the above-mentioned *James Thompson* as commander, he complying with the Resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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RESOLVE RELATIVE TO THE INHABITANTS OF BOSTON AND CHARLESTOWN.

Passed October 18, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the inhabitants of *Boston*, now dispersed in the several towns in this State, and supported at the publick expense, be returned to the said town of *Boston* at the expense of this State, on or before the first day of *December* next, and be put under the care of the Overseers of the Poor of the said town of *Boston*, and maintained at the expense of the said town of *Boston*.

And it is further *Resolved*, That the inhabitants of the town of *Charlestown* who are dispersed in the several towns of this State, and maintained at the publick expense, remain in those towns, and still be supported as heretofore; and that such of them as are capable of earning a subsistence be employed by the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the several towns in which they reside for that purpose.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING EIGHTEEN SHILLINGS TO EACH OF THE MEN WHO SHALL INLIST IN THE NEW ARMY, IN LIEU OF A BLANKET.

Passed October 18, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of this Colony who shall, before the last day of *December* next, inlist into the service of the *United States* during the present war with *Britain*, and shall furnish himself with a good and sufficient Blanket, the sum of eighteen shillings for the Blanket by him provided as aforesaid, in lieu of the Blanket he should be entitled to by a resolve of this Court, the first year of his service.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING JESSE STORY £5 15*s.* 4*d.*

Passed October 18, 1776.

On the Petition of *Jesse Story*, praying for allowance of Arms, Ammunition, &c., lost in the battle at *Bunker-Hill*,

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State to *Jesse Story*, the above petitioner, the sum of £5 15*s.* 4*d.*, in full for the losses he sustained, as set forth in the above Petition.

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RESOLVE RELATIVE TO RECEIVING SALTPETRE.

Passed October 18, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the several persons appointed to receive and examine Saltpetre be and they hereby are directed to receive, examine, and pay for any Saltpetre that was presented to them respectively on or before the fifth day of *October* instant, as though it had been delivered before the first day of said *October*, any resolve to the contrary notwithstanding, the person presenting the same making it appear to said receiver the Saltpetre by them delivered was completely finished on the last day of *September* past, and would have been delivered on said last day of *September* had it not been for some accident that happened or mistake in the time of delivering the same.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING THE COMMITTEE FOR BUILDING SUTTON POWDER-MILL TWO HUNDRED POUNDS.

Passed October 18, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Nathan Putnam* be appointed on the Committee for building a Powder-Mill at *Sutton*, in the room of Colonel *Holman*, who was one of said Committee.

And that the further sum of two hundred Pounds be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to the aforesaid Committee, to enable them to carry on the building of said Mill; the Committee to be accountable to this Court for the same.

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PETITION OF OFFICERS OF THE SCHOONER DILIGENT.

*To the honourable Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of the following persons humbly showeth:*

That we your petitioners can testify that *Walter Perkins* have acted and served as Second Lieutenant on board the schooner *Diligent*, *John Lambert* commander, since the 16th *March* last, and to general satisfaction both to officers and seamen; as he took a commission for said schooner in the name of *Jonathan Knight*, for executing the office as above, and did it from the above date. The said commission was sent up for an endorsement to the honourable Council, but by some means or other got lost; and as a commission from your Honours may be of service to him in future time, we humbly beg that your Honours would issue a new commission in the name of the said *Walter Perkins*, that he may retain the same for the honour of the Court and the service he has been engaged in, as we look upon him to be highly deserving in the station he has acted in, as we was on board with him during the said service. We therefore request the same to be executed.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOHN LAMBERT, *Captain.*
JOHN OBRIEN, *First Lieut.*
JOSHUA WING, *Master.*
PETER CLARK, *Com'r Marines.*

IN COUNCIL, *October* 19th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That as *Jonathan Knight* has not acted in the capacity of Second Lieutenant on board the Schooner *Diligent* since his appointment, that the name of *Walter Perkins* be inserted, and the said *Jonathan Knight's* name be erased in his said commission.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF JAMES NOBLE SHANNON AND JONAS FARNSWORTH.

Passed October 19, 1776.

On the Petition of *James Noble Shannon* and *Jonas Farnsworth*, praying for the delivery of four Cannon, the Sloop *Liberty* and Schooner *Diligent*, with all their Appurtenances:

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General be, and he hereby is directed to deliver *James Noble Shannon* and *Jonas Farnsworth*, agents for the captors of the Sloop *Liberty* and Schooner *Diligent*, the four three-pound Cannon, the property of this State, taken from on board the Sloop *Liberty*, in lieu of four three-pound Cannon belonging to the petitioners, which Colonel *Crafts*, by order of Council, took from on board the Schooner *Diligent*, and exchanged with Captain *Somes* for Cannon of a larger size, and that the Commissary-General be empowered and directed to deliver to the aforesaid *James Noble Shannon* and *Jonas Farnsworth* the said Sloop *Liberty* and Schooner *Diligent*, with such of their appurtenances as are not the property of this State.

### RESOLVE FOR RAISING THIS STATE'S QUOTA OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

Passed October 19, 1776.

Whereas the importance of raising the proportion of men assigned this State by the honourable Congress with the greatest despatch, is such as demands our immediate attention and requires our utmost exertions:

Therefore, it is *Resolved*, That *Timothy Danielson*, Esq., *George Partridge*, Esq., Colonel *Josiah Sartell*, *Jonathan Gardner*, Jun., Esq., and Captain *Seth Washburn*, be a Committee to repair without delay to the camp at or near *New-York*; and there, after gaining the best intelligence they can get, and after advising with his Excellency General *Washington*, or the Commander-in-Chief in that department, respecting the characters of the officers belonging to this State now in the Army, proceed to appoint from the officers now in the Army, or others, the Field and Staff Officers for seven Battalions; and also the Captains and Subalterns for the Companies of seven Battalions, on the conditions hereafter mentioned; and to give the said Captains and Subalterns beating orders and inlistments for raising the respective Companies from men belonging to this State, upon the terms and for the time proposed by the honourable Congress, by their resolves of the 16th, 18th, and 19th *September* last; but each of said Captains and Subalterns who shall inlist men as aforesaid, and shall return the original inlistments to the Committee appointed by this State, and shall not be commissioned, shall be entitled to and receive from this State six shillings for each man he shall so inlist, and that shall pass muster: And each corps of officers for a Company to consist of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, and one Ensign, raising a Company equal to the number established by Congress for a Company, on or before the first day of *December* next, to be entitled to receive their respective commissions agreeable to their appointment by said Committee; the said officers once every fortnight, or oftener, as the Committee shall direct, make return of the men so inlisted to said Committee, and lodging with them the original inlistments, and not to be entitled to said commissions unless they inlist a sufficient number of men to complete a Company as aforesaid.

*And also Resolved*, That *Abraham Watson*, Esquire, Colonel *Nathaniel Leonard*, Major *Jacob Davis*, Captain *Elisha Cranston*, and Mr. *William Page*, be a Committee to repair, without delay, to the camp at or near *Ticonderoga;* and there, after gaining the best intelligence they can get, and after advising with General *Gates*, or the Commander-in-Chief in that department, respecting the characters of the officers belonging to this State, now in the Army, do there proceed to appoint from the officers in said Army, or others, the Field and Staff Officers for five Battalions; and also the Captains and Subalterns for the Companies of five Battalions, and to give to the Captains and Subalterns for each Company beating orders and inlistments for raising their respective Companies from men belonging to this State, upon the terms and for the time proposed by the honourable Congress, by their resolve of the 16th, 18th, and 19th *September* last; each Captain and Subaltern who shall inlist men as aforesaid, and shall return the original inlistments to the Committee appointed by this State, and shall not be commissioned, shall be entitled to and receive from this State six shillings for each man he shall so inlist, and that shall pass muster: And each corps of officers for a Company consisting of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, and one Ensign, raising a Company equal to the number established by Congress for a Company, on or before the first day of *December* next, to be entitled to receive their respective commissions, agreeably to the appointment made by said Committee; the said officers once every fortnight, or oftener, as the said Committee shall direct, making return of the men they shall so inlist to said Committee, and lodging with them the original inlistments, and not to be entitled to said commissions, unless they inlist a sufficient number of men to complete a Company as aforesaid.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the said Committees in their respective departments be, and hereby are empowered, at the expiration of the term above-mentioned for completing the inlistments by the several corps of officers for that purpose, appointed to deliver commissions to such as shall have completed inlistments for a full Company; and in all cases where Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns, designed for a Company, have inlisted a number of men less than a number a Company is to consist of, the said Committees are hereby empowered to form them into Companies, and to distribute the commissions to the officers in such manner as to them shall seem most conducive to the service, giving preference to such corps of officers as shall have raised the most men.

*And it is further Resolved*, That each of said Committees be, and they are hereby directed to transmit from time to time to Congress and the General Assembly of this State, the success attending their undertakings; that they give account of any embarrassments or difficulties attending the completing the aforesaid levies, and the reasons of such difficulties or embarrassments, that measures may be immediately taken to remove the same, if any there be.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the Commission Officers of each Company who shall receive commissions from the Committees aforesaid, shall appoint the Non-Commissioned Officers in their Companies respectively.

*It is also Resolved*, That each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist into the Continental service as aforesaid, shall be entitled to, and receive from this State, one Blanket annually, or eighteen Shillings in case he shall procure one for himself, and produce a certificate thereof, from the Captain of the Company to which he belongs, to the Paymaster of the Regiment; provided Congress should not make provision for the same.

*It is also Resolved*, That each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist into the Continental service as aforesaid, shall be entitled to, and receive from the Treasury of this State, twenty Shillings per month, to be paid him or his order, every six months during his continuance in the service, in addition to the pay and encouragement already granted by Congress; provided Congress shall not make any addition to their wages as established on or before the 19th *September* last. And in case the Congress shall make an increase of wages less than twenty Shillings per month, this State will supply the deficiency, and cause the same to be paid them as aforesaid.

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### RESOLVE FOR PAYING CAPTAIN THOMAS FLETCHER TWENTY POUNDS.

Passed October 19, 1776.

On the Petition of *Thomas Fletcher*, praying for allowance for services done the State:

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State to Captain *Thomas Fletcher* the sum of £20, in full for eighty days' service in treating with, and also inlisting *Indians*, at *Penobscot*, and bringing said *Indians* so far as *Watertown*, on their way to join the Army near *New-York*.

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### RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF JONATHAN LOWDER.

Passed October 19, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State unto Captain *Jonathan Lowder*, Truckmaster of this State, unto Colonel *Jonathan Lowder*, Truckmaster to the Tribe of *Penobscot Indians*, £400, to enable him to supply said Tribe with necessary Ammunition, Clothing, and Provisions, for the fall and winter, he being accountable to this Court for the same; and also that he, the said *Jonathan Lowder*, be and he hereby is directed to receive out of the hands of Brigadier *Preble*, late Truckmaster for the *Penobscot* Tribe, all and every such article as he may have been provided with as Truckmaster, and now in his hands, for supplying the *Penobscot* Tribe, and also the Boat he hath in his care, provided for the use of the Truckmaster; said *Lowder* having given bonds to the Treasurer of this State for the faithful discharge of his duty as Truckmaster, and truly accounting with the Treasurer or General Court of this State for all such sums as he shall receive.

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### RESOLVE FOR PAYING PARKER CLEAVELAND £8 16*s.*

Passed October 19, 1776.

On the Petition of *Parker Cleaveland*, praying for a grant of £8 16*s.* for his services as Surgeon to Colonel *Sergeant's* Regiment:

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to *Parker Cleaveland* the sum of £8 16*s.*, in full for his service as Surgeon to the 1st day of *August*, 1775, in the Regiment whereof *Paul D. Sergeant*, Esq., was Colonel.

RESOLVE FOR THE DELIVERY OF POWDER TO JOSIAH BATCHELDOR, JR.

Passed October 19, 1776.

On the Petition of *Josiah Batcheldor*, Jr.,

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General be directed to deliver to the petitioner three hundred and fifty pounds weight of Gunpowder, out of the Powder-Mill at *Andover*, for the use of the privateer *Warren*, said petitioner paying six shillings per pound for the same.

RESOLVE RELATIVE TO SALTPETRE.

Passed October 19, 1776.

On the Petition of *Jeremiah Foster* and *Benjamin Kingsbury*,

*Resolved*, That the several persons appointed to receive and examine Saltpetre be, and they hereby are, directed to receive, examine, and pay for any Saltpetre that was presented to them respectively, on or before the fifth day of *October* instant, as though it has been delivered before the first day of said *October*, any resolve to the contrary notwithstanding; the person presenting the same making it appear to said receivers the Saltpetre by them delivered was completely finished on the last day of *September* past, and would have been delivered on said last day of *September*, had it not been for some accident that happened or mistake in the time of delivering the same.

RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF JOHN PERKINS.

Passed October 19, 1776.

On the Petition of *John Perkins*,

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State to the said *John Perkins* £5 16*s.* 6*d.*, in full for his loss sustained on *Bunker's Hill*, on the 17th of *June*, 1775, and also £19 in full for his wages from the 1st day of *January*, 1776, to the 20th day of *September* following, which day the said *Perkins* arrived home at *Hutchinson*.

RESOLVE FOR PAYING SAMUEL BELKNAP TWO POUNDS TEN SHILLINGS.

Passed October 19, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to *Samuel Belknap* the sum of £2 10*s.*, in full discharge of his Account for nursing, &c., four Soldiers belonging to Colonel *John Stark's* Regiment, as mentioned in said account.

PETITION OF NATHANIEL WHITAKER.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives of the State of* Massachusetts-Bay:

*The Petition of* Nathaniel Whitaker, *of* Salem:

Whereas the honourable Continental Congress have recommended making common Salt, and this Court also have published a pamphlet, giving a description of the process, and recommending this manufacture to the inhabitants of the seaport towns; which was printed last *April*, but hath hitherto produced no effect known to your petitioner, owing probably to the great charge of erecting said works, together with the uncertainty of a continuance of a price for the Salt, as a free importation would render the works of little value; but being persuaded that such an undertaking is necessary to the well-being and safety of this State, and being unwilling to risk so much as such a manufacture will require to erect it, therefore your petitioner prays this honourable Court to grant him an order to draw on the Treasury of this State, from time to time, for such sum or sums of money as he shall find necessary to procure a convenient place, and erect or prepare works for manufacturing common Salt, agreeable to a plan now before the Court, with addition of boiling pans, not exceeding ; and your petitioner will mortgage said works, and give bond to this State for replacing the moneys so drawn as fast as the sale of the Salt of said works shall produce it over and above the charge of carrying them on; and will submit his accounts to be audited by a Committee appointed by this Court; or that the said grant be made in any way which to this honourable Court shall seem most proper to expedite so great and necessary work. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Nathaniel Whitaker.

Salem, October 21, 1776.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the within Petition, met, and beg leave to report by way of a resolve:

In the House of Representatives, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Petitioner be allowed to draw out of the publick Treasury of this State the sum of £200, for the purpose therein mentioned; he, the said petitioner, giving proper security for the same, payable in three years, with interest; but shall be exempted from paying interest for such sum for the first year after receiving it out of said Treasury; provided said works shall be erected for the purpose of manufacturing common Salt, within the space of one year after receiving said moneys.

PETITION OF A NUMBER OF THE MILITIA OF FALMOUTH, SCARBOROUGH, GORHAM, AND WINDHAM.

*The Petition of a number of the Militia of the Towns of* Falmouth, Scarborough, Gorham, *and* Windham, *in the County of* Cumberland, *in the State of the* Massachusetts-Bay, *in* North America, *by their Committee chosen to draw up and exhibit a Petition for the purpose following, viz:*

*To the Great and General Court or Assembly for said State:*

May it please your Honours: Whereas we, the said Militia, being joined by a number of the Militia from the eastward, under the command of Colonel *Samuel Thompson*, did, on the 7th day of *May*, 1775, enter on the beach at *Falmouth*, in the County aforesaid, and took from thence, under the muzzles of the man-of-war's guns, two boats belonging to one *John Colson*, an absconding Tory, and an enemy to this country: we also took possession of the said *Colson's* house, and took thence a number of barrels of pitch and sundry articles of dry goods, all which we conveyed by teams into the country, and there hired a store for them: we also took possession of the house of *William Tyng*, late Sheriff of said County, another absconding Tory, who was then on board the man-of-war, aiding and assisting the said *Colson*, who was rigging and loading a ship under the protection of the man-of-war, and bound to *Great Britain*, contrary to the resolve of the Continental Congress: we took from the said *Tyng*, who is now in the service of the *British* King, one large silver cup and one silver tankard.

And your Honours' petitioners are sensible that the said goods have been and still are exposed to loss and spoil; and as we humbly conceive we are liable to render an account of said goods to the Legislative power of this State, we, your petitioners, therefore humbly pray your Honours that in your great wisdom you would give directions that the said goods may be disposed of, to pay the cost of taking, transporting, and storing, and to what use the overplus money shall be appropriated.

Dated at Scarborough, the 21st day of October, A. D. 1776.

Richard Mayberry, Lemuel Milliken,
Joseph Rice, Nathan Poole,
Jonathan Milliken, Enoch Froste,
*Committee.*

PETITION OF JAMES ARNAUD.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of the* Massachusetts-Bay:

*The Petition of* James Arnaud, *late Master of the Ship* Queen-of-England, *and brought into the Port of* Boston, *humbly showeth:*

That one Captain *Prince*, in a ship belonging to Mr. *Thomas Russell*, hath liberty, and is about proceeding on a voyage to *Cape François*, and your petitioner may have a passage in said ship: he humbly prays your Honours would permit him to take passage in said ship, that he may

get home to his family again. And, as in duty bound, shall pray.

JAMES ARNAUD.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 21, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That the prayer of the Petition be granted, and that the Petitioner have leave to depart this State in a ship owned by Mr. *Thomas Russell*, whereof is commander *Job Prince*, bound to *Cape François*.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING THOMAS CRANE, ESQ., TWENTY-TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, FOR THE PURCHASE OF SALTPETRE.

Passed October 21, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to *Thomas Crane*, Esq., the sum of £2200, to enable him to pay for the Saltpetre he has received at the store near the Powder-Mill, in *Stoughton*, agreeable to a resolve of the General Court; said *Crane* to be accountable to this Court for the same.

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PETITION OF DAVID PEARCE, AND OTHERS.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN: *The Petition of* DAVID PEARCE, JOHN SMITH, SAMUEL WHITMORE, JOSEPH ALLEN, DANIEL SERGEANT *of* CAPE-ANN, JOHN LANGDON *of* PORTSMOUTH, *and* JOHN CODMAN, JR., *of* BOSTON, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the schooner called the *Langdon*, burthen about fifty tons, armed with six carriage guns, ten swivels, five hundred weight of powder, and with shot in proportion, navigated by fifty men, has on board as provisions fifteen barrels pork, fifteen barrels beef, three thousand weight of bread; said schooner is designed to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

Officers on board are as follows, viz: *Samuel Robinson*, Captain; *John Saunders*, Senior Lieutenant; *Samuel Knowlton*, Master.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly request your Honours to commission said schooner and commander, for the purposes above-mentioned; and, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOHN CODMAN, Jun.,
In behalf of himself and others concerned.

Boston, October 22d, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 22, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-named *Samuel Robinson*, as commander of said Schooner *Langdon*, he complying with resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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ORDER TO SHERIFFS FOR RETURNS OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 22d, 1776.

*Ordered*, That the Sheriffs of the several Counties within this State be, and hereby are directed to make an immediate return to this Board of all Prisoners belonging to the land service of *Great Britain* within their respective Counties, with the names of the commissioned and staff officers, and to what corps belonging, and the number of the non-commissioned officers and privates, whether under their immediate care, or under the care of any Committees of Safety or others; and said Sheriffs are further directed and required to make like returns of all Prisoners belonging to the *British* Navy; and these returns (of the Navy and Army) you are to make in separate and distinct lists; and said Prisoners are to remain in their present situations until further order of this Board.

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PETITION OF ABRAHAM WALKER AND ISAIAH WALKER.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *humbly shows:*

That *Abraham Walker* and *Isaiah Walker* were, some time in the month of *July*, 1775, since the present contest between *Great Britain* and these Colonies, taken prisoners at the Light-House, near *Boston*, and brought before his Excellency General *Washington*, who, after examining of us, saw fit to send us prisoners to the town of *Springfield*, in the County of *Hampshire*, where as such we have remained ever since. We therefore beg leave to lay before your Honours our circumstances, who we are, and from whence we came, doubting not but that afterwards you will be willing to take our case into consideration: Be it known, then, that we both belong to the town of *Marshfield*, in the County of *Plymouth*; are one of us a mechanick, the other a husbandman; both by profession Quakers and friends to the rights of mankind; have each of us families that are needy and distressed by our unhappy confinement; by our profession mean not to take arms on neither side during the present struggle. Our estates, what we have, have been taxed to support the common cause, which we shall make no objection to, so long as the struggle continues between *Great Britain* and the Colonies. Our present confinement, we humbly conceive, cannot operate in favour nor against the present conflict, as our circumstances in life are such as require all our aid and assistance to supply the wants of our several families who, by our misfortune, are reduced to great straits and difficulties. We hope your Honours will take our case into your wise consideration, and grant us a release from our present very disagreeable confinement, upon our engaging not to intermeddle in the present quarrel; which we are ready and willing to do, and to give such an assurance thereof as shall be satisfactory to your Honours; and we, as in duty bound, shall pray.

ABRAHAM WALKER,
ISAIAH WALKER.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 22d, 1776.—Read, and committed to *Caleb Cushing* and *Samuel Holton*, Esquires, to take the same under consideration and report.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

The Committee appointed to take under consideration the Petition of *Abraham Walker* and *Isaiah Walker*, ask leave to report the following Order:

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 29, 1776.

*Ordered*, That *Abraham Walker* and *Isaiah Walker* be and hereby are discharged from their confinement in the Jail in *Springfield*, in the County of *Hampshire*, upon their giving bonds, with two sufficient sureties, to the Treasurer of this State, in the sum of one hundred pounds each, that they will not hold any correspondence with the enemies of the *United States of America*, or do or say any thing contrary to the resolves or orders of the honourable *American* Congress, or the laws or resolves of this State.

Read and accepted.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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PETITION OF JOHN COULSTON.

*State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable Council of said State, humbly shows* JOHN COLSON, *of* GLOUCESTER, *Mariner:*

That Messrs. *John Coffin Jones*, *Stephen Bruce*, and *John Winthrop*, Jun., together with several other persons, have fitted out, manned, and equipped a schooner called the *Warren*, mounting eight carriage guns, and navigated by sixty men, and lately commanded by *William Coas*, and returned from a cruise; and that the said owners have appointed your petitioner commander of the same schooner on another cruise now intending to be made, the said *Coas* having resigned the command thereof. Your petitioner therefore prays your Honours to grant him a commission as commander of the same schooner, under the restrictions in that case by the resolves of Congress prescribed. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

JOHN COULSTON.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 22d, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the said *John Coulston* as Commander of the above-named Schooner, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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ORDERS TO CAPTAIN FISH.

*Captain* JOHN FISH:

The brigantine *Tyrannicide*, under your command, being properly armed and manned, and in other respects fitted for a cruise, you are hereby ordered and directed immediately to proceed to sea, and use your utmost endeavours to pro-

tect the sea-coast and trade of the *United States*. And you are also directed to exert yourself in making captures of all ships and other vessels, goods, wares, and merchandise, belonging to the King of *Great Britain*, or any of his subjects wherever residing, excepting only the ships and goods of the inhabitants of *Bermuda* and the *Bahama* Islands. And you are directed not to cruise farther to the southward than latitude twelve north, nor farther east than longitude nine degrees west from *London*, nor farther west than the Shoals of *Nantucket;* at all times using necessary precaution to prevent your vessel from falling into the hands of the enemy.

And whereas you have received a commission authorizing you to make captures as aforesaid, and a set of instructions have been delivered you for regulating your conduct in that matter, these instructions you are hereby directed diligently to attend to; and if you are so fortunate as to make any captures, you are to order them to make the first safe harbour within the *United States of America*. And you are further ordered not to expend your ammunition unnecessarily, and only in time of action or firing alarm or signal guns.

In the name and per order of Council:

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

Council Chamber, October 22, 1776.

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PETITION OF LEMUEL PERKINS.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

The subscriber humbly prays your Honours to take notice of his unhappy situation. Confined, by the just determination of your Honours, to the town of *Salem*, he is desirous of the opportunity of supporting himself in his accustomed business. He might work on shore, but there his service is less needed and less advantageous to himself and the country. Seamen are greatly wanted, and within these few days he has been applied to to go in two different vessels to the eastward for wood, but being limited to *Salem* he was obliged to refuse the offered employment. One of these vessels is since gone, the other waits till your Honours' pleasure shall be known. Your petitioner acknowledges the justice of your Honours' sentence against him, but, praying remission of further punishment by a longer confinement, begs leave to assure your Honours that he will no more offend, and humbly hopes your Honours will grant him enlargement.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

LEMUEL PERKINS.

Salem, October 21, 1776.

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ORDER FOR THE DISCHARGE OF LEMUEL PERKINS.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 22d, 1776.

On reading the recommendation of *Timothy Pickering*, Jun., Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Safety, &c., of *Salem*, respecting the enlargement of *Lemuel Perkins*, who was, by an order of this Board of the 22d of *February* last, confined to the town of *Salem;* and also said *Perkins's* Petition praying for an enlargement:

Thereupon *Ordered*, That the said *Lemuel Perkins* be and he hereby is discharged from his confinement to the town of *Salem*, and the Committee of Safety, &c., of said town are hereby required to discharge him accordingly.

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*To the honourable the Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: *Lemuel Perkins*, of *Salem*, Mariner, now by your Honours confined to the town of *Salem*, being an able-bodied seaman and a pilot on the eastern shore, and coasters being greatly wanted for supplying this town with wood, from the want of which multitudes are much distressed, and he having been repeatedly applied to to enter as a hand in this employment, we advised him to petition your Honours for enlargement, and assured him we would recommend him to your favour, which we now do, and request that he may be restored, and enjoy the common privileges of an *American*, believing that by his future conduct he will endeavour to atone for past offences and to merit your Honours' approbation.

By order and in behalf of the Committee of Safety, &c., at *Salem:* TIM. PICKERING, Jun., *Chairman*.

Salem, October 21, 1776.

ORDER TO LEMUEL WILLIAMS.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, Watertown, October 22, 1776.

*Ordered*, That *Lemuel Williams*, Esq., be and he hereby is directed to deliver the Honourable *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Connecticut*, or to his order, one ton of the Sulphur now in his possession belonging to this State, he giving his receipt for the same, to replace it as soon as conveniently may be.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING SAMUEL HARDING £15 18*s.* 5*d.*

Passed October 22, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury of this State the sum of £15 18*s.* 5*d.*, to *Samuel Harding*, in full discharge of his account for services done said State while he was Commissary for the troops stationed at *Truro*, and in full for his commissions at two and a half per cent., as by said account will appear.

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PETITION OF JAMES PAYSON AND OTHERS, INHABITANTS OF ROWLEY.

*Colony of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable Council of the Colony aforesaid, and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, the 23d of* OCTOBER, 1776:

*The Petition of us, the subscribers, members of said Colony, humbly showeth:*

That whereas your petitioners, being inhabitants of *Rowley*, having by them a considerable quantity of Saltpetre, which we are ready to affirm was made according to an order of said Court for the encouragement of the manufacturing of said article, before the 1st of *October*, the time prefixed by the order mentioned above, pray your Honours, as we have spent much of our time and interest to make the same, according to your Honours' desire, and never knew but that it would be as acceptable after the expiration of said time as before: therefore we pray your Honours to accept it at the price mentioned in the order referred above. For which your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray for your Honours, &c.

JAMES PAYSON, JOSEPH TODD,
NELLSON TODD, JONATHAN PICKARD,
GEORGE JEWETT, EPHM. PICKARD.

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PETITION OF SAMUEL ALLYNE OTIS.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of* SAMUEL ALLYNE OTIS, *of* BOSTON, *humbly showeth:*

That soon after the battle of *Lexington* your petitioner's apprentice, *John Gray*, took passage for *Ireland*, where, hearing an accommodation was probable between *Great Britain* and the Colonies, he again embarked for his native land, and through the hardships and sufferings of a long winter voyage, he arrived off *Newbury-Port*, when he was made prisoner, and confined to the common prison there. But being only a passenger, and having nothing on board but some stores for his own subsistence, (which, by the way, were all taken from him,) and upon the representation of your petitioner, the Council were pleased to permit his imprisonment should be changed from *Newbury* Jail to *Barnstable* town, (sad alternative!) laying the prisoner, as well as your petitioner, under the heavy bonds of one thousand pounds. In this imprisonment he has remained, with the strictest obedience to the order of Council, near seven months, to the great damage and expense of your petitioner, as he wants his said apprentice's service, and is moreover obliged to support him at board, said *Gray* being stripped of all his property when taken. Wherefore your Honours' petitioner prays that said *Gray* may be enlarged, your petitioner discharged of his bonds, and enabled to avail himself of the services of his apprentice. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

Your Honours' most humble servant, SAM. A. OTIS.

Boston, 29th September, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 17th, 1776.—Read, and thereupon *Ordered*, That *Henry Gardner*, Esq., be a Committee to

take the above Petition under consideration, and report what is necessary to be done thereon.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

IN COUNCIL, *October* 22d, 1776.—*Resolved*, That *John Gray*, confined in the town of *Barnstable* by an order of Council, last, be and hereby is released from his confinement in said town, and that the said *John Gray* be permitted to return to *Boston*, Mr. *Samuel A. Otis* giving his word of honour that the said *John* shall not associate or correspond with, or any ways aid or assist, the enemies of this State, or do any thing detrimental to this or the *United States of America.*

IN COUNCIL, *October* 23d, 1776.—Read and accepted.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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PETITION OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF COLONEL MARSHALL'S REGIMENT.

*To the honourable Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of the Officers and Soldiers belonging to the Regiment whereof* THOMAS MARSHALL, *Esq., is Colonel, humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners did cheerfully engage in the service of this State, in expectation that according to establishment they should be served with good provision; but for some time past your petitioners have been served with pork (which is one principal part of our provision) that is very bad and unfit for use, being pork that was taken in an *Irish* prize and was designed for the *British* troops, but by reason of bad weather was on ship's board for many months in the *West-Indies;* and although it passed the inspection of gentlemen of undoubted judgment, yet your Honours' petitioners imagine they must either have seen the best part of the pork, or have seen it before it got so far damaged as it is at present, and therefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honours would direct, that instead of said pork, they may be served with provisions that is suitable for men in the service of this State. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

GAML. BRADFORD, *Lieut. Col., per order.*

Castle Island, October 22d, 1776.

In Council, October 23, 1776.

On the Petition of the Officers and Soldiers in the Regiment whereof *Thomas Marshall*, Esq., is Colonel:

Read, and *Ordered*, That the Commissary-General be, and he hereby is directed to employ Messrs. *Wheelwright* and *Barnard* to examine the Pork complained of in the above Petition; and if they can't attend, to employ some suitable persons to examine the same and see whether it is merchantable, and make report.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

Boston, October 24, 1776.

By virtue of the within order of Council, we have surveyed eight barrels, and find the pork good and sweet, except two barrels of which damaged for want of pickle.

WHEELWRIGHT & BARNARD.

We the subscribers, being a Committee appointed by the Honourable General *Lincoln* and Mr. Commissary *Devans* to inspect a quantity of pork in the Commissary's store complained of as bad and unfit for use, have attended that service and critically examined the pork, and are of opinion that it is sweet and good, and that it ought to be received by the troops without complaint.

DAVID SPEAR,
JOSI. WHITNEY,
JAMES DALTON,
THOS. CRAFTS.

Boston, July 20, 1776.

The pork appears to me to be eatable, but not of the best kind of merchantable.

THOS. MARSHALL.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYMENT OF LOSSES ON BUNKER'S HILL.

Passed October 23, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid to each person undernamed, out of the publick Treasury of this State, the sum set to each name in full discharge of their accounts for losses sustained at the battles of *Lexington* and *Bunker's Hill*, viz: to *Benjamin Willington*, £2 12*s.*; to *John Muzzay*, £1 9*s.*; to *Lucy Parker*, £1 11*s.*; to *William Tid*, £1 6*s.*; to *Marret Munro*, £2 2*s.*; to *Samuel Frost*, £7; to *Aaron Jewet*, £2; to *Seth Russel*, £6 10*s.*; to *Ephraim Robbins*, £3; to *Mary Gardner*, £5; to *John Goddard*, £2 4*s.*; to *Eliphalet Downer*, £2 12*s.*

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RESOLVE TO ENCOURAGE MEN TO CONTINUE IN THE SERVICE.

Passed October 23, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the several Committees appointed to repair to the Armies at or near *New-York* and *Ticonderoga*, be instructed, on their arrival at the Armies aforesaid, respectively, to consult with the General and Commander-in-Chief of the Army on the necessity of continuing in service the men belonging to this State, and now engaged till the 17th of *November* and 1st of *December* next, until the 1st day of *February* next; and if it shall be thought necessary or advisable there, to endeavour to prevail with them to engage to remain in the said service till the 1st of *February* next, and for their encouragement to engage to continue to that time, that the said Committees be, and hereby are empowered, in behalf of this State, to offer and engage to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier of the forces aforesaid an addition of twenty Shillings per month to the wages now established for them, to be paid out of the Treasury of this State, to commence from the 17th of *November* next, and to continue for the time they shall so engage for and serve in case they shall not be sooner discharged.

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION FOR THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH.

Passed October 23, 1776.

*Resolved*, That one half the Tax laid by this Court on the inhabitants of the town of *Falmouth* for the year 1775, be, and hereby is remitted to them. And the Assessors of said town are hereby empowered and directed to abate the same from the several persons in the Rate Bill, in such a manner as they shall think most reasonable and just, giving previous notice of the time and place at which they shall agree to sit to make such abatements.

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF JAMES SIKES.

Passed October 23, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to Captain *James Sikes*, in addition to what was ordered to be paid him *September* 6. last past, by this Court, to enable him to pay for the Saltpetre made in the Counties of *Hampshire* and *Berkshire*, and brought him before the 1st day of *October* instant, the sum of £1668 16*s.* 3*d.*, to enable him to pay for the same so brought him as aforesaid, and account with this Court for the same; and also a further sum of £7 17*s.* in full discharge of the within Account.

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PETITION OF ISAAC HARPER.

*To the honourable Members of the Council and House of Representatives for the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The most humble Petition of* ISAAC HARPER *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner on the evacuation of the town of *Boston* did remain with his family; and as he was determined to demean himself in an orderly manner, according to such regulations as might be established, so he firmly hoped to receive that protection and security for his self and property as his conduct naturally and justly demand. That however guiltless your petitioner was of any species of offence, yet he was, at the instance of some malicious person or persons, procured to be committed to close confinement; but for what reason or under what pretext, he is utterly at a loss to determine. That your petitioner is languishing in a close confinement, in want of many necessaries of life; that your petitioner's wife, daughter, and in short the whole of his family, are at this time very sickly, and having no other dependence but himself for their support, must soon become objects of great distress.

Your petitioner therefore most humbly pray, that this true account of the condition of his suffering family may melt your Honours into speedy determination for their relief of them. That benevolence which so strongly mark your

Honours' characters, makes your petitioner not doubtful of immediate relief, which will bind your petitioner to pray for such tender-hearted and compassionate gentlemen, and you may depend on his being very orderly and duly obedient to your regulations of government.

ISAAC HARPER.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 24, 1776.—Read, and thereupon *Resolved*, That *Benjamin Austin*, Esq., with such as the honourable House shall join, be a Committee to take under consideration the within Petition, and report what is necessary to be done thereon.

Sent down for concurrence.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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RESOLVE ENCOURAGING SOLDIERS TO REMAIN IN SERVICE.

Passed October 24, 1776.

Whereas this Court did by their Resolve of the 23d instant order that the several Committees appointed to repair to the Army at or near *New-York* and *Ticonderoga*, should be instructed, if it should be thought necessary and advisable by the Commanders-in-Chief in each Army respectively, to endeavour to engage the men belonging to this State who are now engaged in service till the 17th of *November* and first of *December* next, to remain in said service till the 1st of *February* next, and to offer and engage to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall engage to serve till the last-mentioned time, in addition of twenty Shillings per month to the wages now established for them, to commence from the 17th *November* and 1st of *December* next respectively: And it is now apprehended that the intentions of said Resolve will be more fully answered by altering the times of the commencement of such additional pay:

It is therefore *Resolved*, That the additional pay offered by that resolve to said Non-Commissioned Officers and Private Soldiers, shall commence from the time each such officer or soldier respectively shall engage to remain in said service, and to be continued to them for the time they shall so engage for and serve, in case they shall not be sooner discharged, any thing in the afore-mentioned resolve to the contrary notwithstanding.

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RESOLVE RELATIVE TO APPREHENDING DESERTERS.

Passed October 24, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs in the several Counties in this State, and the Constables of the several Towns within the same, be, and they hereby are, required and directed to give their aid and assistance to the Committees of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, of any of the Towns within their respective precincts, whenever called upon by them, for the purpose of apprehending and securing any Deserters from the Army that shall be found within their limits.

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PETITION OF STEPHEN RICE AND JAMES WOODS.

*To the honourable Council and the honourable House of Representatives of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in* NEW-ENGLAND, *humbly show:*

*Stephen Rice* and *James Woods*, in behalf of themselves and partners, owners of a furnace at *Hardwick*, in the County of *Worcester*, that your petitioners have agreed to furnish the Commissary-General of this State with a large quantity of cannon-ball and other warlike stores, a part of which we have already supplied, which are allowed to be of the very best kind. We have with great difficulty, by reason of the scarcity of labour, procured stock for making another blast, which has been attended with considerable additional expense by reason of the large draughts of men which have been made from among us. We are at this present time just entering on said blast; and understanding that this honourable Court have ordered one half of the Militia of the said County of *Worcester* to march to *Ticonderoga* on an alarm, it will be impossible to proceed in carrying on our blast should one half of the Militia of *Hardwick* and *New-Braintree* be ordered to march.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that thirty persons, which is the number employed in carrying on the business of said furnace, may excuse from the present or a future requisition of men, during our present blast, from said towns of *Hardwick* and *New-Braintree*. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

STEPHEN RICE,
JAMES WOODS.

Dated at Watertown, October 25th, 1776.

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ORDER TO RICHARD DERBY, JUN.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 25th, 1776.

The Committee appointed to take into consideration a letter from the Honourable *Richard Derby*, Jun., Esquire, have attended that service, and report, as their opinion, that the said *Richard Derby* be, and he hereby is directed to file a libel according to law against the prize brig *Henry and Ann*, in the Maritime Court for the Middle District; and the said *R. Derby* is also empowered to take all the papers belonging to said prize brig now in the hands of Mr. *Langdon*, Judge of the Maritime Court for the Eastern District, and the said *Langdon* is hereby ordered and directed to deliver to Mr. *Derby*, or his order, the said papers accordingly immediately on an application being made therefor.

Read and accepted:

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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PETITION OF MILES GREENWOOD.

*To the honourable the Council of Safety of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of* MILES GREENWOOD, *of* SALEM, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner, in company with *Joseph White*, *Ichabod Nichols*, and *Jonathan Ingersoll*, all of said *Salem*, hath fitted for sea a private sloop of war called the *Revenge*, burthen ninety tons, whereof *Benjamin Dean* is intended to be commander, mounted with eight carriage guns carrying a four-pound shot, navigated by sixty men, provided with three hundred pounds weight of gunpowder, five hundred shot, twenty barrels of pork, twenty barrels of bread, twenty barrels of beef.

Your petitioner's humble prayer, therefore, is, that the said *Benjamin Dean* may be commissioned Captain of the said private sloop-of-war *Revenge*. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

MILES GREENWOOD.

Salem, October 25th, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 26th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That the prayer of the Petition be granted, and that a Commission be issued out to the said *Benjamin Dean* within-mentioned, as Commander of the said Sloop called the *Revenge*, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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ORDER TO COLONEL HERRICK.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October 25, 1776.

*To Colonel* HENRY HERRICK:

SIR: You are hereby directed and required immediately to discharge the officers and private soldiers of your regiment that, by an order of this Board of the 20th day of *July* last, was ordered into the lines in the town of *Beverly;* and the said officers and soldiers are hereby discharged from the duty assigned them by said order; and the Selectmen of the town of *Beverly* are hereby discharged from supplying said officers and soldiers with provisions, &c., as directed in said order.

In the name and per order of Council:

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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RESOLVE RELATIVE TO CAPTAIN OBRIEN'S ROLLS.

Passed October 25, 1776.

On the Petition of *Jeremiah Obrien* and *John Lambert*,

*Resolved*, That Captain *Jeremiah Obrien*, commander of the Sloop *Machias Liberty*, and Captain *John Lambert*, commander of the Sloop *Diligent*, who have been employed in the service of this State, together with the rest of their officers and sea-coast men, under their respective commands be, and hereby are, directed to make up their rolls on the same establishment, from and after the first day of *Feb-*

*ruary*, and sixteenth day of *March*, with the other officers and seamen in the service of the State.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING FOR LOSSES ON BUNKER'S HILL.

Passed October 25, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury to Lieutenant *Ebenezer Vernum* thirty-three shillings, and to *Josiah Foster* two pounds five shillings, in full for the losses they sustained respectively in the battle on *Bunker's Hill*, on the 17th *June*, 1775.

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RESOLVE FOR SUPPLYING GENERAL SCHUYLER WITH NAILS.

Passed October 25, 1776.

Whereas General *Schuyler*, by a letter to the Selectmen of the town of *Boston*, acquaints them that Barracks and a variety of buildings are constructing, but greatly retarded for want of Nails, and that he has sent the bearer, Captain *Joseph Torry*, to procure what quantity he can, and entreats the favour of the Selectmen to afford him their aid in making the purchases and procuring the carriages to convey them to *Saratoga;* and the said Selectmen having acquainted the Board that they have made strict inquiry, and can find but very few Nails in the town, and that they don't see it possible to procure the quantity which is wanting for General *Schuyler*, but by taking those that are lately carried in as prize at *Newburyport:* And whereas there is a large quantity on board the said prize, lately arrived at *Newburyport*, which being the property of private persons, who are not yet qualified to dispose of the same, (not being allowed to break bulk until lawfully condemned in a Maritime Court:) And whereas the publick service requires that General *Schuyler* should be immediately supplied with Nails, and the usual forms for condemnation of prizes taken and brought into harbour, cannot at this time be attended to:

It is therefore *Resolved*, That the Judge of the Maritime Court in the Middle District of this State be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to order that the said prize vessel now in *Newburyport*, be so far unloaded as to take out of her such a quantity of said Nails as will be sufficient to answer the present urgent call from General *Schuyler*.

And it is further *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to repair with Captain *Torry* to *Newburyport*, there to assist him in contracting with the owners or agents of said prize vessel for the quantity he wants, and set the price of said Nails, which price may be stated as two or more indifferent men shall judge, or as the remainder of said Nails may hereafter be disposed of, either at publick auction or otherwise. And the aforesaid Committee are directed to give Captain *Torry* all the assistance in their power to procure Teams to transport the said Nails to *Saratoga* as soon as possible.

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RESOLVE APPOINTING A COMMISSARY FOR SEA-COAST MEN STATIONED AT NEWBURYPORT.

Passed October 23, 1776.

Whereas by a Resolve of the General Court passed the 27th of *June* last, there was a company of Sea-Coast Men established at *Newburyport*, and there was not then, nor has been since, any Commissary appointed for said company: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Nathaniel Tracey* be Commissary of said company from this time until their inlistment is out; and that Captain *Moses Nowell*, who has, since the raising of said company, supplied them with provisions and other necessaries, be allowed to exhibit his account of supplies to this Court, or such Committee as shall be by them appointed, for examination and payment.

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RESOLVE APPOINTING A COMMITTEE TO RECORD CERTIFICATES, &C., RELATIVE TO WOUNDED MEN.

Passed October 25, 1776.

*Resolved*, That a Joint Committee of both Houses be annually chosen, whose duty it shall be from time to time to receive, examine, and record, in a book provided for that purpose, all certificates that may be presented to them by any commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, or private soldier, marine, or seaman, who has been wounded while in the service of the *United States of America*, by sea or land; and having examined into the nature and degree of their wounds so received, shall make report to this Court, as soon as may be, what they shall judge ought to be their allowance or pension; and after order is taken thereon, shall record the same in the book aforesaid, agreeable to the resolve of Congress.

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF DEER-ISLAND.

Passed October 25, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of *Deer-Island* be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered (if they think proper) to libel in the Maritime Court for the Eastern District the Sloop *Sally*, belonging to *Nathan Jones*, taken by said Committee on the 30th day of *August*, 1775, for the breach of Continental and other Resolutions. And the said Court is hereby authorized and empowered to hear and determine the justice of the said capture, to all intents and purposes, as fully as if the said sloop had been libeled within the time limited by law for that purpose. And whereas the said Committee have represented that the said *Nathan Jones* hath, in many instances, both by words and other ways, discovered himself to be inimical to the interest of the *United States of America*, the said Committee are hereby directed to take testimonies, properly authenticated, respecting the same, and that the said Committee transmit the same, as soon as may be, to the General Court of this State.

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RESOLVE FOR SUPPLYING THE MILITIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE, WITH ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

Passed October 26, 1776.

Whereas it is highly probable there may soon be occasion for a number of the Militia from this State to march in support of the Continental Army acting in the Northern Department; and as there is reason to apprehend that the Militia in some of the western counties are not so amply provided with Arms and Military Supplies as to march speedily to the assistance of their brethren in the Army, if called upon for that purpose:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be directed to cause to be transported into the County of *Berkshire*, two hundred Fire-Arms, one thousand weight of Gunpowder, and one thousand weight of Leaden Balls, to the care of *Timothy Edwards*, *Jerathmeel Woodbridge*, and *Samuel Brown*, Esquires, of *Stockbridge*, or either of them, to be disposed of to such of the inhabitants of said County as are destitute of Arms, &c., at the rates following, viz: The Fire-Arms at such price as he or they shall judge them to be worth; the Powder at five shillings per pound; and the Leaden Ball at the rate of fifty shillings per hundred weight; and that the said *Timothy Edwards*, *Jerathmeel Woodbridge*, and *Samuel Brown*, be directed to give publick notice in said County of said articles being deposited in their hands for the purposes before mentioned; and that he be accountable to the General Assembly of this State for the same.

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF LEVI ALLEN.

Passed October 26, 1776.

On the Petition of *Levi Allen*,

*Resolved*, That *Henry Gardner*, Esq., the Treasurer of this State, be and he is hereby directed to exchange one hundred and twenty pounds of Silver or Gold from the publick Treasury, for the same sum he may receive from Mr. *Levi Allen* in paper Bills of Credit of any of the *United States*, agreeable to the request of said *Allen*.

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RESOLVE FOR APPOINTING A BOARD OF WAR.

Passed October 26, 1776.

Whereas the present exigencies of our affairs, and the war we are by the injurious and cruel conduct of *Britain* forced into, for the defence of every thing dear to us, make it necessary that we should adopt the best measures for conducting the war with the greatest secrecy, despatch, and economy:

*It is, therefore, Resolved*, That nine persons be appointed by joint ballot of both Houses of Assembly, as a Committee, under the title of a Board of War, who shall keep in *Boston*,

or such other place or places as the General Court may order, or the said Board shall find necessary, a publick office for the purpose hereafter mentioned, and continue as a Committee for these purposes until the twentieth day of *June* next, and until others shall be appointed, subject nevertheless to a discharge at any time by the General Assembly of this State, whose business it shall be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby empowered to order and direct the operations of the Forces in the pay of this State, both by sea and land, by giving the Commanders of the Troops, Garrisons, and Vessels of War, such orders for their conduct and cruises, from time to time, as they shall think proper, such orders to be signed in their name by the President of said Board, or, in his absence, by the member thereof officiating as President *pro tempore*; such Land Forces, nevertheless, shall not be sent out of this State without the express consent of the General Assembly thereof; and shall order the Commissary to furnish them, and also the Militia, upon extraordinary occasions, with all warlike and other Stores, Provisions, and Clothing, that shall appear to them proper and necessary: And for the more effectually enabling them to do this business,

*It is also Resolved*, That the said Committee or Board of War, or the major part of them, shall procure or cause to be procured, Provisions, Arms, Cannon, Ammunition, Clothing, and all other articles necessary for carrying on the war by sea and land; for which purpose they shall take up, or may purchase, load, and fit out with suitable cargoes, such vessels as shall appear to them proper for importing said articles from other States, they not amounting in the whole to a greater sum than shall from time to time be granted by the General Assembly and appropriated for those purposes; which articles, when procured, shall be lodged with the Commissary of this State, who shall store them in such safe and convenient places for the defence of this State as said Committee or Board of War shall order; and then with such articles belonging to this State now in his hands, from time to time, deliver out according to the orders of said Committee, and also procure any such articles as said Committee shall direct.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the Secretary and Commissary of this State make such returns to said Committee without delay as they shall from time to time require: and all officers in the service and pay of this State, by sea or land, are hereby required to be obedient and subject to such orders as they shall from time to time receive from the said Committee or Board of War, with the limitations aforesaid, which Committee shall keep in books for that purpose provided, fair and clear entries of all orders issued, and returns made, and also of all their proceedings, and of all the military and warlike stores and provisions belonging to this State, and the places where deposited. And said Committee or Board of War shall produce books and render account of their doings to the General Assembly of this State whenever and so often as they shall be thereunto required. And for the more effectually carrying into execution the purposes aforesaid, the said Committee or Board of War, or the major part of them, shall be, and hereby are, empowered to draw warrants on the Treasurer of this State for such sums of money as the General Assembly shall appropriate for that purpose, and the said Treasurer is hereby directed to pay the same: the said Committee or Board of War to be accountable to the General Assembly of this State for the expenditure thereof. And the said Committee, or the major part of them, are hereby empowered to take up or (if need be) impress any Horses, Cattle, and Carriages, and such other articles as the exigencies of the publick service may require.

*And it is also Resolved*, That any five, and not less, of said Committee or Board of War, shall be a quorum, and vested with full powers to act in all cases; and their doings shall be as valid in all respects as if the whole were present.

*And it is also further Resolved*, That a Secretary, and, if need be, one or more Clerks, to said Board of War shall be appointed by the said Board, and shall have such allowances for their services as the General Assembly of this State shall order; and such Secretary and Clerks shall, before they enter on their respective offices, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before any one of the Council of this State or the Chairman of the said Board of War, who are hereby empowered to administer the same, a certificate whereof shall be filed in said office, viz:

"I, A B, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not, directly or indirectly, divulge any matter or thing which shall come to my knowledge as Secretary (or Clerk) of the Board of War established by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, without the leave of the Board of War or by the direction of the General Assembly of this State: and that I will faithfully execute my said office, according to the best of my skill and judgment. So help me God; (or this I affirm) on the pains and penalties of perjury.

"Witness my hand, this day of A. D. 17 ."

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### RESOLVE FOR RAISING THREE OF THE FIFTEEN BATTALIONS ASSESSED THIS STATE.

Passed October 26, 1776.

Whereas it is necessary that measures be immediately taken to complete the raising the proportion of men assigned this State by the honourable Congress with the greatest despatch:

*It is therefore Resolved*, That the Field Officers for three Battalions be appointed by this Court as soon as may be, and that Brigadier *Farley*, Captain *Josiah Stone*, Colonel *Orne*, Doctor *Dunmore*, and Mr. *Davis*, be a Committee, whose business shall be, after suitable inquiries, to appoint the Captains and Subalterns for the Companies of three Battalions, on the conditions hereafter mentioned, and to give the said Captains and Subalterns beating orders for raising their respective Companies from men belonging to this State, upon the terms and for the time proposed by the honourable Congress by their resolves of the 16th, 18th, and 19th of *September* last. Each of said Captains and Subalterns who shall inlist men as aforesaid, and who shall return the original inlistment to the above Committee, and shall not be commissioned, shall be entitled to and receive from the State six shillings for each man he shall so inlist and that shall pass muster, and each corps of officers for a Company consisting of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, and one Ensign, raising a Company equal to the number established by Congress for a Company, on or before the 15th day of *December* next, to be entitled to receive their respective commissions agreeable to their appointments by said Committee; the said officers once every fortnight, or oftener, as the said Committee shall direct, making return of the men so inlisted to said Committee, and lodging with them the original inlistments, and not to be entitled to said commissions unless they inlist a sufficient number of men to complete a Company as aforesaid. And the said Committee shall make returns of their doings into the Secretary's office by the 17th day of *December* next.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the said Committee be and they are hereby empowered, at the expiration of the term above-mentioned for completing inlistments by the several corps of officers for that purpose appointed, to deliver commissions to such as shall have completed inlistments for a full Company; and in all cases where Captains, Lieutenants and Ensigns designed for a Company have inlisted a number of men less than a number a Company is to consist of, the said Committee are hereby empowered to form them into companies and to distribute the commissions to the officers in such manner as to them shall seem most conducive to the service, giving preference to such corps of officers as shall have raised the most men.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the Commission Officers of each Company who shall receive commissions from the Committee aforesaid, shall appoint the Non-Commissioned Officers in their Companies respectively.

*And it is further Resolved*, That said Committee be and they are hereby directed to transmit from time to time to this Court accounts of the success of their undertaking; of the difficulties or embarrassments, if any there be, attending the completing the levies aforesaid, and of the reasons thereof, that measures may be immediately taken to remove the same.

*It is also Resolved*, That each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist into the Continental service as aforesaid, shall be entitled to and receive from this State, one Blanket annually, or eighteen Shillings in case he shall procure one for himself and produce a certificate thereof from the Captain of the Company to which he belongs to

the Paymaster of the Regiment, provided Congress shall not make provision for the same.

*And it is further Resolved*, That each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist into the Continental service as aforesaid, shall be entitled to, and receive from the Treasury of this State twenty Shillings per month, to be paid him or his order every six months during his continuance in the service, in addition to the pay and encouragement already granted by Congress, provided Congress shall not make any addition to the wages as established on or before the 19th of *September* last; and in case the Congress shall make an increase of wages less than twenty shillings per month, this State will supply the deficiency, and cause the same to be paid them as aforesaid.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the several Corps of Officers to whom Beating Orders may be given by virtue of the foregoing Resolves, be and they are hereby empowered to inlist men from the several Regiments and Companies in this State in the land service, except the Regiment of Artillery under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel *Crafts*, either in the pay of this or the *United American States;* and the men serving in either of said Regiments or Companies, except as above excepted, are hereby allowed and permitted to inlist, if they see fit, immediately into the service in the aforegoing Resolves referred to, any previous engagements to form in either of said Regiments or Companies to the contrary notwithstanding.

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PETITION OF JOHN TURNER.

*State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled*, OCTOBER *the* 28, 1776, *humbly shows* JOHN TURNER, *of* PEMBROKE, *in the County of* PLYMOUTH:

That your petitioner has two sons in the Continental service as soldiers, and one son stationed at the *Garnet*, in Captain *William Weston's* company; and as your petitioner has no son or servant left at home to take care of his family and business, and as the fort at the *Garnet* is almost finished: Wherefore your petitioner prays that his son *Job Turner*, who is stationed at the *Garnet*, may be discharged from that company, and have liberty to return home, he drawing his wages for the time has been in the service. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOHN TURNER.

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PETITION OF THE SELECTMEN OF BEVERLY.

*To the honourable Great and General Court of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of the Selectmen of the Town of* BEVERLY, *in the name and behalf of said Town, most humbly sheweth:*

That whereas the Fourteenth Regiment in the service of the *United States of America*, commanded by Colonel *Glover*, was some time in *July* last ordered to march from this town, where we had for some time been stationed for the safety and protection thereof, to the State of *New-York*, to join the grand Army there, by which means this town was left destitute of any forces to guard on their sea-coast, which is very extensive and greatly exposed, the town petitioned to the honourable Council of this State (the Great and General Court not then setting) for some relief and assistance, who, with their usual benevolence, on the 20th of *July* last ordered Colonel *Henry Herrick*, Colonel of the Eighth Regiment in this County, to march a number of the Militia in said regiment into the lines within this town, not exceeding sixty, to guard within the same, &c., till further order of the Council; which was accordingly done; and they have guarded and performed their duty to the date hereof, when, by order of the honourable Council, they were discharged; by which means we are left destitute of men, and in a most unhappy situation, extending six miles on the sea-coast very convenient for landing of troops, &c. The settlers alongshore the most of that distance built breastworks and forts, procured cannon and warlike stores, and placed them in the same, and by far the greater part of the able-bodied men belonging to the town in the publick service or gone to sea, by which means we are reduced to a most defenceless state.

We therefore do most humbly pray that the honourable Court would be pleased to grant us a company of sea-coast men, or such a number of men as they shall think necessary, or order in the Militia to our assistance, or devise such ways and means for the safety and protection of this town as they in their great wisdom shall think best, as we in duty bound shall ever pray.

BENJA. SMITH,
EDM'D GILES,
JOSEPH WOOD,
*Selectmen of* BEVERLY.

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PETITION OF OLIVER ALLEN AND OTHERS.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* OLIVER ALLEN *and* EDWARD HAMMOND, *of* ROCHESTER, *and* ISRAEL FERING, JOSHUA BRIGGS, *and* DAVID NYE, *of* WENHAM, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the sloop called the *True Blue*, burthen about fifty-five tons, armed with six carriage guns and eight swivels, three hundred weight of powder, and with shot and langrage in proportion, navigated by forty men; has on board as provisions thirty-five barrels of beef and pork, and three thousand weight of bread. Said sloop is designed to cruise against the enemies of the *United States of America*.

Officers on board are as follows, viz: *Oliver Allen*, Commander; *John Walls*, First Lieutenant; *Barnebas Bates*, Second Lieutenant; *John Carver*, Master.

Your petitioners therefore humbly prays your Honours to commission said sloop and commander, for the purposes above-mentioned. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

OLIVER ALLEN,
In behalf of himself and others concerned.

Watertown, October 28th, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 28th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That the prayer of the above Petition be granted, and that a Commission be issued out to the said *Oliver Allen* as Commander of said Sloop, he, the said *Allen*, complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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PERMISSION FOR LEVI ALLEN TO GO TO HALIFAX.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, October .

Whereas application have been made by Mr. *Levi Allen* to this Board that he may have liberty granted him to proceed to *Halifax*, in order for the relief of his brother, Colonel *Ethan Allen*, and eighteen other prisoners with him at *Halifax*, and to procure the release of his said brother and the rest of those unhappy sufferers with him in Jail:

Therefore, *Ordered*, That the above-named Mr. *Levi Allen* be and he hereby is permitted to go from this State to *Halifax* for the purposes above-mentioned; and it is hereby recommended to the Commanders of all armed and other vessels to let the said Mr. *Levi Allen* pass unmolested to *Halifax*, and from thence to this State.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING RUTH PARKER £7 14*s.* 9*d.*

Passed October 28, 1776.

On the Petition of *Ruth Parker*,

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid to her, out of the Treasury of this State, the sum of £7 14*s.* 9*d.*, in full for the loss her late husband sustained on *Bunker-Hill*.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING JOSEPH TRIP, A WOUNDED SOLDIER, THIRTEEN POUNDS.

Passed October 28, 1776.

*Resolved*, That £13 be paid out of the Treasury of this State to *Walter Spooner*, Esq., for the use of *Job Trip*, &c.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING THOMAS MIGHILL £2 6*s.*

Passed October 28, 1776.

On the Petition of *Thomas Mighill*,

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State the sum of £2 6*s.*, in full of his loss on *Bunker-Hill*.

RESOLVE ALLOWING SUNDRY PERSONS FOR LOSSES ON BUNKER-HILL.

Passed October 28, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Publick Treasury, to *Josiah Pierce*, £3 9*s*. 2*d*.; to *Andrew McNet*, £4 15*s*. 4*d*.; to *Joel Munn*, 18*s*.; to *Jacob Thayer*, £2 14*s*. 2*d*.

RESOLVE FOR PAYING JACOB FROST £28 18*s*.

Passed October 28, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* £28 18*s*. to *Jacob Frost*, in full for his wages, thirteen months and a half, while in captivity, and for things lost in the battle.

RESOLVE EMPOWERING THE COMMISSARY-GENERAL TO SUPPLY THE SEVERAL TOWNS WITH POWDER.

Passed October 28, 1776.

Whereas, by a resolve of this Court of the 24th day of *June* last, the keeper of either of the Powder-Mills in this State was empowered and directed to sell to the Selectmen of each town in this State, at the rate of five shillings per pound, as much Gunpowder as shall be wanted in their respective town stocks, to furnish each man on the alarm and train-band lists, with half a pound weight: And whereas it is much easier and more convenient for divers towns to send to the Commissary-General's store in *Watertown*, for such supplies of powder there, than to either of the Powder-Mills:

*It is, therefore, Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be and is hereby empowered and directed, upon such certificate as is prescribed in the resolve above-mentioned, to sell and deliver at *Watertown*, to the Selectmen of any town, or the Committee of any unincorporated plantation in this State, who shall apply to him therefor, such quantity of Gunpowder, at the price of five shillings per pound, as the keeper of either of the said Powder-Mills was, by the resolve above-said, empowered to sell.

RESOLVE PERMITTING DAVID SMITH TO PROCEED TO NOVA-SCOTIA.

Passed October 28, 1776.

On the Petition of *David Smith*,

*Resolved*, That the prayer of his Petition be granted, and that leave be, and hereby is given to him to go to *Nova-Scotia*, to bring up his family and effects; and the commanders of the armed vessels belonging to this State are directed not to molest or impede him, but to afford him assistance and protection. And the commanders of all armed vessels belonging to any of the *United States of America* are also requested not to impede or molest said *Smith*. And it is ordered that he be furnished with a copy of this resolve for the purpose aforesaid.

MEMORIAL OF COLONEL WHITNEY.

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives, convened at* WATERTOWN, *in the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

*Your Memorialist humbly shows:*

That he was appointed the 10th of *April* last to take the command of a battalion of men raised by this State; and though the pay of the State was small, yet my zeal for the liberties of my country was so great that I cheerfully undertook. The men were obtained, and we early in the spring took the field, while the enemy were in the harbour, and a reinforcement daily expected. But since that, other officers have been appointed; the men ready raised to their hands without their being at any expense to look them up, placed in the most secure and least laborious quarters, and yet put on Continental pay; while we, who were at vast expense to inlist our men, are stationed in the key of the State, the most hazardous and fatiguing post, where every thing is difficult to be obtained, and of extravagant price, and only the small establishment of this State to support us, which does not much more than clear our expenses.

This as to myself is not so grievous, for I am ready to spend, not only my fortune in the cause, but my life also, if need requires; but my under officers are very much troubled, and think your bounty toward them is not so great as towards some of the other regiments; and though they do not pretend to claim Continental pay as absolutely due, yet when they consider the impartiality that ought to govern every legislative body, and which they are persuaded reigns in this House, they flatter themselves that you will not degrade them below their brethren, but raise them to Continental pay. And this, I humbly conceive, would put a stop to the great uneasiness in the camps, and that coldness and indifference that appears between the several regiments would cease, and all would go on in love and unity in the glorious cause of liberty.

Therefore your petitioner humbly prays that you would take the premises under consideration, and order as you in your wisdom shall think best, and if possible put us on Continental pay. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOSIAH WHITNEY, *Coll.*

Camp at Hull, October the 29th, 1776.

RESOLVE FOR ADJOURNING THE SUPERIOUR COURT FOR ESSEX AND MIDDLESEX.

Passed October 29, 1776.

Whereas the Superiour Court of Judicature, Court of Assize, and General Jail Delivery, is to be held this day at *Cambridge*, within and for the County of *Middlesex*; and at *Salem*, within and for the County of *Essex*, on the first *Tuesday* in *November* next: And whereas several Members of the House and Council, whose attendance is absolutely necessary at the General Court, must attend said Superiour Court, in the Counties aforesaid, if it should sit there:

*It is, therefore, Resolved*, That the Justices of said Superiour Court be, and they are hereby directed to adjourn the said Court, which is by law to be held at *Cambridge* this day, unto the second *Tuesday* in *February* next, then to be held at said *Cambridge*, within and for the County aforesaid.

*And it is also Resolved*, That the said Superiour Court of Judicature, Court of Assize, and General Jail Delivery, which by law is to be held at *Salem* on the first *Tuesday* of *November* next, shall be, and hereby is adjourned to the first *Tuesday* of *February* next, then to be held at said *Salem*, within and for said County of *Essex*, there to take cognizance of all such matters as would have been cognizable by said Court if it had been held as aforesaid, on the first *Tuesday* of *November*, as by law is provided; and all persons summoned or bound by recognizance to appear at said Court on said first *Tuesday* of *November*, shall be held to appear and answer on said first *Tuesday* of *February*, in the same manner as they would have been obliged to do if said Court had been held on the said first *Tuesday* of *November*, as by law prefixed.

RESOLVE PERMITTING WILLIAM PITTS TO RETURN TO THIS STATE.

Passed October 28, 1776.

On the Petition of *John Pitts*,

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the above Petition be granted, and that the said *William Pitts* have leave to return to this State with his effects; and all commanders of privateers and other armed vessels belonging to this State are hereby directed not to impede or obstruct the said *William* on his return, but to afford him assistance and protection; and the commanders of all armed vessels belonging to any of the *United States of America* are also requested not to impede or molest said *Pitts*; and that a copy of this Resolve be given the petitioner for the purpose aforesaid.

PETITION OF GEORGE CHILD.

*To the honourable Council of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of* GEORGE CHILD *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner, being bound from *Jamaica* to *Bristol*, in the ship *St. Lucea*, loaded with sugar and rum, was taken by Captain *Eleazer Giles*, of *Beverly*, commander of the brigantine *Retaliation*, and was sent with his said ship into said *Beverly*, where it is probable his said ship and cargo will soon be condemned, the captors having generously given him his adventure, which is sufficient to purchase a small schooner, with which he is desirous of returning to his family: Therefore your petitioner humbly prays your

Honours to permit him to proceed from *Beverly* to *Bristol* in a schooner about fifty tons, with ballast and stores sufficient for such a voyage, with ten men besides himself, said schooner to be fitted out, &c., under the inspection of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, of said *Beverly*; or otherwise relieve your petitioner as you in your great wisdom shall see fit. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

GEO. CHILD.

Beverly, October 28th, 1776.

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State of Massachusetts-Bay, in Council, October 30th, 1776.

On the Petition of *George Child*, late Master of the Ship *St. Lucia*,

*Ordered*, That the prayer of the said Petition be so far granted as that the said Captain *Child* be permitted to depart from this State by taking passage in any vessel that may be going hence for *Europe* or the *West-Indies*, and that he be permitted to take with him necessary stores for his passage, under the direction of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, of the Town of *Beverly*.

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PETITION OF JOSIAH BATCHELDER, JUN.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN: *The Petition of* JOSIAH BATCHELDER, *Jun., & Co., humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the schooner called the *Warren*, burthen about fifty tons, armed with six carriage guns and ten swivels, three hundred and fifty pounds of powder, and with shot in proportion, navigated with fifty men, has on board as provision fifteen barrels pork, twenty barrels beef, and three thousand weight bread; said schooner is designed to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

The officers on board are as followeth, viz: *Israel Thorndike*, Captain; *Nicholas Oglebee*, First Lieutenant; *William Ryan*, Second Lieutenant; *John Lee*, Master.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honours to commission said schooner and commander for the purpose above-mentioned. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOSIAH BATCHELDER, JR., & CO.

Beverly, October 29, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *October* 30th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-named *Israel Thorndike*, as Commander of said Schooner called the *Warren*, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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PETITION OF JOSIAH ELLIS AND OTHERS.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives, convened at* WATERTOWN, *in the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

We the subscribers humbly show: That in obedience to a resolve of the House of Representatives, *June* the 8th, 1776, we were ordered to go on board the sloop *Betsey*, bound to *Falmouth*, (*Casco Bay*,) as a guard to six cannon and other warlike stores; and we drew rations at *Boston* for eight days; but through the badness of weather going down, and being obliged to return to *Boston* by land, and there some time detained before we could get a passage to *Hull*, where the regiment was removed, we were absent from said regiment fifteen days, seven of which we were obliged to victual ourselves, at two shillings and four pence per day for each man—the whole sum, eight pounds nineteen shillings and eight pence.

We therefore beg this honourable Court would take the premises into consideration, and order for our relief, so that we may not be sufferers by our going on the said command. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

| | |
|---|---|
| JOSIAH ELLIS, | EDWARD COLTON, |
| NATHAN COLE, | DANIEL MORGAN, |
| WILLIAM ELDRIGE, | SIMEON CANNON, |
| JOHN WHORTER, | LEWIS MORGAN, |
| SETH STEBBINS, | DAVID CHASE, |
| | NATHANIEL CROSBY. |

Hull, October the 30th, 1776.

This may certify, that the within Petition is agreeable to truth, and the subscribers are the persons sent on command aboard said Sloop.

JOSIAH WHITNEY, *Coll.*

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PETITION OF JOSIAH GODFREY.

*To the honourable the Council and honourable House of Representatives of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY: *The Petition of* JOSIAH GODFREY, *Chief Pilot of the Sloop-of-War* REPUBLIC, *commanded by Captain* WILLIAMS, *fitted out by this State, humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner engaged in the service of this State expecting as much wages as is given to pilots in the Continental service; but thinking himself in danger of being deprived of that reward for his service that he can obtain from others, and which others in his capacity enjoy, begs leave to state facts to your Honours, not doubting but he shall have all that justice done him that the justice of his cause deserves. Your petitioner engaged with Captain *Williams*, upon his encouragement to give him as much as those of his station in the Continental service. This was strengthened by Colonel *Bowers* engaging to lay a petition before your Honours in behalf of your petitioner, that Captain *Williams's* engagement might be fulfilled to him; but this by accident was not done, and your petitioner having had several offers more advantageous, has kept this upon the above encouragement. Now your petitioner is left to the sad alternative, either to go much under what others freely offer him, or quit the service of this State dishonourably, and the worthy officers with whom he is now happily connected: your humble petitioner makes choice of the former, and leaves the event to your Honours, praying your Honours to make good his encouragements from Captain *Williams*, which induced him to engage in the service, and to allow him as much as those in the Continental service, which is six pounds per month.

And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

JOSIAH GODFREY.

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RESOLVE FOR SUPPLYING THE ARMY WITH NECESSARY STORES.

Passed October 30, 1776.

*Resolved*, That *Robert Breck*, *John Chester Williams*, *Henry Hill*, *Caleb Davis*, and *George Williams*, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee for the purpose of purchasing from time to time, till the further order of this Court, on the most reasonable terms, a quantity of such slop or small stores, roots, and vegetables, as they shall think necessary for the present relief of that part of the Continental Army, both Northern and Southern, that has been raised in this State; and said Committee is hereby directed to convey the same to the Commissaries thereinafter appointed, in proportion to the numbers in their respective departments, and take their receipts for the same, and lay their accounts before this Court for allowance.

*Resolved*, That there be, and hereby is allowed to be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to the said Committee or their order, the sum of £10,000, to enable them to execute this trust, they to be accountable to the General Court for the expenditure of the same.

*And it is further Resolved*, That *Hezekiah Smith*, for the Northern, and *Samuel Whittemore*, for the Southern Army, be, and they hereby are, appointed Commissaries in behalf of this State, to take charge of all stores purchased by the Committee above appointed, and by them committed to them respectively, and them to sell to the soldiers in that part of the Army raised in this State where they are appointed respectively, at the prime cost and charges, and no more. The said Commissaries to be accountable to this Court for their doings in said office when required, and to be allowed for their services as the Court shall think just.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING THOMAS LUDLOW, JUN., A PRISONER, SOME GOODS.

Passed October 30, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the agent for the Southern District of this State be, and hereby is, directed to deliver *Thomas Ludlow*, Jun., out of the goods taken on board the Sloop *Elizabeth*, the following articles, in addition to those already delivered him, viz: one suit of bed and three window curtains; two

pair of sheets and three pillow cases; one dozen napkins; four table cloths; one dressing-glass; two bed quilts; three pair children's shoes; four pair of women's shoes; four dozen children's clouts; one *Hadley's* quadrant; one quarter wagoner; one small basket of medicines, together with the whole of his wearing apparel, belonging to himself and family.

And it is further *Resolved*, That said *Ludlow*, upon receiving the above articles, shall not be entitled to any further allowance for wages and adventure as Master of said sloop.

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RESOLVE EMPOWERING THE TREASURER OF THIS STATE TO STOP PART OF CAPTAIN OBRIAN'S ROLL.

Passed October 30, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer of this State be, and he hereby is directed to stop, out of the moneys due to Captain *Jeremiah Obrian* on his muster-roll, the sum of £21, for cash supplied the said Captain *Obrian* by Messieurs *Jackson, Tracy & Tracy*, of *Newburyport*, for the purpose of supplying Captain *Obrian's* men, and pay the said Company of *Jackson, Tracy & Tracy*, the said sum of £21, taking their receipt for the same.

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PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF SALEM.

*To the honourable the Council of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety of the Town of* SALEM, *humbly show:*

That divers of the subjects of the King of *Great Britain*, taken in vessels in his immediate service, and on board merchant vessels, are now resident in this town, and in other maritime towns; that their numbers are daily increasing, as prizes are brought in; that the resolves of Congress respecting prisoners of war were passed before the Declaration of Independence, and determined such only to be prisoners as are taken in arms; that the crews of merchant vessels do now frequently oppose in arms their captors; that hence arise doubts on the question, Who are prisoners of war? That this town has not been assigned for the residence of such prisoners, and so this Committee have no authority to control them; that in the maritime towns they have the earliest intelligence of the transactions of the *Americans*, have opportunities of mixing in all companies, and in some such towns of daily communicating with many persons who, though observant of the laws and the resolves of Congress, are yet justly liable to suspicion as being not well-wishers to *America*. For these reasons we pray your Honours that some steps may be immediately taken relative to the captives afore-mentioned, that shall ensure the publick safety and the safety and property of the maritime towns: for we beg leave to add, that we do not think it expedient that captives not disposed to enter on board our vessels of war or merchant vessels should be permitted to reside in such towns, since being compact they are exposed to destruction by fire, and their vessels and boats may easily be cut out of their harbours and run away with. Some such instances have already happened; we wonder no more have occurred.

We find by an order of the honourable Board that Captain *Lecke*, of the Light Dragoons, and the Chaplain, Mr. *Lewes*, were to have been sent to *Boxford*, after the Sheriff had taken their parole, and the common dragoons were to have been delivered to the Committees in this County, to be let to work; but that order remains unexecuted in every part, and for that reason many persons here are uneasy. They are also uneasy because *John Cousett Peers*, Lieutenant of the tender taken by Captain *Fisk*, still remains in this town, although it is some time since he recovered of his wounds. There is the greater reason for this uneasiness with regard to *Leche, Lewes*, and *Peers*, because neither of them has given the parole ordered by Congress. We therefore pray your Honours to give immediate orders relative to these prisoners, as well as the former.

In behalf and by order of the Committee,

TIM. PICKERING, Jr., *Chairman.*

Salem, October 30, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *November* 1, 1776.—Read, and thereupon *Ordered*, That *Daniel Hopkins*, Esq., be a Committee to take the above Letter under consideration, and report what is necessary to be done thereon.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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PETITION OF PHILIP MOORE AND ARCHIBALD MERCER.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* PHILIP MOORE *and* ARCHIBALD MERCER, *of* BOSTON, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the ship called the *General Mifflin*, burthen about three hundred and fifty tons, armed with twenty nine-pounders and six four-pounders, four thousand weight of powder and five tons of shot, navigated by one hundred and twenty men, *William Day*, Commander; *George Starr*, First Lieutenant; *William Day*, Jr., Second Lieutenant; and *William Roach*, Master; has on board, as provisions, bread and flour eight tons; one hundred and twenty barrels beef and pork. Said ship is designed to cruise against the enemies of the *United States*.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission said ship and commander for the purposes above-mentioned. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

PHILIP MOORE,
ARCHIBALD MERCER.

IN COUNCIL, *November* 1, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That a Commission be issued out to the above-named *William Day*, as Commander of the said Ship called the *General Mifflin*, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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PETITION OF JOHN HARVEY.

*To the honourable the Council for the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *now setting at* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* JOHN HARVEY *humbly shows:*

That your petitioner was late master of the ship called the *Easter*, bound from *Jamaica* to *London*, and was, on the second day of *October* last, taken by the Continental brigantine of war called the *Cabbot*, and sent into the port of *Dartmouth;* and that your petitioner had on board his ship at the time he was captured, his wife and family, which consists of four orphan children, under the care of your petitioner, the eldest of which is between six and seven years of age, and five servants—four whites and one black—all which are now at said *Dartmouth*. This being the situation of your petitioner and his family, he prays the indulgence of the honourable Court that they, in their great goodness and humanity, would grant leave to their unfortunate petitioner to purchase some small vessel, such as he may be able, and also to grant him a permit to depart with his said family, in said vessel, from *Dartmouth*, back again to *Jamaica*. And if this petitioner should be so happy as to obtain leave to purchase a vessel for the purpose aforesaid, he will want persons to man said vessel; therefore would further pray the indulgence of the honourable Court that they would grant permits to four of the men who belonged to your petitioner's ship before she was captured, for the purpose aforesaid, viz., *Anthony Dickerson, John Taylor, Edward Harvey, William Dodge*, and *John Murro*. The situation of your petitioner's family being so peculiarly unhappy, by reason of his having his wife with him, who is now pregnant and very near her time, and so many small children and servants, induces him to believe the honourable Court will indulge him in his requests, or otherwise grant him relief such as they, in their great wisdom, shall think proper and best. And their petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

JNO. HARVEY.

November 1st, 1776.

BRISTOL, *ss: November* 1st, 1776:

Then personally appeared *Thomas Wever*, who is now prize-master of the ship mentioned in the aforegoing Petition, and made oath that the facts set forth therein are true and just in every part.

Sworn to before me, ED'D POPE, *Just. Pacis.*

IN COUNCIL, *November* 15, 1776.—On reading the Petition of Captain *John Harvey*, late Commander of the ship *Easter*,

*Ordered*, That the prayer thereof be granted, and that he have liberty to purchase a vessel not exceeding seventy

tons, in order to transport himself and his family, consisting of his wife, four children, and five servants, to *Jamaica*, taking with him nothing more than necessary provisions for the voyage. And in order to enable him to navigate his vessel, he is also hereby permitted to take with him *Anthony Dickerson, John Taylor, Edward Harvey, William Dodge*, and *John Munroe*, as Mariners to enable him to navigate his vessel. And 'tis hereby recommended to all *American* cruisers to suffer the said Captain *Harvey* to pass with his vessel, company, and passengers, unmolested.

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PETITION OF WILLIAM TOBEY.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in* NEW ENGLAND:

*To the honourable Council and honourable House of Representatives of said State in General Court assembled,* NOVEMBER, 1776:

*The Petition of* WILLIAM TOBEY, *of* SANDWICH, *in the County of* BARNSTABLE, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner hath served this State during the summer past, on the Island of *Naushanu;* that he was first Sergeant in the company whereof *Elisha Nye* was Captain, *Stephen Nye*, Jun., First Lieutenant, and *John Russell* Second Lieutenant. That on *June* 27 last, the said *John Russell* was commissioned as Captain of a company raised for the defence of the Island of *Martha's Vineyard*, from which time your petitioner, at the request and desire of Major *Barachia Bassett*, (who was the chief commander of the forces stationed on said Island,) hath done the duty of a Second Lieutenant in said company, and expected to have received a commission therefor, but hath not. That in the muster-roll made up by said Captain *Nye*, to the 1st of *September*, your petitioner received wages as a Sergeant only, at the rate of forty-four shillings per month, although he had done the duty of a Second Lieutenant for more than two months before that time, by which your petitioner received thirty-eight shillings less (as he apprehends) than he ought to have done. Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays your Honours to take his case under your consideration, and allow him the thirty-eight shillings due before the 1st of *September*, and wages as Second Lieutenant in the muster-roll from the 1st of *September* to the 21st of *November*. And your petitioner shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

WILLIAM TOBEY.

This certifies that the above *William Tobey*, at the special request and appointment of Major *Bassett* and myself, performed the duty of a Second Lieutenant in the company under my command, from the 1st of *July* until they were dismissed.

Attest: Captain ELISHA NYE.

The Committee appointed to consider of the within Petition, beg leave to report by way of Resolve:

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State to the within-named *William Toby*, the sum of one Pound eighteen Shillings, in addition to his pay as a Sergeant, to the 1st day of *September* last, and that he also receive pay as a Second Lieutenant from the said 1st day of *September* to the time of his discharge.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TREASURER FOR THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

Passed November 1, 1776.

Whereas it appears upon examination of the Accounts of the Treasurer for the County of *Suffolk*, that all the Moneys granted and allowed by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for said County, for the year 1774, were for such purposes and appropriations as the law empowered said Court to grant:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That said Account be allowed.

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RESOLVE ALLOWING THE ACCOUNTS OF THE COUNTY TREASURER FOR SUFFOLK.

Passed November 1, 1776.

Whereas it appears upon examination of the several Accounts of the County Treasurer for *Suffolk*, that all the Moneys granted and allowed by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for said County, for the year 1775, were for such purposes and appropriations as the law empowered said Court to grant:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That said Account be allowed.

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PETITION OF URIAH OAKES AND WILLIAM SHATTUCK.

*State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*To the honourable the Council now sitting in* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* URIAH OAKES *and* WILLIAM SHATTUCK, *of* BOSTON, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the brigantine called the *Hawke*, burthen eighty tons, armed with ten carriage guns, four-pounders, ten swivels, and fifty muskets, five hundred weight of powder and shot in proportion; navigated by eighty men; *Jonathan Oakes*, Captain; *John Smith*, First Lieutenant; *John Dexter*, 2d do.; *Smith Kent*, Master; has on board as provisions fifty barrels pork and beef, three thousand weight of bread. Said brigantine is designed to cruise against the enemies of these *United States*.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission said brigantine and commander for the purposes above-mentioned. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

WM. SHATTUCK,
URIAH OAKES.

Boston, November 2d, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *November* 2d, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That Commission be issued out to the above-named *Jonathan Oakes*, as Commander of said Brigantine, he complying with the resolves of Congress.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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RESOLVE FOR SUPPLYING THE ARMY WITH CLOTHING.

Passed November 2, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the several Committees appointed by this Court to purchase Clothing for the Continental Army be, and they hereby are, directed to pack up, bale, number, and invoice all the Clothing they have already procured, and forward, with the utmost despatch, two-thirds thereof to Head-Quarters, at *New-York*, there to be delivered to the Quartermaster-General for the benefit of said Army, or as the General may otherways order; the other third to be forwarded, with the same despatch and in the safest way, to Head-Quarters at *Ticonderoga*, there to be delivered to the Quartermaster-General for the benefit of the Army at those parts, or as the General may otherwise order. And the said Committees are hereby directed to order the persons who may convey the Clothing before-mentioned to *New-York* and *Ticonderoga*, to take duplicate receipts for the same of the Quartermaster-General of each department: one of them to be lodged in the Secretary's office, and the other to be transmitted to the President of the Congress, in order that this State may receive the pay for the cost of said Clothing as soon as may be.

And that said Committee be, and they are hereby, directed and empowered to procure for the use of the new *American* Army, twenty thousand Woollen Jackets with sleeves, twenty thousand Shirts, ten thousand Blankets, ten thousand Pelt Hats or Leather Caps, twenty thousand pair of Hose, twenty thousand pair of Shoes, and ten thousand pair of Overalls, to be by them sold and delivered to the Quartermaster-General of said Army whenever he shall apply for the same, and make report to the General Court of this State of their doings thereon.

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF DAVID SMEAD.

Passed November 2, 1776.

On the Petition of *David Smead* and others, of *Greenfield*, relative to purchasing Guns,

*Resolved*, That the State's Treasurer be ordered to pay the sum of thirteen Pounds seventeen Shillings to *David Smead*, one of the Selectmen of said *Greenfield*, and that he pay it to the several persons of whom the said Guns were purchased.

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RESOLVE RELATIVE TO CASTING CANNON.

Passed November 2, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to erect or

purchase an Air-Furnace for casting and boring large Cannon for the use of this State be, and they hereby are, empowered and directed to import from *Philadelphia*, for the use of such Furnace, two hundred tons of Pig Iron; and said Committee are also hereby empowered to draw bills on the Delegates of this State at the honourable Continental Congress for a sum, supposed to be now in their hands, sufficient to pay for the same.

*And it is also Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State unto said Committee, the sum of two thousand Pounds, to enable them to defray all the charges of said Furnace, together with the Coal they have already purchased, and all such other materials as they may judge necessary for carrying the business aforesaid into full effect: said Committee being accountable to the General Court for the expenditure of those and all other sums put into their hands for the purpose aforesaid.

*And it is further Resolved*, That Brigadier *Palmer*, Mr. *Cheever*, and Captain *Adams* do, as soon as may be, direct the aforesaid Committee what sizes of Cannon, and what proportion of each size, shall be made, so that they may be enabled to prepare the patterns for the same without delay.

*It is also Resolved*, That Captain *Thomas Hooper* be of this Committee, in the room and stead of Deacon *Washburne*, who is employed in other service.

*It is also further Resolved*, That said Committee make further inquiry after the best and largest quantities of Ore, and the most suitable place for a blast Furnace for working the same, for the purposes aforesaid, and to report.

*And it is also Resolved*, That said Committee are hereby empowered to employ Monsieur *De Meresquelles*, a *French* Engineer, now in *Boston*, in the business for which they are appointed, and to make such agreements with him as they shall think proper for overseeing and directing therein under them, or for communicating to them his knowledge in the said business, and the best manner of conducting the same.

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### ADDRESS TO THE OFFICERS AND PRIVATE SOLDIERS WHO ARE GONE FROM THIS STATE TO THE ARMY.

Passed November 2, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the following Address from the General Court of this State to the Officers and Private Soldiers who are gone from thence, and are serving in the *American* Army, be printed in two thousand handbills, and immediately forwarded to the Committees from this State in the Southern and Northern Armies, to be by them dispersed among the soldiery there:

"*Friends and fellow sufferers:*

"The beneficent Creator of the universe bestowed on mankind the noble faculty of reason, and created the human race with such an equality of power that no one had the right of domination over another, but each had the privilege of drawing his abilities into exertion for his own happiness, which consisted greatly in social life. However, such vices and corruptions soon thrust themselves into the human mind, that reason became dim, and government necessary to the preservation of society; but the form of just government depended upon, and the powers of it must at all times have been derived from, the people over whom it was exercised. And under such government men might be free and happy.

"But when the tyrants of the earth began to transgress the sacred line of property, and claim their fellow men as slaves, and to exercise lawless power over them, the intentions of government were subverted; war in defence of the dignity of human nature was introduced, and men began to take the field of battle on behalf of freedom.

"No people or nation since that time could exist in a state of ease and affluence, without becoming the envy of some rapacious despot. Hence it is, that all have been at some time or other called forth to the field of battle in defence of their indubitable rights; and when they have defended those inestimable blessings (bestowed by their all-merciful Creator) with a courage, magnanimity, and firmness becoming freemen, they have effectually secured them; but from those amongst whom timidity, indolence, and discord have taken place, the genius Liberty has taken her flight, and dwelt with minds more suitable for her abode.

"For the free exercise of liberty, more especially in the worship of that almighty Being who supported them in the greatest distress, our venerable ancestors came to this land when it was a savage and dangerous wilderness, terrible to the civilized eye. Here they toiled and bled, with the pleasing hope of their posterity enjoying that freedom for which they encountered every difficulty and braved every danger; and could their virtue have been inherited with the fruit of their toil, and their simplicity of manners and integrity of heart been transmitted to all their posterity, *America* would now have been the seat of peace and plenty. But such has been the avarice of some and the ambition of others amongst us, that the King and Parliament of *Great Britain* have been fatally persuaded to claim this whole Continent, with its three millions of inhabitants, as their own property, and to be at their disposal. In opposition to this unjustifiable claim, most obviously founded in tyranny, after loyally petitioning and dutifully remonstrating, without effect, you have gallantly taken the field, and the salvation of your country, the happiness of future generations, as well as your own, depends upon your noble exertions.

"This Assembly, feeling for the sufferings and hardships you have endured, has taken proper steps to have supplies of covering, clothing, vegetables, and all other necessaries for your comfort, speedily in the camp, with proper commissaries to deliver them, at the prime cost and charges of transportation, as they may be wanted, thereby to prevent the imposition of sutlers, which you have too long laboured under; and, being fully sensible how much depends upon your courage and patriotism, will at all times make it their particular business to render your lives as comfortable as the nature of the service will admit of; and do entreat and urge you, by the sacred ties of blood and friendship, to exert every nerve in this glorious struggle; for should you, for any reason, quit your posts, and disgracefully turn your backs on your enemies, wild carnage, barbarous and bloody desolation must spread like a hideous torrent over your ruined country; your fair possessions, the fruit of honest industry, must own new masters; while yourselves, your friends, your wives and innocent infants, must be destitute of a place of rest, insulted and abused by exasperated, unfeeling task-masters, scourged by mercenary slaves of foreign despots, denied even the happiness of hope, and borne down with poverty and despair.

"When the people of all ranks in this country consider the zeal with which you engaged in their defence, and how cheerfully you have endured the fatigues and hardships of the camp, they must be filled with the highest gratitude and confidence, and enroll your names where they will be honourably preserved to the end of time; while each generation, as it rises, shall learn to speak the fame of those worthies who nobly dared to face that death and despise that danger which stood between them and their country's happiness.

"This Assembly can by no means conceive that men who have always dwelt beneath the sacred boughs of liberty, and have been educated in the most liberal sentiments, and hitherto greatly distinguished for patriotism and publick virtue, can need much persuasion to induce them to tarry after their term of inlistment is expired, as proposed to you in a resolve of this Court, when, if they return, war must follow them to their own door, and the din of arms will forbid that ease and rest which in times of peace may be enjoyed in domestick life.

"Let, therefore, your love to your country, we beseech you, be shown in your perseverance at a time when you are not under those obligations which are designed more for mercenaries and slaves than those who are bravely fighting to save from impending ruin that land which gave them birth. And while you are thus gallantly employed in the most important and noble cause that any part of the human race has fought for, this Assembly again assures you that it shall be their particular concern to give you comfortable supplies and necessary reinforcements; and we trust, that under the smiles of that almighty and merciful Being who rules in the armies of Heaven, and who is the disposer of all events, you will be crowned with a glorious victory, and return honourably from the field, bringing deliverance to distressed *America*."

*Ordered*, That the above Address be signed by the President of the Council, and that Mr. *John Pitts* be appointed and directed to have the same printed in handbills, and sent to the Committees, as is above provided.

RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF ROBERT BASDEN.

Passed November 2, 1776.

On the Memorial of *Robert Basden*,

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid to *John Jones*, of *Hopkinton*, Esq., out of the publick Treasury of this State, for the support of the within-mentioned son of the above-named *Robert Basden*, the sum of £3 18*s.* 9*d.*, being the amount of rations for eighteen weeks, at 4*s.* 4½*d.* per week, the said eighteen weeks beginning the 25th of *June*, 1776.

MEMORIAL OF RICHARD DERBY.

*To the honourable the Council and the honourable the House of Representatives of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *now sitting at* WATERTOWN:

*The Memorial of* RICHARD DERBY, *of* SALEM, *humbly showeth:*

That on or about the 4th *July* last, Captain *Christopher Bassett*, in the schooner *Polly*, sailed from *Halifax* to *Guadaloup*, and arrived there on or about the 28th of the same month, where he sold his cargo of fish, and loaded the same schooner with molasses and sugar, and sailed from thence on the 18th *September* last, bound for *Liverpool*, about ten leagues west of *Halifax*. But on or about the 18th *October*, Mr. *Ephraim Little*, the Mate, aided by others, mariners on board said schooner, in a very rude manner, demanded the master's and vessel's papers, took command of said schooner, and forcibly carried her into *Dartmouth*, in this State, where the said Mr. *Little* has libelled the said schooner and cargo in the Maritime Court, with an intent to have her and her cargo condemned as prize to him and the mariners who were aiding and assisting in bringing her in. That at the time of said schooner sailing from *Halifax* she was, and is now, the property of Mr. *William Boden*, late of *Marblehead*, and was freighted one-third by the said Mr. *Boden* and the other two-thirds by Mr. *John Prince*, late of *Salem*. Your memorialist is far, very far from justifying the conduct of the said Mr. *Prince;* though at the same time he would observe to your Honours, that he knows not of his having any way acted against the *United States of America;* and the only crime, as he apprehends, he can be charged with, is his leaving the country when he should have joined and been aiding and assisting in defending the just rights of *America*. Your memorialist would further observe, that Mr. *Prince* has, in many instances, relieved the inhabitants of these States when carried to *Halifax* by the *British* cruisers, and to some he has generously given considerable sums of money; and amongst the present captors there are some whom the said Mr. *Prince* has kept and supported in his own house, and screened and protected them when in danger of being impressed on board the *British* ships of war; and one of them he furnished with an adventure when he had not a farthing to pay him for it, or even to help himself; and even this very same Mr. *Little* he relieved when in difficult and distressed circumstances, by paying his board and the like, supplied him with fourteen quintals of fish for his adventure, and took him into his service, when it was totally out of his power to help himself.

Your memorialist apprehends that such proceedings as the above related, (which are what facts he can collect from Captain *Bassett* and from Captain *Lee*, of this town, the latter of whom was a passenger on board,) are and will be productive of many and great evils, and if not now deemed piracy, yet, in his apprehension, they have a direct tendency to it; and, in the present case, your memorialist apprehends that the said Mr. *Little* and his company are guilty of the highest act of perfidy and the greatest breach of trust, and for which they ought, in justice, to be punished. Your memorialist therefore humbly prays that your Honours would be pleased to take this matter into your wise consideration, and not suffer the said vessel and cargo to be sold and distributed amongst the captors, but retain the same in the hands of Government, for the use and benefit of those whom your Honours may hereafter find to be the proper owners, or for the creditors of the said Mr. *Prince*.

RICH'D DERBY.

Salem, November 4th, 1776.

IN COUNCIL, *November* 6, 1776.—Read, and thereupon *Resolved*, That *Samuel Holton*, Esq., with such as the honourable House may join, be a Committee to make inquiry relative to the facts set forth in the above Petition, and report what is necessary to be done thereon.

Sent down for concurrence.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

RESOLVE RESPECTING THE ESTATES OF REFUGEES.

In the House of Representatives, November 4th, 1776.

Whereas it appears the good designs of a Resolve of the General Assembly, passed the 19th of *April* last, respecting the Estates, Real and Personal, of such persons as joined our unnatural enemies, or had in a hostile manner been endeavouring to enslave the United Colonies of *America*, is in some considerable degree defeated by the conduct of several persons in this State unfriendly to the *American* cause, and the Committees of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety thereby prevented carrying said Resolve fully into execution:

It is, therefore, *Resolved*, That the Committees of Correspondence, Safety and Inspection in the several towns and plantations in this State be, and they hereby are, empowered, whenever they shall have just cause to suspect any person or persons in the respective towns where such Committees are appointed, of having taken, or holding in his or their possession, any part of the Personal Estate of such person or persons as described by said resolve of the 19th of *April*, and shall refuse to deliver the same to the said Committee, to cause the said person or persons so suspected to be sworn before one of the Justices within the County where such suspected person resides, respecting the premises; and whatever Personal Estate may be found the property of the persons before described by said resolve, the said Committee are hereby directed to dispose of agreeable to said resolve of the 19th of *April*. And if any person justly suspected as aforesaid shall refuse to give said Committee satisfaction upon oath, or that may appear, after examination upon oath, to have in his possession, or in any manner concealed, any of the personal effects of any such inimical persons, and shall refuse to deliver up the same to said Committee, every such person shall be deemed unfriendly to this State; and the Committees of the several towns and plantations within this State are hereby directed to exhibit a list of the names of all such persons to the General Assembly as soon as may be. And any person in possession of any such Real Estate, and not holding the same by lease or other written instrument, as mentioned in said resolve of the 19th of *April*, refusing to deliver the possession thereof to the Committee of said town where the same lies, any two Justices of the said County, upon application from the Committee aforesaid, shall make out their warrant to the Sheriff of the County, either of his Deputies, or to the Constable of the town, commanding him to dispossess such occupant, and to deliver possession thereof to the Committee of said town.

PETITION OF EDWARD BROWN.

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and now sitting at* WATERTOWN:

*The Petition of* EDWARD BROWN, *of the Town of* CONCORD, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner has for years past made lime, much to the advantage of the publick; and in making the same am obliged to use considerable gunpowder to break the stone. There being, at this day, no powder to be purchased for money, as it were in time past, and have now a part of a kiln already to burn, but cannot procure powder to break the rest of the stone, thereby the publick much disappointed; desire therefore I may, for purchasing, have one quarter of a hundred of powder out of the publick stock. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

EDWARD BROWN.

Concord, October the 28th, 1776.

RESOLVE FOR SENDING SALTPETRE TO LIVINGSTON'S POWDER MILLS.

Passed November 4, 1776.

On a Letter from the Secret Committee of *Philadelphia*,

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Fisk*, Colonel *Smith*, and Mr. *John*

*Balls* be, and they hereby are appointed a Committee to procure Teams for the conveying the ten tons of Saltpetre sent into this State from *Philadelphia*, and convey the same to Mr. *John R. Livingston's* Powder Mills, near *New-York*, agreeable to the request of the above-mentioned Secret Committee; the said *John R. Livingston* paying the expense of transportation.

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ORDER TO CAPTAIN JOHN FOSTER WILLIAMS.

In Council Chamber, November 5, 1776.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Jno. Foster Williams* be directed to discharge from on board the privateer-sloop *Republick*, under his command, as many of those Seamen taken in the ship *Julius Cæsar* as incline and shall in fact enter on board any armed vessel in this or any of the *United States*, and those of them who incline to go to *Halifax* be retained on board the said sloop till further orders.

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PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF DEER-ISLAND.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives for the State of* Massachusetts-Bay, *in General Court assembled:*

*The Petition of the Committee of* Deer-Island, *humbly showeth:*

That we received the Council's directions with regard to *Nathan Jones*; have endeavoured to follow them; applied, as directed, to *Thomas Stinson*, Esq., for his assistance; have retaken the sloop *Sally* by a warrant; brought her back to the place from whence by force and arms she was taken. Also the Justice sent a warrant for said *Jones* and his abettors, but have not been able to take any except four, and those only of the lower sort, whom we have reason to think were deluded by the false representations of their heads or leaders. *Jones* is gone, it is said, after his mother, who plundered Mr. *Hunt's* house in *Boston*, to bring her back again into the Province; whether to *Halifax* or not we presume not to say; it is undoubtedly true in our minds, he is gone into the Province of *Nova-Scotia*. These four that are taken, upon their examination say, that *Jones* told them that he had an order to do in the manner he did from Mr. *James Sullivan*, a member of the General Court; and that that was the reason why they took arms against the authority of this State. That one *Philip Hotchkins* was appointed, in their expedition to *Deer-Island*, as Sailing Master; one *Lebbe* as Captain of their Marines; that when they came to the vessel they were ordered to load their guns; had a guard placed while they were rigging the vessel; that said *Jones* told them he would employ the vessel in going to *St. Peter's* after provisions, and that those would not assist him should not have any. He also has said, we find upon inquiry, that he would rather all *North America* should sink with an earthquake than that the Ministry should lose the day; that he would be damned, if he knew any one to be a rebel, before he would supply him with one toothful of corn; that he wished to God that he himself was in *England*; has advised the poor people in distress and inquiring of him, after the *Lexington* battle, what they should do for the necessaries of life, to sign a petition to Governour *Gage*, and then promised that if they did he would supply them. He has corresponded with his brother, who broke from *Concord* Jail, now with the enemy, as appear by an intercepted letter; and, to complete his innumerable other crimes, has taken up arms against the authority of this State, as was before hinted, in carrying off the aforesaid vessel. He has not only sent his own, but has also chartered another vessel to supply *Nova-Scotia*. These things, gentlemen, are but only a few of the many facts which have been made to appear to us, and we trust will also appear to any gentlemen who may be appointed to inquire into his character; and had we not viewed as an indispensable duty, would not have done it; but, as a whole country weighs much heavier in our minds than interest of any individual person, we therefore make them known. Beg your Honours direct us what we ought further to do. Knowing the affair to be of importance to our infant country, have taken the most early opportunity to make this report. Not doubting your ready compliance, your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. Joseph Colebe,

*Chairman of the Committee of Safety, Inspection, &c.*

Deer-Island, September 20, 1776.

New-Bristol, *in* Frenchman's Bay, *3d October*, 1776:

I, *John Bane*, of said *New-Bristol*, of lawful age, do testify and say, that on the 30th day of *August*, A. D. 1775, a number of men from *Deer-Island* and *Naskeig* took a sloop belonging to *Nathan Jones*, Esq., which was bound to the Island of *Mount Desart*, in said bay, to load with staves for *Ireland*, as I verily believe, (having inquired and been informed by several persons who had made staves for said *Jones*, on said Island,) and brought said sloop into the harbour of *New-Bristol*, in said bay. Said *Jones* came to my house soon after the vessel was taken, and demanded of *Thomas Stinton*, Esq., *William Reed*, *Joseph Patrick*, and some others, who appeared to be the chiefs of the party who took the vessel, for what reason they took his vessel. They answered, because it was contrary to the orders of the grand Congress for any vessel to go with staves to *Ireland*. Said *Jones* told them that he knew after the 10th of *September* all vessels were prohibited by the Congress from going there, but not before, or words to that effect. They replied, his vessel was their prize, and they would keep her. Said *Jones* desired that the vessel might be left under the care of the Committee of *Frenchman's Bay*, and he would give bonds to answer for his conduct before the honourable House of Assembly of this State, or go himself with them; but they refused, and left said *Jones* at my house, and went on board the vessel. Afterwards, to wit, on the evening of the same day, they sent a paper to my house, containing the following words, viz:

"This may certify, this body of men now have the sloop *Sally* and the schooner *Nightingale* now in custody, empower the Rev. *Joseph Patrick* to inform the owners and concerned that they are determined to carry said vessels to *Naskeig* or *Deer-Island*, and appoint a committee to sit upon them, where those concerned may appear, and show reason, if any they have, why they should not be condemned."

The next morning they brought the sloop to sail, and carried her out of the harbour of *Frenchman's Bay*. And I do further declare, that on the 4th day of *September* following, at a meeting of the Committees of several districts lying eastward and westward of said *Frenchman's Bay*, *John Springer*, *Ezra Young*, and myself, were chosen by them to examine by what authority the people of *Deer-Island* and *Naskeig* had taken said sloop and two other vessels out of *Frenchman's Bay*. Accordingly, I went to *Deer-Island*, and applied there to the Committee to know by what authority they acted; and received for answer, that Mr. *Patrick* had brought down orders from the Congress to seize all vessels, or words to that effect. I then asked to see the orders; but said Committee told me that Mr. *Patrick* came away in a hurry, and did not bring the papers with him, but that there certainly was such orders out.

John Bane.

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I, *John Shaw*, of *Gouldsborough*, of lawful age, do testify and say, that on the 29th day of *August*, A. D. 1775, being employed by *Nathan Jones*, Esq., of said *Gouldsboro'*, to collect a quantity of barrel staves, which said *Jones* had agreed to purchase of sundry persons living on the Island of *Mount Desart*, to load his sloop *Sally* for *Ireland*, I proceeded in said sloop from said *Jones's* wharf, in said *Gouldsboro'*, about one o'clock in the afternoon, for said island, being about ten or twelve miles distance, having on board said sloop one bull between two and three years old, and about two or three thousand of barrel staves, with a gundelo in tow. About seven o'clock the next morning, being still on board said sloop, in *Frenchman's Bay*, within one mile distance of said Island of *Mount Desart*, I saw several boats full of men armed with muskets, who came up within gun-shot of said sloop, and hailed and order us to heave to. *Simon Gross*, who acted as master on board said sloop, answered, The helm is hard down; upon which they came along side, and jumped on board, with their muskets in their hands. Some went on the quarter-deck; others went forward; others into the cabin. I staid on deck a few minutes, and observing that they had got a case-bottle of rum out of the cabin, went down into the cabin, and there saw another of the people carrying another case-bottle of rum out. I followed him upon deck, and said, What do you mean by this? Who is

commander on board now? One *William Reed*, of *Naskeig*, said he was commander. I asked what he intended to do with the sloop and us. He replied that they were agoing to carry the sloop to *Naskeig* or *Deer-Island*, and us too. I desired to know for reason they took the sloop, telling them I was only a passenger going to *Mount Desart* to collect a cargo for the sloop; said *Reed* answered, that it was against the orders of the Congress to send any vessel to *Ireland*, and that the sloop was their prize. I told him that any vessel might go to *Ireland* till the 10th of *September*. He said that Mr. *Patrick*, the minister of *Deer-Island*, had just came from Court, and brought orders to take all vessels that were loading for *Ireland*, or words to that effect. Six or eight men then got into the boats, and began to tow the sloop, it being calm. I went below again; and a sentry being placed at the companion door, refused to let me, or any of the men who belonged to the sloop, go on deck. After staying in the cabin about half an hour, said *Reed* came down. I asked if were to be kept confined to the cabin, and said it was ill usage, or words to that effect. *Reed* answered it was a mistake in the sentry, and that we were at liberty to go on deck or stay below, or words to that effect. They then proceeded with the sloop to *New-Bristol* Point, and came to anchor. I applied for liberty to go on shore, and was permitted to go, after promising to return again on board. I went on shore, and tarried two or three hours, and then returned on board, and desired they would permit me to go home. *Reed* said I should go to *Deer-Island* with them. I said I did not care; I dare go where they dare carry me; but they had business with me, and had better let me alone, as I did not belong to the vessel, or words to that effect. Some of the said *Reed's* party told me to go along; they would not be plagued with me on board; upon which I left the sloop, and returned home. And further saith not.

JOHN SHAW.

*State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, LINCOLN *County*, GOULDSBORO', *5th October*, 1776:

Then the said *John* personally appeared; and after being carefully examined, and duly cautioned to testify the whole truth relating to the action in which is to be used, made oath to the truth of the same.

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The Deposition of *John Robison*, of lawful age, testifies and saith: That on 23d day of *July*, he was boarded by Colonel *Nathan Jones*, in a large canoe, with four men, who were going to take a sloop detained by the Court; they guarded my house, and commanded me to go with them. I was forced to do the same. I went, and declare that there were with me, viz: *Philip Hochchis*, *Shem Hotchkis*, *Joseph Barker*, *Robert Yong*, ——— *Salasbury* 3, ——— *Yong*, ——— *Stinson*, ——— *Lobbe*, *Benjamin Ash*, ——— *Clark*, ——— *Googens*. He also declared to me that the gentlemen of the Court told him that he, *i. e.*, the said *Jones*, should go and take away from *Deer-Island*. And furthermore the deponent saith not.

JOHN ROBEISON.

July the 31st, 1776.

The above-named *John Robeson* personally appeared before me and made oath to the truth of the above Deposition.

THOMAS STINSON, *J. Peace.*

Said *Jones* not notified, being above twenty miles distance.

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Council Chamber, Watertown, August 22, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The General Court is to meet the next week, when your petition presented by Mr. *Patrick* shall be laid before the whole Court, and doubt not but the subject-matter therein contained will be duly considered. In the mean time, in regard to *Nathan Jones* taking the sloop *Sally* from you, committed to your care by the General Court, in the manner you have represented, the Council highly disapprove of his and his abettors' conduct, and recommend to you to recover said sloop into your custody again in any legal method you shall think proper, and that you apply to *Thomas Stinson*, Esquire, Justice of the Peace for the County of *Lincoln*, for his assistance in inquiring into the conduct of said *Jones* and his abettors' conduct towards you on that occasion, and he to deal with them according as the law directs.

By order of the major part of the Council:

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

Mr. *Joseph Colby*, Chairman to the Committee of Correspondence, &c.

The Committee upon the Petition of the Committee of Correspondence of *Deer-Island*, have attended that service, and finding the subject-matter of said Petition is proper to be considered by the whole General Court, in the mean time are of opinion that the within draft of a Letter be sent to the said Committee of *Deer-Island*.

BENJ. CHADBOURN, per order.

—

Frenchman's Bay, New-Bristol, August 31, 1775.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: Yesterday a number of men from *Deer-Island* and *Naskeig*, commanded by Captain *Read*, of said *Naskeig*, and Mr. *Patrick*, of *Deer-Island*, took a sloop belonging to *Nathan Jones*, Esq., which was bound to *Mount Desert* harbour, in this bay, to load with staves for *Ireland*, and brought her into this harbour. As soon as Mr. *Jones* was informed of it, he waited on Captain *Read*, Mr. *Patrick*, and several of the principal men who had the vessel in possession, and desired to know for what reason they took the vessel? when they informed him, that it was contrary to the resolves of the Grand Congress for any vessel to carry staves to *Ireland*. Mr. *Jones* told them that he was sensible that after the 10th *September* all vessels were prohibited going there; but till then he thought he had a right to send his vessel there. They then told him his vessel was their prize, and they would keep her. He then desired that the vessel might be left with the Committee of *Frenchman's Bay*, and he would give bonds to answer for his conduct before the honourable House of Assembly, or go himself with them; but they refused, and this day have carried her out of this bay.

We the subscribers certify, that we have diligently observed the conduct of Mr. *Jones*, and can find nothing to object against him; and we believe he has not broke through any of the acts of the Congress by sending his vessel contrary to their resolves. The vessel that was taken returned from the *West-Indies* in *May* last; since which, she has been to *Annapolis Royal* twice with boards, and brought back hay and live stock into this bay, and here landed them; and we believe that the vessel has never been any where besides since her return from the *West-Indies*.

At a meeting of the Delegates from the several settlements between *Penobscot* and *Machias*, said *Jones* declared himself to be a friend to his country, and that he would conform to the rules and orders of Congress or House of Assembly of this Province, which was accepted by them, and he was then recommended by them to the friendship and esteem of his fellow-countrymen, and he has at all times since behaved as a friend to his country, and we think he ought to be treated as such by his countrymen. Therefore we humbly pray your Honours would take the matter into your wise consideration; and if your Honours find that Mr. *Jones* has not transgressed, we pray that he may have his vessel returned to him again.

JOHN BANE,
*Chairman of the Committee of Frenchman's Bay.*
*James Richardson*, *Abraham Somes*, Committee for *Mount Desert*, *South-District.*

—

The Deposition of *Daniel Sullivan*, of lawful age, being called on by and before the Committee of *Deer-Island* and *Naskeag*, testifieth and says: That about two or three month ago Captain *Agreen Crabtree*, of *Frenchman's Bay*, came from the *West-Indies*, master of the sloop *Sally*, *Nathan Jones* owner; that he, the said *Crabtree*, brought a quantity of tea, likewise his mate, Mr. *Groos*, and one of his hands, Mr. *Cartten;* said *Groos* told me that he sold his to Mrs. *Jones*, and Mrs. *Jones* told me that she had bought it; as to Captain *Crabtree*, he sold his about in said bay. I told our Committee of it, desired that it ought to take it in hand; but nothing was done. Said Captain *Crabtree* then proceeded to *Nova-Scotia* Government with lumber, two trips; and one of his hands told me that he, the said *Crabtree*, had brought tea from *Nova-Scotia* in said voyage, and

then said *Jones* then chartered said sloop to one *Savage*, to carry staves to *Ireland*. All this time, when said Committee and others from *Naskeag*, I heard *Eleazer Crabtree* threaten to take said sloop away by force of arms, and said that the Congress and Court allowed any to be Tory that had a mind to behave so, the same as they allow the Quakers liberty of conscience.

DAN'L SULLIVAN.

Frenchman's Bay, August the 31, 1775.

N. B. The said *Sullivan* testifies and says, that he did hear said *Jones* and his clerk, *John Shaw*, say, that the above sloop could go where she had a mind to, for she had got a *Halifax* bottom.

DAN'L SULLIVAN.

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The Committee of both Houses appointed to take into consideration the Petition of *Joseph Colby*, Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection, of *Deer-Island*, in the County of *Lincoln*, have attended that service, and beg leave to report, as their opinion, that the honourable Council have given such directions to *Joseph Colby*, in his said capacity as Chairman, &c., as will be sufficient for recovering the sloop *Sally*, and also for examining into the conduct of *Nathan Jones* and his abettors, and dealing with them as the law directs.

And as to the ten guns represented to be lost by the oversetting of a boat, your Committee are of opinion that the fact is not sufficiently supported. All which is humbly submitted.

IN COUNCIL, *September* 5, 1776.—Read, and concurred.

SAM'L ADAMS, *Secretary*.

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PETITION OF NATHAN JONES.

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of* NATHAN JONES, *of Gouldsboro', in the County of* LINCOLN, *humbly showeth:*

That whereas your petitioner has this day been informed a complaint has been exhibited against him by the Committee of a place called *Deer-Island*, or by some person in their behalf, setting forth that your petitioner was inimical to the free and independent States of *America;* had by force and arms taken a sloop from said Committee of *Deer-Island;* and to complete their diabolical purpose, that your petitioner was fled to *Halifax* for protection: Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays your Honours that he may have a hearing respecting the subject-matter of said complaint, before any determination is made thereon.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

NATHAN JONES.

Watertown, October 16, 1776.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *October 16th*, 1776.—Read, and committed to the Committee on the Petition from *Deer-Island*.

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*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

Humbly shows, *Nathan Jones*, of *Gouldsboro'*, that in *August*, 1775, the Committee of *Deer-Island*, as they styled themselves, took from him (your petitioner) his sloop called *Sally*, under pretence of her being about to supply the *British* Army; that afterwards, in *November* last, the Great and General Court of this State made an act for condemning all vessels that were thus employed, and a time was therein limited for libeling such vessels as were then taken. Whereupon your petitioner then had expectation of having a trial by jury, as said act directed; but said Committee then knowing that their accusation against your petitioner and his said vessel was false, and apprehending that he could make appear and establish that he had done nothing against the laws of this State, did not libel said vessel, but kept her in their own employ for the space of eleven months. Your petitioner then, by advice of friends, took said vessel into possession, as he thought he might lawfully do; whereupon the honourable Council recommended it to said Committee to recover said vessel; whereupon she has since been taken from him, and an order passed the General Court on the 28th *September*, 1775, that the said Committee should detain said sloop till the further order of said Court; and a resolution passed the honourable House and Council lately, whereby the said Committee are directed to libel said sloop; but the major part of the Council do not consent to the same; by means of all which your petitioner is debarred the benefit of the act of Government, and also of a trial by a jury, to whose decision he is willing at all times to submit his conduct. And this is all done at the solicitation of one Mr. *Patrick*, whose deportment and character your petitioner conceives is sufficient to render him below the notice of the honourable Assembly.

Your petitioner prays that he may not have his property taken from him, or himself condemned, without an impartial trial according to the laws of the Government, in which trial he is so much assured of the rectitude of his dealings that he has no doubt of an acquittal.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NATHAN JONES.

—

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives of the Colony of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY *in General Court assembled:*

*The Petition of the Committee of* DEER-ISLAND *humbly showeth:*

That whereas a number of the inhabitants of said Island and No. 4 *Nasgeeg* did, on the 30th of *August*, 1775, take into custody a sloop named the *Sally*, which had been transgressing the resolves of the Continental Association, and delivered the said sloop to us the said Committee, the subject-matter of which we immediately reported to the honourable Court, that we might receive their order thereon, which was the detention of the said sloop under the care of this Committee until the further order of this honourable Court.

This trust the Committee have endeavoured faithfully to execute, and have patiently waited the further order of Court, until *Wednesday*, the 24th of *July*, *Nathan Jones*, Esq., and with him a large number of others, armed with guns, pistols, &c., in five or six boats, appeared in sight, who, in the utmost hurry, went on board said sloop, bent her sails, which were stowed away; and when asked by one of the Committee, who only with two men more were permitted to go on board, who asked who commanded the mob, was answered by said *Jones*, he commanded the party; being again demanded by what authority, he answered he took her as his own property; he was then forbid to carry off said vessel, but to no effect, for he immediately had her under way, and in open defiance to all authority went off once more equipt to feed the unnatural enemies of *America*, who, from day to day, are plundering our sea-coast, taking all our fishing vessels they can lay hands on, of which we have some melancholy instances of late, hereby reducing the friends of the country to utmost distress, in particular manner this Island, where we have reason to suspect they are aided and directed to by some in this country; this is justly suspected from their being so well acquainted with creeks and places, so that our people have been stopped from getting their vessels into the harbours, and also from the many threats which have been given out by said *Jones*, and others of his adherents, as also from his known character of being inimical to all those who are friends to liberty, as has been and still might be made to appear evident to this honourable Court. We would, were it possible, avoid casting any reflections on any one; and when we say any against Mr. *Jones*, it is not that we love him less than did his banditti which come with him to rob his country; but this we confess, that we love our country more than we do him or any one man singly considered; it was from this motive we presume the captors of this vessel acted; from this motive the aforesaid Island acted in sending up to the Court the first time to give information of the shipping being at *Long-Island;* from this principle also they went to keep them from trading when three Committees, our neighbours, had agreed to trade with them. From this principle, also, our people, when near upon starving, under the command of Captain *Seth Webb*, kept them from landing; and when they had the necessaries of life offered, refused trading with them; fired with the same spirit, they went again to defeat the second fleet from taking wood, &c. These things we would not mention were they not known, so that he must

be a stranger here that does not know these things. We therefore, your petitioners, humbly pray that your Honours would take these things into your wise consideration, and immediately give us orders what you would have us do, or that which we would rather have a Committee from your honourable House, or if it can be of the Board, to search into these and many other things which by writing, without being tedious, cannot be made known to your Honours. We are willing that our actions should be scanned, and cannot but hope that the closer the search is the brighter we shall appear, although, knowing we are but men, we would not be too confident, yet we fear not the trial, therefore beg that our petition may be granted.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray for the prosperity of the publick cause, in which we rest ourselves equally concerned, &c.

JOSEPH COLBY,
*Chairman to the Committee of Safety, Correspondence, and Inspection.*

N. B. On an alarm since writing the above, by a ship's coming into the harbour ten of the inhabitants of this Island lost their guns by a boat's oversetting; we pray your Honours would order some method whereby the deficiency may be supplied, as arms cannot be obtained here.

JOSEPH COLBY,
By order of Committee.

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In the House of Representatives, November 4, 1776.

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of *Nathan Jones*, beg leave to report, that they have attended that service, and find that some time in the summer of the year 1775, the Committee of *Deer-Island*, in the County of *Lincoln*, on suspicion that the said *Jones* was loading his sloop called the *Sally* with supplies for the enemies of the *American* States, and that he had before supplied them with certain cargoes of the same sloop, took her into possession. That afterwards, in *November* last, there was an act passed by the General Court of this State, empowering all persons who had taken vessels which had been employed in supplying the enemy, to libel them, within a time by said act limited, in the Courts by said act created for the trying of the same, and to have them condemned as the prizes of the libellants, and that the said Committee of *Deer-Island* did not libel said vessel according to the said act, and the said *Jones* afterwards took her into his custody again; whereupon the honourable Council, on application made to them during the last recess of the General Court, ordered the said Committee of *Deer-Island* to recover the said sloop *Sally* again; and afterwards there was a resolve of the whole Court, directing the said Committee to detain the said sloop until the further order of Court; and since that time the House has passed a resolve that said Committee might libel said vessel, but the honourable Council have not consented thereunto. And as the matter in controversy is of a private nature between said Committee and said *Jones*, and the proceeds of said vessel, if she should be condemned, will go to the use of those persons who shall libel her, and not to this State, your Committee are of opinion that this Court are by no means held to involve themselves in the dispute, and therefore beg leave to report the following resolve, to wit:

### RESOLVE ON NATHAN JONES'S PETITION.

Passed November 5, 1776.

Whereas the Committee of *Deer-Island* have taken into custody a Vessel owned by *Nathan Jones*, and said to have been employed (in breach of the laws of this State) in supplying the enemy; and the time by law limited for the libeling said Vessel is expired:

*It is, therefore, Resolved*, That the said Committee may, at any time within fifteen days next after their being served with a copy of this resolve, libel said Vessel before the Judge of the Maritime Court, in the eastern district of this State, erected to try the justice of the captures of Vessels. And such Court is empowered to take cognizance of and try the same, in the same manner as if the time by law allowed for the libeling such Vessels was not expired.

*And it is also Resolved*, That all orders of the Council, and Resolves and Orders of this Court heretofore particularly respecting the same Vessel be, and they hereby are repealed, and rendered null and void. And in case the said Committee, or their agent or agents, shall not see cause to libel the said vessel within fifteen days after they or any two of them shall be served with a copy of this resolution, the said *Jones*, or his agent or attorney, shall have full power and authority to take into his own care and custody the said Vessel and appurtenances.

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### RESOLVE RELATIVE TO THE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS DESTINED TO HORSE-NECK.

Passed November 5, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee and Selectmen in each of the several Towns within this State, who have furnished the officers and soldiers destined to *Horse-Neck* with Money for Rations, with Pots and Kettles, with Bottles or Canteens, and Conveyance of baggage, agreeable to a resolve of the General Court of this State, published in a handbill *September* last, exhibit their Accounts to the Committee of Accounts for their examination and allowance. And if said Committee, upon examination, shall approve and allow such Accounts, that then the Paymaster appointed by this Court be, and he hereby is directed to pay unto each of the several persons the full of their Accounts so allowed, although they do not produce receipts from those to whom they paid the money.

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### RESOLVE GRANTING A PETITION TO JOHN ROBBINS.

Passed November 5, 1776.

On the Petition of *John Robbins*,

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid out of the publick Treasury of this State to and for the use of the petitioner, *John Robbins*, the sum of £13 6*s.* 8*d.*, yearly, until the General Court shall otherwise order it, to recompense him for his sufferings by wounds which he received on the 19th of *April*, 1775; and the Treasurer and Receiver General be, and he hereby is directed to pay the same sum yearly as he shall receive warrants from the Council for the payments thereof, and the first payment to commence from the 19th of *April*, 1776.

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### RESOLVE FOR TRANSPORTING WHALE-BOATS TO NEWPORT.

Passed November 5, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Lemuel Williams*, of *Dartmouth*, be, and hereby is empowered to transport in the cheapest manner from *Dartmouth* to *Newport*, the remainder of the Whale-Boats purchased and left there in consequence of a resolve of this Court of the 16th of *September* last, and that he be directed to deliver them to Governour *Cooke*, taking his receipt for the same, and lay his account before this Court for approbation and allowance.

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### RESOLVE RELATIVE TO DANIEL ROBBINS'S MUSTER-ROLL.

Passed November 5, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State the sum of £1 2*s.* 4*d.*, to *Oliver Fairbank*; likewise to *Reuben Moor*, the sum of ten shillings, in full for their Wages and Rations due to them for their service on the alarm on the 19th of *April*, 1775, omitted being made up in Captain *Daniel Robbins's* Minute-Roll.

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### PETITION OF WILLIAM BLAIR TOWNSEND.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in* NEW-ENGLAND, *in General Court assembled:*

*The Petition of* WILLIAM BLAIR TOWNSEND, *now resident in* HOPKINTON, *in the County of* MIDDLESEX, *and said State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in behalf of his children, humbly showeth:*

That whereas the said *William Blair*, as an executor to the last will, &c., of the Honourable *Thomas Hubbard*, Esquire, deceased, is possessed of a note of *Harrison Gray's*, as Treasurer of the late Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, for the sum of five hundred Pounds, borrowed of Madam *Mary Hubbard*, the 9th day of *August*, 1773, for the use and service of and in behalf of said Province, promising and obliging himself and successors in the office of Treasurer to repay the said *Mary Hubbard*, or her order, the 20th day of *June*, 1775, the aforesaid sum of five hundred Pounds, in

*Spanish* milled dollars, at six shillings each, with interest annually at five per cent.; which note, in the division of the said deceased's estate, is set off to your petitioner's children, in part of their dividend in their said grandfather *Hubbard's* estate:

And whereas but one year's interest, to the 9th day of *August*, 1774, has been paid by said Treasurer *Gray* on said note, and no part of the principal sum, and your petitioner prevented from making application to said Treasurer *Gray* for the payment either of the interest or principal sum due on said note, according to the terms therein expressed for the payment thereof, by reason of the great and unavoidable difficulties and embarrassments said Province has laboured under from that time to this, to the great detriment of your petitioner and his children in this and other respects, but who have and are still willing to pay their proportion of all legal demands, though it should be the whole they are possessed of, and sacrifice their lives also, in supporting this State, struggling in the glorious cause of liberty, which may God go on mercifully to prosper and succeed:

Therefore your petitioner prays that this honourable Court would direct or order the present Treasurer of this State to repay your petitioner, in behalf of his children, the principal sum of said note, being five hundred Pounds, with the annual interest, at five per cent., due thereon, from the said 9th day of *August*, 1774, or relieve the children of your petitioner by paying the interest due on said note, or in any other way that to them shall appear best.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

WILLIAM BLAIR TOWNSEND.

Watertown, September 7th, 1776.

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### RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF WILLIAM BLAIR TOWNSEND.

Passed November 5, 1776.

On the Petition of *William Blair Townsend*, Esquire, in behalf of his children:

As it appears from said Petition and Note that the sum of five hundred Pounds was, in the year 1773, on the 9th of *August*, borrowed of *Harrison Gray*, then Treasurer, of Madam *Mary Hubbard*, since deceased, for the use of this Colony, which sum said *Gray* obligated himself and successors in the office of Treasurer to repay, with annual interest, to the said *Mary*, or her heirs: And as said sum, with the interest (save one year) remains unpaid, and the heirs have solicited the honourable House to pay the principal and interest, or the interest:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury to said heirs, or their guardian, the interest due on the afore-mentioned sum.

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### PETITION OF JOSEPH PATRICK.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives for the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in General Court assembled:*

*The Petition of* JOSEPH PATRICK, *humbly showeth:*

That he did, some time during the General Court's recess the time before their last session, come upon his own expense and charge above three hundred miles, and gave information to the Council of *Nathan Jones* taking away a vessel by force and arms, which was detained by a special order of this Court; that he received the Council's orders, endeavoured to see that they were executed; has since returned and made report what has been done; waited by desire of Council till the honourable Court should meet, so that thereby the affair has been laid before the whole House.

These things your petitioner would willingly do gratis, were he able; but as he is not, and as the Council gave him encouragement by saying that they made no doubt but that the House would allow him pay, to your petitioner, his expenses and trouble, prays therefore that your Honours would grant his account, which is as follows, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| To traveling, and waiting at *Watertown*, from the 9th of *August*, 1776, to the 4th *September*, twenty-five days, at 5*s.* per day, - - - - - - - - - - - - | £6 5 0 |
| To the hire of an horse from *Newburyport*, £1 15*s.* - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - | 1 15 0 |
| To passage from and to *Deer-Island*, £1 4*s.* - | 1 4 0 |
| To feeding his horse seven nights and days, 7*s.* - | 0 7 0 |
| To passage the second time from *Deer-Island* to *Boston*, 14*s.* - - - - - - - - - - - - | £0 14 0 |
| To the hire of an horse from *Boston* to *Watertown*, 3*s.* - - - - - - - - - - - - - - | 0 3 0 |
| To waiting at Court by desire of the Council for the honourable Court meeting, and afterwards for their orders, from *September* the 21st to *October* 27th, thirty-five days, at 5*s.* per day, - | 9 5 0 |
| The total, - - - - - - - - - - | £19 13 0 |

Your petitioner hopes your Honours will not think his account extravagant, when they consider the time he has expended, the travel and fatigue which of consequence he must have undergone in travelling not less than twelve hundred miles, which he never has nor never can get any thing unless your Honours please to allow it to him. This he is the rather encouraged to ask for, as he is most absolutely assured that it was only a disinterested love to his country which moved him to take so arduous a task of discovering and bringing to light an enemy, an high trespasser, against this State, as his own acknowledgment allows; therefore your petitioner prays that his account may be granted.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

JOSEPH PATRICK.

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### PETITION OF ROBERT FARRAH.

*To the honourable the Council and the honourable House of Representatives of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in General Court assembled*, NOVEMBER, *A. D.* 1776:

*Humbly shows* ROBERT FARRAH:

That he was late Master of the brigantine *Henry and Ann*, which was taken by Captain *Sawter*, an armed vessel in the service of this State; and as this brigantine was chartered by the *British* Government as a transport vessel, he is not entitled by law to receive his wages, as the masters of other merchant vessels which are taken do. He would further represent, that he had on board this brigantine when taken, a private adventure, the sterling cost of which was upwards of two hundred pounds sterling. This he is also denied, so that he is without a shilling to support him while a prisoner. He would beg leave to suggest to your Honours that it is the unvaried custom for the masters of transport vessels taken by the armed vessels in the service of the *United States*, to have given them their private adventures, which generous custom is almost universally followed by the captors in and owners of private vessels of war. Your petitioner humbly, and with a decent confidence, hopes your Honours will consider his unfortunate case, and in your goodness grant him relief; and, as in duty bound, shall pray.

R'T FARRAH.

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### RESOLVE RELATIVE TO THE BRIG MARY AND JAMES.

Passed November 6, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Heman Brimmer* and Mr. *Ellis Gray* be a Committee on the part of this State to repair immediately to the town of *Salem*, there to be adjoined by two persons appointed by the proprietors of the cargo of the Brig *Mary and James*, a prize lately brought into *Salem*, for the purpose of appraising such part of the cargo of the said prize Brig as may to the Committee of Clothing appear necessary for this State to purchase for the use of this State. Provided the Committee above-mentioned do not agree respecting the value of the said goods, or any part thereof, then the said appraisers shall appoint a fifth person, who shall assist in appraising the goods afore-mentioned. And the Committee of Clothing are hereby authorized to pay the several sums thus determined by the Committee of Appraisement aforesaid.

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### RESOLVE FOR PAYING JONATHAN STURGIS £2.

Passed November 6, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State the sum of forty Shillings to *Jonathan Sturgis*, for one month's wages omitted in the Muster Roll.

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### RESOLVE RESPECTING PRISONERS OF WAR.

Passed November 6, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Safety, Correspond-

ence, &c., in the several maritime towns in this State do, as soon as may be, make a return to the Council, of all Prisoners that now are, or that may be from time to time brought into their several towns by any armed vessel, or others who are not prisoners of war, and who shall not inlist into the sea service of any of the *United American States*, or on board any armed vessel fitted out by private adventurers; and that the Council be, and they hereby are, empowered to remove all such Prisoners to such inland towns, not laying on any publick post road, as they shall think proper.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the Selectmen of each town to which such prisoner shall be destined be, and they hereby are empowered and directed to put all such Prisoners who are not able and actually do not maintain themselves, to labour for their support. And if any Prisoner is put under the care and direction of the said Selectmen, they shall make return thereof to the Council, who are hereby empowered to commit him or them to such jails as they shall think proper, till their further order.

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RESOLVE FOR PUTTING £400 IN THE HANDS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR BUILDING A POWDER-MILL AT STOUGHTON.

Passed November 7, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to build the Powder-Mill at *Stoughton* be, and they hereby are, directed to procure Runners for said Mill, and set up works for receiving them, as soon as possible, in order that an experiment may be made of manufacturing Powder with said Runners.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the further sum of four hundred Pounds be put into the hands of the aforesaid Committee, to enable them to discharge the several charges that have already arisen, or that may hereafter arise in the completion of the said Mill: they, the aforesaid Committee, to be accountable to the General Court for the expenditure thereof.

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ORDER TO THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, November 7, 1776.

*To the Sheriff of the County of* ESSEX:

You are hereby commanded to search Captain *Leech McLewis* and *John Couset Piers*, together with their baggage, on their arrival at *Boxford*, the place of their destination, and take from them any and all such papers as to you may appear dangerous to this or any of the *United American States* for them to possess. And you are hereby directed to perform this in such manner as most effectually to answer the end proposed. And all such papers, so found upon the said prisoners, you are carefully, as soon as may be, to transmit to this Board.

Hereof fail not; and make return to the Board of your doings as soon as may be. And this shall be your sufficient warrant.

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State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, November 7th, 1776.

*Ordered*, That the Sheriff of the County of *Essex* be and hereby is directed to tender the Parole accompanying this Order to *John Couset Piers*, now in *Salem*, lately taken prisoner of war; and in case he refuses to sign the same, to commit him, so refusing, to prison, agreeable to a resolve of the honourable Congress.

*And it is further Ordered*, That the said Sheriff be and hereby is directed to employ some suitable person to conduct the said *John Cousett Piers* to the town of *Boxford*, in the said County of *Essex*, to which place the said *John Couset Piers* is destined, upon his signing said Parole, and him deliver to the care of the Committee of Safety, &c., of said town.

W. SPOONER, ELDAD TAYLOR,
CALEB CUSHING, S. HOLTEN,
JOHN WHETCOMB, JABEZ FISHER.

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RESOLVE APPOINTING WAGONMASTERS.

Passed November 7, 1776.

*Resolved*, That *Oliver Pier* be and hereby is appointed a Wagonmaster for the Northern Army; and that Captain *John Holmes* be and hereby is appointed a Wagonmaster for the Southern Army; with liberty to appoint each a Deputy, whose business shall be to procure teams and wagons from time to time for such stores and clothing as the Committee of Clothing and Committee of Supplies shall have occasion for: The said Wagonmasters to procure wagons, &c., upon the best terms, and also wagons, and for the ten tons of saltpetre ordered to be sent to Mr. *Livingston* agreeable to a requisition of Congress: the said Wagonmasters to give their receipts and promise of careful transportation of such clothing, stores, and saltpetre as they shall receive, and also for delivering of the same to the order of the abovenamed Committees; to take duplicate receipts, when delivered, of the Quartermaster-General, the Commissary of each Army, for clothing and stores, and of Mr. *Livingston* for the saltpetre, and also apply to the said *Livingston* for payment of transportation. And that the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds each be granted to the respective Wagonmasters, to enable them to hire wagons, &c., for the above purposes, they being accountable to this Court for the expenditure of the said sums; and that the sum of twelve shillings per day be allowed each Wagonmaster for himself and horse, whilst on actual service of this State.

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ORDER RESPECTING THE TRIAL OF THE BRIG BETSEY.

In Council, November 8th, 1776.

Whereas there appears no prospect that the Brig *Betsey*, with her cargo or her appurtenances, lately taken by a vessel belonging to this State, claimed by Mr. *Creed* and others, and has been acquitted on a trial in the Maritime Court at *Salem*, will be condemned on the trial on the appeal to the Supreme Court:

Therefore *Ordered*, That the Agent for the Middle District for this State be, and he hereby is, directed not to enter or prosecute the said appeal so far as respects the interest of this State; and he signify to the captors, or such as represent them, that if they are determined and will prosecute the said appeal so far as the captors are interested, they must do it entirely at their own expense.

Read and accepted.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary.*

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*To the Honourable Mr.* DANA, *Watertown:*

SIR: I find Mr. *Creed* is about to make application to Council for the delivery of the Brig *Betsey*, and therefore pray leave to inform you, that after the trial in the Maritime Court at *Salem*, I had determined not to trouble myself any further about her, as there did not appear to me on trial there was the least probability of her being condemned; but as the Captain was clamorous and noisy, I entered my appeal with an intention to prosecute it further at the Superiour Court, but I assure you I have not the most distant apprehension of succeeding. It will be an expense of about forty pounds. The Board will act their pleasure.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

RICHARD DERBY, Jun.

Honourable Mr. *Dana*.

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ORDER RESPECTING AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

State of the Massachusetts-Bay, Council-Chamber, November the 8, 1776.

Whereas two vessels have lately arrived from *Halifax*, by order of Sir *George Collier*, Commander *Rain-Bow* man-of-war, under the care of Captain *Thomas Stone*, as flag of truce, with one hundred and seventy-four of our men that have been taken by the enemy, in order to exchange for a like number of their men, and under like circumstances that have been taken by vessels belonging to the *United States of America*, with directions to negotiate the affair with Mr. *Nathaniel Tracey*, of *Newbury-Port*, whose right to negotiate with Lieutenant *Stone* for the exchange of prisoners was confined by this Board to the persons captivated on board the Brigantine *Yankee Hero*, a private armed vessel of this State: And whereas but five persons so captivated have been sent into this State in the said flags of truce, and it was therefore altogether irregular that the negotiation for the exchange of any other prisoners than those belonging to the said *Yankee Hero* should be managed or conducted by the said *Tracey;* yet as it is

apprehended that Sir *George Collier* may have mistaken the extent of the powers committed to said *Tracey*, and most of the prisoners brought into this State by said flags have dispersed and gone to their several homes, and considering the great hardships and distresses our men have undergone during their late captivity, it is thought proper, for this time, to deliver up to the said *Stone* an equal number of persons who are now captives in this State (having respect to the rank and condition of the persons sent up for exchange) as have been returned in the said flags. And that for the future no exchange should or ought to be made for any prisoners unless the officer by whose direction our subjects shall be sent hither shall give order to negotiate for the same directly with the Government of this State:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That *Benjamin Greenleaf*, *Richard Derby*, and *Benjamin Austin*, Esqrs., be a Committee to collect one hundred and sixty-nine persons that have been taken by our vessels, under the like situation and circumstances, as near as may be, with those brought by Captain *Thomas Stone*, and negotiate the affair of the exchange with said *Stone*; and that Mr. *Nath. Tracey*, of *Newbury-Port*, be empowered and directed to convey four officers and one private from any of the prisoners at or near *Northampton*, (*John Knight* and *Robert Arnold* excepted,) and negotiate the exchange for the four officers and one private lately of the privateer *Yankee Hero*, now in his (said *Stone's*) possession.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING ENOCH COE £2 10*s*.

Passed November 7, 1776.

On the Petition of *Enoch Coe*, praying for an allowance for the expense of his sickness while in the Army,

*Resolved*, That there be paid to him, out of the publick Treasury, the sum of £2 10*s*., in full of his account.

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RESOLVE FOR PAYING £5,000 TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Passed November 8, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Treasury of this State £5,000 to the honourable Board of War, to enable them to procure some articles necessary to be immediately purchased.

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ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE COMMISSARIES APPOINTED TO DELIVER STORES TO THE ARMY.

Passed November 8, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Commissaries appointed to deliver out to that part of the Army raised or to be raised by this State, such necessaries and conveniences as shall be ordered by this Court, be allowed, for their respective services, at the rate of fourteen pounds per calendar month, during their attendance on said service; and that each Commissary be allowed one clerk to attend him, who shall be allowed and paid in full for his services, at the rate of seven pounds per calendar month. Also,

*Resolved*, That the said Commissaries be empowered to hire one or more Storehouses, as occasion may require, and, if necessary, to call to their aid one or more persons to assist them in the proper distribution of the stores that may be committed to their care, and that they lay an account of the same before the General Court for allowance.

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PETITION OF BENJAMIN FOSTER.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives of the* MASSACHUSETTS-STATE:

*The Petition of* BENJAMIN FOSTER, *in behalf of the Sixth Regiment in the County of* LINCOLN, *under my command:*

That upon examination we have little or no ammunition by us in the Regiment above-mentioned: by which means we are much exposed in the present day to the unnatural enemies of the *United States*, the strong attachment to which induces me to take this step of application for supplies; therefore beg that your Honours will take it into your wise consideration, and furnish us with a stock sufficient for such a number of men consisting of seven hundred as a town stock. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

BENJAMIN FOSTER.

PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MACHIAS.

*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives for the Colony of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

Whereas your Honours were pleased to issue an order in *April* last, empowering the Committees of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection, in the several towns and plantations in this Colony, to lease out the real estate of all persons that have been aiding and assisting the enemies of the *United Colonies of America:* And whereas *Ichabod Jones*, late of this place, did aid and assist the Ministerial Fleet and Army, by supplying them with lumber, &c.; and as the said *Ichabod* left a considerable property in this place, both real and personal: In obedience, therefore, to your Honours' commands, we, the Committee of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection, for *Machias*, have taken a true inventory of all the estate of *Ichabod Jones* in this place that has come to our knowledge, some of which real estate we have leased out, as mentioned in said inventory, a copy of which we herewith lay before your Honours.

About the 1st instant one *Stephen Jones* appeared and exhibited to us an instrument of joint copartnership between *Ichabod Jones*, *Stephen Jones*, and *John Coffin Jones*, demanding two-thirds of all said estate in this place, both real and personal, (although he could not bring any thing to prove the fee of said real estate to be in any person besides said *Ichabod*,) for the use of himself and said *John Coffin Jones;* but as the said *Stephen Jones* did, some time in *November* last, kill about fourteen oxen, all which he sold and converted to his own use, together with four horses, being part of said estate; and it appearing to this Committee that the said *Stephen Jones* was using every means in his power to get all said personal estate into his own hands, we therefore passed a resolve, of which the following is a copy, viz: "Whereas a great part of the personal estate of *Ichabod Jones*, late of this place, has been secreted, wasted, or otherwise embezzled the year past; and whereas this Committee have offered all said personal estate to *Stephen Jones*, provided he will give this Committee a true inventory of all the personal estate which belonged to *Ichabod Jones* in *June* last, with sufficient security to see the same forthcoming when required by the General Court of this Colony, or this Committee, which said *Stephen Jones* has utterly refused to comply with:

"Therefore, *Resolved*, That this Committee will forthwith take charge of all the real and personal estate in this place belonging to *Ichabod Jones*, and will pursue the directions of the Court in said matter."

Having thus given a true state of facts, we humbly pray your Honours will be pleased to order how we shall conduct in this affair.

By order of the Committee:

BENJA. FOSTER, *Chairman.*

Machias, June 19th, 1776.

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*To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Petition of* BENJAMIN FOSTER, *of* MACHIAS, *on behalf of the Committee and inhabitants of said place, humbly showeth:*

That whereas in consequence of bringing a number of prisoners from *Machias* to *Watertown*, in *August*, 1775, a considerable expense arose thereby, which was but in part discharged by your Honours, viz: one hundred pounds received of the Honourable *Henry Gardner*, Esq., by your petitioner and *Jeremiah Obrian*, for which they gave their bond that they would settle the whole account of said expense; in order to do which, your petitioner herewith lays before your Honours an account of the whole expense attending the bringing up said prisoners, &c., which he prays may be allowed, as he has sufficient vouchers, which he is ready to lay before any Committee which your Honours may appoint to examine the same.

Your petitioner also begs leave to acquaint your Honours that we supplied the *Indians* the last winter with sundry articles necessary for their support, and without which they could not have subsisted, as well as to keep friends with them, before there was any Truckmaster appointed at said place; and said *Indians* are so poor they are unable to pay any part of said account; therefore we pray your Honours would order Captain *Stephen Smith*, Truckmaster at *Machias*, to pay said account of articles supplied said *Indians*

Your petitioner further prays your Honours would give the Committee of *Machias* some special directions respecting the estate of *Ichabod Jones*, as *Stephen Jones*, a partner in trade with said *Ichabod*, utterly refuseth to deliver to said Committee any part of said estate that he has in his hands, but has forcibly entered upon some part of said *Ichabod's* estate, and still detains the same. And whereas many have deserted from the enemy at *Nova-Scotia*, and come to *Machias*, and we have reason to think more would come could they obtain sufficient provisions at said place to subsist them to those parts, we therefore pray your Honours would order Captain *Smith*, Truckmaster at *Machias*, to supply any deserters that may come, as aforesaid, with sufficient for their relief.

Your petitioner further begs leave to suggest to your Honours the distressed condition of the people of *Machias*, by reason of their not being able to export their lumber, which is their chief article of support. Therefore pray your Honours would take their case into consideration, and supply them with articles that they stand in need of, and take our lumber in pay. We should not have troubled the Court again, but we have no vessels to export our lumber, our only remaining one being taken by the enemy. As in duty bound, shall ever pray.

BENJA. FOSTER, *Chairman.*

October 17, 1776.

—

Machias, December 29th, 1775.

The Committee of Safety of *Machias*, Dr.:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| For *Francis Joseph* and two other *Indians*, one dinner each.... | £0 | 3 | 0 |
| To lodging three *Indians*, at 4*d*. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| To three *Indians'* breakfast, at 1*s*. pr. | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| To three lb. of powder for said *Indians*, at 6*s*. lb. | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| To two lb. of bullets, at 8*d*. | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| *January* 16th, 1776.—To Captain *Muzet* and four other *Indians*, one dinner each, at 1*s*. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To lodging five *Indians*, at 4*d*. | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| To breakfast for ditto, at 1*s*. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| To one peck of peas, at 2*s*. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To one peck of meal, at 1*s*. 6*d*. | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| To two lb. powder, at 6*s*. | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| To twelve flints, at 1*s*. 4*d*. | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| To four lb. buck shot, at 8*d*. pr. | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| *February* 10th.—To supplying said *Indians* with two quarts molasses, at 1*s*. 8*d*. | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| To one and a half coffee, at 1*s*. 4*d*. pr. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| *February* 26th.—To supplying ten *Indians* with dinner, at 1*s*. pr. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To lodging ditto, at 4*d*. | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| To breakfast for ten *Indians*. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To three lb. and a half of powder, at 6*s*. pr. | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| To four lb. of shot, at 8*d*. pr. | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| To eighteen flints, at 2*s*. | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| To six lb. of bullets, at 8*d*. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| | £5 | 14 | 2 |

Errours except. Pr. JONAS FARNSWORTH.

—

Machias, June 14th, 1776.

The within Account delivered to the *Indians* in their distress before there was a Truckmaster appointed by the honourable Court, and refused to be paid by said Truckmaster.

This Account being examined by the Committee, it appears to be just.

Pr. BENJA. FOSTER, *Chairman.*

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*Inventory of Goods, &c., belonging and found in the Store of* ICHABOD JONES, *in* MACHIAS, MAY 6, 1776, *viz:*

1 desk, No. 1,
1 do., No. 2,
1 writing do., No. 3,
1 do. No. 4,
1 barrel containing—
8 earthen dishes,
1 sugar bowl,
2 butter pots,
3 tea-pots,
1 coffee-pot,
1 iron spoon,
2 carpets,
1 old trunk of old papers,
1 large round table, No. 7,
1 large pair andirons,
1 pair dogs,
2½ pair small do.,
1 chafing dish,
1 long-handle brush,
2 iron fenders,
1 bolt auger,
1 bread basket,
6 jank bottles,
1 wooden mortar,
1 tin saucepan,
1 pint tunnel,
16 kitchen chairs,
1 frying pan,
9 mustard bottles,
2 bottles,
1 small jack,
5 tea-dishes, queensware,
1 barrel containing—
4 delf dishes,
3 queensware do.,
3 glass cans,
2 glass mustard pots,
1 glass decanter,
2 large China bowls,
2 cracked do.,
3 China coffee bowls,
2 decanters,
1 earthen dish,
1 washing bowl,
1 large vinegar crewet,
5 China coffee cups and 4 broken saucers,
5 China tea cups and 2 saucers,
1 small China bowl,
2 small decanters,
1 tea-pot,
9 China plates,
2 lamps,
1 curry-comb,
1 pair old bellows,
1 cullender,
1 dish-cover,
1 barrel containing—
16 bottles,
2 earthen pots,
1 old tea-kettle,
2 brushes,
1 box with a jack,'
A quantity of oakum,
1 high iron candlestick,
3 trammels,
61 ox bones,
1 fire shovel,
1 ironing board,
2 new steel-plate mill-saws,
6 mill-saws that have been used,
1 box of papers,
1 old set-net,
Horse harness,
1 large tin canister,
1 do., with seven glass bottles,
1 box with three white square do.,
2 clothes baskets,
5 cream-colored plates,
1 small bag of hops,
1 box with twelve bottles,
1 old box,
1 old basket,
14 framed chairs, leather and cloth bottoms,
1 round-about do.,
1 hogshead with 72 junk bottles,
1 old case containing—
1 delf bowl,
2 old do.,
2 China mugs,
2 large drinking glasses,
1 vinegar crewet,
4 glass salt-sellers,
2 tea-pots,
1 earthen sugar-bowl,
2 glass tumblers,
1 small do.,
3 China saucers,
1 do. butter boat,
1 old chest,
1 old brass kettle,
1 old case with four junk bottles,
1 basket,
1 square table, No. 1,
1 round do., No. 2,
1 oval do., No. 3,
1 square large do., No. 4,
1 tea do., No. 5,
1 square do., No. 6,
1 basket of curtain-rings,
1 case drawers,
1 dripping pan,
1 large dish-cover,
Some bed-rails and curtain-rods,
1 gridiron,
1 fire shice,
1 sacking-bottom and frame,
2 dish kettles,
2 square sieves,
1 easy chair,
1 large glass tumbler,
1 earthern candlestick,
3 beer glasses,
16 wine glasses,
5 broken do.,
1 queensware soup bowl,
1 barrel containing—
8 oval dishes, queensware,
45 plates, do.,
3 butter boats,
2 large fish dishes,
1 small do.,
15 China plates,
9 China tea dishes,
11 wine glasses,
3 beer do.,
2 glass salt-sellers,
2 notched dishes,
5 tumblers,
2 cream pitchers,
2 small queensware plates,
6 small bowls,
1 punch strainer,
1 sugar dish,
1 mug,
1 coffee pot,
1 mustard do.,
1 earthen salver,
1 black coffee pot,
2 decanters,
1 tumbler,
1 broken do.,
1 table, No. 6,
1 case drawers with 2 yds. shalloon,
1 table, No. 9,
1 dressing do., No. 10,
1 square do., No. 11,
1 do., No. 12,
1 do., No. 13,
1 round do., No. 14,
1 do., No. 15,
1 soup spoon,
1 spit,
1 screen,
1 horse brush,
1 barrel with half bushel peas,
1 screen,
1 pair scales,
1 weight, 14 lbs.,
1 do., 7 lbs.,
1 dipping lead,
2 fishing do.,
1 barrel, part full tongues and sounds,
1 case with 12 bottles,
3 iron crow-bars,
1 barrel with one gallon oil,
1 half-bushel measure,
2 kedge anchors,
1 yoke of oxen, } In the care of
1 horse, } Sam'l Milbury.
2 chains,
1 pair steelyards,
1 old mill-saw,
1 steel-plate saw,
About 700 mill-logs, and about 15,000 feet merch't boards; not taken in our possession.

REAL ESTATE.

Half a saw in the Rock-Mill, so called; not in our possession.
Half a saw in the Old Mill; not in our possession.
One-quarter of a saw in None-Such Mill; not in our possession.
Three-eighths of a saw in Mill Unity, let out to saw on a share to *Ephraim Chase.*
Three-eighths of a saw in Mill Unity, let as follows, viz:
One-eighth to *Aaron Hanscom* for 8,000 feet merch't boards, per annum.
One-eighth to *Joseph Munson*, for 8,000 feet do. per annum.
One-eighth to *Jno. Wooden Forster*, for 8,000 do. per annum.
One dwelling house, barn, and land, let to *Ja's Lord* and *Jno. Wooden Forster*, per annum..... £13 8 0
One old house and one acre land to *George Thompson* ..... 2 0 0
Sundry small lots leased as follows, viz:
One lot to *Jabez West*, per annum..... 1 2 0
One do. to *Sam'l Milberry*..... 1 7 0
One do. to *Sam'l Reed*..... 0 3 0
One do. do. ..... 0 4 0
£18 4 0

One house, garden-spot, and barn, in the possession of *Stephen Jones.*
One negro man about twenty-five years of age, in possession of *Stephen Jones.*
Two gondolas, in possession of do.
Sundries sold by *Stephen Jones* in the fall of the year 1775.
About fourteen oxen.
Four horses.

MACHIAS, *June* 20, 1776:

This is a true copy of an Inventory of all the Real and Personal Estate of *Ichabod Jones*, in this place, that has come to our knowledge.

By order of the Committee of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection:

BENJA. FOSTER, *Chairman.*

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PETITION OF MOSES MORSE AND PETER WERDEN.

*To the honourable the Council and the honourable House of*

*Representatives for the State of the* Massachusetts-Bay, *in General Court assembled:*

*The Petition of* Moses Morse *and* Peter Werden, *in behalf of the Towns of* Worthington, Partridgefield, Gageboro', New-Providence, *and* East-Hoosuck *Plantation, humbly showeth:*

That whereas the road passing through the aforesaid towns to *Ticonderoga* (commonly called the Middle Road) is about forty miles nearer, or less travel, to *Ticonderoga* than the lower road which passes by *Albany:* And whereas it is of great importance to this State that said middle road should be amended and put into suitable repair for the convenient passing of teams and carriages to and from this State to *Ticonderoga*, as well as for the immediate benefit of the inhabitants of the several afore-mentioned towns: We, the aforesaid petitioners, therefore, to encourage a work so beneficial to the publick will cheerfully engage to use our utmost endeavours that said Middle Road shall be amended for the convenient passing of teams and carriages through the several towns above-mentioned, provided that one hundred and fifty pounds may be granted us for that purpose out of the publick Treasury. We therefore pray your Honours would please to make us the aforesaid grant, we being accountable for the faithful disposing of the same for the purpose aforesaid, or otherwise cause said road to be repaired as in your wisdom shall seem best. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Moses Morse,
Peter Werden.

Watertown, November 8, 1776.

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PETITION OF TRISTRAM DALTON AND OTHERS.

*State of* Massachusetts-Bay:

*To the honourable the Council now sitting in* Watertown:

*The Petition of* Tristram Dalton, *of* Newbury, Joseph Russell, Joseph Barrel, *and* Job Prince, *of* Boston, *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners, owners of the sloop *Satisfaction*, burthen ninety tons, armed with fourteen carriage guns, four-pounders, twelve swivels, seven hundred weight of powder, with shot in proportion, navigated by one hundred men, *John Stevens*, Captain; *Joseph Drinkwater*, First Lieutenant; *John Bartlet*, Second; *Samuel Broom*, Master; has on board as provisions five tons bread, seventy barrels beef and pork, twenty bushels peas. Said sloop is intended to cruise against the enemies of the *United States*.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly request your Honours to commission said sloop and commander for the purposes above-mentioned. And, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

John Stevens,
In behalf of the owners.

Boston, November 4, 1776.

In Council, *November* 9th, 1776.—Read, and *Ordered*, That the prayer of the above Petition be granted, and a Commission be issued out to the above-named commander, he complying with the resolves of the Congress.

John Avery, *Deputy Secretary.*

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RESOLVE FOR SUPPLYING TRUCKMASTER AT PENOBSCOT WITH POWDER, &C., FOR THE INDIANS.

Passed November 9, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General be directed to supply *Jonathan Lowder*, Truckmaster to the *Penobscot* Tribe of *Indians*, with two hundred weight of Gunpowder, at five shillings per pound, and two hundred weight of Lead, at six pence per pound, for the purpose of supplying the *Penobscot* Tribe of *Indians*, he paying for the same.

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RESOLVE FOR THE DELIVERY OF SALTPETRE FOR MR. LIVINGSTON'S POWDER-MILL, IN THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

Passed November 9, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General of this State be directed to put in barrels the Saltpetre designed to be transported to Mr. *Livingston's* Powder-Mill, in the State of *New-York*, and to deliver the same to the Wagonmaster of this State for the Northern department.

RESOLVE ON COLONEL FOSTER'S PETITION.

Passed November 9, 1776.

On the Petition of Colonel *Benjamin Foster*, in behalf of the Sixth Regiment of Militia, in the County of *Lincoln*, praying for a supply of Ammunition for said Regiment,

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petition be so far granted that the Commissary be directed to furnish the petitioner with three hundred and fifty pounds of Gunpowder, at six shillings per pound, and seven hundred pounds of Leaden Balls, at six pence per pound, for the use of his regiment, taking his security for the same, to be paid in one year; the petitioner to distribute Powder and Lead in due proportion to the Committees of Correspondence, &c., of the several places to which the regiment belongs, and to be kept as publick stocks.

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RESOLVE ON THE PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF MACHIAS.

Passed November 9, 1776.

On the Petition of *Benjamin Foster*, in behalf of the Committee and inhabitants of *Machias*,

*Resolved*, That the account of bringing a considerable number of Prisoners from *Machias* to *Watertown*, in *August*, 1775, be committed to the Committee on Accounts.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Stephen Smith*, Truckmaster at *Machias*, be directed to pay the sum of £5 14*s.* 2*d.* to Mr. *Jonas Farnsworth*, in full of his account for supplies delivered the *Indians* there the 29th *December* last.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Correspondence, &c., of *Machias*, proceed agreeable to a resolve of this Court respecting Tories' Estates, and serve *Stephen Jones*, of said *Machias*, with a copy of this Resolve.

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RESOLVE RELATIVE TO THE UTENSILS LEFT BY THE SEA COAST FORCES AT FALMOUTH.

Passed November 9, 1776.

*Resolved*, That *William Frost*, Commissary of the sea-coast forces, stationed at and near *Falmouth*, be and he is hereby ordered and directed, when the troops there, or any part of them, are dismissed, to take care of and store the utensils belonging to this State, and which are now in the use of the said troops; and that Mr. *Noyes*, a member of this House, be directed to serve the said *Frost* with an attested copy of this Resolve.

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RESOLVE FOR REPAIRING THE MIDDLE ROAD TO TICONDEROGA.

Passed November 9, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State, to Mr. *Hitchcock*, Mr. *Gates*, and Mr. *Wright*, the sum of £150, for the purpose of amending and putting into suitable repair the Middle Road (so called) to *Ticonderoga*, through the towns of *Worthington*, *Partridgefield*, *Gageborough*, *New-Providence*, and *East-Hoosuck* Plantations, as to the said Committee shall seem most for the publick benefit; said Committee to be accountable to this Court for the same.

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EZRA SARGEANT APPOINTED A COMMISSARY.

The House made a choice, by ballot, of Mr. *Ezra Sargeant* as a Commissary for the Southern department, agreeable to a resolve which passed the House the 29th of *October* last, in the room of Mr. *Whittemore*, who declines serving.

Concurred by Council, *November* 9, 1776.

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RESOLVE FOR SUPPLYING EDWARD BROWN WITH GUNPOWDER.

Passed November 5, 1776.

On the Petition of *Edward Brown*, about purchasing Gunpowder for breaking stone,

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the above petition be granted, and that the petitioner have leave to purchase one quarter hundred weight of Gunpowder out of the publick store of this State, for the purposes above mentioned, and the Commissary-General is hereby directed to sell the same at six shillings per pound.

## CONNECTICUT ASSEMBLY.

*Acts and Resolutions passed at a General Assembly of the Governour and Company of the State of* CONNECTICUT, *holden at* NEW-HAVEN, *on the second* THURSDAY *of October,* 1776.

### RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Whereas *George* the Third, King of *Great Britain*, hath unjustly levied war against this and the other *United States of America*, declared them out of his protection, and abdicated the government of this State, whereby the good people of this State are absolved from their allegiance and subjection to the Crown of *Great Britain:* And whereas the Representatives of the said *United States*, in General Congress assembled, have published and declared that these *United States* are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, and that they are absolved from all allegiance to the *British* Crown:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That they approve of the Declaration of Independence, published by said Congress, and that this Colony is, and of right ought to be, a free and independent State; and the inhabitants thereof are absolved from all allegiance to the *British* Crown; and all political connection between them and the King of *Great Britain* is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

*And be it enacted by the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That the form of civil government in this State shall continue to be as established by charter received from *Charles* the Second, King of *England*, so far as an adherence to the same shall be consistent with an absolute independence of this State on the Crown of *Great Britain*, and that all officers, civil and military, heretofore appointed by this State, continue in the execution of their several offices, and the laws of this State shall continue in force until otherwise ordered; and that for the future all writs and processes in law or equity shall issue in the name of the Governour and Company of the State of *Connecticut*, and that in all summonses, attachments, and other processes, before any Assistant, or Justice of the Peace, the words "one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace," be omitted, and that instead thereof be inserted, "Justice of the Peace;" and that no writ of process shall have or bear any date save the year of our Lord Christ only, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding. And that the act in alteration of an act prescribing forms of writs, processes, &c., be repealed, and the same is hereby repealed.

### AN ACT FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF HIGH TREASON AND OTHER ATROCIOUS CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE.

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That if any person or persons belonging to, or residing within this State, and under protection of its laws, shall levy war against the State or Government thereof, or knowingly and willingly shall aid or assist any enemies at open war against this State, or the *United States of America*, by joining their Armies, or by inlisting, or procuring or persuading others to inlist for that purpose; or by furnishing such enemies with arms or ammunition, provision, or any other articles for their aid or comfort, or by carrying on a treacherous correspondence with them, or shall form, or be any way concerned in forming any combination, plot, or conspiracy for betraying this State, or the *United States*, into the hands or power of any foreign enemy, or shall give, or attempt to give or send any intelligence to the enemies of this State for that purpose, every person so offending, and being thereof convicted, shall suffer death.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if any person or persons shall endeavour to join the enemies of this State, or of the *United States*, or use their influence to persuade or induce any person or persons to join, aid, comfort, or assist them in any way or manner whatsoever, or shall have knowledge of any person or persons endeavouring or using their influence aforesaid, and shall conceal the same, shall be punished by fine according to the nature of his offence, and shall be imprisoned at the judgment of the Superiour Court, in any of the jails in this State, not exceeding ten years.

### AN ACT FOR PRESCRIBING AND ENJOINING AN OATH OF FIDELITY TO THE STATE.

Whereas the King of *Great Britain* hath abdicated the government of this and the other *United States of America*, by putting them out of his protection, and unjustly levying war against them; and the said *United States* by their Representatives in General Congress assembled, by a Declaration bearing date the fourth day of *July*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, for the reasons therein mentioned, solemnly declared that the *United Colonies of North America* are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the *British* Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of *Great Britain* is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; which Declaration is approved by this Assembly: Wherefore it is expedient for the security of this State, that an oath of fidelity be taken by the freemen and officers thereof:

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That all the Members of the General Assembly and other officers, civil and military, and freemen, within this State of *Connecticut*, shall take the following oath, viz: "You, A. B., do swear by the ever-living God, that you will well, truly, and faithfully adhere to and maintain the Government established in this State under the authority of the people, agreeable to the laws in force within the same; and that you believe in your conscience that the King of *Great Britain* hath not, nor of right ought to have, any authority or dominion in or over this State; and that you do not hold yourself bound to yield any allegiance or obedience to him within the same; and that you will to the utmost of your power maintain and defend the freedom, independence, and privileges of this State, against all open enemies or traitorous conspiracies whatsoever. So help you God."

And no person shall have authority to execute any of the offices aforesaid, after the first day of *January* next, until he hath taken said oath. And all persons who hereafter shall be appointed to any of said offices shall take said oath before they enter on the execution of their offices. And no freeman within this State shall be allowed to vote in the election of any of the officers of Government until he hath taken the aforesaid oath, in the open freemen's meeting in the town where he dwells; and the names of all freemen who take said oath shall be enrolled by the Town Clerk in the records of the town, which oath shall be administered by a Magistrate or Justice of Peace.

### RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN ACTS.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Seymour*, Mr. *Bishop*, Major *Hillhouse*, and *Rufus Lathrop*, Esq., be a Committee to procure a copy of the act passed relating to High Treason, &c., also the copy of one other act relating to the Oath of Fidelity, &c., and deliver the copies to the several printers in this State, and procure the same to be published in the several newspapers.

### AN ACT FOR SUPPORTING THE CREDIT AND CURRENCY OF THE BILLS OF CREDIT EMITTED AND MADE CURRENT BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND THE BILLS OF PUBLICK CREDIT OF THIS STATE.

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That the Bills of Credit emitted and made current by the authority of the General Assembly of this State, and those emitted by the *United States of America*, shall be a legal tender as money in all payments within this State.

And whereas some evil-minded persons, inimical to the liberties of the *United States of America*, have endeavoured to depreciate the Bills of Credit of this and the said *United States:* Which to prevent:

*Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if any person within this State shall attempt to depreciate or undervalue any of the Bills of Credit aforesaid, by offering, demanding, or receiving more in any of said bills in exchange for *Spanish* milled dollars, or other coins of gold or silver, or bullion, than the nominal value or amount thereof, as stated in said bills, computing a *Spanish* milled dollar at six shillings lawful money, and other coins of gold

or silver and bullion at the value in proportion to dollars at which they pass in this State, or at which they are or may be fixed by the Assembly of the *United States* in Congress; or by offering, demanding, or receiving, directly or indirectly, a greater sum in any of said bills for any houses, lands, goods, or commodities whatsoever, than the same could be purchased at of the same person or persons in gold or silver money; or whoever shall sell or offer to sell, house, land, or any kind of commodity for hard money, and shall refuse to sell and dispose of the same for any of said bills, every person so offending shall forfeit the full value of the money so exchanged, or the houses, lands, goods, or commodities so sold or offered to sale, one-half to the publick Treasury of this State, if the conviction be before the Superiour Court, or to the County Treasurer if before the County Court, or to the Treasurer of the town where the offence is committed, if the conviction be before an Assistant or Justice of the Peace, and the other half to any person who shall sue for and prosecute the same to effect. And all informing officers are hereby directed to take notice and make presentment of all breaches of this act.

RESOLUTION ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ACT FOR SUPPORTING THE BILLS OF CREDIT.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That the Act passed this session for supporting the credit and currency of the Bills of Credit, &c., be forthwith published in all the newspapers in this State, and the several printers are desired to insert the same accordingly.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ARREST AND EXAMINATION OF SUSPECTED PERSONS.

Whereas it is reported to this Assembly that there are a number of persons in the Western Towns of this State, inimical to the liberties of this and the other *United States of America*, who are forming dangerous insurrections, and taking every method in their power to communicate intelligence to comfort, aid, and assist the enemies of these *United States*, and to distress the inhabitants of said towns, and to bring on a general anarchy and confusion among them:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That *Abraham Davenport, Daniel Sherman, Thomas Fitch, Andrew Adams*, and *Jonah Bissell*, Esqrs., be appointed a Committee forthwith to repair to said Western Towns, and to convene before them all such persons as shall be suspected to be inimical and dangerous to the rights and liberties of *America* in this critical and convulsed state of affairs, when the ordinary mode of prosecution will not be adequate to the mischiefs apprehended, and all such persons as the Committee shall, upon inquiry, judge to be dangerous or too suspicious, consistent with the publick safety, to be suffered to remain in their present situation, said Committee are hereby authorized and empowered to send such person or persons so deemed and adjudged dangerous as aforesaid, under a proper guard, to such place or places in this Colony as shall be thought best, there to remain and to be safe kept under the direction of his Honour the Governour and his Council of Safety, for such time as the publick security may require.

*And it is further Resolved*, That his Honour the Governour be desired to direct Major-General *Wooster* to give the aid and assistance with his troops in his power to said Committee for carrying into execution the aforesaid resolve.

*Provided*, That in case any of said Committee should be unable, or fail to attend said business, the residue, or any three of them, shall have power to proceed and execute the powers vested in said Committee by this resolve.

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO AN ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE MORE EFFECTUAL CARRYING INTO EXECUTION THE SEVERAL ACTS RELATIVE TO THE MAKING OF SALTPETRE AND GUNPOWDER WITHIN THIS COLONY."

Whereas the Selectmen in each town are in and by said act appointed Inspectors of Saltpetre, notwithstanding which sundry quantities of that article, either through the unskillfulness or inadvertency of the Inspectors, have been found upon trial when brought to the Powder-Mills to be impure and unfit for the manufacturing of good Gunpowder, and thereby the publick are much injured: Which mischief to prevent for the future:

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That there be appointed for each Powder-Mill in this Colony a good and skillful Inspector of Saltpetre, who shall be under oath, and shall carefully reinspect all the Saltpetre brought to said Mills, before any premium is paid thereon, or price therefor; and whatever Saltpetre shall be found bad and impure shall be refined by said Inspector, and the Selectmen of the town from whence it came be notified thereof, and of the expense attending the same, which shall be deducted, together with the wastage thereon arising, from the premium and price thereof, and the remainder paid over to the owners thereof.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING REINSPECTORS OF SALTPETRE.

This Assembly do appoint Mr. *Constant Southworth*, Doctor *Æneas Munson*, Colonel *Joshua Porter*, and Mr. *Wait Goodrich*, to be reinspectors of Saltpetre at the Powder-Mills in this State, until the first day of *June* next.

AN ACT TO PREVENT ENGROSSERS, AND FOR THE BETTER SUPPLY OF OUR TROOPS IN THE ARMY WITH SUCH NECESSARIES AS MAY BE WANTED.

Whereas many are so abandoned, and lost to all the feelings of humanity, as to prey upon the bowels of their country, in this day of publick distress and struggle, by endeavouring to engross many of the necessary articles of life; especially of such as are more immediately wanted for the comfort and support of our Armies, whereby much extortion and oppression arises upon the poor and the soldiery: Which to prevent:

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That his Honour the Governour, with the advice of his Council of Safety, be, and they are hereby enabled, empowered, and directed, that whenever, and whatever article or articles of necessary support for the Army may be wanted, to impress and seize the same out of the hands of any engrosser, for the use aforesaid; and to have the same apprised by two indifferent, judicious men, under oath, appointed for that purpose, which price so affixed, shall be paid to the owner or owners thereof; and that suitable persons shall be appointed by his Honour the Governour and his Council aforesaid, to furnish and supply the Army with necessaries as aforesaid, upon the most reasonable terms, agreeable to the encouragement given by this Assembly.

RESOLUTION FOR ENCOURAGING THE MAKING OF SALT.

Whereas the article of Salt is much wanted in this State, and notwithstanding the bounty ordered by this Assembly in *May* last, to all those who should make five hundred bushels or more, yet is found inadequate properly to encourage the setting up said branch of business and making smaller quantities:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That a bounty of one shilling per bushel, upon any less quantity than five hundred bushels, shall be paid out of the publick Treasury upon each bushel of good Salt that shall be made in this State before the first day of *November*, 1777; and upon the makers of Salt producing a certificate under the hands of the Selectmen of the town where the Salt was manufactured, of the quantity so made, shall receive said bounty; and the Treasurer is hereby directed to pay the same to the respective manufacturers accordingly.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNOUR AND COUNCIL TO LAY AN EMBARGO.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That his Honour the Governour with the advice of his Council of Safety, shall be empowered and enabled, and he is hereby empowered and enabled upon finding it necessary and expedient for the benefit of the publick, to lay any further embargo upon the exportation of Swine, or any other article, out of this State, as shall be thought requisite, in the recess of the General Assembly of this State.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A COMMISSIONER TO SUPERINTEND THE LOAN OFFICE.

Whereas it is resolved and recommended by the honourable Continental Congress that a Loan Office be established in each of the *United States of America*, and that a Commissioner to superintend such office be appointed by the said States respectively: And the Assembly judging that such Loan Offices may be beneficial, &c.:

*It is therefore Resolved*, That *John Lawrence*, Esq., of *Hartford*, be, and he is hereby appointed a Commissioner to superintend such Loan Office as shall be established by said Congress within this State, agreeable to and for the purposes mentioned in their resolution of the 3d of *October* instant.

RESOLUTION RESPECTING THE ATTENDANCE OF THE STATE DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

*Resolved*, That the Delegates appointed by this Assembly to attend the Congress of the *United States of America*, be instructed that only three of them give constant attendance at one time at the publick expense; that they attend by turns, and agree between themselves as to the time and convenience of each one's attendance.

RESOLUTION FOR ENCOURAGING THE MANUFACTURE OF SALTPETRE.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That a bounty or premium of one shilling per pound be paid out of the publick Treasury of this State for all Saltpetre that shall be manufactured according to the laws already provided for manufacturing Saltpetre and Nitre, from the first day of *January* next and before the first day of *June* next.

RESOLUTION FOR RAISING EIGHT BATTALIONS.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That in compliance with the resolution of the Congress of the *United States*, of the 16th of *September* last, and of the 8th of *October* instant, eight Battalions be immediately raised out of the troops belonging to this State now in the Army and such other inhabitants of this State as will voluntarily inlist to serve during the war, on the generous encouragement offered by Congress; and as a further encouragement, this Assembly will make suitable provision for furnishing said troops with clothing and other necessaries not provided by the Congress, on the best terms that they can be procured, which shall be delivered to them at prime cost and charges, and will also take care that the sick and wounded be well accommodated and provided with necessaries for their comfort and relief, and that a suitable person or persons be appointed to procure and deliver out such clothing and other necessaries.

RESOLUTION FOR INCREASING THE PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE EIGHT BATTALIONS.

Whereas this Assembly have resolved to raise eight Battalions of troops in this State, to serve in the Continental Army during the present war, upon the wages, bounty, and allowances offered by the honourable Continental Congress; and whereas the General Assembly of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* have added to the wages and allowance of the troops to be raised in that State for said service:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That every non-commissioned officer and soldier, inhabitants of this State, who shall inlist into the eight Battalions now ordered to be raised in this State as aforesaid, shall have and receive from this State so much over and above the wages allowed and offered or that shall be allowed or offered by the honourable Continental Congress, as to make up the pay of a soldier to be three pounds per month during said service, and the pay of the non-commissioned officers in proportion thereto.

*And it is also Resolved*, That each non-commissioned officer and soldier that shall inlist into said eight Battalions, or either of them as aforesaid, shall annually have and receive from this State a good blanket in addition to the clothing offered and to be provided by the honourable the Continental Congress during the term of their service as aforesaid.

RESOLUTION RESPECTING TENTS.

*Resolved*, That each Tent ordered to be made by this Assembly, in the several towns in this State, shall contain the quantity of twenty-seven yards of cloth, one yard wide, or equal thereto in cloth of different width, well manufactured of yarn not coarser than thirty knots to the pound.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING TROOPS FOR THE SEA-COAST.

Whereas the Sea-port towns in this State adjoining the *Sound* are greatly exposed to incursions of the enemy in their present situation:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That his Honour the Governour be desired to apply to the honourable the Congress of the *United States of America* to allow two Battalions, at the expense of the *United States*, to be posted along the sea-coast of this State, at such places as the Governour and Council of Safety of this State shall direct.

RESOLUTION FOR REINFORCING THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

Whereas the near approach of the enemy to the western parts of this State, as well as the critical situation of the Continental Army, and the danger there is of the enemy's cutting off all communication between the country and the Army, calls for the utmost speedy exertion of all our force and strength in that quarter, to oppose the further inroads of the enemy, as well as to facilitate the operations of our Army:

*Resolved*, That as many of the Militia as are fit for service, and of other householders, &c., able-bodied, effective men, within the limits of the Ninth, Tenth, Thirteenth, and Sixteenth Regiments, within this State, be immediately called forth, well armed and equipped, and imbodied under the command of Major-General *Wooster*, appointed by this State to lead them forth, command, and direct them in the necessary operations against our enemy, and to give all possible relief to our Army, notifying the General and Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army of his situation and readiness to coöperate with him, taking such directions from him as he may obtain, as how and in what manner he may most conduce to his assistance and annoy the enemy, and to consult and advise with any other General or commanding officer or officers of our Army who may be nearest to him, for that purpose.

RESOLUTION ORDERING TROOPS TO THE WESTERN PARTS OF THE STATE.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That the Third Regiment of Light-Horse and the Troop of Light-Horse in the Tenth Regiment of Militia, be ordered forthwith to march to the western part of this State, to join the forces under the command of Major-General *Wooster*, who is hereby directed and empowered to give order for their march, operations, and stations.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADVANCES TO THE TROOPS.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That the Committee of Pay-Table draw orders upon the Treasurer, in favour of the Colonel or commanding officer of each regiment of the Militia now ordered to march, for such sum as will be sufficient to enable said Colonels or commanding officers to advance twenty shillings to each officer and soldier of such respective regiments that shall join and march as aforesaid, the said Colonel or commanding officer to be accountable for the same, and that the troops of Horse and Militia now ordered out shall not be holden on service longer than the term of two months from the time of the march; and his Honour the Governour is desired to give orders accordingly.

AN ACT TO COMPEL THE FURNISHING NECESSARY SUPPLIES AND ASSISTANCE TO THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

*Be it enacted by the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That if any person or persons within this Colony shall, upon request, refuse to sell or supply to the Quarter-

master-General of the Continental Army, the articles of timbers, boards, shingles, brick, or stone, or to sell or let their horses, oxen, carts, or carriages, for transporting the same, or to furnish any other necessary supplies and assistance for the use of said Army, it shall be the duty of any one Assistant or Justice of the Peace within this Colony, and they are hereby ordered and directed upon application to them by any such Quartermaster or Quartermasters, their agent or agents, to grant a proper warrant or warrants for the impressing from any such person or persons so refusing, any of the necessary articles or things aforesaid, or of any other article or thing needful for the support or supply of said Army, or for the transportation of the same, directed to the Sheriff, his Deputy, Constable, or any indifferent person within the County where such application shall be made, who shall impress and cause an apprisement to be made thereof by two or more indifferent men within said County, to be appointed by the authority granting such warrant, at the just and true value, and deliver the same to said Quartermaster or Quartermasters, their agent or agents, he or they paying to the owner or owners thereof, or into the hands of such officer who shall impress the same, the sum or sums at which the said article or thing shall be apprised as aforesaid, or so much as shall be reasonable for the use of such horse or horses, oxen, cart, or carriages, when the same shall be returned again to the owner thereof, by his own consent and agreement.

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RESOLUTION PROVIDING CAMP EQUIPAGE FOR THE MILITIA.

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That there be provided in this State, as soon as may be, for the use of the Militia thereof, when called into actual service, the following articles of camp equipage and utensils, viz: two thousand Tents, two thousand Iron Pots containing two gallons each, four thousand Wooden Bowls, and six thousand Canteens, or Wooden Bottles.

*And be it further Resolved*, That the same be provided by the several towns in this State, in manner and proportion following, viz: That one Tent, one Iron Pot, two Wooden Bowls, and three Canteens, be provided for every thousand pounds of the general list of such towns respectively in the year 1775; and the Selectmen of the several towns in this State are hereby directed and required to procure the aforesaid Tents and Camp utensils, and them keep and have in constant readiness, for the use of the Militia in their respective towns when called into actual service, the cost and expense of procuring the same to be paid and borne by such towns respectively.

*And be it further Resolved*, That the Selectmen of the several towns in this State shall also, at the cost of their respective towns, provide and have in constant readiness, suitable boxes, in which to place and secure the Iron Pots aforesaid, for transportation; and also that they do from time to time, take care and keep the Canteens aforesaid tight, and in good order, and fit for use.

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RESOLUTION ORDERING SUPPLIES FOR GENERAL GATES.

Whereas General *Gates* by a letter has requested a number of Iron Spades and Iron Shovels to be sent to *Ticonderoga*, and a quantity of Flour to be sent to *Skeensborough*, with some Shingle Nails for the use of the Army under his command:

*Therefore, Resolved by this Assembly*, That Major *Ebenezer Gay* be appointed and directed to purchase two hundred Spades and Iron Shovels, and send them forthwith to General *Gates*, at *Ticonderoga*, for the purpose aforesaid; and also to purchase ten tons of Wheat Flour, and transport the same forthwith to *Skeensborough*, to be stored and guarded in such place and manner as General *Gates* shall direct. And that the Treasurer be and he is hereby directed to deliver said Major *Gay* the sum of three hundred pounds, taking his receipt to account for the same: And that Dr. *John Dickinson* be and he is hereby appointed and directed to employ a proper number of nail-makers, forthwith to manufacture Shingle Nails, and that his Honour the Governour be desired to inform General *Gates* thereof, and request information how many will be necessary for his purpose.

REPORT RESPECTING SICK AND DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

We, your Honours' Committee, appointed to take into consideration what further measures are best to be taken to provide for the comfort and relief of the Militia of this State in service, and for obtaining as early release for them as possible, beg leave to report it as our opinion, that his Honour the Governour be desired to write to his Excellency General *Washington*, requesting him as soon as possible to discharge all the sick in the Militia who it shall be judged incapable of further service, and likewise that he would in some way which his wisdom shall devise, provide blankets and clothing for those of the Militia who have been so unfortunate as to lose theirs in retreating from the enemy, or permit some suitable persons on furlough to repair to the various parts of the State as may be convenient, to procure those articles of the friends of those soldiers who are thus deprived of them.

All which is submitted by your Honours' humble servants.

Signed per order:

J'z Huntington.

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SEIZURE OF PORK FOR THE PUBLICK SERVICE.

Whereas this Assembly at their Sessions in *June* last appointed *Samuel Squire*, &c., to purchase barrel Pork for the use of the Colony, and it being now represented to the Assembly that some persons in the County of *Fairfield* still retain quantities of Pork that is wanted for the publick service contrary to said resolve; which makes it necessary that further provision be made in order to carry the same into execution:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That *Samuel Squire*, of *Fairfield*, be directed and empowered, and he is hereby empowered, to seize and take any quantity of Pork that is wanted for the publick service, from any person or persons that have refused or shall refuse to sell the same agreeable to said resolve of *June*; and when so seized or taken to pay the owner or owners thereof according to said resolve; and said *Squire* is hereby further empowered and directed, in case of refusal, as aforesaid, to command and take with him proper and sufficient assistance for that purpose, and to break open any shop or store in order for taking and seizing the same for the purpose aforesaid.

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RESOLUTION FOR PROCURING FIRE-ARMS AND GUN-LOCKS.

Upon report of the Committee appointed to consider what further provision and encouragement should be made for the procuring Fire-Arms and Gun-Locks:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That Captain *Robert Fairchild*, Captain *Ephraim Pease*, Captain *Dudley Wright*, Doctor *John Dickinson*, Mr. *Asahel Holcom*, Mr. *Nathan Frink*, Captain *Jabez Huntington*, and Captain *John Phelps*, be and hereby are appointed a Committee in addition to those gentlemen heretofore appointed for procuring of Fire-Arms and Gun-Locks, and that the same powers and authority heretofore given to a former Committee be and the same is hereby revived and given to said Committee for the purpose of executing the aforesaid trust, and said Committee are directed to exert their utmost endeavours to effect the manufacture of good Fire-Arms and Locks upon the encouragement heretofore granted, and make report of their doings to the General Assembly in *May* next, to which time their authority shall continue.

*And it is further Resolved*, That Mr. *Elihu Clark*, Mr. *Nathaniel Brown*, Mr. *Samuel Smith*, Captain *Lemuel Stoughton*, Mr. *Isaac Doolittle*, Mr. *Joseph Hopkins*, Mr. *Samuel Noyes*, Mr. *John Raymond*, Captain *Daniel Judson*, Captain *Jabez Huntington*, Mr. *Elnathan Walker*, Mr. *Edmund Beach*, and Captain *Mathew Gillett*, be and they are hereby severally appointed Inspectors, to examine and approve of all such Fire-Arms and Locks as shall be made within this State; and none of such Arms shall be received or paid for by said Committee for the use of this State, or any premium allowed thereon to any manufacturer, until examination and due proof has been made of such Arms by said Inspector or Inspectors, and a proper certificate given thereof under his or their hands, that the same are good, well wrought, and sufficiently strong and substantial; and *Tiler Hosman*, Esq., at his own request, is hereby released from any further trouble in procuring Fire-Arms and

Locks in consequence of his appointment formerly to that service.

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RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE SUPPORT OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

Whereas it is found necessary that a Commissary of Prisoners of War should be appointed in the several *United States:*

*Resolved by this Assembly,* That Mr. *Epaphras Bull,* of *Hartford,* be and is hereby appointed a Commissary of Prisoners of War within this State, who shall take care of and provide for all such prisoners of war as are now within this State, or that may hereafter be sent to and kept within the same, and that said Commissary or Commissaries for the time being, shall observe all such rules and orders as shall from time to time be made by the General Assembly, his Honour the Governour, and Committee of Safety, or Continental Congress, respecting such prisoners, for the due ordering, governing, or providing for the same, and shall make monthly returns of the state and condition of said prisoners under their care to the Board of War appointed by said Congress, and be sworn to a faithful discharge of his said trust.

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RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE EXAMINATION OF SURGEONS.

*Resolved by this Assembly,* That Doctor *Alexander Wolcott, John Dickinson, John Watrous, Eneas Munson, Leveret Hubbard, Elias Camington, Elisha Tracy, Benjamin Gale, Eleazer Mather, Platt Townsend, Amos Mead, James Cogswell, John Clark, Elisha Lord, Samuel Lee, Reuben Smith, Elisha Sill,* and *Seth Bird,* or any three of them, be appointed and they hereby are appointed and authorized to examine such persons within this State as may offer themselves to serve as Surgeons or Surgeons' Mates in the Continental Army or Navy, and upon full evidence of proper and sufficient qualifications, to give certificates accordingly.

*And it is further Resolved by this Assembly,* That said examiners, and all others who may hereafter be appointed for the same purpose, shall be under oath for their faithful performance of their trust, according to their best skill and judgment. That the form of said oath shall be as follows, viz: "You, *A. B.*, being appointed to examine those persons within this State who shall offer to serve as Surgeons or Surgeons' Mates in the Continental Army or Navy, do swear by the name of the everlasting God, that you will faithfully and impartially execute said trust, according to your best skill and judgment, and give certificates to such as you shall find duly qualified to serve in said office, without respect of persons, or favour to any man. So help you God." Which oath any one Assistant or Justice of the Peace is hereby authorized and directed, on request, to administer to the examiners that are, or shall be, appointed for the purpose aforesaid.

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RESOLUTION REQUESTING CARE MAY BE TAKEN OF THE SICK SOLDIERS.

*Resolved,* That his Honour the Governour be, and he is hereby desired to request the Commanding Officer of the Northern Army to order suitable provision to be made for the Officers and Soldiers of this State, especially for the sick on their return home, as they may be discharged or dismissed from time to time, at such places and stations as may be thought most needful. And if it should be inconvenient for the Commanding Officer, through multiplicity of concerns, to attend to this matter in due time, his Honour the Governour and the Council of Safety are desired to make proper provision in the matter aforesaid.

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RESOLVE FOR REMOVING STORES AND PROVISIONS FROM THE SEA-COAST.

Whereas it is apprehended the Stores and Provisions for the use of the Continental Army and this State, now stored in the various ports along *Sound,* in several of the towns in the western parts of this State, are by means of the near approach of the enemy in great danger:

Whereupon, *Resolved,* That this Assembly do appoint *John Davenport,* Esq., immediately to go forward to the several places where such Provisions, &c., are stored, and with the advice of any gentlemen acting under the Commissary-General, to remove them back from the sea-shore to some safe place back from the water, where they shall think most proper; to which purpose they are empowered to impress all such teams and carriages as are necessary for that purpose.

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RESOLUTION PROVIDING A HOSPITAL FOR SICK SOLDIERS.

*Resolved by this Assembly,* That a Hospital shall be provided and maintained by this State for the reception and relief of such soldiers from this State as shall serve in the Continental Army, and such of the Militia from this State as may from time to time join said Army during the present war. That said Hospital shall be under the direction of a Chief Surgeon or Director, appointed by this State, and shall be furnished with skillful Surgeons, medicines, and other necessaries. That the Director, or Chief Surgeon, shall have the custody of the stores of medicines and other refreshments from time to time for the use and relief of the sick, who shall issue the same to the Regimental Surgeons as the necessities of their respective regiments require.

*And be it further Resolved,* That his Honour the Governour and his Council of Safety be authorized and directed, with the advice of his Excellency the General, to provide such Hospital, appoint Surgeons and other proper officers, give orders for procuring proper medicines and refreshments, and regulate the issuing the same from said Hospital, as they shall judge most likely to answer the good ends intended to be attained by this resolve.

*And be it further Resolved,* That four hundred Bed Sacks, four hundred Shirts, and four hundred Blankets and eight hundred Sheets, be immediately procured for the use of the sick in said Hospital, all which shall be delivered to the Chief Surgeon, taking his receipt to be accountable for the same.

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RESOLUTION FOR ARMING THE MILITIA.

This Assembly taking into consideration the exposedness of the Sea-port Towns in the Colony by reason of the enemy's coming into the *Sound* and on our coast, and the danger of a surprise unless proper methods be taken to prevent it:

*It is now Resolved,* That his Honour the Governour be desired, and he is hereby desired, forthwith to issue forth his orders to the chief commander present of the Second, Third, Fourth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and Twentieth Regiments of Militia, to take especial care that the officers and soldiers belonging to said regiments are well equipped with arms and ammunition, and that they have suitable posts assigned them to repair to in case of an alarm, and that all necessary instructions be given to the Captains and subalterns under their command, and that the soldiers be thoroughly acquainted with the same, and that they take especial care to prevent being surprised unawares; and in case of the landing of the enemy in any of the towns on the *Sound* or on the sea-coast, they are to give speedy notice thereof to the adjoining towns, and to collect all the force they can, and to use all possible means to repel and drive off the enemy, and from time to time acquaint his Honour the Governour of their proceedings.

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RESOLUTION DIRECTING A SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS WITH THE CONTINENTAL TREASURY.

Whereas it is of great necessity that the moneys due from the Continental Treasury to this State be obtained:

*Resolved by this Assembly,* That the Committee of the Pay-Table do forthwith call upon the several Commissaries to settle their several Accounts, and said Commissaries are hereby required to liquidate and settle the same with them accordingly; and also that said Committee do adjust and allow the charges of disbursement and supplies made by Mr. Commissary *Fitch* to General *Wooster's* Regiment, while at *New-York,* and until said regiment received Continental supplies; and that they (said Committee) do prepare an account of all disbursements made by their State for and on account of the *United States,* and which ought

to be paid by them equally; and that one of said Committee do proceed to *Philadelphia*, and lay the same before the honourable Continental Congress, or their Committee of Claims and Accounts, and obtain a settlement thereof; as also a payment of all such sums of money as shall be justly due to the State from the Continental Treasury, and see the same duly lodged with the Treasurer of this State.

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RESOLUTION FOR ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERS.

Whereas it has been recommended by this Assembly that all able-bodied men within this State, who are not included in any Military Company, would form themselves into Military Companies, and to proceed to choose their Officers, &c.:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That whenever a sufficient number of able-bodied men shall form themselves into such Companies and shall choose their Officers agreeable to said recommendation, and make a suitable return thereof to his Honour the Governour, his Honour the Governour, by advice of his Council of Safety, is hereby authorized and desired to commission them accordingly.

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REPORT ON GENERAL SCHUYLER'S LETTER OF OCTOBER 16, 1776.

We, your Honours' Committee, appointed to consider the subject-matter of General *Schuyler's* letter of the 16th instant, now report, that his Honour the Governour be desired to issue a proclamation ordering and exhorting the Militia and all other able-bodied, effective men within this State, immediately to equip and hold themselves in readiness to march upon the shortest notice as exigency may require.

That as to the subject of General *Washington's* letter, of the 15th instant, it is the opinion of the Committee that the Fifth Regiment of Light-Horse with the two northernmost companies in the First Regiment, all under the command of Major *Elisha Sheldon*, be forthwith ordered to the State of *New-York*, to be stationed at such places therein where their services may be most needed.

IN THE LOWER HOUSE: The above Report is accepted, and a bill in form is ordered thereon accordingly.

Attest: BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON, *Clerk*.

IN THE UPPER HOUSE: The above Report is accepted, with this alteration, viz: that instead of the three last lines next after the word "to," be inserted this paragraph: "march into the Province of *New-York*, at or near the *Fishkill*, to be employed at such places as his Excellency General *Washington* shall direct; and his Honour the Governour is desired and empowered to issue his proclamation and orders accordingly."

Attest: GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secretary*.

IN THE LOWER HOUSE: On reconsideration, concurred with the above alteration made by the honourable Upper House.

Attest: BENJAMIN HUNTINGTON, *Clerk*.

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RESOLUTION FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE RECORDS OF NEW-JERSEY.

Whereas his Excellency *William Livingston*, Esquire, Governour of the State of *New-Jersey*, by his letters of the 19th of *September*, representing that Mr. *Franklin*, late Governour of *New-Jersey*, having possessed himself of a chest or box containing Minutes of Council, Examinations in Council, and other papers of consequence to that State, thought proper, as there is great reason to believe, a few days before he was apprehended to secrete them, which papers they have not been able upon the most diligent search to recover, desiring that this State would interpose and cause the said Mr. *Franklin*, and his man *Thomas*, who is suspected to be privy to the concealment, to be examined on oath relative to said matter, and requesting that said *Thomas* might be first examined before he has opportunity to consult with his said master upon the subject:

*Resolved, therefore, by this Assembly*, That *Matthew Talcott*, Esq., and *Jesse Root*, Esq., be appointed and they are hereby appointed and directed to cause Mr. *Franklin's* servant *Thomas* to come before them, and separately interrogate and examine under oath relative to the premises. And also to cause the said Mr. *Franklin* to come before them, after having previously examined the said servant *Thomas* first, and further interrogate and examine him, if needful, under oath, relative to the matter of said concealment, removal, and detention of what ought to be now in the custody and possession of the Council of the State of *New-Jersey*, and report make.

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APPOINTMENTS BY THE ASSEMBLY.

David Wooster, Major-General of the Militia.

John Durkee, Jedediah Huntington, Andrew Ward, Jr., William Douglass, John Chester, Philip Burr Bradley, Heman Swift, and John Douglass, Esqr's, to be Colonels of the eight Battalions ordered to be raised in this State.

Samuel Prentice, Giles Russell, Solomon Wells, Obadiah Johnson, James Arnold, Thomas Hobby, John Chandler, and Josiah Starr, Esqr's, to be Lieutenant-Colonels of the eight Battalions aforesaid.

John Sumner, John Ely, Waterman Clift, Hezekiah Holdridge, David Dimon, John Ripley, Matthew Mead, and John Bigelow, Esq'rs, to be Majors of said eight Battalions aforesaid.

CAPTAINS.

Noah Phelps, Hezekiah Parsons, Elijah Robinson, Abner Pryor, Amasa Mills, John Isham, Jonathan Johnson, Eliphalet Holmes, Ichabod Norton, John Harmon, John Wells, Chester Wells, John Parker, Simon Wolcott, Abraham Tyler, and Edward Eells, to be Captains in the said eight Battalions.

Edward Russell, Jonas Prentice, Nathaniel Bunnell, William Hull, Peter Perritt, Eli Leavenworth, Stephen Hall, and David Smith.

David Fisher Sill, Christopher Darrow, Jr., Jedediah Hide, Abel Spicer, Christopher Ely, William Belcher, Aaron Stephens, Edward Shipman, Richard Deshon, Ebenezer Brewster, and Ebenezer Huntington.

Robert Walker, Elijah Abel, Samuel Keeler, Joseph Hart, Sylvanus Brown, Noble Benedict, Phineas Beardsley, Jabez Botsford, Ezekiel Sandford, and Albert Chapman.

Thomas Grovesnor, John Keyes, James Clark, James Dana, Benoni Cutler, Vine Elderkin, Wells Clift, Stephen Brown, Daniel Allen, and Daniel Tilden.

Nathan Tuttle, Isaac Bostwick, Abraham Bradley, Simeon Smith, Edward Rogers, Jesse Kimball, Solomon Strong, Bezaleel Bebee, and Theodore Woodbridge, Esqr's, to be Captains in the eight Battalions ordered to be raised in this State.

FIRST LIEUTENANTS.

Edward Bulkley, John Barnard, Eliphalet Chamberlain, Henry Champion, Jr., Marcus Cole, George Griswold, Jr., Thomas Hollister, Jr., Isaac Spencer, Ambrose Sloper, David McClure, Thomas Abby, Ichabod Hinkley, Samuel Carver, Stephen Palmer, Samuel Granger, and Ebenezer Wright, to be First Lieutenants in said eight Battalions.

Joseph Mansfield, Israel Potter, Nathan Parsons, Michael Brunson, Ephraim Chamberlin, Gilbert Dudley, Samuel Barker, Jr., and Samuel Baldwin, Jr.

David Nevins, Edward Hallam, Thomas Avery, Jonathan Palmer, Caleb Baldwin, Elisha Lee, Simeon Huntington, William Adams, Jacob Dewit, Oliver Babcock, and Beriah Bill.

Robert Lewis, Josiah Lacy, Joseph A. Wright, Joseph Webb, Jr., John Jones, Lemuel Benedict, William Hawley, James Betts, Sylvanus Mead, and William Green.

John McGregor, John Shumway, Abner Bacon, William Trezel, James Sprague, Josiah Child, Elias Weld, Joseph Talcott, Abner Robinson, and Andrew Fitch.

Peter Mills, Thomas Converse, Jesse Cook, Nathan Stoddard, Asahel Hodge, Elisha Bostwick, Eleazur Claghorn, John Rockwell, and Obadiah Gore, Jr., to be First Lieutenants in the eight Battalions ordered to be raised in this State.

SECOND LIEUTENANTS.

Roger Hooker, Edward Payne, Joseph Booth, Jr., Simeon Newell, Thomas Hayden, Ezekiel P. Belding, Abraham Wright, Aaron Hale, Jonathan Humphrey, Jr., Peleg Heath, Samuel Hazard, Jr., David Starr, Elijah Chapman, Jr., Silas Blodget, Samuel Felt, Jr., and Jonathan Hart.

Charles Norton, Amos Fowler, Ambrose Hine, Ebenezer

Fowler, Jr., Stephen Potter, William Clark, Nathaniel Edwards, and Elias Stilwell.

John Blackleach, Ebenezer Banks, Jr., Thaddeus Weed, Henry Warring, John St. John, James Hughs, Judson Whiting, Reuben Scovil, Samuel Hoit, and James Barns.

Enoch Reed, William Richards, Park Avery, Jr., Nathaniel Bishop, Moses Dudley, Jr., Daniel Collins, William Raymond, Ezra Selden, Jr., Henry Hill, Ebenezer Perkins, and Joshua Tracy.

Daniel Knowlton, Josiah Fuller, Joseph Birge, Sanford Kingsbury, Joshua Bottom, Ebenezer West, Paul Brigham, Sylvanus Perry, Samuel Campbell, and Benjamin Durkee.

Noah Judson, John Holenbeck, Reuben Calking, Ebenezer Hill, John Jenkins, Jr., Josiah Stoddard, Jesse Grant, Samuel Stone Butler, and Samuel Pettibone, to be Second Lieutenants in the eight Battalions aforesaid.

ENSIGNS.

Elijah Ransom, Samuel Richards, Elisha Brister, Jr., Simeon Belding, Powning Deming, Josiah Blakeslee, Benjamin Holcomb, Simeon Gains, John Buell, Orlando Mack, Benjamin Henshaw, Jr., Bildad Granger, Titus Bunnell, David Spencer, Samuel Smith, Phineas Grover, John Odell, Jeremiah Beard Eells, Gideon Waterbury, Thomas Hobby, Jr., Ebenezer Olmsted, Benjamin Hicock, Timothy Taylor, Clement Botsford, James Bebee, and Stephen Betts.

William Smith, David Dudley, 3d, Joseph Shaylor, Joseph Beach, Jr., John Mansfield, David Hitchcock, Edward Riggs, Timothy White, Obadiah Child, Ichabod Bosworth, Joseph Hull, Lemuel Grosvenor, Lemuel Clift, Ebenezer Wales, Jonathan Nichols, Simeon House, David Dorrance, and John Alden.

Daniel Wait, Daniel Billings, John Durkee, Jr., Jabez Smith, Jr., David Bill, Asa Story, Richard Douglass, Benoni Shipman, Charles Fanning, Thomas Updike, Fosdick Clark, and Reuben Clark.

David Goff, Elihu Smith, Salmon Agard, Zerah Beach, Alexander Waugh, Israel Jones, Jr., Charles Goodwin, Asa Brunson, and John Jameson, to be Ensigns in the eight Battalions so raised as aforesaid.

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## CORRESPONDENCE, PROCEEDINGS, &c.

### THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY TO MR. NEAVE.

Admiralty Office, (London,) November 1, 1776.

Lord *George Germaine* having informed my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the *Richmond* and *Nottingham* ordnance store-ships will sail down the river this day, and may be expected to arrive at *Portsmouth* on *Sunday* evening; but as the loading of the *Lord Amherst* ordnance store-ship cannot be put on board until she fall down below *Woolwich*, the time of her sailing cannot therefore be ascertained; and that being unwilling that the trade of his Majesty's subjects should suffer any interruption for which there is not the most absolute necessity, he has no objection to the convoy of the *West-India* ships proceeding to sea as soon as the *Nottingham* and *Richmond* store-ships shall have joined them, without waiting for the *Lord Amherst*, if she do not arrive before they put to sea. I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of the *West-India* merchants, that they have given orders for the convoy to sail on the arrival of the *Nottingham* and *Richmond* accordingly.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

PH. STEPHENS.

To Mr. *Neave*, Merchant, in *New Broad-Street*.

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Williamsburg, Va., November 1, 1776.

By virtue of a decree of the honourable Court of Admiralty of this State, will be sold at publick vendue, for ready money, on *Monday*, the 25th instant, at *Jamestown*, on *James* river, about seven miles from the city of *Williamsburg*, the brigantine *Sarah*, of *Great Britain*, lately made a prize of by the *Montgomery* privateer, Captain *Polk*, of *Maryland*, with her sails, rigging, and materials, being one hundred and seventy tons burthen, *British* built. An inventory of her sails, rigging, and materials, may be seen on board the said ship. At same time and place will be sold her cargo, consisting of a large quantity of exceeding good *Jamaica* rum, *Muscovado* sugars, coffee, ginger, cotton, and sundry other articles, shipped on board the ship from *Jamaica* for the *London* market.

BEN. POWELL, *Marshal*.

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Williamsburg, Va., November 1, 1776.

I have received instructions from the Congress to contract for supplying the Continental troops with provisions for the ensuing year; the Second and Seventh Regiments to commence the first day of *December* next, and the troops that are about to be raised as soon as they are collected. Those who are desirous to engage in this business are requested to meet me in the city of *Williamsburg*, on *Friday*, the 21st instant, with their proposals.

WILLIAM AYLETT, *D. C. G.*

Williamsburg, November 1, 1776.

Lord *North* openly avowed in the House of Commons the 22d of *June* last, that "the real intention of the Commission now sent out was not so much to agree upon any specifick terms as to sound the real disposition of *America*, in order to learn what the people of that country were ultimately desirous to obtain;" and his immortal cousin, Lord *Germaine*, said: "The Commissioners had no power to enter into any treaty whatever with our rebellious subjects in *America*, further than to receive submissions of such as were disposed to return to their duty and acknowledge the authority of the *British* Parliament." And so we are now fully acquainted with the powers of the King's Commissioners, Lord and General *Howe*, viz: (to use Mr. *C. Fox's* words) to carry fire, sword, and devastation, wherever they go.

Another salt vessel is arrived, with two thousand bushels of that useful article.

Last *Saturday* evening died suddenly, at Mr. *Tazewell's*, in this city, Colonel *Richard Bland*, one of the Delegates for *Prince George*, in his sixty-eighth year, near one half of which term he devoted to the publick service. He was a gentleman well acquainted with the constitution of his country, as well as with many valuable branches of learning.

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### PETITION OF JOHN GAMES TO THE MARYLAND CONVENTION.

Annapolis, November 1st, 1776.

*The humble Petition of* JOHN GAMES, *Sen., in behalf and respect of his son* JOHN GAMES, *humbly sheweth:*

That your poor petitioner hath three sons in the honourable Continental's service, and I myself being deprived of the use of one of my hands, is not in the least able to afford my poor distressed family any support, which is composed of a house full of small children, and none of them being of ability to render their poor helpless father any support. Therefore your poor petitioner shall ever be obliged to your Honours, provided you should, most honourable gentlemen, grant a free and honourable discharge of your poor petitioner's petition, in behalf and respect of his son, *John Games*, who has been sick almost ever since his time in the honourable Continental's service. Was he in health, most honourable gentlemen, I should not be in the least for his continuance in the present cause, but being, most honourable gentlemen, in a poor way and state of health, and upon application to Captain *Fulford*, he has given his approbation in respect to his discharge, provided your Honours will give your consent thereto, he knowing him at the same time, most honourable gentlemen, to be a sick and weakly man, and rendered incapable of doing any duty, almost ever since his inlistment.

Therefore, most honourable gentlemen, hopes your Honours will take your poor petitioner's petition into your Honours' most serious consideration, and consult deliberately thereon, and grant him, your petitioner, an answer in favour

of his son's discharge; for which your poor petitioner shall ever be in duty bound to pray.

JOHN GAMES.

To the honourable the Convention, now sitting in the City of *Annapolis*, these, by submission, present.

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STEPHEN STEWARD TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November, 1776.

In your Province store I've some durame or tumen, that would do to make colours for the Province vessels. Please to let Mr. *Wasteneys*, my clerk, have it. He now waits on you for it, if you can spare it. If you have no thin canvas, please to send me two bolts of your thickest osnabrigs. I should have waited on you myself, but am obliged to go to the lower part of *Prince George's* County, where I hear there is a quantity of beef to sell on *Wednesday* morning.

I intend to set off to *Baltimore*, by water, to look after the rigging, cables, iron hoops, and boats, for the Province vessels. I understand the *Defence*, prize sloop, Captain *Walker*, has some small guns and cohorns. If you have no particular use for them, and will give me an order for them, I can fit out these two schooners with guns.

If you want me to do any thing for you at *Baltimore*, please to request me, and I will comply with your orders, if I can.

I am your most obedient humble servant,

STEPHEN STEWARD.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WARNER.

*To Captain* ELISHA WARNER, *of the Sloop* FLY:

Philadelphia, November 1, 1776.

SIR: You are to proceed with the Continental sloop *Fly*, now under your command, for the coast of *Shrewsbury*, in *New-Jersey*, and take such stations along the *Jersey* shore as will enable you to see every vessel that goes in or out of *Sandy-Hook*. We imagine there must be transports, store-ships, and provision vessels, daily arriving or expected to arrive at that place, for supplying our enemies with provisions and other stores; and the design of your present cruise is to intercept as many of those vessels and supplies as you possibly can. You have got or may get a good coasting pilot, so that you may run close in shore or into *Tom's River*, or any other river, inlet, or harbour in the *Jerseys*, whenever you are chased or endangered by vessels of a superiour force; therefore you will keep an especial good lookout for all vessels inward or outward bound, and whenever you discover any give chase; make prize of as many as possible, and as fast as you take 'em send them for this port, unless you hear men-of-war take station at our Capes, and in that case send them into *Tom's River*, *Egg-Harbour*, or any other safe place; and fast as your people arrive here, we will send them or others over land to *Tom's River* or *Shrewsbury*, from whence you can take them on board again; therefore you must keep this station and pursue this business as long as possible, unless we send you other orders.

You must be careful not to let any *British* frigate get between you and the land, and then there's no danger, for they cannot pursue you in shore, and they have no boats or tenders that can take you; besides, the country people will assist in driving them off shore if they should attempt to follow you in. The schooner *Wasp*, commanded by Lieutenant *Baldwin*, goes round on the same service. You must act in concert; consult the best stations and best method of cruising; and be sure to pursue your object, the taking of provision vessels, store-ships, and transports, with the utmost vigour and vigilance. And although we recommend your taking good care of your vessel and people, yet we should deem it more praiseworthy in an officer to lose his vessel in a bold enterprise, than to lose a good prize by too timid a conduct. As fast as you make prisoners, you may send them in the *Jerseys*, and deliver them to the Continental officers, to be sent here or confined in *New-Jersey*; but if seamen, send them here unless they enter. Use your officers and men well, and do the same by your prisoners. Let us hear from you as often as necessary. Wishing you success, we are, sir, your very humble servants.

*Note.*—Similar instructions to the foregoing were given to Lieutenant *Baldwin*, commanding the schooner *Wasp*.

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GARRISON ORDERS, PHILADELPHIA.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 1, 1776.

*Garrison Orders to be observed by the Troops quartered in the Barracks of the City of* PHILADELPHIA.

I. The reveille to be beat every morning at break of day, the troop at eight o'clock, and a long roll at nine o'clock, for the guards to parade.

II. From the first of *May* to the last of *September*, the retreat must be beat at eight o'clock in the evening, and at sunset from the first day of *October* to the last day of *April*; the tattoo always at nine o'clock.

III. At retreat beating all under the degree of a commissioned officer must repair to the Barracks, when the roll of each company is to be called, and every person absent reported to the officer commanding the company. No person who is not a commissioned officer to be permitted to go out of the Barracks till reveille.

IV. No drum to beat to arms in the Barracks but in case of an alarm, when the whole garrison is to turn out and draw up under arms.

V. No dirt of any kind, or dirty water, must be thrown out of the doors, windows, or galleries, but all dirt must be carried to places appointed by the Barrackmaster for that purpose, which must be such as are least offensive; and all water must be thrown into the gutters. Every person trespassing against this order, if a non-commissioned officer or soldier, he must be confined, tried, and punished; if a woman, she must be turned out of the Barracks, and never permitted to reside therein.

VI. The men must sweep the barrack-yard and gutters at least twice a week, and remove the dirt to the proper dunghills, for which purpose the Barrackmaster must furnish the necessary shovels, brooms, wheelbarrows, &c., which must be delivered into the care of the Quartermaster of each battalion.

VII. The sentries at the gates are not to suffer any swine, horses, or cows, to go into the barrack yard.

VIII. The Barrackmaster must furnish to each room occupied by officers and soldiers, and also for the guards, the usual allowance of wood and candles, which must be distributed once a week, except the guards, which must have their allowance daily. Whenever any wood is piled up in the barrack yard, a sentry must be placed near it, to prevent its being embezzled.

IX. A proper number of sentries must be posted at the gates, and other parts of the Barracks and galleries, who are to be attentive that no damage be done to any part of the Barracks, particularly the rooms not occupied; nor are they to permit any person to ease himself or make water except in the places appointed for those purposes.

X. The Barrackmaster must visit every room at least once a week, and whenever he finds any damage done to the Barracks or its furniture beyond a reasonable allowance for wear, he must get it repaired, and report the expense to the commanding officer, that it may be charged to the person or persons committing such damage.

XI. The Barrackmaster must supply the troops in garrison with the following furniture, and no other, viz: to every officer's room a pine table with a drawer, two chairs, an iron pot, a bucket, a pair of pot hangers, and a crane, a pair of andirons, a fire shovel and tongs, and a box to remove the ashes to the dunghill. To every non-commissioned officer and private man's room, a pine bedstead with a wooden bottom for every two men, a canvas bed and bolster case for the straw, and two Indian or other coarse blankets, a pine table and two benches, an iron pot, with pot-hooks and a crane, a bucket, a pair of andirons, a shovel and tongs, and a box to carry out ashes; besides which, every room must be furnished with a rack with wooden pins, for the men to put up their firelocks.

XII. Whenever the Barrackmaster delivers out any of the foregoing articles he must receive a receipt from the Quartermaster, or some other commissioned officer, who must be answerable for them.

XIII. The Barrackmaster is not to suffer any person, not immediately belonging to the garrison, to reside in the Barracks, without an order in writing from the Council of Safety, or other person or board in whom the Executive power of the State resides; and all officers are required and directed to assist him in the execution of this order.

XIV. Whenever any battalion or part thereof is to march into the Barracks, twelve hours' previous notice must be given to the Barrackmaster, who must prepare a sufficient number of rooms with their furniture.

XV. When a battalion or part thereof is to march out of the Barracks, twelve hours' previous notice must be given to the Barrackmaster, and a commissioned or non-commissioned officer left behind to deliver up the rooms and other furniture, which cannot be properly done till the rooms are completely evacuated.

By order of Council:

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun., *President.*

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MEETING OF INHABITANTS OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENN.

At a meeting of a considerable number of respectable inhabitants of the County of *Chester*, at the house of *Richard Cheyney*, in *East-Caln*, on the first day of this instant, *November*, 1776:

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Letter signed *John Dickinson*, *Thomas McKean*, *Benjamin Rush*, *George Nelson*, *Sharp Delany*, *William Bradford*, *Samuel Simpson*, and *William Will*, directed to the Committee of Inspection for *Chester* County, and to the freemen of the same, be read.

And the said Letter was accordingly read and considered; Whereupon it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That the said Letter be disregarded, as not having a tendency to promote harmony among the good people of this County.

*Resolved*, That safety and protection in any Government are necessary for every individual inhabitant thereof, to enjoy which cannot be effected until the powers of Government are put in force.

*Resolved, therefore*, That every man in this State ought to endeavour to put the powers of the constitution of this Commonwealth in force and effect; whereby the good people thereof may enjoy the benefits of Government.

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DR. SHIPPEN TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Amboy, 1st November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed is a return of the sick in my Hospitals. Besides these, there are in each regiment a number called sick, that are not proper subjects for the Hospital, and under the care of the Regimental Surgeons, though there are no Regimental Hospitals; this will account for the difference between the number of sick in Colonel *Griffin's* return and mine. Please to mention this to the Board.

Your Excellency's humble, obedient servant,

W. SHIPPEN, *D. H., &c.*

To *Richard Peters.*

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*A Return of the Sick in the Hospitals of Flying-Camp and* JERSEY *Militia.*

At *Amboy*, two Hospitals: Sick, 90; wounded, 7—total, 97.

At *Elizabeth-Town:* Sick, 54; wounded, 3; sick from *Canada*, 25—total, 82.

At *Fort Lee:* Sick of our own, 75; wounded, do., 9; distressed *New-England* troops, 19—total 93.

*Brunswick:* Sick, 10—total, 10.

*Trenton:* Sick, 56—total, 56.

Amount of the whole, 338.

GENTLEMEN: The number of sick and wounded in my department is three hundred and thirty-eight; four-fifths of them are in a fair way of recovery, and will soon join their respective companies. I have not yet taken charge of near two thousand that are scattered up and down the country in cold barns, and who suffer exceedingly for want of comfortable apartments; because Doctor *Morgan* does not understand the meaning of the honourable Congress in their late resolve, and believes yet they are to be under his direction, although they are on this side *Hudson's River*. He is now gone over to take General *Washington's* opinion; as soon as I receive the General's orders on the subject, I shall exert my best abilities to make the miserable soldiery comfortable and happy.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

W. SHIPPEN, *S. G. and D. H., &c.*

Perth-Amboy, November 1st, 1776.

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CLEMENT BIDDLE TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Camp at Fort Lee, November 1st, 1776.

SIRS: I wrote to the honourable Board some time since, informing them, by order of General *Mercer*, I had purchased the blankets of the Militia returning home, and some other necessaries furnished the Flying-Camp, who would otherwise have been destitute and could not have continued. I also supplied them with many knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, camp-kettles, &c., as I had in store. The time of their service expiring with the year, I beg leave to request that you will instruct me whether they are to pay for their blankets and for any other of the articles issued, that I may be in time for stoppages being made by the Colonels for that purpose. Their arms chiefly belong to the State of *Pennsylvania*, or were purchased by order of General *Mercer* from the Militia from that State, on their return, taking none but such as were fit for service.

Your instructions, or those of Congress, on this or any other occasion, shall be strictly attended to.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

CLEMENT BIDDLE, *D. Q. M. G.*

To the Honourable the Board of War, at *Philadelphia.*

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R. H. HARRISON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read November 4: Referred to Board of War.]

White-Plains, November 1st, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by his Excellency to acknowledge his receipt of your favour of the 23d ultimo, which came to hand yesterday evening, and to transmit you a copy of the letter I had the honour of writing you by the *Boston* express by his command. Had the express been charged with no other letter, the loss would not have been attended with any material injury to us or advantage to the enemy, provided it should come to their hands; but there were others from his Excellency, of a very interesting nature, the miscarriage of which gives him much concern. As the bundle was taken away in so sudden and secret a manner, I fear there is but little hope of recovering it; being done, most probably, for the express purpose of furnishing the enemy with intelligence and a state of our Army. Besides his Excellency's letters, the most material of which was to Mr. *Rutledge*, there were five or six more from the gentlemen of his family.

My letters of the 29th and of yesterday, which I had the honour of addressing you, will give a pretty full account of our situation, and of every matter respecting this Army, antecedent to this date. I only omitted to mention that we have taken thirteen of the *Waldeckers*, and that for several days past our scouting parties have brought in one, two, or three prisoners, in addition to these. We have every day a deserter or two.

About six o'clock this morning a messenger arrived from Lord *Stirling*, (who is with his brigade between two and three miles from *White-Plains*, on our right and rather nearer the *North River*,) with intelligence that the enemy were advancing towards him in two columns. This information has carried his Excellency and Aids out. The result of their movement I have not heard, but most likely they are pursuing their original design of getting by our flanks and seizing the heights above us. Every precaution is taking to prevent them, and to hurry away our stores to a more interiour part of the country.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROB. H. HARRISON.

P. S. His Excellency has just returned, and says the alarm was premature. It arose from some of Lord *Stirling's* advanced guards seeing a body of our men, who had

been ordered to reinforce him, who were supposed to be the enemy. His Excellency is very apprehensive that the Army will be greatly distressed for want of provision, particularly in the article of flour, owing to the water conveyance, both in the *North* and *East River*, being in the enemy's possession. He has wrote the Convention of this State, and directed Mr. *Trumbull* that their utmost exertions in this instance may be used. There is a good deal of flour on the *Jersey* side; but there is no other way to get it but by carting and ferrying it over to *Peekskill*. This I have wrote to General *Greene* to have done, by his Excellency's direction.

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R. H. HARRISON TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

White-Plains, November 1st, 1776.

SIR: I have the honour to acknowledge, by his Excellency's command, his receipt of your favours of the 23d and 26th ultimo, and to return you his thanks for 'em. His Excellency is glad to find that you are under but little or no apprehension about proper supplies of provisions for the Northern Army; and from the copy of General *Gates's* letter, which you were pleased to enclose him, that our troops are in such high spirits. He hopes their most sanguine wishes will be more than fully crowned, in the repulse, if not the total defeat, of Mr. *Carleton's* Army. Either of those events are much to be wished for, as our affairs will then have a much more pleasing aspect than they now have; the latter most probably would ensure success to the general cause.

The Quartermaster-General has been spoken to about spades and nails; he says he could furnish some nail rods, provided they could be got up. He will use his endeavours to relieve General *Gates's* wants, as far as it shall be in his power; but the situation of things will not allow him to afford but very little assistance, if any.

You will herewith receive the proceedings of the Court-Martial upon the cases of Lieutenant-Colonel *White* and Captains *Patterson* and *Ross*, transmitted his Excellency by Major *Livingston*, agreeable to your directions. His Excellency approves of them, and requests that, in future, you will consider yourself authorized to reject or confirm the sentence of every Court-Martial, in cases which respect the Army in the Northern Department, without referring them to him. Indeed he thinks it will be much more proper that you should, than for him to interfere.

The enemy seem to be pursuing their original plan of out-flanking us and getting in our rear. They are extending their wings by our right and left, for that purpose, and we, on our part, are adopting every probable measure to prevent them. On *Monday* they appeared in several large columns before us, and, from their first movements, seemed as if they meant an attack upon our front; but in a little time filed off by our right, attacking, in their march, some of our troops who had just taken post on an eminence. After a very smart engagement for fifteen or twenty minutes, they obliged our men to give way, being greatly outnumbered, and moreover exceedingly galled by twelve or fourteen pieces of artillery, which were constantly playing on them. Our loss, however, was not very considerable; not greater in the number killed, probably, than what theirs was.

I have the honour to be, in haste, with great respect, sir, yours, &c.,

R. H. HARRISON.

To Major-General *Schuyler*, Northern Department.

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R. H. HARRISON TO COLONEL TRUMBULL.

White-Plains, November 1st, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I am directed by his Excellency to inform you that ere this he hoped for your arrival here. His apprehensions are exceedingly great lest the Army should suffer much for want of necessary supplies of provisions, especially in the article of flour. From the best intelligence he is able to obtain, there is not more in camp, and at the several places where it has been deposited, than will serve the Army longer than four or five days, provided the utmost care and economy were used in issuing it out; but from the waste and embezzlement, for want of proper attention to it, as is reported to him, it is not probable that it will last so long. He has wrote to the Convention of this State upon the subject, but has little hope of any great relief from them, as almost the whole that can be collected above is wanted for the Northern Army. He wishes, he entreats, your utmost exertions that a sufficient quantity may be immediately forwarded to *North-Castle* and *Pine's* bridge, on *Croton* river, or he fears that every disorder and evil that can be imagined, will ensue, and that the Army must of necessity be disbanded. Your return directly he esteems indispensably necessary for the due ordering and regulation of matters in your important department.

I am, dear Colonel, &c., R. H. HARRISON.

To Colonel *Joseph Trumbull*, Commissary-General of Provisions.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER DATED WHITE-PLAINS, NOVEMBER 1, 1776.

On the 31st ultimo it was thought that the enemy had near finished four or five batteries, which they had erected against us; and as our ground near the centre of the town at *White-Plains* was not good, being overlooked by neighbouring hills, the Generals last night drew off most of the troops from the lines there, and this morning the guards and sentries burned the town and forage all around it, and came off about nine o'clock. We had carried off all our stores and planted our artillery on the hills about a mile and an half off the centre of the town. The enemy advanced in the forenoon on to the ground we left, and as soon as they came over the hill, we saluted them with our cannon and field-pieces; and they advanced no farther. Our sick and wounded are sent out eight or ten miles. Our men are in good spirits, and, with much patience, endure great hardships and fatigue. I believe the main body of the enemy lie off against us, and that they have formed no lines across the country as yet, below us. Their Light-Horse may possibly scour across as far as the river, but how that is I cannot determine. All things seem to be quiet at *Fort Washington*.

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COLONEL RENSSELAER'S ORDERS TO CAPTAIN FONDA, RESPECTING THE TORIES SENT TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE FROM NEW-YORK.

Head-Quarters, November 1, 1776.

SIR: You are hereby ordered to march with the prisoners whose names are in the enclosed annexed list, with all despatch, to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire;* you are to have a particular eye upon those marked with an asterism, and to confine those in irons who appear to be dangerous.

I am, sir, yours, &c., ROB'T V. RENSSELAER.

To Captain *Fonda*.

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COMMITTEE OF CONVENTION OF NEW-YORK FOR DETECTING AND DEFEATING CONSPIRACIES.

In Convention of the Representatives of the State of *New-York*, *September* 21, 1776:

Whereas divers of the inhabitants of this State have, by the wicked arts and insidious and corrupt practices of *William Tryon*, Esquire, late Governour of the Colony of *New-York*, and his adherents, been seduced to take part with our enemies, and aid and abet their measures for subjugating the *United States of America:* And whereas, although sundry of the said parricides have been discovered and secured, yet there is the highest reason to believe that the measures hitherto pursued, fully to detect and suppress such iniquitous practices and conspiracies, have not been effectual: And whereas this State is at present invaded by a powerful Army at the capital, and threatened with the incursions of another Army, attended by a host of savages, on its northern and western frontiers: This Convention find themselves reduced by the great laws of self-preservation and the duties which they owe to their constituents, to provide that no means in their power be left unessayed to defeat the barbarous machinations of their domestick as well as external enemies; and

Do therefore *Resolve*, That a Committee be appointed

for the express purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all conspiracies which may be formed in this State against the liberties of *America;* that they be empowered to send for persons and papers; to call out such detachments of the Militia or Troops, in the different Counties, as they from time to time deem necessary for suppressing insurrections; to apprehend, secure, or remove such persons who they shall judge dangerous to the safety of the State; to make drafts on the Treasury for sums not exceeding five hundred pounds; that they be empowered to enjoin secrecy on their own members, and the persons employed by the Committee, whenever they shall judge the same necessary, and in general to do every act and thing whatsoever, which may be necessary to enable them to execute the trust hereby reposed in them; that the said Committee keep regular minutes of all their proceedings and expenditures, together with the examinations which they may from time to time take, and the correspondence they carry on for executing these resolutions, in order that the whole, or any part thereof, may be submitted to the consideration of this Convention, or future Legislature of this State, whenever and as often as they may think proper to call for the same; that they be empowered, if they shall think it necessary, to raise, officer, and put into pay, any number of men, not exceeding two hundred and twenty, officers included, to be upon the same establishment with those under the command of Captain *Melancthon Smith,* and to station them in such places, and to employ on such services as they shall judge expedient for the publick safety.

*Resolved,* That the Company of thirty men, ordered this day by this Convention to be raised by Captain *Delavergne,* be under the direction of said Committee.

*Ordered,* That the several Committees in this State do from time to time transmit to the above-mentioned Committee all such information as they shall receive, relating to any machinations and conspiracies against this State; and that copies of these Resolutions be immediately sent by express to the County Committees, and to all the Brigadier-Generals, or Commanding-Officers, of the Militia of this State, that they may govern themselves accordingly.

Extract from the Minutes:

ROBERT BENSON, *Secretary.*

The following are the Members of the Committee appointed by the Resolutions above-mentioned: *William Duer,* Esq., Chairman, *Zephaniah Platt, Pierre Van Cortlandt, Nathaniel Sackett, John Jay, Charles Dewitt, Leonard Gansevoort,* Esquires.

By a resolve of *November* 9, 1776, *John Jay,* Esq., chosen Chairman, in the stead of *William Duer,* Esq.

A. W. D. PEYSTER, *Secretary.*

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In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York,* for Inquiring into, Detecting, and Defeating all Conspiracies which may be formed in the said State against the liberties of *America, Fishkill, October* 17, 1776:

Whereas divers treasonable conspiracies against this State and the liberties of *America,* have lately been discovered in several parts of the County of *Dutchess,* for seducing many of the inhabitants thereof from their allegiance to this State, and inlisting them in the service of the King of *Great Britain:* And whereas this Committee, after diligent inquiry in the progress and cause of the said conspiracies, have the highest reason to believe that they were formed and promoted by certain notoriously disaffected persons of influence in the said County, at the instigation of *William Tryon,* Esquire, late Governour of the Colony of *New-York:* And whereas this Committee judge it absolutely necessary and expedient for the suppression of such conspiracies, and the prevention of them in future, as well as the restoration of good government and order in the said County, that such notoriously disaffected persons of influence in the said County should be immediately removed therefrom to one of the neighbouring States, till such times as proper courts shall be instituted in this State for the due trial and punishment of such treasonable practices: And whereas this Committee, in order to gain information respecting the most disaffected persons of influence in the said County, have applied to persons of known probity and attachment to the *American* cause, who reside in and are well acquainted with the characters and conduct of the inhabitants thereof, the names of which persons the Committee forbear to mention, lest by the publication thereof they should be exposed to their malice and resentment: And whereas this Committee, from the intelligence and information in the manner aforesaid acquired, are fully convinced that the persons hereinafter named are notoriously disaffected to the *American* cause, and are very instrumental in seducing the inhabitants of the said County from the allegiance which they owe to this State: And whereas this State is now actually invaded by a powerful Army, now in possession of its capital, and who have effected a landing and are endeavouring to penetrate into the County of *Westchester,* and is also threatened with a formidable invasion on its northern frontier: And whereas the *American* cause greatly depends on the preservation of this State:

Therefore *Resolved,* That it hath become more particularly necessary and expedient to provide for the internal peace and security of this State, by removing from it all persons who are notoriously disaffected and inimical to the measures pursuing for the safety and defence of the *United States of America.*

*Resolved,* That the persons hereinafter named be forthwith removed to the several places affixed to their respective names, there to remain at their own expense, under such restrictions as shall be enjoined them respectively by the Legislative authority, or by the Committees of the several States to which they may be so removed.

*Resolved,* That letters be written to the respective Legislatures or Committees aforesaid, enclosing them copies of the resolutions of the Convention of this State appointing this Committee, together with the lists of the persons sent to the respective places, distinguishing such persons as this Committee deem most dangerous to the liberties of *America* by an asterism.

*Ordered,* That copies of the foregoing Resolutions be sent to the respective Legislatures or Committees of the several States to which the prisoners hereinafter named shall be removed.

The names of such prisoners as are sent to the town of *Exeter,* in the State of *New-Hampshire:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Samuel Sweet, | Stephen Thorn,* | Peter J. Van Denbergh, |
| Isaac Neal, | Samuel Burdock, | John Van Denbergh,* |
| John Tanner,*(killed,) | Jeremiah French,* | Samuel Isaacs, jail, |
| Peter Buyce, | Rev. M. Bryant,* | Alexander Hare, jail., |
| Area Keasing, | Major Ross,* | Isaac I. Kassing, |
| James Gosling, | Elkenah Briggs,* | John Robinson, |
| Michael Vincent, | Griffin Marcy, | Richell Williams, |
| Stephen Hunt,* | Aggrippa Martin,* | Martin Dop, |
| Robert Thorn, | John Wheeler, | Hugh Mashur,* |
| Leonard Vincent, | Thomas Briggs, Jun.,* | Gores Stone, |
| Daniel Beadle, | Roger Cutler, | Dirk Van Vleet,* |
| John Montgomerie, | Peter Weaver,* | Robert Dunn, |
| Peter Sherer,* | Coon Smith, | Andries Pulver, |
| Joseph Tyce, | James Bryant,* | Wandall Pulver, |
| Robert Burdock, | Joshua Dakins,* | Adam Weaver, |
| Benjamin Chase, | Kendrick Younkhans, | John Miller,* |
| Dirk Dutcher, | Jonathan Duell, | David Hoffman, |
| William Merritt, | Sylvester Stone,* | James Parker, |
| John Montgomerie, | Benjamin Trip, | Johannis Cole, |
| Joseph Gauge, | Mathias Cook,* | Timothy Doughty,* |
| Increase Jackson,* | Silas Rushmore,* | John Degraaf, |
| Elias Doty, | Enoch Lester,* | Johannes Medlar, |
| Jonathan Thorn, | David Long,* | William Doughty, |
| James Pettit, | Cornelius Lawrence,* | Mathias Leister, |
| John Grant, | Nathaniel Thorn,* | Judah Swift, |
| George Peters,* | Moses Shaw, | Charles Vinsent, |
| Joshua Gidney,* | Daniel Southwick,* | Ephraim Wheeler, |
| Samuel Mabbit,* | Daniel Doty, in jail, | Wm. Cooper, |
| John German, | Samuel Mott,* | Asa Brown, |
| John De Graaf, | George Doty, in jail, | Anthony Carpenter, |
| Jacob Bush,* | Timothy Duel, | Elisha Rose, |
| Jacob Sharpstone, | Laughlin McIntosh, | Caleb Seamans, |
| Elisha Powel,* | John P. Low, | Joseph Hitchcock, |
| Silas Duel,* | Michael Smith, | Eli Crosby, |
| Aaron Haight, Jun.,* | Henry Van Denbergh, Esq.,* | Gilbert Dickeson, |
| Abel Peters,* | R'd Snedecker, Esq., | Ebenezer Rider, |
| Mathias Cook,* | Baltus Van Kleeck,* | Jacob Lawrence, Jun. |
| John Cook,* | | |

Extract from the Minutes:

A. W. D. PEYSTER, *Secretary.*

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In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York* for Inquiring into, Detecting, and Defeating all Conspiracies which may be formed in the State against the liberties of *America, Fishkill, October* 26, 1776:

Whereas **Stephen Baxter, John Stewart,* **Stephen Baxter,* Jun., *Jonas Kaneff, Richard Jewel, Nathaniel Gildershew,* are notoriously disaffected to the *American* cause:

*Resolved,* That they be forthwith removed under guard

to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to remain under such restrictions as to the General Court, or Council, or Committee of Safety, shall seem most advisable.

*Resolved*, That those of the above-mentioned persons whose names are marked with an asterisk, be closely confined in jail.

Whereas it would be inconsistent with the publick safety to suffer any persons who have been concerned in treasonable practices, or who are notoriously disaffected to the *American* cause, to remain confined in the jails of this State, during its present situation:

*Resolved*, That all the prisoners at present confined in the jails in the Counties of *Dutchess* and *Westchester*, be forthwith removed to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to remain in jail till further orders from this Committee or the Legislature of this State, unless sooner discharged by due course of law.

*Resolved*, That this Committee pledge the publick faith of the State of *New-York*, for the subsistence of such prisoners as shall be confined in jail, and for all such others, who, either through illness or any other cause, shall be incapable of subsisting themselves by labour.

The following is a list of prisoners from *White-Plains* jail, in the County of *Westchester*, now sent to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*: *James Boundage, Joseph Purdy, Levy Devoe, James Budd, Billy Sanders, Samuel Purdy, Azariah Whittemore*, Captain *Jagger*.

The following is a list of the prisoners' names who were confined in *Poughkeepsie* jail, in the County of *Dutchess*, now sent to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*: *Frederick Ham*, Junr., *James Lunimery*, (sick,) *Edward Talbot, Lewis Hogg, Obediah Griffin, John Laurence, John McDonald, Thomas Barker, Samuel Glass*. These persons were all more or less concerned in a late insurrection in *Dutchess* County, and the greatest part actually in arms.

*George Browning*, endeavouring to inlist men in the service of the enemy.

*Adam Barrack, Christian Barrack*, for notorious disaffection to the *American* cause, and for escaping from the jail at *New-York*, where they were confined by order of the Provincial Congress, being taken in supplying the enemy's ships with provisions.

*John Hallock*, for notorious disaffection, and for assisting the above-mentioned two persons, when pursued in order to be taken.

Extract from the Minutes:

A. W. D. Peyster, *Secretary*.

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In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York*, for Inquiring into, &c., *Fishkill, October* 29, 1776:

*Resolved*, That all the prisoners who have been removed from the jail of the City and County of *Albany*, pursuant to a resolution of the General Committee of the said County, of the 25th instant, be forthwith sent, under guard, to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*.

Whereas it appears to this Committee from the examinations transmitted by the Committee of *Albany*, in their letter to this Committee of the 25th instant, that the following persons have either been aiding, assisting, or abetting the enemy, in subverting the liberties of *America*, or are notoriously disaffected to the measures pursued for the establishment of *American* liberty, viz: *Isaac Mann, John Hitchcock, Laughlin McGaffin, Nathaniel Douglas* alias *Ruggles, James Waddell, Abraham North*, to be in irons, *Peter Brown*, to be in irons, *Joseph Tunnecliff, William Burns, Alexander Anderson, John Feathers, Thomas Pearson:*

*Resolved*, That they be closely confined in jail till further orders from this Committee or the Legislature of this State, unless sooner discharged by due course of law.

*Resolved*, That a list of all the prisoners sent from the County of *Albany*, be transmitted to the General Court or Committee of Safety of the State of *New-Hampshire*, distinguishing by an asterism the names of such persons whom this Committee deem most dangerous to the publick safety, in order that they may be put under such restrictions as the General Court or Committee of Safety of the said State shall deem most proper.

The following is a list of the names of the prisoners from *Albany*, including those mentioned in the last page:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Timothy Clossen, | Peter Breesee, | Peter Keller, |
| Anthony Clossen, | Peter Brasee, jun., | William Marter, |
| Isaac Mann, | Henry Brasee, | Alex. Boyd, |
| John Hitchcock, | Cornelius Brasee, | John Shufeet, |
| Seth Chase, | John House, | Peter Crawbergh, |
| Alexander White, | John Livingston, | James Sloan, |
| Laughlin McGaffin, | Thomas Flood, | Gilbert Scharpe, |
| Nathaniel Douglas, | Wm. Tunnecliff, | Alex. Thompson, |
| James Waddell, | William Duncan, | Joseph Tunnecliff, |
| Abraham Van North, | Major Snell, | William Burn, |
| Jonathan Owen, | Casper Bonwer, | Alexander Anderson, |
| John McMurphy, | Jary Weaver, | John Feather, |
| Peter Brono, | Coenrait Kelder, | Thomas Pearson. |

Extract from the Minutes:

A. W. D. Peyster, *Secretary*.

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In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York*, for Inquiring into, &c., *Fishkill, November*, 1776:

Whereas it appears to this Committee that *Thomas Bullis* was one of the persons concerned in an attempt, last summer, to disarm the friends to the *American* cause, and that there is reason to imagine that the said *Bullis* and a certain *Johannis Van Tilen* had intentions of joining the enemy:

*Resolved*, That they be forthwith moved to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to be closely confined in jail until further orders from this Committee or the Legislative authority of this State, unless sooner discharged by due course of law. *Thomas Bullis, Johannis Van Tilen.*

Whereas the following persons, inhabitants of this State, were lately taken in arms against the liberties of the *United States*, in a late skirmish between a detachment of the Continental Army and a party under the command of the late Major *Rogers*, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Joseph Dean, | John Charlick, | Francis Besly, |
| Stephen Law, | Moses Travis, | James Tharpe, |
| Elijah Carle, | Elnathan Appleby, | Solomon Parent, |
| John Angevine, | Jacob Cadwell Burr, | Jonathan Ely, |
| Joseph Carle, | Reuben Stives, | Stephen Travis, |
| Walter Brown, | David Travis, | James Canady, |
| Gilbert Myers, | Josiah Worden, | Abraham Brown, |
| Frederick Devoe, | Elijah Bartoe, | Jedediah Davis, |
| David Laurence,* | Jonathan Asten, | William Washburn: |
| James Angevine,* | | |

*Resolved*, That they be forthwith marched to the town of *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, and that they be closely confined in jail, in such parts of the said State as by the General Court, or Council, or Committee of Safety of said State, shall be thought advisable.

Whereas *Thomas Gounck* has been represented to this Committee, by the Committee of *Dutchess* County, as a person highly disaffected to the *American* cause, and whose residence in this State, at this juncture, is inconsistent with the safety thereof:

*Resolved*, That he be forthwith removed to the town of *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to remain under the same restrictions with the other prisoners destined to that place by a resolution of this Committee of the 17th day of *October* last.

Extract from the Minutes:

A. W. D. Peyster, *Secretary*.

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In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York*, for Inquiring into, Detecting, and Defeating, all Conspiracies which may be formed in the said State, against the liberties of *America, Fishkill, November* 8, 1776:

Whereas it appears clearly to this Committee that *Jacob Deane, Solomon Haight*, and *Solomon Eltinger*, are notoriously disaffected to the *American* cause, which they have evinced by refusing to receive in payment the Continental currency, and endeavouring to depreciate the same:

*Resolved*, That they be forthwith removed to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to remain, at their own expense, under such restrictions as to the General Court, or the Council, or Committee of Safety of the said State, shall appear most advisable.

Whereas it appears to this Committee that Dr. *Weeks* has been engaged in a treasonable conspiracy against the liberties of *America:*

*Resolved*, That he be forthwith removed to *Exeter*, in

the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to be closely confined in jail until further orders from this Committee or the Legislative authority of this State, unless sooner discharged by due course of law.

Whereas *Richard Rodgers* has been aiding, assisting, and abetting the enemy, in their attempts to subvert the liberties of *America:*

*Resolved*, That he forthwith be removed to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to remain in jail until further orders from this Committee or the Legislative authority of this State, unless sooner discharged by due course of law.

Whereas *John Carpenter*, of *Huntingdon*, in the County of *Suffolk*, on *Long-Island*, has been lately taken in arms against the *United States of America:*

*Resolved*, That he be forthwith removed to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, there to remain in jail until further order from this Committee, the Legislative authority of this State, or of the Commander-in-Chief of the *American* Army, unless sooner discharged by due course of law.

Whereas this Committee are clearly convinced that *Jacob Russell, Daniel McGuinand*, and *Israel Tuttle*, of *Ulster* County, have been traitorously concerned in inlisting men for the service of the enemy, and that *Patrick McDonald*, of *Orange* County, has harboured the said persons, knowing them to be traitors to this State:

*Resolved*, That they be forthwith removed to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*, and there to remain in jail, until further orders from this Committee, or the Legislature of the State, unless sooner discharged by due course of law.

*Resolved*, That the order of the 26th of *October* last, as far as it respects the confinement in jail of *John Hallock* and *Lewis Hogg*, be disannulled, and that the said persons remain at their own expense, at such place, and under such restrictions as to the General Court, or Council, or Committee of Safety, of the State of *New-Hampshire*, shall seem advisable.

Extract from the Minutes:

A. W. D. Peyster, *Secretary.*

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN THE ARMY, DATED CAMP NEAR THE MILLS, ABOUT THREE MILES NORTH OF WHITE-PLAINS, NOVEMBER 1, 1776.

About the 15th of *October* the great movements of the enemy up the Sound, their landing in large bodies at *Frog's Point*, and the intelligence which the Generals obtained, that the enemy with their whole force were off against *East-Chester* and *New-Rochel*, and that both Lord and General *Howe* were there in person, gave the Generals full satisfaction that General *Howe's* plan was to make a bold stroke, and hem in and cut off our Army at once. General *Lee*, I have understood, thought that the situation of the Army of the States of *America* was much too confined and cramped, and that it could not be good policy to lie still in such a situation, or to hazard the great cause in which we were embarked in one general action, in which, if we should not succeed, the Army might be lost, as a retreat would be extremely difficult, if not impossible. It was determined by the Generals therefore to counteract the enemy by a general movement. General *McDougall's* brigade from the lines at *Harlem*, several regiments of Militia at *Fort Washington*, and five or six regiments from the *Jersey* side were ordered over *King's Bridge*, and marched on towards the enemy, to counteract them in their operations. Generals *Heath, Parsons*, &c., with more than half the Army, were there before; General *Lee* also now took his post on that side, not far from the enemy. On the 16th the Generals were all in council, and I suppose determined to leave *Harlem, Fort Washington*, and *King's Bridge*, only with a garrison, and march into the country to prevent the enemy from ravaging the coast and surrounding us, and by our movements to lead them into the country. In the mean time the stores, baggage, &c., were moved to places of safety with the greatest expedition. General *Lincoln* had orders to post himself on *Voluntine Hill* near *Mile Square*, and to cast up some works for defence; and redoubts were cast up on the hills and on all difficult passes on the road from *King's Bridge* to *Mile Square*, to secure our march. On the 17th General *Spencer's* whole division had orders to march to *Mile Square*, which we reached next day. Two brigades of that division encamped at *Mile Square*, on the left of General *Lincoln*, and Lord *Stirling* marched on further and formed still on the left of them towards the *White-Plains*, making a front towards the enemy from *East-Chester* almost to *White-Plains*, on the east side of the highway, so as to secure the march of the troops behind us on our right, and to defend the teams and wagons that brought on our sick, cannon, stores, &c. In this manner one division of the Army passed another, till we extended from the Sound up to *White-Plains*, and over to *King's Street*, not far from *Connecticut* line, where General *Parsons* took his post, and until the last division on the right wing, which was General *Lee's*, reached the *Plains*, and marched out westward between the main body of the Army and the river. This was on the 25th and 26th of *October*. This left all the road from *East-Chester* to *King's Bridge* open to the enemy, excepting a few guards, and a regiment at or near *Fort Independence*. This I have understood was Colonel *Wyllys's*, and that his orders were, that if the enemy came on too powerfully to retreat to *Fort Washington*.

General *Greene*, I have understood, is at *Fort Washington*, with about sixteen hundred or two thousand men, and that the garrison is well supplied with provisions and warlike stores, so as to stand a long siege. They have a communication with the forts on the high rocks on the opposite shore. All the barracks and preparations for winter we have been obliged to leave for the present. Our stores of every kind, as far as I can learn, have been brought off, and sent to places of safety. Our field artillery, with two double-fortified twelve pounders and one brass twenty-four pounder, we have brought on with us.

While we were making this grand movement into the country, the enemy were not idle; having collected their troops from all quarters at *Frog's Point*, and on board their ships, which were ranged along shore, off against the Point and opposite to *East-Chester*. On the 18th they began a cannonade from their shipping early in the day, and landed some men on a point or neck of land near *East-Chester* meeting-house, and their main body advanced from *Pell's Neck* out towards the great post road from *Connecticut* to *New-York*. General *Lee*, who had been watching their motions, had posted a regiment or two of men, with one of the Rifle battalions, in a very advantageous manner, to annoy them and bring them into an ambush; which partly succeeded. A large advanced guard came forward, with two parties on the right and left of them, to flank and get round our people wherever small parties should appear to oppose them. A small party of our troops were sent forward to fire on the large advanced body of the enemy, and to divert and lead them on to a wall behind which the regiments mentioned were principally secreted. The enemy came very near the wall, and received a general fire from our troops, which broke their advanced party entirely, so that they ran back to the main body, formed, and came on again in large numbers, keeping up a heavy fire with field-pieces on the walls and men. They advanced now very near, and received a second fire, which entirely routed them again, and they retreated in a narrow lane by a wall, in a confused, huddled manner, near which were posted a large body of Riflemen and some companies of Musketmen, who at this favourite moment poured in upon them a most heavy fire once or twice before they could get out of the way; and they were seen to fall in great numbers. The whole body of the enemy then advanced in solid columns, and large flanking parties advanced different ways to surround our men; they however kept the wall till the enemy advanced a third time, and after giving them several fires they retreated by order from their officers. General *Lee* greatly commended the conduct of the men. The enemy were thought at the lowest computation to have lost five hundred men; some think not less than a thousand. We had but very few killed, and as far as I can learn, not more than fifty or sixty wounded. The enemy advanced on to a high point or neck of land not far from *East-Chester* meeting-house, from whence they were able to command the road with their field-pieces, but they kept very much in a body, so that our people on *Saturday* and *Sunday* nights, the 19th and 20th of *October*, brought off more than one hundred barrels of pork that had been left in the store at *East-Chester*, without any molestation. About the same time the enemy sent light

parties along on the shore, as far as *New-Rochel* and *Moroneck*, but their main body did not move but very little.

On the evening of the 22d thirty-six of the enemy were taken, and next morning brought to Head-Quarters. They were Tory Rangers, who had listed under the infamous Major *Rogers*. One of them had been an officer in the *New-York* service, and deserted from us not long since. Two or three of them I have been told were from *Newtown*, in *Connecticut*.

On the 23d, there was much cannonading, and a smart engagement between a party of our men and the enemy. The enemy were beaten, left thirteen *Hessians* dead on the field, which our people buried; one wounded Lieutenant, who was taken. Our people also took a Major's commission in the field, but whether it belonged to any of the slain or to some officer which might be wounded and carried off, they could not determine. In this action we had not one man killed on the ground, and but six or eight wounded; but one, it is thought, mortally.

*Friday*, 25th. There was much firing from the ships in honour to *George* III., who came to the throne on the 25th of *October*, and the enemy advanced a little into the country, but with great caution, having an advanced guard of two thousand men or more, with a number of excellent field-pieces. At night they would halt on advantageous ground, with their cannon well mounted round them; and thus they have come on only a mile or two in a day, in the most cautious manner, with great art and generalship.

*Sabbath* day, 27th. The enemy sent up two ships to cut off the communication between *Fort Washington* and the *Jersey* shore, but lay so much below *Fort Washington* that they could not fire on them to good advantage. At the same time a general attack was made by the enemy on our lines at *Harlem*; but they were repulsed three times successively, and the last time went off in great confusion, and our troops pursued them some miles. It is said they lost eight or nine hundred men; that our men were not able to bury them the next day. The ships were soon so much mauled off and damaged by our cannon, that they were obliged to slip their cables and fall down the river. They were, it is said, greatly damaged, but neither of them sunk.

*Monday*, 28th. We had intelligence that the enemy, with their whole body, were advancing towards us. The Army were immediately alarmed, and part of General *Wadsworth's* brigade, with some other regiments under the command of General *Spencer*, consisting in the whole of five or six hundred men, were sent out as an advanced party to skirmish with the enemy and harass them in their march. We marched on to a hill about one mile and a half from our lines, with an Artillery company and two field-pieces, and placed ourselves behind walls and fences in the best manner we could to give the enemy trouble. About half after nine o'clock our advanced parties all came retreating in before the enemy; and the light parties of the enemy, with their advanced guard, consisting of two or three thousand, came in sight and marched on briskly towards us, keeping the high grounds; and the Light-Horse pranced on a little in the rear, making a very martial appearance. As our light parties came on to the hills, and discovered where we were, the enemy began to cannonade us, and to fling shells from their howitz and small mortars. Their light parties soon came on, and we fired upon them from the walls and fences, broke and scattered them at once; but they would run from our front and get round upon our wings to flank us; and as soon as our fire discovered where we were, the enemy's artillery would at once begin to play upon us in a most furious manner. We kept the walls till the enemy were just ready to surround us, and then we would retreat from one wall and hill to another, and maintain our ground there in the same manner till numbers were just ready to surround us. Once the *Hessian* Grenadiers came up in the front of Colonel *Douglas's* regiment, and we fired a general volley upon them, at about twenty rods distance, and scattered them like leaves in a whirlwind; and they ran off so far, that some of the regiments ran out to the ground where they were when we fired upon them, and brought off their arms and accoutrements, and rum, that the men who fell had with them, which we had time to drink round with before they came on again. They formed at a distance, and waited till their artillery and main body came on, when they advanced in solid columns upon us, and were gathering all round us ten to our one. Colonel *Douglas's* and *Silliman's* regiments fired four or five times on them as they were advancing, and then retreated; but not till the enemy began to fire on their flanks. Colonels *Silliman*, *Douglas* and *Arnold* behaved nobly, and the men gained much applause. Colonel *Webb's*, *Silliman's* and *Douglas's* regiments had the principal share in the action. Colonel *Webb* had four killed, and eight or ten wounded; Colonel *Silliman* lost six, and had ten or twelve wounded; Colonel *Douglas* had three killed and six wounded. Colonel *Brook's*, *Smallwood's* and *Ritzema's* regiments, who where drawn up on the hill next the lines, suffered considerably. Our loss in the whole may be seventy or eighty, killed and wounded. It is said by all the deserters and captives, who agreed in their stories, that the enemy had about three hundred killed and wounded. The scene was grand and solemn; all the adjacent hills smoked as though on fire, and bellowed and trembled with a perpetual cannonade, and fire of field-pieces, howitz, and mortars. The air groaned with streams of cannon and musket shot; the air and hills smoked and echoed terribly with the bursting of shells; the fences and walls were knocked down, and torn to pieces, and men's legs, arms, and bodies, mingled with cannon and grape-shot all round us. I was in the action, and under as good advantages as any one man, perhaps, to observe all that passed, and write these particulars of the action from my own observation. No general action was designed on our part, and I believe one thousand men were never engaged at any time with the enemy. They came on to the hills opposite our lines and halted; and after cannonading some time part of the lines, in a short time they became very still and quiet.

On the 31st, it was observed, that they had near finished four or five batteries which they had erected against us; and as our ground near the centre of the town at *White-Plains* was not good, being overlooked by neighbouring hills, the Generals last night drew off most of the troops from the lines there, and this morning the guards and sentries burned the town, and forage all round it, and came off about nine o'clock. We had carried off all our stores, and planted our artillery on the hills, about a mile and an half back of the centre of the town. The enemy advanced in the forenoon on to the ground we left; and as soon as they came over the hill, we saluted them with our cannon and field-pieces, and they advanced no farther. Our sick and wounded are sent out eight or ten miles. Our men are in good spirits, and with much patience endure great hardships and fatigue. I believe the main body of the enemy lie off against us, and that they have formed no lines across the country as yet below us. Their Light-Horse may possibly scour across as far as the river; but how that is, I cannot determine. All things seem to be quiet at *Fort Washington*.

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H. GLEN TO ELISHA AVERY.

Schenectady, November 1, 1776.

SIR: Yours of 29th instant I have received. As to the quantity of flour I forwarded from this, is about one hundred and fifty barrels, and have about the same number of barrels engaged. Only wait for the return of the wagons which is gone up with Colonel *Dayton's* regiment, and believe I shall be able to procure about four hundred barrels more. But, on account of casks being hard to be had, it will be some time yet before it will be ready. There is no occasion to send any flour from this to *Albany*. As there must be a good quantity of flour at *Half Moon*, it is impossible for the wagons to carry it so fast as the boats will bring it from *Albany*, and the wagons that's gone off to *Fort George* with the regiment, I expect in by *Sunday*; and when they come, and fifteen more I have wrote for to *Tryon* County, will take all at once which is at present ready, so there cannot be the least occasion for sending it by the way of *Albany*. As the season is pretty far advanced, I would be extremely glad to know what you intend ordering up to *Fort Schuyler*. I have part of a company of battoe-men kept on purpose; the rest I ordered to *Albany*. The candles I shall send, as many as you please to order from *Fonda's*. I shall expect to hear from you by the negro boy, who is an express to Captain *Varick*.

I am, sir, your obedient humble servant,

H. GLEN.

To *Elisha Avery*, Esq.

COLONEL GANSEVOORT TO GENERAL GATES.

Fort George, November 1, 1776.

SIR: I this moment received a letter from *Cornelius Wendell*, Assistant Deputy Quartermaster-General, who is now at *Fort Edward*, and informs me that General *Schuyler* has requested him to send to me for spades, axes, and pickaxes, to repair the road from *Fort Edward* to *Cheshire's*, in order to transport provisions that way. As I have no tools whatever in my possession to furnish him with, I am under the necessity of applying to your Honour for them. The provisions, until the road is repaired, must necessarily be sent this way, and as this garrison is much weakened by my having been obliged to send out several scouts, I must request your Honour to send for them. Part of the Militia from the County of *Albany* are now at this post, but they have all an utter aversion to carry any provision or stores across the lake.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

P. GANSEVOORT.

The Honourable Major-General *Gates*.

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*Weekly Return of the Twentieth Regiment of Militia from the State of* CONNECTICUT, *commanded by Major* ROGERS.

| Companies. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Present fit for duty. | Sick present. | Sick absent. | On command. | Total Rank and File. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Jacob Perkins..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 21 |
| Captain Wheat..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 10 | - | 7 | 4 | 21 |
| Captain Johnson..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | 10 | 3 | - | - | 13 |
| Captain Stephens..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 15 | 3 | - | - | 18 |
| Captain Wright..... | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | - | 12 | 2 | 2 | - | 16 |
| Captain Waterman..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | - | 13 |
| Captain Lathrop..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | 9 | 7 | - | - | 16 |
| Captain Brewster..... | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 1 | - | - | 12 |
| Captain Leffingwell..... | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | 5 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Captain John Perkins..... | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | 2 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 22 |
| Ensign Johnson..... | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 15 |
| Total..... | 10 | 8 | 8 | 40 | 7 | 108 | 31 | 22 | 11 | 172 |

N. B.—1 Captain sick absent.....5 Captains sick present.
1 Sub. do. .....1 Sub. do.
3 Sergeants do. .....6 Sergeants do.
2 Drums and Fifes do.....1 Drum do.

ZABDIEL ROGERS, *Major*.

SAW-PITTS, *November* 1, 1776.

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*Return of Colonel* COGSWELL'S *Regiment of Militia*, RYE, *November* 1, 1776.

1 Colonel, 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Chaplain, 1 Adjutant, 1 Quartermaster, 1 Surgeon, 1 Surgeon's Mate.

| Companies. | Captains. | 1st Lieutenants. | 2d Lieutenants. | Sergeants. | Drums. | Fifes. | Present fit for duty. | Sick present. | Sick absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total Rank and File. | Deserted. | Discharged. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Johnson..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 62 | - | 1 | - | - | 63 | - | 1 |
| Captain Abbot..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | 54 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 59 | - | - |
| Captain Perkins..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 54 | 3 | 3 | - | - | 60 | - | - |
| Captain Pool..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 39 | 2 | 5 | 1 | - | 47 | - | - |
| Captain Merrill..... | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | - | - | 24 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 29 | 1 | - |
| Captain Isley..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 54 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 63 | - | - |
| Total..... | 6 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 2 | 3 | 287 | 14 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 321 | 1 | 1 |

N. B.—*Edmund Cheney*, of Captain *Johnson's* Company discharged *October* 28th by reason of his being unlikely to perform his duty on account of health.
1 Sergeant in Captain *Perkins's* Company sick absent.
1 Sergeant in Captain *Pool's* Company Sergeant-Major.
1 Lieutenant in Captain *Perkins's* Company on command.
1 Sergeant in Captain *Merrill's* Company sick absent.
*Thomas Eliot*, returned in the column deserted, left his company in *Fairfield*, *October* 13, 1776.
1 Drummer in Captain *Abbot's* Company sick present.
1 Sergeant in Captain *Isley's* Company sick absent.
4 returned on command taking care of the sick.

JONA. COGSWELL, *Jun.*, *Colonel*.

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ELIPHALET DYER TO THE CONNECTICUT ASSEMBLY.

Hartford, November, 1776.

Conscious as I am of my utmost exertions for to promote the interest of the *United States*, as well as of this State in particular, in every department in which this Assembly has been pleased to entrust me with, yet the approbation with which my conduct in the General Congress of the *United States* has met with, in their reappointing me a member of that respectable body, gives me the greatest satisfaction. Yet, considering my ill state of health, as well as of some others of my family, the present particular situation of my affairs, occasioned principally by my long and almost constant absence for years past from my family, on publick service, obliges me, though with great reluctance, to decline a service to which I was appointed in your sessions in *October* last—attending the General Congress at *Philadelphia;* and which, I flatter myself, will not be disapproved, as it is the first instance of my ever declining any trust, post of danger, or trouble, to which I have been appointed by this State.

ELIPH'T DYER.

To the Honourable General Assembly of the State of *Connecticut*.

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New-London, November 1, 1776.

Last week a *French* vessel from *Cape François* arrived here with molasses; the master informs that three *Jamaica* privateers are out cruising for northward vessels; that he was brought to by one of them; but upon his telling them that he was bound to *Miquelon*, they acquitted him. He also informs that three privateers are fitting out from *Hispaniola*, by gentlemen from this continent, who carried over Continental commissions for that purpose.

We further learn by the above vessel, that advice was received from *Old France* that eighteen men-of-war were fitting out at *Toulon*, and thirteen at *Brest*, but that there was no talk of a war between *France* and *England*.

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SAMUEL ALLYNE OTIS TO JOHN AVERY.

Boston, November 1, 1776.

SIR: I received the intimation of the honour conferred by the two Houses of Assembly, in electing me of the Board of War. In this way I would acquaint the honourable Court I am equally unwilling to obtrude my poor services upon the publick, and to refuse the call of my country. Endeavouring to keep these maxims in view, shall not apologize for entering into so important a department, though I see some better qualified declining the trust. Were my abilities equal to my regard for a much-injured country, I should flatter myself with a prospect of rendering her essential service; as it is, I dare promise nothing but integrity.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

SAM. A. OTIS.

Mr. *Avery*.

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JAMES BOWDOIN TO JOHN AVERY.

November 1, 1776.

SIR: In answer to your letter informing me of my being chosen one of the Committee of War, you will please present my most respectful regards to the honourable the Council and House of Representatives, and acquaint them that the circumstances of my health at present will not permit me to give the close attendance which the business of that Committee will make necessary, and therefore in faithfulness to the State I am obliged to ask the favour of their excusing me from that office.

Sir, your most humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

Mr. *Avery*, Deputy Secretary.

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ACCOUNT OF SUNDRY LUMBER, NAILS, &C., SUPPLIED BY THE CONTINENT FOR THE SEVERAL FORTS, FOLLOWING, VIZ:

*Fort-Hill, in Boston.*

4972 feet of Boards,
5420 feet of 2-inch Plank,
5175 feet of 4-inch do,
2700 feet of Oak Plank,
2700 feet of Pine Joist,
10167 feet of Pine Timber,
1675 feet of Oak Joist,
672 feet of Oak Timber,
2100 Pickets,
2527 lbs. of Spikes and Nails.
Two buildings containing—
12 thousand Shingles,
8206 feet of Boards,
900 feet of Timber,
1200 feet of Joist,
8 thousand 10-penny Nails,
12 thousand 4-penny Nails,
½ thousand 20-penny Nails.

No. 1. *Fort at Dorchester Point.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 3454 feet of Oak Plank, | 800 feet of Oak Joist, |
| 2370 feet of Pine Timber, | 3070 feet of Boards, |
| 1600 Pickets, | 7½ thousand Shingles, |
| 220 lbs. of Spikes. | 7½ thousand 4-penny Nails, |
| Two buildings containing— | 5 thousand 10-penny do. |
| 650 feet of Timber, | ½ thousand 20-penny do. |

No. 2. *Dorchester, second hill.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 3636 feet of Oak Plank, | 400 feet of Timber, |
| 1139 feet of Pine Timber | 500 feet of Joist, |
| 200 feet of Pine Plank, | 2250 feet of Boards, |
| 1200 Pickets, | 5½ thousand Shingles, |
| 160 lbs. Spikes. | 5½ thousand 4-penny Nails, |
| One building containing— | 3 thousand 10-penny Nails. |

No. 3. *Fort on Dorchester, southermost hill, viz:*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2626 feet of Oak Plank, | 600 feet of Joist, |
| 912 feet of Pine Timber, | 2320 feet of Boards, |
| 1100 Pickets, | 6 thousand Shingles, |
| 50 lbs. Spikes, | 6 thousand 4-penny Nails, |
| Two buildings containing— | 3 thousand 10-penny do. |
| 450 feet of Timber, | ½ thousand 20-penny do. |

*Fort at Noddle's Island, viz:*

| | |
|---|---|
| 3650 feet of Oak Plank, | 1395 feet of Pine Timber, |
| 1710 feet of Oak Timber, | 800 lbs. Spikes. |
| 2150 feet of Pine Plank, | |

*Fort on Charlestown Hill.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 924 feet of Pine Timber, | 1342 feet of Boards, |
| 2592 feet of Oak Plank, | 3 thousand of Shingles, |
| 400 lbs. of Spikes, | 3 thousand 4-penny Nails, |
| A building containing— | 1½ thousand 10-penny do. |
| 200 feet of Joist, | ½ thousand 20-penny do. |
| 344 feet of Timber, | |

*Fort on Governour's Island, viz:*

| | |
|---|---|
| 288 feet of Oak Plank, | 23 thousand Shingles, |
| 156 feet of Pine Timber, | 23 thousand 4-penny Nails, |
| 1000 Pickets, | 60 feet of Timber, |
| 25 lbs. Spikes. | 750 feet of Boards, |
| For the Blockhouse, viz: | Painting the Blockhouse. |

Boston, *November*, 1776.

Rich'd Gridley, *Chief Eng'r.*

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WILLIAM CARMICHAEL TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Amsterdam, November 2, 1776.

Gentlemen: Previous to your attention to what follows, it will be necessary for you to know that I have lived with Mr. *Deane* since his first arrival at *Paris;* that I took that city in my way from *London* to *Nantes*, to find a passage to my native country, and with despatches, which Mr. *Arthur Lee* entrusted to my care, for the honourable Congress. Having a relapse of a disorder, which prevented me from travelling, I stopped at *Paris*, and endeavoured to find out, by means of Count *d'Estaing* and other persons of eminence, the sentiments of the *French* Court respecting our affairs; and the moment I knew of Mr. *Deane's* arrival, offered him all the services in my power, and, of consequence, we have lived together until the 10th of the present month.

At that time the agent of the King of *Prussia*, who had often, as Mr. *Deane* has informed you, made proposals of a commercial nature, expressed a desire that some *American* would go to *Berlin*, and this he gave us to understand was at the instance of his Sovereign, who wished to have a clear idea of the nature of our commerce, and expressed a curiosity, which he wished to gratify by a minute detail of our affairs. Mr. *Deane*, thinking this an opportunity not to be neglected to interest a Prince who for several years has been dreaming of making his port of *Emden* an *Amsterdam*, proposed it to me. However unequal to the task, I have cheerfully undertaken it; happy to find any opportunity of showing with what a fervent zeal I am devoted to the glorious cause, which, at present, by interesting their humanity as well as policy, gives us so much consequence in the eyes of *Europe*.

Here I have endeavoured to engage merchants to speculate in a direct commerce to *America*, to find out the sentiments of the people in general respecting us, to know whether, in case of necessity, the *United States* would be able to negotiate a loan, whether *England* would be able to obtain further credit, and, by this barometer of the ability of princes, to discover their present situation. On these heads I have written Mr. *Deane*, but having an opportunity by the way of *St. Eustatia*, and thinking none should be neglected of giving information, though mine, perhaps, may not be of importance enough to merit that title, I have taken the liberty of addressing the honourable Committee. Arriving but two days after the accounts had reached this city of our misfortune on *Long-Island*, I found many even of the sanguine friends of *America* dejected, and those of *England* almost in a frenzy of joy. In this disposition, it is easy to judge, no hopes could be entertained of engaging merchants in a direct trade. I find they have the greatest inclination to serve us, and at the same time themselves, for no people see their interests clearer; but their fears that we shall be subdued, the confident assertions of the friends of *England* confirming these apprehensions, the prodigious sums they have in the *English* funds, with this unlucky business at *New-York*, all conspire to prevent direct speculation.

As my letters from *Paris* introduced me to the first houses here, I have had the best opportunity of knowing their sentiments, and I can venture to say, that with many who are apparently adverse to us, it is interest combatting with principle; for, insulted, searched, and plundered as the *Dutch* were the last war, and are at present, there are individuals who by no means want sensibility to feel, though the publick wants spirit to resent, the injury. The States have, however, in answer to a fresh remonstrance of General *Yorke*, declared that their ports are open to vessels of all nations, and that their trade to and from their own Colonies shall be unmolested, their subjects complying with the ordinances issued by their High Mightinesses. In fact, their prohibition of exporting warlike stores, extends to all *British* subjects. I hope it will not be long before all *Europe* will own us in another character. It is very certain, that without a very material and apparent success of the *British* arms in *America*, a loan would be very slowly negotiated for *England* here. There is nothing hinders them now from selling out of the *English* funds, but their not knowing what to do with their money; for this country may be called the treasury of *Europe*, and its stock of specie is more or less, according to the necessity of the different Princes in *Europe*. It being a time of peace, the call has not been very great of late.

Having mentioned the credit of *England*, that of *France* is next to be considered, and I am very sorry to say that has been very low here of late. The dreadful mismanagement of the finances in the late King's reign, and the character of the late Comptroller-General, M. *d'Olugny*, had reduced it so low, that it was impossible to borrow any thing considerable on perpetual funds; by life rents something might be done. Perhaps a Minister of Finance, in whose probity the world have a confidence, may restore their credit. At this moment that is in some measure the case, for the *French* stocks rise on the appointment of M. *Taboreau*. That it is possible for *France* to borrow, may be demonstrated; for at the time M. *Turgot* was removed, he was negotiating a loan here, and was likely to succeed, for sixty millions of guilders. The credit of *Spain* is extremely good, and that kingdom may have what money it will, and on the best terms. The Emperor's credit is also good; not as Emperor, but from his hereditary dominion. *Sweden* and *Denmark* both have good credit; the former the best; they have money at four per cent; and it is not long since the King of *Sweden* borrowed three millions of guilders at this interest, to pay off old debts at five per cent. His interest is paid punctually. *Prussia* has no credit here, but the King's treasury is full, by squeezing the last farthing from the people, and now and then he draws a little money from this Republick, by reviving obsolete claims. The credit of the Empress of *Russia* is very good; for she has punctually paid the interest of twelve millions of guilders, which she borrowed in her war with the *Turks*, and has lately paid off one million and a half of the principal. These are the strongest circumstances she could have in her favour with a mercantile people. I have this statement of credit from persons employed in negotiating the several loans, and, therefore, can depend upon the truth of the information.

To come next to *America*, should time and necessity oblige her to look abroad for money, in the present state of affairs, it is not probable that a loan is practicable. But should success so attend our arms, that it should appear evident that we are likely to support our independence, or should either *France* or *Spain* acknowledge our independence, in either of these cases I believe we might have money, and when it was seen that we were punctual in our first payments of the interest, we should have as much as

we pleased. The nature of the security, or the fund for the payment of interest, I have not been able to imagine. But, observing in a letter to Mr. *Deane*, that it was the writer's opinion the honourable Congress did not wish to circulate too much paper, for fear of depreciating its value, I thought that bills issued similar to those in circulation in the Provinces, and lodged in a publick bank in *Europe*, might be accepted as a pledge or deposite for money borrowed by the *United States*. I beg pardon for the crudity of the idea, and would not have mentioned it here, but that having hinted at it in general conversation, people thought it might, on a future occasion, be adopted.

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This is the rough outline of a plan which the honourable Congress may, should it in any shape be approved, digest into form. I would stake my life on the success of the greatest part of it, if inviolable secrecy is preserved, and the execution is trusted to persons who have not only wealth but glory in view. If prompted by a heated and indignant imagination, this plan should appear dangerous or impracticable, I hope it will be imputed to the desire of retorting our injuries on that country which has in some measure been the cause, and is at present endeavouring with the rancor of private animosity, to accumulate our distress. I entreated Mr. *Deane* to propose some part of it to the consideration of Congress some time ago, and I have the pleasure to find his opinion corresponds with my own on the subject.

The resentment which it is said the honourable Congress have shown on the conduct of the King of *Portugal* towards us, has been attended with a very good effect, and should a manifesto be published by that honourable body, hinting only the necessity of taking similar measures with all those who denied them the common rights of mankind, I am persuaded it would be to our advantage. It was the dread of such a blow to their trade, that was one of the strongest arguments made use of by the merchants of this country in their petition to the States. I need not mention to you any thing respecting what is like to take place in *Europe* another year, for of that ere this you, I hope, have information. I will only say, that the greater part contemplates with pleasure the gloomy prospect for *England;* there is not an envoy of the most petty State in *Italy* but exults at it. The want of intelligence from *America* hurts the cause prodigiously in *Europe*, and the anxiety of those who have its interest at heart is, from that circumstance, inconceivable. I hope I need not offer assurances to convince the honourable Congress of the zeal with which I wish to serve them. To be directed by that honourable body in what manner to do it most effectually, will be the happiest circumstance of my life.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

WILLIAM CARMICHAEL.

P. S. I cannot seal this letter without recommending Colonel *Prevet*, should the fortune of war put him into our hands, to all the indulgence, to himself and family, his situation will possibly admit of. Mr. *Grand*, his wife's father, an eminent merchant here, animated with that love of liberty which distinguishes his country, (*Switzerland,*) offers all the services in his power to the publick, and a thousand civilities to its individuals. If by the same fortune Mr. *Dowdswell*, of the First Regiment of Guards, should fall into our hands, his father's merits and his own reluctance will give him the same indulgence.

Since I wrote the above, Mr. *Grand* has assured me that should the honourable Congress determine to negotiate loans in *Europe*, and would draw bills accepted by the principal merchants in *America*, payable at two, three, and five years' sight, and send them to their house, they should be discounted by them at five per cent. interest. This was the manner in which money was raised for the city of *Leipsic* during the last war. The gentlemen of the committee will please to observe that this is to be kept very secret, for no loan can be publickly negotiated here as yet. The firm of this house is Messrs. *Horneca, Fizeaux & Co.*, and is one of the most capital in this city. Should any cargoes be consigned here on publick account, perhaps it may be thought proper to address them to these gentlemen. I can assure you, gentlemen, and that from my own knowledge, that many bills remitted from *America*, and supposed to be drawn on account of Congress, have been refused payment by the *English* Ministry knowing beforehand when they would be presented for payment, and by that means having an opportunity of bribing, threatening, or flattering the parties on whom they were drawn either to refuse payment absolutely, or at least noting them for protest, in order to hurt the credit of our merchants in *Europe*. I do think that the less connection, for this and other reasons, we have in future with houses whose principal business depends on *Great Britain*, the better. I beg pardon for giving my opinion thus freely, but it is the effect of my zeal.

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, November 2, 1776.

It is presumed that the thirteen frigates are now at sea,

and it deserves the earliest attention so to use them as may most essentially wound the commerce of *Great Britain*.

The *British* ships will, except a few stationed at *New-York* and *Halifax*, winter in the *West-Indies*, consequently a blow there cannot be so successfully struck; besides, from the last winter's adventure, they will be on their guard.

The inquiry is, where can they be taken most unguarded? Two schemes have rose in my mind: The enemy have no man-of-war wintering at *Newfoundland*, and the station ships go out there in *May*. Two or three of the frigates might sail as on a common cruise, and stand for the banks after being at sea; destroy, in a few days, all the fishing stages, boats, &c., &c., and bring away the workmen who winter there, which must ruin their fishery for one year at least; after which let them sail for the *Baltic*, and cruise for the ships bound to *Russia*. The other is, as large remittances are wanted in *Europe*, let the tobacco, rice, wheat, &c., be loaded, part in these frigates, and part in vessels under their convoy; let them have one destination, for example, *Bordeaux*. After unloading their cargoes and refreshing their crews, (during which the most exact intelligence may be had of the situation of the *British* coast,) they may strike a blow which will alarm and weaken *Great Britain* most effectually. The city of *Glasgow* might at any hour be destroyed by a single frigate capable of landing two hundred men; and *Great Britain* being obliged to send all her fleet, except her heavy guard ships, into *America* and the *West-Indies*, this town, as well as many others, will the ensuing spring remain in much the same situation, and there being no militia in *Scotland*, the scheme might be fully executed, and the ships retire before any force could be collected. I would propose, after effecting this, to go northward instead of returning, and intercept the *Baltic* ships, or make a harbour in *Bordeaux* or *Havre-de-Grace*, and wait a second opportunity. Certain it is, a few of our cruisers, permitted to enter the harbours of this Kingdom, and of *Spain*—which, if proper application is made, they most certainly will be—may distress the trade of *Great Britain* and enrich ourselves. You may have any number of recruits in *Europe* for such ships, and, by sending out commissions, have individuals join you in the adventure under your flag, with stout frigates, several of which are now building absolutely with the design, viz: the hopes of getting into the service of the *United States of North America*.

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VAN BIBBER AND HARRISON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

St. Eustatia, November 2, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The preceding is a copy of our last respects, since when no material change has taken place.

Enclosed you will be pleased to find an invoice and bill of lading for the goods we now ship you by the *Molly*, Captain *Conway*, amounting to £3944 19*s*. 10*d*., this currency, which you'll please pass to our credit, together with the vessel's disbursements, being £ ——.

We have put as much salt on board as the Captain judged it prudent to take, and all the woollens we were able to procure of any kind. We should esteem ourselves very happy to supply you with a sufficiency of these useful articles, but as vessels and seamen are both scarce, apprehend we cannot with near the quantity required by the first, and the latter is really not to be had at any rate just now, though we expect there will be some out soon.

The most convenient way of getting dry goods would be, we think, to give Captain *Conway* leave to cruise a week or two to windward of the island, when he comes out again. By the time he gets back, if despatched quickly, there will be fine pickings among the outward-bound *West-Indiamen*.

We expect in our next to hand you accounts sale of *Handy's*, *Martin's*, *Beck's*, and *Conway's* cargoes, and are with unfeigned respect, sirs, your most obedient humble servants,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

P. S. We hope to prevail on many private persons to speculate in salt your way, though the resolve restricting the price of that useful article will be no advantage to you.

LANDON CARTER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Sabin Hall, November 2, 1776.

Lieutenant *Beale* being, in his illness, obliged to leave his baggage where he was quartered, finds them so pillaged now as to make his stay necessary for some days, to get refitted; which, I assure you, is a hard matter to do now in this Commonwealth. This, then, comes through some conveyance of Colonel *F. Lee*.

Since writing the enclosed one Mr. *Armistead*, returned from an excursion to *Philadelphia*, has written to his father-in-law, Colonel *Peachey*, that just before he left *Philadelphia*, news came that General *Lee* had, with a body of men, marched to meet the five thousand enemy, who seemed intending to cut off the communication with the back country; had met with them, and drove them twice within their own lines, and with great loss. It is pleasing, and with no great inconsistency, that in his way from *Philadelphia*, he (*Armistead*) met or overtook an express informing every body that General *Mercer*, having a certain intelligence of the evacuation of *Staten-Island* to about fifteen hundred men, had passed a body of men to attack them, and had been engaged about four hours when the express left him, and had every certainty of taking or destroying them all. For want of some plat to give me an idea of situations, I cannot say as to the probability of this report. I wish you had such a thing to spare, or any gentleman in your camp; it would give my geographical genius great pleasure, and no return shall be wanting. My compliments to General *Lee* in particular, with a God speed you all.

Some rascally Tory has reported that *Lee* had recommended to all *America* to make peace with Lord *Howe* on any terms. I saw nobody that could believe it. But every body engaged to do his character great justice.

*Morgan*, the Rifle Captain taken prisoner at *Quebeck*, it seems, was not returned on his parole of not taking up arms against King *George*, and was going to know of our House of Delegates, if a prisoner returned in his room could not absolve his engagement? If it could not, he was resolved to go out against the *Indians*. I have doubts, because he must have known the Congress could only solve the difficulty. I mention these things to you only as the news of the day. My grandson is active and punctual in the Militia, ready to step forth on any occasion. I could not maintain him as he ought to be, as a supernumerary under General *Lee*; therefore, with great thankfulness, that kind offer in the General was declined.

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MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 20th: Referred to the Board of War.]

In Council of Safety of Maryland, November 2d, 1776.

The bearer hereof is a *French* gentleman, just arrived at this place from *Martinico*; he is anxious to enter into the service, having, as he says, been bred to a military life and served for some time in the *French* Army. We have thought it prudent to refer his cause and circumstances to the consideration of the Congress, and have supplied him with cash to defray the charge of his journey to *Philadelphia*, as it may be politick to give every reasonable encouragement to such foreigners as may incline to assist us during the present war. We submit the propriety of forwarding this gentleman to the camp, with a recommendation to the General to place him in such station as his knowledge and ability entitle him to fill.

On behalf of the Council of Safety:

DAN. OF ST. THO'S JENIFER, *President*.

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THOMAS JONES TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 2d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We understand that you have collected a quantity of high *Bristol* shot. We have got a quantity of good lead we will exchange with you for the shot, pound for pound. If you accept our proposals, we will send you the lead and take away the shot from *Annapolis*.

Are, gentlemen, your obedient servants,

JON. HUDSON,
THOS. JONES.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

we pleased. The nature of the security, or the fund for the payment of interest, I have not been able to imagine. But, observing in a letter to Mr. *Deane*, that it was the writer's opinion the honourable Congress did not wish to circulate too much paper, for fear of depreciating its value, I thought that bills issued similar to those in circulation in the Provinces, and lodged in a publick bank in *Europe*, might be accepted as a pledge or deposite for money borrowed by the *United States*. I beg pardon for the crudity of the idea, and would not have mentioned it here, but that having hinted at it in general conversation, people thought it might, on a future occasion, be adopted.

You will please to observe, that every thing here mentioned came from an individual, who, only as such, avowed himself interested for his country's fate, and for its benefit sought information. Notwithstanding the rise of stocks occasioned by our misfortune on *Long-Island*, the *Dutch* are selling out, and my strongest representations have not been wanting to contribute a mite to this circumstance. The price of our product is great. Rice sells for twenty-five shillings sterling per cwt., and tobacco for eight stivers and one-fourth per pound. You have been threatened that the *Ukraine* would supply *Europe* with tobacco. It must be long before that time can arrive. I have seen some of the tobacco here, and the best of it is worse than the worst of our ground leaf. Four hundred thousand pounds have been sent here this year. The *Russian* Ambassador said at the Baron *le Guerre's*, Ambassador from *Sweden*, where I had the honour to dine, that *Russia* soon would be able to supply the market with that article. In this he spoke more like an Ambassador than as a merchant. I took occasion in reply to observe, that if that was the case, and on many other accounts, it was the interest of his mistress that all intercourse between *Great Britain* and *America* should be broken off, for that then the former would be dependent on *Russia* for all those articles which hitherto the latter had supplied her with.

Having expressed a desire of knowing these reasons at large, with the assistance of Mr. *D*——*s* and the approbation of Mr. *Deane*, I purpose giving in a little memoir on the subject, which the Ambassador assures me shall be sent to *St. Petersburgh;* not being so sanguine as to think that it will prevent *Russia* from supplying *England* with troops, should the other demand them, but it may give a secret dilatoriness to their assistance, which may finally operate in our favour.

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We have put as much salt on board as the Captain judged it prudent to take, and all the woollens we were able to procure of any kind. We should esteem ourselves very happy to supply you with a sufficiency of these useful articles, but as vessels and seamen are both scarce, apprehend we cannot with near the quantity required by the first, and the latter is really not to be had at any rate just now, though we expect there will be some out soon.

The most convenient way of getting dry goods would be, we think, to give Captain *Conway* leave to cruise a week or two to windward of the island, when he comes out again. By the time he gets back, if despatched quickly, there will be fine pickings among the outward-bound *West-Indiamen*.

We expect in our next to hand you accounts sale of *Handy's*, *Martin's*, *Beck's*, and *Conway's* cargoes, and are with unfeigned respect, sirs, your most obedient humble servants,

Van Bibber & Harrison.

P. S. We hope to prevail on many private persons to speculate in salt your way, though the resolve restricting the price of that useful article will be no advantage to you.

LANDON CARTER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Sabin Hall, November 2, 1776.

Lieutenant *Beale* being, in his illness, obliged to leave his baggage where he was quartered, finds them so pillaged now as to make his stay necessary for some days, to get refitted; which, I assure you, is a hard matter to do now in this Commonwealth. This, then, comes through some conveyance of Colonel *F. Lee*.

Since writing the enclosed one Mr. *Armistead*, returned from an excursion to *Philadelphia*, has written to his father-in-law, Colonel *Peachey*, that just before he left *Philadelphia*, news came that General *Lee* had, with a body of men, marched to meet the five thousand enemy, who seemed intending to cut off the communication with the back country; had met with them, and drove them twice within their own lines, and with great loss. It is pleasing, and with no great inconsistency, that in his way from *Philadelphia*, he (*Armistead*) met or overtook an express informing every body that General *Mercer*, having a certain intelligence of the evacuation of *Staten-Island* to about fifteen hundred men, had passed a body of men to attack them, and had been engaged about four hours when the express left him, and had every certainty of taking or destroying them all. For want of some plat to give me an idea of situations, I cannot say as to the probability of this report. I wish you had such a thing to spare, or any gentleman in your camp; it would give my geographical genius great pleasure, and no return shall be wanting. My compliments to General *Lee* in particular, with a God speed you all.

Some rascally Tory has reported that *Lee* had recommended to all *America* to make peace with Lord *Howe* on any terms. I saw nobody that could believe it. But every body engaged to do his character great justice.

*Morgan*, the Rifle Captain taken prisoner at *Quebeck*, it seems, was not returned on his parole of not taking up arms against King *George*, and was going to know of our House of Delegates, if a prisoner returned in his room could not absolve his engagement? If it could not, he was resolved to go out against the *Indians*. I have doubts, because he must have known the Congress could only solve the difficulty. I mention these things to you only as the news of the day. My grandson is active and punctual in the Militia, ready to step forth on any occasion. I could not maintain him as he ought to be, as a supernumerary under General *Lee*; therefore, with great thankfulness, that kind offer in the General was declined.

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MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 20th: Referred to the Board of War.]

In Council of Safety of Maryland, November 2d, 1776.

The bearer hereof is a *French* gentleman, just arrived at this place from *Martinico;* he is anxious to enter into the service, having, as he says, been bred to a military life and served for some time in the *French* Army. We have thought it prudent to refer his cause and circumstances to the consideration of the Congress, and have supplied him with cash to defray the charge of his journey to *Philadelphia*, as it may be politick to give every reasonable encouragement to such foreigners as may incline to assist us during the present war. We submit the propriety of forwarding this gentleman to the camp, with a recommendation to the General to place him in such station as his knowledge and ability entitle him to fill.

On behalf of the Council of Safety:

Dan. of St. Tho's Jenifer, *President*.

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THOMAS JONES TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 2d, 1776.

Gentlemen: We understand that you have collected a quantity of high *Bristol* shot. We have got a quantity of good lead we will exchange with you for the shot, pound for pound. If you accept our proposals, we will send you the lead and take away the shot from *Annapolis*.

Are, gentlemen, your obedient servants,

Jon. Hudson,
Thos. Jones.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

MEETING OF CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA.

At a meeting of a number of the citizens of *Philadelphia*, at the Philosophical Society's Hall, *November* the 2d, *Samuel Howell*, Chairman, *Jonathan B. Smith*, Secretary.

It was unanimously resolved to publish the following Address to the Inhabitants of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia:*

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: As a considerable uneasiness has arisen in the minds of some of the inhabitants of *Philadelphia*, from a fear that it was the desire of those citizens who agreed to the resolutions passed at the town meetings the 21st and 22d of *October* last, that the Representatives to be chosen on the 5th of this instant, for this city, should possess, not only the power to make the necessary alterations in the frame of government formed by the late Convention, but likewise to execute the same, we take this opportunity of declaring that, after the said Representatives have finished the alterations and amendments in the government, (agreeable to the method proposed in the 29th resolution passed at the town meeting of the 22d of *October*,) it is our desire that they should issue writs for the election of an Assembly, and immediately afterwards dissolve themselves; and for this purpose we intend to instruct them, previous to their taking their seats in the House of Assembly.

We think it our duty further to declare to you, that we wish for no alterations to be made in the Constitution, which shall affect the great and fundamental principles of a free government; such as liberty of conscience, trial by juries, freedom of the press, annual elections, and the division and rotation of offices. But, while we acknowledge these parts of the Constitution to be perfectly just, and highly agreeable to us, we think ourselves bound to declare that it contains flaws which in a little while will render those inestimable blessings of no efficacy.

You have been told that we are connected with the Tories, and that we are aiming to bring back the late royal and proprietary power of this State. We deny the charge. We appeal to Heaven for the purity of our intentions, and we call upon those men who have propagated this calumny to prove that we have ever aimed at any thing else than at the establishment of a free and consistent government upon the sole authority of the people. We have publickly declared our attachment to the independence of this and the other *United States*. We have embarked our all in the present glorious contest for their independence, and many of us have exposed our lives in its defence.

You have been told that we aim to establish a power in the State, which has been branded with the justly odious and unpopular name of a House of Lords. We deny this charge with the same solemnity that we do the last. We disclaim all legislative power that is not derived from the yearly choice of the people; and it is because we esteem the sacred power of the people to be above all other power, that we have appealed to them from the tribunal of the Convention. By our preference of a mixed and tempered legislature to that established by the Convention, we declare that we wish for a Government that shall not suffer the poor and the rich alternately to be the prey of each other.

In order to induce you to submit to the new form of Government, you have been told that you can know nothing of its defects till you have experienced them. Did we reason in this manner when the King of *Great Britain* offered us slavery through a number of arbitrary acts of Parliament? Did we wait till the chains were fixed upon us before we resisted? We did not. Even the people of *Canada* opposed the arbitrary frame of Government contrived for them in the *Quebeck* bill before they experienced its destructive effects upon the remains of their liberty. A seven years' familiarity with slavery may render us ever afterwards unfit to assert and maintain the privileges of freemen.

We are now on the brink of a precipice. There are more evils in our new frame of Government than have been pointed out by the pen or tongue of any man. The prejudices and passions of a whole community are let loose by it upon every man's property, liberty, and life, through the medium of the legislature, the courts of law, and the political inquisition, called the Council of Censors. We conjure you, therefore, by the remembrance of past difficulties, through which we have struggled together—by the prospects of the common dangers which are before us—by the honour of *Pennsylvania*—and by the blessings of free and equal government, to consider seriously what you are doing, before you take another step in support of the new constitution. Let not the rash action of a single day add the inhabitants of *Pennsylvania* to the number of those unhappy people in several *European* countries, who have undone themselves by a hasty and ill-judged exercise of their own power.

Signed by order and in behalf of the meeting:

SAMUEL HOWELL, *Chairman.*

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN PHILADELPHIA, DATED FORT LEE, NOVEMBER 2, 1776.

Six gentlemen who escaped from the fleet inform us that there are now seventy sail of transports lying at *Red-Hook*, to take in three thousand troops, who are to go for *Rhode-Island*.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

White-Plains, November 2, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by his Excellency to acknowledge the honour of your letter of the 31st ultimo, which came to hand yesterday evening, and to return you his thanks for the reinforcement you have ordered him under the command of General *Wooster*. It will arrive very seasonably, and in part make up for the deficiency occasioned by daily desertions of our men, who are returning to their homes in the most scandalous and infamous manner. The roads are crowded with them.

I am also directed by his Excellency to acquaint you, that before the receipt of your favour he had given directions to the General Officers to discharge such of the sick Militia from your State as were unfit for service, and who choosed to return, rather than remain, for their recovery. As to pointing out a mode for clothing the Militia who were injured in the several retreats, it is a matter of great difficulty in this time of scarcity of goods, and such as he does not know how to remedy; nor will it be possible, consistently with the good of the service, when our numbers are decreasing, and those of the enemy augmenting by reinforcements from home, and the disaffected in this Province, for him to send persons upon furlough to collect blankets. He would submit it to you, whether your requisition going to the towns from whence the Militia came, will not induce the friends of those who are here to make provision for them in this instance.

In respect to the Light-Horse under Major *Backus*, he issued an order for their discharge, on yesterday morning, on the arrival of the others under Major *Sheldon*. And I am charged in a particular manner, to notify you that their conduct has been extremely good, and the services they have rendered of great advantage to their country. Sensible of this, as a tribute due their merit, his Excellency was pleased to make them a return of his thanks, in the General Orders of yesterday.

The approaching dissolution of the present Army, with the uncertain prospect of raising a new one in time, provided the utmost industry is not used, gives his Excellency much concern; and this is greatly aggravated by the several States delaying to send Commissioners to appoint officers for recruiting. As yet none have come but from the *Massachusetts* State. This he desired me to mention to you, and also to request your kind exertions and influence to have every possible supply of provision, particularly of flour, forwarded to *North-Castle* and *King's Bridge*, on *Croton* river, for the use of this Army. Our situation in this instance is by no means so agreeable as could be wished, and demands extremely great; nor have we a prospect of but small relief, except what comes from your State. This Convention is doing something for us, but the supplies for the Northern Army will not allow them to furnish any great quantities for this.

The enemy having discovered their intentions, in pursuance of their original plan, of penetrating into the country and forming a line in our rear, it became necessary the last week to remove the whole of our Army, except the garri-

sons left at *Mount Washington* and *King's Bridge*, from the heights we had encamped on above the latter to this place, to prevent their outflanking us, and the execution of their design. On *Monday* morning, about ten o'clock, they appeared in several large columns, in our front, and from their movements seemed as if they meant an attack there. In a little time their main body (at least of those in sight) filed off to our right, and began a most severe and incessant cannonade at a part of our troops who had just taken post on a hill with a view of throwing up some lines. Covering themselves with their cannon, they advanced in two divisions, and after a smart engagement for about a quarter of an hour, obliged our men to give way. Our loss, at present I cannot ascertain; nor is theirs known. I dare say it was not much inferior to ours; and, had it not been for their immense artillery, which galled our people greatly, it is probable it would have been much greater.* They now lay extended from our right to our left, and it is generally conjectured they have in view the seizing on *King's Bridge*, on *Croton* river, to cut off our communication with the upper country. To prevent this, and secure the pass, General *Beall*, with his brigade of *Maryland* troops, was ordered to march yesterday. Since *Monday* they have attempted nothing, unless it was to advance a small detachment or two yesterday evening, towards some of the heights where our men were posted. On receiving a shot or two from our cannon, they ran off with great precipitation. We are now all quiet. Every day one, two, or three prisoners are brought in by our scouting parties; added to them, one or two deserters every day come over. We have taken thirteen or fourteen of the *Waldeckers*.

Having run over, in a summary way, a state of our affairs, and much writing on hand, I have only to add that I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROB'T H. HARRISON.

P. S. His Excellency is busily employed in reconnoitring the country hereabouts.

* *November* 1, 1776.—In the morning, the *British* advanced, with a number of field-pieces, to the north of the road near late Head-Quarters, (a heavy column appearing behind on the hill, ready to move forward,) and commenced a furious cannonade on General *Heath's* division, which was nobly returned by Captain-Lieutenant *Bryant* and Lieutenant *Jackson*, of the Artillery. General *Heath's* first anxiety was for Colonel *Malcolm's* regiment on the hill, to the east of the hollow on the left, lest the enemy should push a column into the hollow and cut the regiment off from the division. He therefore ordered Major *Keith*, one of his aids, to gallop over and order Colonel *Malcolm* to come off immediately, with Lieutenant *Fenno's* artillery. But, upon a more critical view of the ground in the hollow, (at the head of which there was a heavy stone wall, well situated to cover a body of troops to throw a fire directly down it, while an oblique fire could be thrown in on both sides,) he ordered Major *Pollard*, his other aid, to gallop after *Keith*, and countermand the first order, and direct the Colonel to remain at his post, and he should be supported. A strong regiment was ordered to the head of the hollow, to occupy the wall. The cannonade was brisk on both sides, through which the two aids-de-camp passed in going and returning. At this instant, General *Washington* rode up to the hill. His first question to General *Heath* was, "How is your division?" He was answered, "They are all in order." "Have you any," said the Commander-in-chief, "any troops on the hill, over the hollow?" He was answered, "*Malcolm's* regiment is there." "If you do not call them off immediately," says the General, "you may lose them, if the enemy push a column up the hollow." He was answered that, even in that case, their retreat should be made safe: that a strong regiment was posted at the head of the hollow, behind the wall; that this regiment, with the oblique fire of the division, would check the enemy as to allow *Malcolm* to make a safe retreat. The Commander-in-chief concluded by saying, "Take care that you do not lose them." The artillery of the division was so well directed as to throw the *British* artillerymen several times into confusion; and, finding that they could not here make any impression, drew back their pieces, the column not advancing. The *British* artillery now made a circuitous movement, and came down toward the *American* right. Here, unknown to them, were some twelve-pounders, upon the discharge of which they made off with their field-pieces as fast as their horses could draw them. A shot from the *American* cannon, at this place, took off the head of a *Hessian* artilleryman. They also left one of the artillery horses dead on the field. What other loss they sustained was not known. Of General *Heath's* division, one man only, belonging to Colonel *Pauding's* regiment of *New-York* troops, was killed. The *British* made no other attempt on the *Americans* while they remained at *White-Plains*. The two armies lay looking at each other, and within long cannon-shot. In the night time the *British* lighted up a vast number of fires, the weather growing pretty cold. These fires, some on the level ground, some at the foot of the hills, and at all distances to their brows, some of which were lofty, seemed to the eye to mix with the stars, and to be of different magnitudes. The *American* side, doubtless, exhibited to them a similar appearance. On this day, General *Heath* ordered three redoubts, with a line in front, to be thrown up on the summit of his post, so constructed that the whole of them could make a defence, and support each other at the same time, if attacked. These, to the enemy, in whose view they fully were, must have appeared very formidable, although they were designed principally for defence against small-arms; and, perhaps, works were never raised quicker. There were the stalks of a large corn field at the spot; the pulling these up in hills took up a large lump of earth with each; the roots of the stalks and earth on them, placed in the face of the works, answered the purpose of sods or fascines. The tops being placed inwards, as the loose earth was thrown upon them, became as so many ties to the work, which was carried up with a despatch scarcely conceivable.

The *British*, as they say, had meditated an attack on the *Americans*, which was only prevented by the weather of the night. Be this as it may, General *Heath* had ordered his division, at evening roll-call, to be at their alarm posts (which they every morning manned whilst at this place) half an hour sooner than usual. He had then no other reason for doing this, than the near position of the enemy, and the probability that they would soon make an attack. But the Commander-in-chief must have made some other discovery; for, after General *Heath* was in bed, Colonel *Carey*, who was one of the aids-de-camp of General *Washington*, came to the door of his marquë, and, calling to him, informed him that the whole Army were to be at their alarm posts the next morning half an hour sooner than usual, and that he was to govern himself accordingly. General *Heath* replied, that he had fortunately given such orders to his division at evening roll-call. He therefore neither got up himself, nor disturbed any other of his division.—*Heath*.

### GENERAL MIFFLIN TO WILLIAM DUER.

White-Plains, November 2, 1776.

DEAR MR. DUER: Pray let me have one hundred good ox or horse teams, immediately. We cannot move without them. Such stores as are necessary at *Peek's* and *Fish Kills* for detachments, we may send to those places. Surely your State is able to furnish that number in a very short time. We want no stores nearer to us than the Highlands, at present, so that the teams may be hurried on without delay.

If two hundred teams could be procured, I would most cheerfully employ them at least one month; but I suppose from the delay, which has appeared unavoidable, in procuring the first number ordered, you will not be able to send them in any reasonable time. I make no doubt you will do your best for us.

Mr. *Livingston* has again applied to me in favour of Mr. *Jansen*. I have referred him to you. Yours affectionately,

T. MIFFLIN.

### TENCH TILGHMAN TO WILLIAM DUER.

Head-Quarters, near White-Plains, November 2, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have yours of 31st ultimo. The loss of the hill has not been of the least disadvantage to us. It has occasioned us to leave our lines on the Plain, which were only temporary, but not to make any retreat. We have got all the heights, and the Army of the enemy have scarcely gained an inch of ground. I do not know the hill you mention by the name of the *Bald Hill*, but every advantageous piece of ground has been well reconnoitered.

Colonel *Dubois* was not very successful in the impressment of teams; our wants are still considerable in that way, and therefore all that you can send down will be most acceptable.

As fast as your flour is manufactured, please to have it sent down as far as *Pine's Bridge*, on *Croton's* river, where General *Beall* now is, with three Regiments. The teams that bring it down may proceed on to the Army, if they can be got so to do.

Our Commissaries and Quartermasters had lodged a parcel of stores at the town at *White-Plains*, and therefore it was necessary to throw up some lines down the town till the stores could be removed. This we did effectually, and then gave them possession of a piece of ground which they dare not occupy, because it is secured by our cannon from the heights. All matters are as quiet as if the enemy were one hundred miles distant from us; and his Excellency is just going to ride. I must therefore to horse, and bid you adieu. I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

TENCH TILGHMAN.

### COLONEL GIST TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Camp before the White-Plains, 2d November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Colonel *Smallwood* being wounded in the action of 28th ultimo, the command since has devolved upon myself. The duty I owe your respectable body calls upon me to give you an account of the killed and wounded, not doubting but what Colonel *Smallwood* has before this forwarded you a circumstantial account, as he is only slightly wounded, and has more time at present than I can possibly spare.

Since the skirmish the enemy has been exceedingly busy in erecting a breastwork on the eminence they took from

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us. Yesterday morning, having got prepared to open it upon us, the General ordered us to abandon our back lines, which, in our present situation, was rendered useless to us. The enemy immediately took possession of them; and judging that we were making a precipitate retreat, formed the line, and advanced upon us with a large column to bring on the attack, the artillery on each side keeping up a smart fire; and they soon found their situation disagreeable, and as if ashamed of the attempt, they sneakingly skulked behind a wood, and retired unseen to the lines.

In much haste, I am, gentlemen, respectfully, your very obedient servant,

M. Gist.

To the Honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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*A List of the Killed and Wounded the 28th ultimo.*

Captains *Scott* and *Bracco*, Sergeants *Westbey*, *Belt*, *Hudson*, killed—5.

Colonel *Smallwood*, Lieutenants *Waters* and *Goldsmith*, wounded—3.

Privates killed and wounded—38.

Including the independent companies, our effective men are now reduced to two hundred and ninety-eight, and are badly off for clothes, having lost the principal part of their baggage.

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO JOHN M'KESSON.

Camp at the old place, near White-Plains, 2d November, 1776.

My dear Sir: Your favours of the 30th and 31st ultimo were left at my tents a few moments since. Since my last to you, dated the day before yesterday, the centre and right wing of our Army, having possessed themselves of the heights in their rear, northeast of the road leading to *Young's*, yesterday morning evacuated that part of our lines which passed through the town and so east of it, and of all back on those heights, firing all the barns, hay, and cow-stacks in front. This induced the enemy to believe we had again retreated; and, determined to take the advantage of our supposed flight, their Army instantly moved forward into the part of our lines which were evacuated. This brought on a pretty brisk cannonade, though at too great a distance to do much execution. I lost one man, and had two wounded. I have heard of no other injury done us.

We are by the late movement now far advanced in front; of course most exposed. The enemy retired to their former encampment in the evening, leaving strong advanced pickets and working parties, who are busily employed in erecting works on the heights and near town. Deserters, especially from the Queen's Light Dragoons, come daily over to us, and now and then our Rangers send in a straggling prisoner.

Captain *Van Wyck*, of my brigade, who, at his earnest desire, was appointed to a company of Rangers, was day before yesterday unfortunately killed. He went out in the morning, with about thirty men, fell in with about one hundred of the enemy, and at once, not far distant from their lines, charged them with spirit, gave them a brisk fire, but unfortunately when loading his piece the second time, was shot in the head and fell dead. His Lieutenant shot down the man who killed his Captain. The enemy fled. Our party brought off their Captain, and yesterday evening I had him interred with the honours of war. He was a good man and valiant officer. Pray communicate this sad news to his widow, to whom I should write had I leisure, in a manner that will least affect her. I know of no other news worth communicating you. Though in the camp, I am not acquainted with the disposition of our Army. Some brigades to the northeast of us, in my humble opinion, are where they can do us no good. Perhaps I am mistaken. I am not well acquainted with the country.

I must beg an answer to my letter wherein I desired you to ask a favour to the Convention; and am, with the utmost esteem, yours affectionately,

Geo. Clinton.

I need not ask you to forward the enclosed: I know you will do it. Though determined never to meddle much with the disposition of officers, I can't help recommending Colonel *Du Bois* and his officers, who served in our Army to the northward last year, to the Convention. Should they quit the Army by any neglect, it will be a publick loss. They are brave men and good officers; at least such of them as have joined our brigade.

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GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

At a General Court-Martial, held by order of his Excellency General *Washington*, near *White-Plains*, for the trial of such prisoners as shall be brought before them, *November* 2d, 1776:

Brigadier-General *McDougall*, President.

Members: Colonel *Baldwin*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Weisenfells*, Major *Sherman*, Captain *Coggswell*, Captain *Bolster*, Captain *Crooker*, Captain *Knap*, Captain *Coal*, Captain *Warner*, Captain *Lee*, Captain *Hull*, Captain *Pelton*.

Captain *Andrew Peters*, Judge-Advocate *pro tem.*

The Court proceeded to the trial of Colonel *Morris Graham*, who was on the 28th of *October* last posted, with his regiment, more than once behind stone fences, but retreated from each without firing a gun. The same was done by the other parties; and when called on (by the Adjutant-General) they alleged Colonel *Firmen's* orders, when the said Adjutant-General saw him endeavouring to keep the different parties up to their posts.

The said Colonel *Graham*, being arraigned before the Court, and the question put to him, whether he was guilty or not guilty of the charge alleged against him, he plead Not guilty.

Colonel *Read*, being sworn, says that he posted Colonel *Graham*, with his regiment, on the said 28th of *October*, behind a stone fence, to good advantage, and that he retreated without firing on the enemy, as they advanced towards him.

Colonel *Firmen*, being sworn, says Colonel *Graham* was retreating, and he asked him the reason of it. Colonel *Graham* alleged Colonel *Read's* orders for it. He further says that Colonel *Graham* retreated from one post where he was placed, without any orders from him; but, after he saw great confusion among the men, he thinks he told Colonel *Graham* he might retreat.

The Court adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*November* 3d.—The Court met according to adjournment.

Captain *Teller*, being sworn, says, when they retreated from the stone fence, where they were first properly posted, he took it for granted they had Colonel *Firmen's* orders, but did not hear it, and that he saw no signs of fear in Colonel *Graham;* and while some of his officers were urging him to retreat, he begged of them to keep their places, and he would go and get Colonel *Firmen's* orders.

Adjutant *Hopkins*, being sworn, says he did not know of the said Colonel *Graham's* being posted in order at but two fences, and he did not know of any orders for retreating from the first, but from the last he heard Colonel *Graham* order him to retreat.

Lieutenant *Betts*, being sworn, says he heard Colonel *Firman* order Colonel *Graham* to retreat from the first stone fence they were posted at, and in other matters agrees with Adjutant *Hopkins*.

Sergeant *McNeal*, being sworn, says he did not hear Colonel *Firmen's* orders for retreating from the first stone fence where they were posted, and says he saw no signs of fear in Colonel *Graham*.

*George Stover*, being sworn, says he heard Colonel *Firmen* order Colonel *Graham* to retreat from the first fence they were posted at.

*Elias Wickham*, being sworn, says he heard orders for retreating from the first fence they were posted at, and supposed it to be Colonel *Firmen* that gave the orders.

The Court, not being able to obtain a vote, determined to reëxamine the witnesses; and then adjourned till to-morrow morning, ten o'clock.

*November 4th.* The Court met according to adjournment, and proceeded to reëxamine such witnesses as they found necessary.

Colonel *Read*, being reëxamined, says that he posted Colonel *Graham's* regiment at two different places, and the last place was on or near the ridge of a hill, and he thinks nearly in a line with a stone house.

Colonel *Firmen*, being reëxamined, says that Colonel

*Graham* was posted at three different places, after they were taken from an open field.

*Ebenezer Woodard*, being sworn, says that Colonel *Read* ordered Colonel *Graham's* regiment from an open field to a fence by a cornfield, and when they came there, that Colonel *Read* said he thought that fence not sufficient, and said they had better retreat to the next fence, across the cornfield, which they did; and that he heard Colonel *Firmen* order Colonel *Graham* to retreat from the last-named fence; and that he did not know of their being posted more than twice; and who gave orders for retreating from the last post, he could not tell; and being asked whether he saw any signs of fear in Colonel *Graham*, answered in the negative; and further said that he repeatedly heard Colonel *Graham* urge his officers and men to keep in order and stand their ground.

*William Stevens*, being sworn, agrees exactly with *Ebenezer Woodward*.

*Joel Washburn*, being sworn, says he heard Colonel *Firmen* order Colonel *Graham* to retreat from the last post they were placed at, which was by a hay barrack, and that he repeatedly heard Colonel *Graham* call on his men to keep their ground and remember what they were fighting for.

The Court find from the general stream of the evidence that, while some of Colonel *Graham's* officers were urging him to retreat, he was active in stimulating his officers and men to do their duty, and did not retreat without orders. The Court determine that he is not guilty of the charge alleged against him.

ALEX'R McDOUGALL, *Brigadier-General, President.*

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JOHANNES SLEGHT TO PRESIDENT NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Rochester, 2d November, 1776.

SIR: Pursuant to a resolve of your honourable Convention, to me directed, I have engaged to about the value of one hundred pounds, chiefly in shoes, to be delivered in five weeks from the date hereof. You will please to order the above sum to me by Mr. *Drummond*, the *Kingston* post, as soon as possible.

Remain, with due esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

JNO. SLEGHT.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO EGBERT BENSON.

Fishkill, November 2d, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed petition and order thereon, I am directed by the Committee of Safety for this State to refer to the General Committee for the County of *Dutchess*, to be by them, as soon as convenient, taken under consideration.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

By order:

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice President.*

To *Egbert Benson*, Esq., Chairman of the General Committee of the County of *Dutchess*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 2d, 1776—three o'clock, P. M.

DEAR SIR: I am this moment favoured with yours of the 31st ultimo. By General *Carleton's* late manœuvre, it would seem as if he wanted ocular proof of your situation and strength, that he might inform his superiours of it, and secure himself against any fault that might be found with him for not attempting to dislodge us from *Ticonderoga*.

Although it is improbable that Sir *John Johnson* set out so early as the deserters mention, yet there is great reason to believe, from the circumstances which I mentioned in my letter to you from *Saratoga*, that an attempt will be made, either on the *Mohawk* river, or to cut off the communication between this and *Ticonderoga*. Either event should be carefully guarded against; and to do this effectually, I am of opinion that a good regiment should be immediately sent to *Fort George*, and two others to the *Mohawk* river; and as you are now reinforced by some Militia, who may do tolerably well when covered by lines and other works, I beg you will hasten the regiment to *Fort George*, and two into *Tryon* County: those for the latter place should by no means wait for their baggage; as they will be quartered in good farm-houses, they can dispense with it for a few days.

Flour is now on its way to you in great quantities, partly by *Skeensborough* and partly by *Fort George*; so that I hope you will not suffer in that article.

Report says that we have had a general engagement with the enemy, near the *White-Plains*, in which they have suffered very considerably. I hope to send you a confirmation of this account.

I am, dear General, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Honourable General *Gates*.

Please to advise me of the day on which the regiments move.

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H. GLEN TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Schenectady, 2d November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Captain *Varick's* letter to your order this moment came to hand. Captain *Woollcott's* company and the battoes are wanted at *Albany*. Shall be on their way this evening. I am put to it to the highest degree for wagons. Colonel *Dayton's* regiment took such a number, and the number I have sent with flour from this, puts it almost out of my power to get six wagons for the battoes, though I shall leave no stone unturned till I have them. I had intended to have sent *Woollcott's* company up to *Fort Schuyler*, with such articles as soap, candles, Indian meal, and for the last, as the season is far advanced, I had wrote yesterday on the subject to Mr. *Avery*, Deputy Commissary-General. This company going to *Albany*, puts it out of my power. The barracks at last got in a fair way. Nails I want much; the work will stand still for want of them.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient humble servant,

H. GLEN.

To Major-General *Schuyler*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

Providence, November 2d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I left *Newport* the 26th *October* last. The *Alfred* and *Hamden* were then ready under sail, going out, but on the 28th I received a letter from Captain *Jones*, a copy of which you have enclosed. I set off directly to *Newport*, and found the *Hamden* so much damaged that she must be hove out. I put Captain *Hacker*, with all his hands, on board the sloop *Providence*, and they both sailed yesterday, with their former orders. I went from there to *King's* County, to the General Assembly, and applied for an embargo until the Continental fleet was manned; but failed in getting it by two votes, owing to a number of the members being deeply concerned in privateering.

I am at a loss how we shall get the ship manned, as I think near one third of the men which have been shipped, and received their month's pay, have been one way or another carried away in the privateers. I wish I had your orders giving me leave, whenever I found any man on board the privateers, not only to take him out, but all the rest of the men. That might make them more cautious of taking the men out of the service of the States. I thought I had some influence in the State I have so long lived in, but find now that private interest bears more sway than I wish it did. Shall go down to *Newport* in a day or two, and do all in my power to get the new ships, the *Columbus* and *Hamden*, every way ready for the sea; though I think it may not be best to let any single one go, for fear you might have some particular service for a number together.

A three-deck ship, prize of the *Cabot's*, arrived yesterday in the river. I could wish your commissions would come for the officers of the new ships, or that you would give me orders to commission them, as they seem to be uneasy at not having them.

I am, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

E. HOPKINS.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the honourable Marine Committee, at *Philadelphia*.

CAPTAIN J. PAUL JONES TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

Alfred, Tarpawlin Cove, 2d November, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: As the wind fell very light yesterday afternoon, and had a southerly appearance, Captain *Hacker* and I thought it most advisable to go through the shoals. It was dark when we got in here. I found at anchor the privateer schooner *Eagle*, Captain *Field;* and having examined her and found *John Dobie* and *James Minhew*, belonging to the fleet, and *Joseph Ryder* and *James King*, belonging to the *Rhode-Island* brigade, concealed away below, I took them out, with about twenty others, agreeable to your orders. I shall now proceed with all possible despatch. I hear that Mr. *Burroughs* is at anchor off *Nantucket*, and has got a pilot. I congratulate Captain *Whipple* on this information; and am, with much esteem, honoured sir, your much obliged and very obedient humble servant,

J. P. JONES.

To Commodore *Hopkins*.

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CAPTAIN KILTY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 3, 1776.

HONOURED SIRS: On *Friday* last we finished heaving down the schooner *Ninety-Two*, and yesterday I called a survey of masters of ships on her standing rigging. They gave their opinion that the rigging was sufficient for a voyage. Her foremast is bad. I intend to get it out to-morrow, and check it or get a new one. I intend to begin to load on *Tuesday* next. The scarcity of men to work is incredible; as to sailors, there is not one to be got. Mr. *Smith* cannot supply me with linen cordage, but I believe Mr. *Lux* can furnish us with what we want.

The *Resolution* has twenty hogsheads tobacco and two hundred and twenty barrels flour in. She will be loaded this next week.

I am, honoured sirs, your most obliged, humble servant,

JOHN KILTY.

To the honourable the Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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HENRY HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

3rd November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: On *Wednesday* last, and not before, I received your favour of the 10th of *October*. I observe the contents. As to the eighty-four bayonets mentioned, I had no expectation that they would all do, but supposed some of them would. I have not yet been able to find out but one smith that can forge a bayonet properly; but on receiving your letter of the 12th of *July*, in which you request very pressingly that four hundred bayonets be made of different sizes for the Flying-Camp Militia, I set several workmen to work at forging bayonets, who at first made them very deficient, some of the worst of which I kept here, as not fit for use at any rate, and sent many on, which were of the best, with the Flying-Camp Militia, receipts for which I have now with me; the remainder, such as they are, I sent to Mr. *Winters*, desiring him at the same time to send those that were not fit for use back; as also all barrels that proved not good, or unfit for use, to be sent back, with his objection to them in writing, by which I hoped in a short time to be complete in our business; but to my disappointment have never received one, though frequent opportunities.

Had the large barrels mentioned been sent back, they might have been long since made small, as they were sent to Mr. *Winters* the 10th *September*, and were made as near as I could to his directions, as he wrote me some I had sent before had not stood proof for want of substance. And your Honours will please recollect that I never had a pattern sent me; but I am of opinion that Mr. *Winters's* hands did not long stand for want of work, for I find by my books, that on the 30th of the same month, he had fifty barrels more, which I hear of no fault to; and had the others been sent back, they could have been made small in three days.

'Tis said the bayonets are too soft, which I doubt not, as they are all steeled with *American* steel, (or at least the smiths had steel of me for them,) some of which I found after to be raw iron, not at all converted into steel, which at that time I was a stranger to it, as it was sold me for good steel—an imposition I hope to prevent in future, as I had (now) when last in *Philadelphia* contracted with Messrs. *Shoemaker & Humphreys* to take two ton a year, and to have it in the flat burr, blistered, in which order 'tis easily known whether 'tis steel or not.

As Mr. *Joseph Gilpin* was good enough to acquaint me that you had censured me, and I had received nothing from your Honours, I wrote him last week, partly to the same effect of this scrawl, which, together, I flatter myself may serve to satisfy your Honours that I am not altogether so culpable as at first might appear.

I have through the course of this week been busied in sending on three companies to Flying-Camp, and am waiting now for the *Carolinians*, which I expect every hour, which, when I have forwarded, shall immediately wait on your Honours, when I doubt not of rendering full satisfaction.

The large and small barrels and bayonets are going on as usual. Shall bring a parcel of each sort with me, or send them by first opportunity; and am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

H. HOLLINGSWORTH.

To the honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis*.

P. S. If your Honours take the trouble to consult the Delegates from this County, I flatter myself they will inform you that I have not been an idle servant to the publick, or your Honours.

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CÆSAR RODNEY TO CAPTAIN JOHN PAPLEY.

Dover, November 3, 1776.

SIR: The several articles you sent on board the vessel for me are come safe to hand. I confess myself under obligation to you for your care and attention to that as well as many other little matters which I have heretofore requested of you, and shall be happy, whenever it shall be your pleasure to ask, to find it in my power to do you a service.

I am in a better state of health than when I left *Philadelphia*, and though very much engaged in business, have many not only pleasing but laughable reflections; among others the happiness my good landlady must feel in my being so far removed from the backgammon tables, which so often interrupted her evening's repose. Yet I think she bore it with as much patience as most new-married ladies possibly could. Pray make my compliments to her and Miss *Sukey*, and let not *Sally* be forgot. It is thought by many that *Sally* is apt to discover too much warmth of temper; it may be so, but I have always found her candid, honest, sensible, and obliging, and therefore a favourite. She will (I have no doubt) with the addition of a few years, under so good a manager as she has, make a very fine woman.

If it should be my misfortune to be obliged to leave home and attend Congress, I shall be with you. You will be pleased to make my compliments to Mr. *Etting*, and believe me, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

CÆSAR RODNEY.

Captain *John Papley, Philadelphia*.

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MATHEW IRWIN TO GENERAL GATES.

Philadelphia, 3d November, 1776.

SIR: Mr. *Lukens* informs me that he was sent here by you to get clothing for the Army under your command; that Messrs. *Mease & Caldwell* have not, and from the multiplicity of their business cannot, do the needful for the Northern Army; therefore I take the liberty of acquainting you that I have a considerable quantity of clothes on hand, and much spare time, if you choose to employ me to provide clothing and necessaries for your men. I shall do it for a reasonable commission, and you may be assured I shall use my utmost exertions in giving you satisfaction.

Various are the reports from your quarter. One of your Colonels, in a letter dated soon after the affair on the Lakes, give us to know you were in a dismal situation. I don't know the ground, but notwithstanding have great hopes and confidence in your success.

Colonel *Irwin*, whom you would find a worthy, honest fellow, wants much to be released, in order to command his regiment. Mrs. *Gates* and Mr. *Robert* arrived here a few days since in good health. They write per this conveyance. I wish you health and happiness, and believe me to be, sir, your most assured servant,

MATHEW IRWIN.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO DR. SHIPPEN.

Head-Quarters, 3d November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I am favoured with yours of the 29th last month. Although by the resolutions of Congress you are appointed to the Director Generalship of the Flying-Camp in *New-Jersey*, and Doctor *Morgan* to that of the Continental Army which has lain on this side the *North River*, yet I never imagined it meant to exclude either of you from the power of establishing hospitals on which ever side of the river you thought most convenient for your respective sick. Under the circumstances in which we left *New-York*, we found it impossible to remove our sick up the country on this side the river; Doctor *Morgan* was therefore directed to provide and prepare hospitals for them in *Jersey*, to be under the control of him and his assistants.

He informs me he has left Doctor *Foster* with proper assistants to take care of those sick who were removed from this Army; and it is my desire that they may remain under his direction. He will undoubtedly take proper measures to provide comfortably for them. As fast as they recover they are to be sent over to this Army again; and though they may have put you to some inconvenience for a time, yet consider the necessity of the times must plead the excuse. We have now established hospitals in this neighbourhood, and therefore shall have occasion to send no more to *Jersey*. As fast as Doctor *Foster's* sick are removed the houses will be left for your use and convenience.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Dr. *William Shippen*.

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R. H. HARRISON TO GENERAL GREENE.

White-Plains, November 3d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I am directed by his Excellency to acknowledge his receipt of your favour of the 29th ultimo with its enclosures. He has examined the estimate of provisions and provender, and approves not only of the quantities, but of the places you have fixed upon for 'em to be deposited at. He concurs entirely in your observation, that no loss can arise, though the estimate should prove rather large; but of that there will be little doubt, as our consumption and demands will be extremely great.

Since my letter of yesterday, no event of an interesting nature has turned up; but we have just received intelligence from General *Parsons*, who is stationed with his brigade at the *Saw-Pits*, that a large body of the enemy have advanced within a mile of him. He is on his march to meet 'em, and requested some troops to be sent to maintain the lines he has thrown up.

I am, &c., R. H. HARRISON.

To Major-General *Greene*.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read the 6th: Referred to Board of War.]

White-Plains, November 3, 1776.

SIR: By command of his Excellency I have the honour to inform you that our situation is nearly the same as when I had the pleasure of writing you last. It is altered in no instance, unless in the number of our troops, which is every day decreasing, by their most scandalous desertion and return home.

The enclosed letter from General *Parsons*, who is stationed near the *Saw-Pits*, and which his Excellency directed me to transmit, will inform you of the prevalency of this disagreeable practice.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROB'T H. HARRISON.

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DR. CURTIS TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Camp White-Plains, November 3d, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIR: The affairs of my paternal estate remaining as yet unsettled, and many other reasons rendering my quitting the Army for the present indispensably necessary, I should be much obliged to the honourable the Congress if they would be pleased to appoint some other person to supply my place in the new arrangement of officers for this regiment.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

BENJ. CURTIS,
*Surg'n of the First New-York Reg't.*

To the honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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COMMITTEE OF MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[November 9: Referred to J. Wilson, E. Rutledge, G. Wythe.]

Head-Quarters, near White-Plains, November 3d, 1776.

SIR: We are a Committee of the General Assembly of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, appointed to officer and inlist seven battalions for the Continental service, during the continuance of the present war with *Great Britain*, out of the officers and soldiers now in the Continental Army at or near *White-Plains*, from said State. The General Assembly of *Massachusetts-Bay* were fully sensible their quota of the new Army would not be made but by some addition to the encouragement given by the honourable Congress. Satisfied of the absolute necessity of raising their proportion, the season being far spent proper for that purpose, have passed the enclosed resolves, inlistments, and beating orders, as the only possible method for them to comply with the requisition of the honourable Congress.

We are now on the spot with blank commissions and beating orders to complete seven battalions. Have laid them before his Excellency General *Washington*, who disapproves of our proceeding to inlist men by any additional encouragement previous to our laying the matter before the honourable Congress.

Having a disposition to do every thing in our power for the defence of the *United States of America*, have despatched *George Partridge*, Esq., one of the Committee, to lay this important matter before the honourable Congress, and to wait their deliberations thereon.

We are your Honour's most obedient, very humble servants.

By order of the Committee:

TIM. DANIELSON, *Chairman*.

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In the House of Representatives, October 19, 1776.

Whereas the importance of raising the proportion of men assigned this State by the honourable Congress with the greatest despatch, is such as demands our immediate attention, and requires our utmost exertions:

Therefore, it is *Resolved*, That *Timothy Danielson*, Esq., *George Partridge*, Esq., Colonel *Josiah Sartell*, *Jonathan Gardner*, Jun., Esq., and Captain *Seth Washburn*, be a Committee to repair without delay to the camp at or near *New-York*, and there, after gaining the best intelligence they can get, and after advising with his Excellency General *Washington*, or the Commander-in-Chief in that department, respecting the characters of the officers belonging to this State now in the Army, proceed to appoint from the officers now in the Army, or others, the Field and Staff Officers for seven Battalions; and also the Captains and Subalterns for the Companies of seven Battalions, on the conditions hereafter mentioned; and to give the said Captains and Subalterns beating orders and inlistments for raising their respective Companies from men belonging to this State, upon the terms and for the time proposed by the honourable Congress, by their resolves of the 16th, 18th, and 19th *September* last; each of said Captains and Subalterns who shall inlist men as aforesaid, and shall return the original inlistments to the Committee appointed by this State, and shall not be commissioned, shall be entitled to and receive from this State six shillings for each man he shall so inlist, and that shall pass muster: And each corps of officers for a Company, consisting of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, and one Ensign raising a Company equal to the number established by Congress for a Company, on or before the first day of *December* next, to be entitled to receive their respective commissions agreeable to their appointment by said Committee; the said officers once every fortnight, or oftener, as the said Committee shall direct, making return of the men so inlisted to

said Committee, and lodging with them the original inlistments, and not to be entitled to said commissions unless they inlist a sufficient number of men to complete a Company as aforesaid.

*And also Resolved*, That *Abraham Watson*, Esquire, Colonel *Nathaniel Leonard*, Major *Jacob Davis*, Captain *Elisha Cranston*, and Mr. *William Page*, be a Committee to repair, without delay, to the camp at or near *Ticonderoga*, and there, after gaining the best intelligence they can get, and after advising with General *Gates*, or the Commander-in-Chief in that department, respecting the characters of the officers belonging to this State now in the Army, there proceed to appoint from the officers in said Army, or others, the Field and Staff Officers for five Battalions; and also the Captains and Subalterns for the Companies of five Battalions, and to give to the Captains and Subalterns for each Company beating orders and inlistments for raising their respective Companies from men belonging to this State, upon the terms and for the time proposed by the honourable Congress, by their resolves of the 16th, 18th, and 19th *September* last; each Captain and Subaltern who shall inlist men as aforesaid, and shall return the original inlistments to the Committees appointed by this State, and shall not be commissioned, shall be entitled to and receive from this State six shillings for each man he shall so inlist, and that shall pass muster: And each corps of officers for a Company, consisting of one Captain, one First Lieutenant, one Second Lieutenant, and one Ensign, raising a Company equal to the number established by Congress for a Company, on or before the first day of *December* next, to be entitled to receive their respective commissions, agreeable to the appointment made by said Committee; the said officers once every fortnight, or oftener, as the said Committee shall direct, making return of the men they shall so inlist to said Committee, and lodging with them the original inlistments, and not to be entitled to said commissions, unless they inlist a sufficient number of men to complete a Company as aforesaid.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the said Committees in their respective departments be, and hereby are empowered, at the expiration of the term above-mentioned for completing the inlistments by the several corps of officers for that purpose, appointed to deliver commissions to such as shall have completed inlistments for a full Company; and in all cases where Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns, designed for a Company, have inlisted a number of men less than a number a Company is to consist of, the said Committees are hereby empowered to form them into Companies, and to distribute the commissions to the officers in such manner as to them shall seem most conducive to the service, giving preference to such corps of officers as shall have raised the most men.

*And it is further Resolved*, That each of said Committees be, and they are hereby directed to transmit from time to time to Congress and the General Assembly of this State, the success attending their undertakings; that they give account of any embarrassments or difficulties attending the completing the aforesaid levies, and the reasons of such difficulties or embarrassments, that measures may be immediately taken to remove the same, if any there be.

*And it is further Resolved*, That the Commission Officers of each Company who shall receive commissions from the Committees aforesaid, shall appoint the Non-Commissioned Officers in their Companies respectively.

*It is further Resolved*, That each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist in the Continental service as aforesaid, shall be entitled to, and receive from this State, one Blanket annually, or eighteen Shillings in case he shall procure one for himself, and produce a certificate thereof from the Captain of the Company to which he belongs to the Paymaster of the Regiment; provided Congress shall not make provision for the same.

*It is also Resolved*, That each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist into the Continental service as aforesaid, shall be entitled to, and receive from, the Treasury of this State, twenty Shillings per month, to be paid him or his order, every six months during his continuance in the service, in addition to the pay and encouragement already granted by Congress; provided Congress shall not make any addition to their wages as established on or before the 19th *September* last. And in case the Congress shall make an increase of wages less than twenty Shillings per month, this State will supply the deficiency, and cause the same to be paid them as aforesaid.

Sent up for concurrence:

J. Warren, *Speaker*.

*In Council, October* 19, 1776: Read and concurred.

John Avery, *D'y Sec'y*.

Consented to by the major part of the Council.

A true copy. Attest:

John Avery, *Dep'y Sec'y*.

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TIMOTHY DANIELSON TO JAMES WARREN.

Head-Quarters, near White-Plains, November 3d, 1776.

Sir: The Committee appointed to repair to the Army near *New-York* arrived at Head-Quarters on *Friday* last, but had no opportunity to confer with his Excellency the General till the next day noon. We then laid the resolves of the Assembly before him relative to recruiting our proportion of the Army; but found the augmentation of the pay of the soldiers was very disagreeable to him. We informed him of what we took to be the sense of the Assembly relative to the disposition of our people, and the means necessary to induce them to engage in the service, and that nothing would have influenced our Assembly to have made any addition to the establishment as settled by Congress, but its being absolutely necessary in order to our recruiting our quota of men. But it was clear in his Excellency's mind, that, though it might promote the raising of our quota, yet it would effectually prevent the inlisting of the remainder of the Army, if the other Colonies should adopt similar measures, which, he thought, never would do, as it was not without repeated applications that he could induce Congress to give them a suit of clothes yearly; and further, he was of opinion that in case the other Colonies should be able to raise their quota on a lower establishment, they never could be brought to duty in the camp without murmuring, if not mutinying, and that he had seen convincing experiments of this kind in the year past in some southern regiments raised at five dollars per month, and brought to do duty with the other part of the Army. But he advised the Committee to make immediate application to Congress on this matter, and suspend the inlistments till we receive an answer. And as his advice comported with our instructions, we have appointed Mr. *George Partridge* to repair to Congress for instructions or advice; and should be glad of further instructions from the honourable Court how we shall conduct in case your resolves for raising our proportion of the new Army should be reprobated by Congress, which we do much expect. In the mean time we shall be employed in examining the characters of the officers recommended by the General for the new Army, and their minds relative to engaging.

We have the honour to be, sir, with great respect, your most obedient and very humble servants,

By order of the Committee:

Timo. Danielson, *Chairman*.

To the Hon. *James Warren*, Esq., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

White-Plains, November 4, 1776.

A General Court-Martial set this day by adjournment: Brigadier-General *McDougall*, President.

Members: Colonel *Baldwin*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Weisenfells*, Major *Sherman*, Captain *Coggswell*, Captain *Bolster*, Captain *Crooker*, Captain *Knap*, Captain *Coal*, Captain *Warner*, Captain *Lee*, Captain *Hull*, Captain *Pelton*, Captain *Fenner*.

Captain *Andrew Peters*, Judge Advocate *pro temp*.

The Court proceeded to the trial of Captain *Gerrish*, of Colonel *Little's* regiment, who was arrested by Colonel *Hand* for leaving his post on the approach of a part of the enemy's Light-Horse.

Captain *Gerrish* being asked whether he was guilty or not guilty of the charge alleged against him, plead Not guilty.

*Enoch Young*, being sworn, says, that on the 1st instant Captain *Gerrish* paraded his guard and marched them a little

distance from where they first took post to a corner of the wood, where they halted; that Captain *Gerrish* went out from thence and said when he returned that he saw about twenty of the enemy's Light-Horse; upon which he marched his men a little farther, to a wall, and said he could easily cut off the party of Light-Horse, if they should approach near him.

*George Richardson*, being sworn, says, that he heard Colonel *Nixon* order Captain *Gerrish* to march his guard to the corner of the wood referred to by the last witness; and further agrees with the last witness.

*Samuel Lord*, being sworn, says, that after Captain *Gerrish* had marched his guard to the wall above-named, he sent out about five men with a Sergeant to make discoveries, and upon seeing some of Colonel *Hand's* officers, thought them to be the enemy, and ran back towards the wall; and being asked why they ran, they said because their officer ran, (meaning the Sergeant.)

Lieutenant *Abraham Skinner*, being sworn, says that he, with a party of Colonel *Hand's* regiment, came to the place where he supposed Captain *Gerrish* was posted the first instant, (to which *Samuel Lord* agrees,) where they found provision partly cooked, which was nearer the enemy than the place they had retired to, (as he thought,) and that Captain *Gerrish* being asked why he had moved his party, he replied that it was a scouting party, and he had a right to move them where he pleased.

Mr. *Patten* being sworn, says that he, with a party of Colonel *Hand's* regiment, came up to the place where Captain *Gerrish* had been posted, (as he supposed,) and that after he had been there a short space, Captain *Gerrish* and some of his party came up to them, and one of Captain *Gerrish's* men says to him, 'tis a pity we moved so soon; but Captain *Gerrish* did allege General *Nixon's* or Colonel *Nixon's* orders for it.

Colonel *Nixon*, being sworn, says that he ordered Captain *Gerrish* to move his guard from where he had first taken post, in order the better to divide the ground between Captain *Gerrish* and the other guards, and that he had General *Nixon's* directions for giving said order.

The Court determine that Captain *Gerrish* is not guilty of the charge alleged against him, and that it is entirely groundless.

ALX'R McDOUGALL, *Brigadier-General, President.*

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*Return of seven Companies of Light-Horse, from the State of* CONNECTICUT, *under the command of Major* SHELDON.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. | | | | | | | | | | Rank and File. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Commiss'ned. | | | | Staff. | | Non-Com'd. | | | | | | | |
| | Major. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Cornets. | Quartermasters. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster Sergeant. | Corporals. | Trumpeters. | Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | Total. |
| Captain Sloper.... | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 16 | - | - | 16 |
| Captain Bull ..... | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 2 | 12 | - | - | 12 |
| Captain Seymour . | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 | 20 | - | - | 20 |
| Captain Butler ... | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 2 | 18 | - | - | 18 |
| Captain Skinner .. | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 5 | 1 | 25 | - | - | 25 |
| Captain Dutcher .. | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 18 | - | - | 18 |
| Lieut. Seymour ... | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 5 | 1 | 9 | - | 3 | 12 |
| Total..... | 1 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 10 | 118 | - | 3 | 121 |

Captain *Dutcher* and his company on command at the *Fishkill*.

ELISHA SHELDON, *Commandant.*

Attest: JNO. CANFIELD, *Adjutant.*

Camp at *Greenwich*, *November* 3, A. D. 1776.

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ISAAC I. SEBRING'S AFFIDAVIT.

FISHKILL, *State of* NEW-YORK, *ss:*

*Isaac I. Sebring*, late of *King's* County, on *Nassau-Island*, but now of *Fishkill*, and State above-mentioned, being sworn, deposeth and saith: That on the thirty-first of *October* last he was at the house of *Domini Vanderlinder*, when Mrs. *Vanderlinder* showed him a printed handbill, dated at *New-York*, *October* 4th, with the signature "*A. Emmerich*," highly reflecting on the Continental Congress, and very prejudicial to the interest of *America*. That this deponent requested the loan of the said paper from Mrs. *Vanderlinder*, who said she had borrowed it from a soldier who had found three of them under a chestnut-tree near her house, and could not spare it, but that there were more of them in the neighbourhood. In consequence of which, when he, the said *Sebring*, came to the house of a Mr. *Hopper*, Inn-keeper at *Piramus*, in the County of *Bergen*, and State of *New-Jersey*, he inquired for some of the said papers, and one of them was given to him, either by Mrs. *Hopper*, the wife of the said *Hopper*, or his daughter, this deponent is not certain which. And further this deponent saith not.

ISAAC I. SEBRING.

Sworn this third day of *November*, 1776, before me,
PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *V. Pres't.*

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LETTER TO THE NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Fishkill, November 3d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: When the Committee asked me if I would take the oath of allegiance to the *United States*, for several reasons I refused. Soon after I came to you and acquainted you with it, and that the principal reason was, that should I take the oath, and at any time a draft of men was necessary, that if it should be my lot to go and I procure a man in my stead, it might be refused, and then should I neglect to go, I should forfeit my oath, which is a most sacred thing. I have talked with several of my acquaintance on the subject, and should be glad to see the copy of the oath; and if it does not put me on a worse footing than my neighbour, and I can have liberty to go home on the same footing as friends to my country, I shall have no objection in taking it; and shall be much obliged to you for your trouble if you would get the copy of the oath, and just step to see me, for I should be glad to see you.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Albany, November 3d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I do myself the honour to enclose you copy of a letter which I received yesterday from General *Gates*, with copy of a paper enclosed.

If Sir *John Johnson* did actually begin his march at the time mentioned by the deserters, he must have met with such difficulties as has obliged him to return, for he could not have subsisted so long a time in the woods; but lest he should have delayed his departure, and marched some time since, I have ordered two regiments from *Tyonderoga* to *Tryon* County, and one to *Fort George*. About a thousand of the Militia are also in *Tryon* County, which, with their own, and what troops are there now, will something exceed two thousand.

I do not apprehend that General *Carleton* will attempt our lines. It is to be wished that he did; as it is almost certain, if he does, that he will experience a repulse.

A report prevails here that your Excellency has had a capital engagement with the enemy, in which they greatly suffered, and that they also made an unsuccessful attack on *Fort Washington*. I hope for the pleasure of a confirmation of this agreeable intelligence.

Be pleased to forward copy of General *Gates's* letter, and of the other paper to Congress, as I have not wrote them on the occasion.

If General *Carleton* does not mean to attack, he must soon return, as the inclemency of the season will not suffer him to remain long encamped? Should that event take place, I shall immediately thereafter draw the troops from *Tyonderoga*, leaving about two thousand five hundred men as a garrison.

I am, dear sir, with great esteem and respect, your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

*General Return of the Army in the service of the* UNITED STATES. *November 3, 1776.*

| DISTRIBUTION. | OFFICERS PRESENT. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | RANK AND FILE. | | | | | | *Wanting to complete.* | | *Alterations since last Return.* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Commissioned.* | | | | | | *Staff.* | | | | | *Non-Com'd.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Colonels. | Lieut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Paymasters | Surgeons. | Mates. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
| *General Parsons's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Prescott's | 1 | 1 | - | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 21 | 9 | 211 | 46 | 59 | 60 | - | 376 | 1 | 1 | 264 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Tyler's | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 16 | 12 | 231 | 73 | 68 | 147 | 6 | 525 | - | - | 110 | - | - | 1 | 4 |
| Colonel Huntington's | 1 | - | - | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 19 | 14 | 136 | 38 | 50 | 98 | - | 322 | 13 | 2 | 316 | - | - | 2 | - |
| Colonel Ward's | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 21 | 7 | 176 | 26 | 72 | 207 | 1 | 483 | - | 3 | 157 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel McIntosh's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 14 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 27 | 14 | 259 | 20 | 23 | 1 | - | 303 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Colonel Carpenter's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 20 | 6 | 130 | 16 | 11 | 34 | - | 191 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Cogswell's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 20 | 5 | 287 | 14 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 321 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Throop's | - | 1 | - | 5 | 2 | - | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 17 | 4 | 104 | 22 | 49 | 19 | - | 194 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Major Rogers's | - | - | 1 | 10 | 8 | - | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 40 | 7 | 108 | 31 | 32 | 11 | - | 172 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Horsford's | - | - | - | 4 | 8 | - | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 16 | 4 | 106 | - | 82 | 5 | - | 193 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 31 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Smith's | - | - | - | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 27 | 5 | 62 | 15 | 28 | 7 | - | 112 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Total | 7 | 6 | 5 | 61 | 69 | 25 | 49 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 258 | 90 | 1810 | 301 | 479 | 593 | 8 | 3192 | 14 | 6 | 847 | 2 | 2 | 37 | 21 |
| *General Scott's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Lasher's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 23 | 7 | 104 | 25 | 24 | 74 | 5 | 232 | 7 | 13 | 438 | 4 | - | 1 | - |
| Colonel Malcom's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 24 | 5 | 99 | 10 | 9 | 57 | - | 175 | 9 | 15 | 495 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Drake's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 9 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 29 | 12 | 190 | 29 | 149 | 82 | - | 450 | 1 | 8 | 820 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Humphrey's | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 14 | 6 | 123 | 20 | 6 | 57 | 2 | 208 | 2 | 4 | 127 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 3 | 4 | 4 | 30 | 33 | 24 | - | 3 | 4 | 4 | - | 4 | 1 | 87 | 30 | 516 | 84 | 188 | 270 | 7 | 1065 | 19 | 40 | 1210 | 4 | - | 1 | - |
| *General George Clinton's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Thomas's | 1 | - | - | 4 | 6 | 4 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 23 | 9 | 166 | 17 | 85 | 52 | 7 | 327 | - | - | 113 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Colonel Graham's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 13 | 102 | 22 | 53 | 67 | 4 | 248 | - | - | 176 | - | - | 2 | - |
| Colonel Swartwout's | 1 | - | - | 8 | 7 | 9 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 27 | 12 | 184 | 54 | 37 | 64 | 19 | 358 | 1 | 2 | 147 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Nicoll's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 22 | 13 | 140 | 39 | 65 | 46 | 1 | 291 | 3 | 3 | 132 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Colonel Pawling's | 1 | 1 | - | 6 | 2 | 7 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 13 | 10 | 185 | 32 | 52 | 99 | 6 | 374 | - | 4 | 105 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Total | 5 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 33 | 33 | 1 | - | 5 | 5 | - | 5 | 1 | 105 | 57 | 777 | 164 | 292 | 328 | 38 | 1598 | 4 | 9 | 673 | - | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| *General Wadsworth's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Sillman's | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 16 | 10 | 140 | 18 | 160 | 58 | - | 376 | 1 | 2 | 288 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Gay's | - | - | 1 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 31 | 14 | 150 | 35 | 162 | 73 | 1 | 421 | 1 | 2 | 243 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Colonel Sage's | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 31 | 15 | 170 | 72 | 185 | 51 | - | 478 | 1 | 1 | 186 | - | 1 | 3 | - |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Lattimer's | - | 1 | - | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 18 | 9 | 224 | 42 | 142 | 69 | - | 477 | 4 | 3 | 187 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Colonel Douglass's | - | 1 | - | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 24 | 13 | 228 | 36 | 128 | 72 | 1 | 465 | - | 1 | 199 | 1 | 4 | 2 | - |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 22 | 20 | 27 | 1 | 4 | 5 | - | 2 | 2 | 120 | 61 | 912 | 203 | 777 | 323 | 2 | 2217 | 7 | 9 | 1103 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| *General Nixon's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Nixon | - | 1 | - | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 20 | 15 | 196 | 54 | 23 | 123 | - | 396 | - | 1 | 244 | - | - | 4 | - |
| Colonel Varnum's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 22 | 7 | 161 | 21 | 108 | 79 | - | 369 | - | - | 271 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Hitchcock's | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 11 | 11 | 128 | 131 | 7 | 86 | - | 352 | 1 | - | 288 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Colonel Little's | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 25 | 13 | 196 | 23 | 69 | 146 | - | 434 | - | - | 201 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Lippitt's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 9 | - | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 48 | 20 | 338 | 56 | 60 | 3 | - | 457 | - | 4 | 179 | - | 2 | 2 | - |
| Total | 3 | 4 | 4 | 29 | 30 | 21 | 27 | 2 | 5 | 5 | - | 3 | 2 | 126 | 66 | 1019 | 285 | 267 | 437 | - | 2008 | 1 | 5 | 1183 | - | 3 | 6 | - |
| *General Clinton's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Read's | - | - | 1 | - | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 21 | 13 | 232 | 123 | 7 | 125 | - | 487 | 2 | - | 153 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Colonel Glover's | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 15 | 171 | 20 | 13 | 149 | - | 356 | - | 1 | 284 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Bailey's | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 18 | 11 | 175 | 158 | 2 | 147 | - | 482 | - | 1 | 158 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Colonel Shepard's | - | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 16 | 10 | 227 | 86 | 3 | 186 | 1 | 503 | - | 2 | 137 | - | 3 | 1 | - |
| Colonel Baldwin's | - | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 26 | 10 | 263 | 106 | 11 | 82 | - | 462 | - | 1 | 178 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 | 3 | 4 | 24 | 26 | 23 | 23 | 1 | 4 | 5 | - | 3 | 3 | 101 | 59 | 1068 | 493 | 36 | 689 | 1 | 2290 | 2 | 5 | 910 | - | 5 | 1 | - |
| *General McDougall's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Webb's | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 19 | 8 | 191 | 73 | 46 | 208 | 9 | 526 | 1 | 4 | 114 | - | 4 | - | - |
| Lieut. McDougall's | - | - | - | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 142 | 22 | 76 | 13 | 1 | 314 | 11 | 6 | 326 | 4 | 1 | - | 10 |
| Colonel Ritzema's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 11 | 198 | 12 | 61 | 61 | 10 | 342 | 1 | 2 | 275 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Colonel Smallwood's | - | - | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 14 | 298 | 84 | 354 | 57 | 1 | 794 | 13 | 13 | 337 | 2 | 7 | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 18 | 25 | 25 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 68 | 42 | 829 | 191 | 537 | 339 | 21 | 1976 | 26 | 25 | 1052 | 11 | 18 | 2 | 14 |
| *General Fellows's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Holman's | - | - | 1 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 23 | 6 | 306 | 102 | 84 | 80 | - | 572 | - | - | - | - | 11 | - | 1 |
| Colonel Carey's | - | - | 1 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 26 | 15 | 318 | 70 | 99 | 67 | - | 554 | 4 | 2 | 176 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Colonel Smith's | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 26 | 10 | 311 | 51 | 116 | 52 | - | 530 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Total | - | 1 | 3 | 15 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 1 | 3 | 3 | - | 2 | 2 | 75 | 31 | 935 | 223 | 299 | 199 | - | 1656 | 4 | 2 | 176 | - | 11 | - | 3 |
| Colonel Sargent's | - | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 242 | 50 | 106 | 100 | - | 498 | - | - | 143 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Chester's | 1 | - | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 13 | 12 | 234 | 107 | 41 | 135 | 3 | 520 | 2 | 1 | 144 | 1 | 4 | 4 | - |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Stoors's | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 13 | 10 | 62 | 48 | 78 | 42 | - | 230 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 | - | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 10 | - | 3 | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | 43 | 33 | 538 | 205 | 225 | 277 | 3 | 1248 | 2 | 1 | 287 | 1 | 4 | - | - |
| *General Saltonstall's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Douglass's | 1 | - | 1 | 8 | 8 | - | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 26 | 9 | 56 | 41 | 25 | 22 | 1 | 145 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Ely's | - | 1 | - | 9 | 9 | 3 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 31 | 7 | 119 | 53 | 57 | 18 | - | 247 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Major Graves's | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 13 | 3 | 57 | 47 | 122 | 15 | 2 | 244 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Colonel Baldwin's | - | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 30 | 14 | 288 | 50 | 32 | 56 | - | 426 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Total | 1 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 26 | 4 | 19 | - | 4 | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | 100 | 33 | 520 | 191 | 236 | 111 | 3 | 1062 | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | 1 |
| *Major-General Lincoln's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Brooke's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 9 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 33 | 15 | 340 | 81 | 46 | - | 19 | 486 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Mosely's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 31 | 15 | 295 | 32 | 22 | - | - | 349 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Symonds's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 30 | 11 | 276 | 28 | 25 | - | 4 | 333 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Howe's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 29 | 10 | 252 | 24 | 20 | - | 8 | 304 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 4 | 4 | 4 | 32 | 32 | 29 | - | 4 | 4 | 4 | - | 4 | 3 | 125 | 51 | 1165 | 165 | 82 | - | 31 | 1472 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *Lord Stirling's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Reed's | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 31 | 12 | 230 | 49 | 151 | 60 | 6 | 486 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Weedon's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 31 | 14 | 200 | 30 | 247 | 64 | 2 | 603 | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Haslet's | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | - | 3 | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 12 | 9 | 273 | 26 | 228 | 21 | - | 548 | 6 | 1 | 92 | - | 5 | - | 1 |
| Colonel Haller's | 1 | - | - | 2 | 6 | 6 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 8 | 260 | 6 | 27 | 7 | 1 | 301 | 1 | 6 | 161 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Cunningham's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 33 | 5 | 318 | 57 | 47 | - | 7 | 429 | - | 13 | 201 | - | - | - | - |
| Major Patten's | - | - | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 12 | 1 | 196 | 15 | 59 | 13 | - | 283 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Major Williams's | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 3 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 10 | 1 | 152 | 9 | 41 | 26 | 5 | 213 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| Total | 5 | 3 | 5 | 29 | 29 | 40 | 40 | - | 7 | 5 | - | 5 | 3 | 149 | 50 | 1689 | 192 | 770 | 191 | 21 | 2863 | 7 | 20 | 454 | - | 5 | - | 11 |

RETURN—*Continued.*

| DISTRIBUTION. | OFFICERS PRESENT. *Commissioned.* Colonels. | Lieut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | *Staff.* Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Paymasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | *Non-Com'ed.* Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | *Wanting to complete.* Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | *Alterations since last Return.* Initiated. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *General Heard's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Martin's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 32 | 6 | 212 | 118 | 118 | - | - | 361 | - | 10 | 215 | - | - | 5 | - |
| Colonel Newcomb's | 1 | - | 1 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 26 | 6 | 184 | 43 | 41 | 45 | - | 322 | 2 | 8 | 184 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| Colonel Van Cortlandt's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 21 | 5 | 173 | 35 | 38 | 6 | 10 | 262 | 3 | 7 | 170 | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Colonel Phillips's | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 7 | 121 | 14 | 23 | 38 | 1 | 197 | 8 | 7 | 307 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Colonel Forman's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 193 | 20 | 115 | 22 | 4 | 395 | 3 | 5 | 191 | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Total | 5 | 3 | 5 | 30 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 2 | 5 | 5 | - | 5 | 3 | 114 | 30 | 884 | 235 | 335 | 101 | 15 | 1537 | 16 | 37 | 1067 | - | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| Colonel Hand's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 27 | 15 | 253 | 27 | 42 | 60 | 5 | 387 | 5 | 3 | 333 | - | - | - | 1 |
| Colonel Ward's | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 208 | 61 | 116 | 63 | - | 448 | - | - | 192 | - | - | 1 | - |

*Return of nine Companies of the Regiment Artillery and one Colony Company.*

| | Colonel. | Lieut. Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | Capt. Lieut'nts. | First Lieut'nts. | Second Lieuts. | Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | Sergeants. | Corporals. | Bombardiers. | Gunners. | Drums & Fifes. | Matrosses. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Present, fit for duty | 1 | 1 | - | 7 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 24 | 21 | 44 | 43 | 12 | 182 | 369 |
| Sick, present | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 18 |
| Sick, absent | - | - | 1 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 3 | 42 | 73 |
| On command | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 31 |
| On furlough | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Killed | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Wounded | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 4 | 5 |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 29 | 29 | 54 | 58 | 18 | 252 | 498 |
| Deduct killed | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 29 | 28 | 54 | 58 | 18 | 252 | 497 |

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO PRESIDENT NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany, November 3d, 1776.

SIR: I do myself the honour to enclose you an extract of a letter from General *Gates*, of the 31st ultimo, with copy of one from Major *Hoisington* to him. If Sir *John Johnson* left *Canada* at the time the deserters mention, he has probably met with such difficulties as have obliged him to return, as I think he could not subsist from that time to this in the woods. We have no less than eleven different scouts traversing the country between *Ticonderoga* and *Fort Stanwix*, so that I am in hopes, should the enemy attempt to penetrate to the *Mohawk* river, we shall have such early information as to enable us to meet him with a sufficient force. I have already ordered two regiments from *Ticonderoga* to *Tryon* County, and about one thousand of the Militia, so that our force there, exclusive of the Militia of that County, will amount to two thousand men, besides the garrison of *Fort Schuyler*.

I wish the Convention would order the depth and breadth of *Hudson's* river to be carefully taken, at such places as they conceive would be most proper effectually to obstruct the navigation. *Verplanck's Point* or *Jan Kanten Hook* may be proper places; perhaps the latter the most eligible of any. I propose taking the earliest opportunity that is afforded me to prepare every thing for it. At present I cannot, as I have neither troops or carpenters, the latter being all employed in constructing barracks.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President, &c.

Ticonderoga, 31st October, 1776.

SIR: *Monday* morning, between eight and nine o'clock, our advance guard-boat, down the lake, made the signal for the approach of the enemy's fleet. In about one hour five of their largest boats or gondolas, appeared in sight, and a number of troops—*Indians* and *Canadians*—were seen landing upon *Three-Mile Point*. Soon after two of the armed boats stood over to the east side of the lake, inclining upwards, as if sent to reconnoitre; when they came considerably within shot, they were fired upon from two redoubts, very near the shore, and by a row-galley, which is stationed to cover the boom. They thereupon retired. In the mean time the enemy's troops were distinctly seen to land upon the back of the point, and presently after thirteen small batteaus and birch canoes crossed from the west to the east side of the lake into a bay about four miles below our redoubts. Upon these threatenings of an attack, our lines, redoubts, and posts were all manned, and as the motions of the enemy seemed to indicate they were gathering their main force upon the west side of the lake as if intending to make their push there, I ordered three regiments (*Poor's*, *Reed's* and *Greaton's*) from *Mount Independence*, to reënforce this side. The orders were instantly obeyed, and nothing could exceed the spirit and alertness which was shown by all officers and soldiers in executing every order that was given. About four in the evening the boats and canoes that had passed to the west side of the lake returned, and the enemy were seen plainly to reëmbark at the *Three-Mile Point*. I immediately ordered the guard-boat to resume her station, and by sunset it was observed the body of the enemy had retired.

By the information I receive daily I find that General *Carleton* continues in his post, and that three large vessels are anchored near *Putnam's Point*, a little below, where all the Light Infantry, Grenadiers, and a large body of *Indians* and *Canadians*, are encamped. *Chimney-Point* and *Crown-Point* are also occupied by the enemy.

Yesterday I received the enclosed intelligence from *Newbury, Coos*. If Sir *John Johnson* did actually march at the time he is said to have done it, he must be upon the *Mohawk* river now; or if he aims at *Fort George*, *Dayton's* regiment cannot be better stationed than there. Surely your *Oneidas* will give you all the necessary information upon this head: but how could Sir *John* get back should he meet with a check? I have seen the *Mohawk* river fast frozen the 10th of *November*.

Colonel *Lewis* set off yesterday morning by *Skeen*. He has memorandums of our wants, and will be with you as soon as this letter.

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Colonel *Gansevoort* writes me for spades. You must answer his demands, for I cannot.

We received the good news you sent us from *New-York*, with joyful hearts. It was immediately made publick to the Army in the manner you advised.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To General *Schuyler*.

Enclosed is the Commissary's return.

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Newbury, October 12th, 1776.

Intelligence given by four deserters from *Canada*, who inlisted out of prison at *Quebeck*, into the Royal Emigrant Regiment, commanded by Colonel *McLean*, is, that on the 25th of *September* they left the above place. Sir *John Johnson*, with the *Indians* and *Canadians* and Eighth Regiment, had marched to attack the inhabitants on *Mohawk* river, and meet General *Burgoyne* at *Albany*, who has ordered all the force from *Chamblee* and *Sorrel* to *St. John's*, with the marine and train of artillery and sailors to but three men in each vessel. Likewise, as they passed on the east side of the lake on *Sunday*, the 6th instant, heard a very heavy cannonade on the lake, supposed to be with the fleet.

The above deserters were found by one of my scouts about forty miles out, destitute of provisions and very weak. They being desirous to go to Head-Quarters, near *New-York*, I have passed the above deserters for that place.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

JOAB HOISINGTON.

To His Excellency Major-General *Gates*.

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JOHN TAYLOR TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Albany, 3d November, 1776.

SIR: In compliance with an order and resolve of Convention, I repaired to *Cumberland* County, to unite with Mr. *Sessions* and Colonel *Marsh*, to carry into execution a resolve of the 4th ultimo. I met those gentlemen, though without the resolution referred to, owing to Mr. *Stephens's* delay, who was to convey the report, &c.

The attack on our fleet on *Lake Champlain* occasioned the Militia's being called out, which rendered it impossible to collect the sense of the people until affairs were more settled. 'Twas thought advisable that the report of Convention should be dispersed through the Counties, and a proper time fixed by Colonel *Marsh* and Mr. *Sessions* (who would be the best judges) for taking the matter up, that I should be advised of the same, and attend accordingly.

'Tis reported Colonel *Warner* has said he was advised to petition Congress to have the *Hampshire Grants* set off in a new State, by Mr. *Adams*, one of the Delegates. The people are much divided—some for a new State, some for joining *Hampshire*, others *Massachusetts*, many for remaining under *New-York*. I endeavoured to dissuade them from persisting in such idle and delusive schemes, which would meet with the approbation of such only as were fond of changes, and rather chose to live under no government, as the conduct of the most industrious in this affair has too plainly evinced heretofore.

The Chairman of the Committee of *Cumberland* disapproves of the letter sent by their Delegates. It was carried by a majority in their House, though few out of doors knew or heard of it. It was penned by a certain Mr. *Phelps*, the oracle of them parts, who, I understand, is very busy in this affair. From what I have heard among those people, I am led to believe they will remain no longer under the State of *New-York* than they can help.

Mr. *Sessions* advanced five hundred pounds to Major *Hoisington*, of the Rangers; the remainder, I am of opinion, he will keep in his hands until he hears from Convention.

The enclosed I took down at a tavern in *New-Marlborough*. The inhabitants on my return accused me of being guilty of a desperate mean act. They could not proceed to business for want of the notification, as the Town Clerk had not other Minutes.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN TAYLOR.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq.

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H. GLEN TO ELISHA AVERY.

Schenectady, 3d November, 1776.

SIR: Whereas I am obliged to issue so much fresh meat to the different regiments of Militia which march through here, the complaint is so great for salt, that I am under the necessity of sending the bearer on purpose for salt. I must beg of you in sending by this opportunity three barrels, and let me know the quantity that is allowed, as that is an article I have not made use of since I have been in the service. I seem to be in pain if I think what I shall do when six hundred men come in winter-quarters here, for meat cattle almost not to be had, at least round here; and such a number of Militia going up the *Mohawk* river, I am afraid will put it almost out of the power of Major *Fonda* to perform his contract of the barrels of beef, and am afraid there will be a demand for flour from this, should the Militia make any stay up the *Mohawk* river. Your answer on this subject, should the demand come to me, I shall expect by the bearer, so that I can be on my guard. It's entirely out of my power to send any of the articles you mentioned in your last to *Fort Schuyler*, as soap, candles, Indian meal, at present, on account of an express from General *Schuyler* yesterday, ordering all my batteau-men, and even the batteaus, down to *Albany*.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

H. GLEN.

To *Elisha Avery*, Esq.

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*Return of the Regiment of Foot, in the service of the* UNITED COLONIES, *commanded by Colonel* ISAAC NICOLL.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonel. | Lieutenant-Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensign. | Staff. Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | Non-Comm'd. Sergt.-Major, Drum-Major, Quartermas. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Privates. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain William Blain | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 25 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 47 | - | - | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Samuel Raymond | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 17 | 10 | - | 46 | - | 1 | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain John Wood | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 20 | 3 | 8 | 10 | - | 41 | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Joshua Brown | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 16 | 6 | 9 | 10 | - | 41 | - | 1 | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Little | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 27 | 10 | - | 4 | - | 41 | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Abraham Delson | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 28 | 7 | 16 | - | - | 46 | - | - | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain James Smith | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 7 | - | 6 | 7 | - | 20 | 1 | - | 32 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain James Gregg | - | - | - | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 9 | - | - | - | - | 9 | 2 | 1 | 44 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 20 | 13 | 140 | 39 | 65 | 46 | 1 | 291 | 3 | 3 | 132 | - | - | - | 2 |

Two Companies at *Peekskill:* Captain *Underdunk* and Captain *Derunder*.
Captain *Samuel Raymond* and Lieutenant *Horton* sick, absent.
Captain *Joshua Brosen* sick, in Hospital.
Lieutenant *David Rogers*, of Captain *Blaine's* company, sick, in camp.
Lieut. *Coal*, of Captain *Little's* company, on command at *King's Bridge*.
Lieut. *Thomas Sears*, of *Blaine's* company, on command at *King's Bridge*.
Captain *James Smith* sick, at home; Lieutenant *Marling*, of Captain *Smith's* company, sick, in camp.
Major *Moffat* sick, absent.
Sick, absent—five Sergeants; Sick, present—one Sergeant.

WHITE-PLAINS, *November* 2, 1776.

ISAAC NICOLL, *Colonel.*

CAPTAIN O'HARA TO GENERAL GATES.

Skeensborough, November 3, 1776.

RESPECTED SIR: As I make no doubt but that you will soon come to an engagement at *Ticonderoga*, (every little is a help, as the proverb says,) I would take it as a favour if your Honour would order me and my company over. I have as yet able to do duty in about fifty good fellows, with excellent good arms. As the Militia are daily coming this way, Colonel *Wynkoop* may well spare my company, as we have now not much to do here. I therefore flatter myself that your Honour will grant my request, which will oblige your most obedient, humble servant,

HENRY O'HARA.

General *Gates*.

DR. STRINGER TO GENERAL GATES.

Fort George, 3d November, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I am just now favoured with a line from Dr. *Potts*, handing me your order against discharging any more of the sick sent from *Ticonderoga*, &c.; which shall be attended to strictly. But I am greatly distressed to know how I must provide for the numbers who are daily coming over to us, being obliged, besides those whom we have discharged the service, to send, for want of room in the Hospital, upwards of one hundred and thirty to be taken care of at *Albany*, where I am afraid they will suffer much for want of attendance, though they will be provided with house-room, which cannot possibly be had here.

Those whom we have discharged have been such as I have understood you have given a former order for to Dr. *Potts*, in my absence. We have only three Surgeons and two Mates here, fit to do duty.

I am, with respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

SAML. STRINGER.

To Major-General *Gates*.

*Return of the Regiment of Foot, commanded by Colonel* LEVI PAWLING, *November* 2, 1776.

| COMPANIES. | *Commissioned Officers.* Colonel. | Lieut. Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | First Lieut'ents. | Sec'd Lieut'ts. | *Staff Officers.* Surgeon. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Serg't-Major. | *Non-Com'd Officers.* Sergeants. | Drums & Fifes. | *Rank and File.* Privates. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | *Non-Com'd Officers.* Sergeants. | Drums & Fifes. | *Wanting to complete.* Privates. | Discharged. | Dead. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Clark | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 4 | 6 | 11 | - | 46 | - | 1 | 7 | - | - | - |
| Captain Rortract | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 1 | 38 | - | 1 | 16 | - | 1 | - |
| Captain Conkling | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 7 | - | 31 | - | - | 23 | - | - | - |
| Captain Graham | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 23 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 41 | - | - | 13 | - | - | - |
| Captain Burns | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 24 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 2 | 48 | - | - | 5 | - | - | - |
| Captain Miligins | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 27 | 3 | 4 | 13 | - | 47 | - | 2 | 6 | - | - | - |
| Captain Contine | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 21 | 5 | 9 | 10 | - | 45 | - | - | 8 | - | - | - |
| Captain Hasbroock | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 15 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 1 | 46 | - | - | 7 | - | - | - |
| Captain Hardenburgh | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 16 | 4 | 10 | 2 | - | 32 | - | - | 21 | - | - | - |
| Captain Jonson | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 | 1 | - | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 10 | 185 | 32 | 52 | 99 | 6 | 374 | - | 4 | 105 | - | 1 | - |

Major *Logan* sick, absent; Lieutenant *Smith* on command; 7 men at *King's Bridge;* 1 at *Fort Montgomery*, 1 do. waiter; 1 on command, with the sick; 2 Sergeant's sick.

Lieutenant *Hasbrouck* gone home, out of Captain *Clark's*.

Lieutenant *Poter* and 3 men at *King's Bridge;* 10 men at the General's; 1 Sergeant dead; 1 Sergeant on command, of Captain *Rurtract's* company.

Captain *Conkling* sick, absent, and Lieutenant *Foster* sick, absent; 1 Sergeant sick, absent; 1 Corporal, and 1 Drummer, and 2 men at *King's Bridge;* 1 Sergeant and 3 men in the Artillery; 1 man on general guard.

Captain *Graham*, and 1 Sergeant, and 10 men at *King's Bridge;* Lieutenant *Jonson* and 3 men sick, absent; Fifer on furlough.

Lieutenant *Jackson* gone home: Lieutenant *Neeley* sick, 1 Sergeant sick, 10 men at *Fort Montgomery;* 1 Fifer and 4 men at *King's Bridge;* 3 men at the General's, of Captain *Burns's* company; 2 Sergeants sick; 9 men at *King's Bridge;* 4 men in the Artillery, of Captain *Miligin's* company.

Lieutenant *Schoonmaker* sick, absent; 1 Sergeant sick, absent; 5 men at *King's Bridge;* 1 Quartermaster Sergeant, the General's waiter, the Major's waiter; 1 Sergeant sick, Captain *Contine*.

Captain *Hasbroock* sick; the General, 1 Sergeant and 9 men; 6 men at *King's Bridge;* 1 man with the baggage.

Captain *Hardenburgh* sick, absent; 2 Sergeants, 1 Drummer sick.

Captain *Nickels*, at *Peekskill*, on command.

LEVI PAWLING, *Colonel.*

*Return of Colonel* HITCHCOCK'S *Regiment, encamped at* PHILLIPS'S *Borough, November* 1*st*, 1776.

| COMPANIES. | *Commissioned Officers.* Colonel. | Lieut. Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | *Staff Officers.* Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | *Non-Com'd Officers.* Sergeants. | Drums. | Fifes. | *Effective Rank and File.* Fit for duty. | Sick, in Camp. | Sick, in Hospitals. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Recruiting. | Total. | *Wanting to complete.* Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | *Alterations since last Return.* Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Jere. Olney | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | 13 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 14 | - | - | 49 | - | - | 31 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain William Tew | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 11 | - | 7 | - | - | 39 | - | - | 41 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Stephen Kimboll | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 20 | - | 18 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 41 | - | - | 39 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Francis Symonds | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 24 | - | 8 | - | 10 | - | - | 42 | - | - | 38 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Silas Talbot | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 12 | - | 5 | 12 | - | 37 | - | - | 43 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Cog'l Olney | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 13 | 6 | 27 | 1 | 9 | - | - | 56 | - | - | 24 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Ephraim Bowen | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 7 | 1 | 15 | - | 7 | - | - | 30 | - | - | 50 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain John Spurr | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 3 | 17 | - | 21 | - | - | 57 | - | - | 23 | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 8 | 5 | 5 | 109 | 22 | 118 | 17 | 82 | - | - | 351 | - | - | 289 | - | - | - | - |

1776, *October* 1.—Lieutenant-Colonel *Ezekiel Cornell* appointed Deputy Adjutant-General.

*September* 14.—Captain *Ephraim Bowen* appointed Assistant Quartermaster-General.

*October* 3.—Captain *Francis Symonds* sick, in Hospital.

*September* 14.—Captain *Silas Talbot* burnt on board the fire-ship.

Captain *Jere. Olney* and Captain *John Spurr* sick, in quarters.

*September* 28.—Lieutenant *Mills* on command with the carpenters, in the *Jerseys*.

*August* 27.—Lieutenant *John Blunt* taken prisoner on *Long-Island*.

1776, *August* 27.—Lieut. *Thomas Hughs* wounded, and in the Hospital.

*October* 29.—*William Bradford*, Esquire, Adjutant, appointed Aid-de-Camp to General *Lee*.

*October* 25.—Lieutenant *Wyman* sick, in Hospital.

*October* 21.—Lieutenant *King* sick, in Hospital.

*September* 14.—Lieutenant *Armstrong* on command in taking care of the sick at *Orange-Town*.

*September* 30.—Ensign *Potter* and Ensign *Foster* sick, in Hospital.

*October* 29.—Ensign *Richard Hunnewell* sick, in the country.

*October* 26.—Ensign *West* on command, in the Ranging service.

DANIEL HITCHCOCK, *Colonel.*

COMMODORE HOPKINS TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

Providence, November 3d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I received yours of the 10th *October*, this day. Am extremely unhappy in not receiving it in time, as Captain *Jones*, in the *Alfred*, and *Hacker*, in the *Providence*, sailed two days ago, well manned; and the ships now here are the two new ships, the *Columbus* and *Hamden*. The *Hamden* must be repaired before she can sail; and the ships are not more than half manned. However, I am glad to receive your orders for an expedition to the southward, that I may have it in my power to convince the gentlemen in every State that I have nothing at heart but the common cause, without any partiality to any particular State. This you may rely on, that I will attempt to put your orders in execution, if I am obliged to do it with a single ship, although I shall do all in my power to get all the force here with me that possibly can be manned.

If I can't get the whole manned next week, shall take the men out of some to man the others, and leave them with a few officers to take care of them until they receive your further orders.

I am, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant, ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the honourable Marine Committee at *Philadelphia*.

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BERNARD GALLAGHER TO CAPTAIN JONES.

Boston, November 3, 1776.

SIR: Being so unfortunate as to miss you the day you sailed, by supposing you to have stood out to sea, or gone into *Canso* harbour the night before, have occasioned us all a numerous deal of misfortunes. We see a sail going into *Canso* as we got under way. We stood out towards *Canso* harbour, and supposing it to be some of the fleet, stood off and on that night and the next day, when a small privateer called the *General Gates*, Captain *William Kilton*, came athwart us, and finding we had no paper, took us for impostors, carried us into *Canso*, took our arms from us, and would not promise to let more than two have a passage in her. But the next day, about ten o'clock, Captain *Dawson* and another brig hove in sight. We all being aboard, the privateer was obliged to run in to *St. Peter's Bay*, thinking to escape them there. However, they pursued us through the woods, with all the exasperated inhabitants, and took thirty of us, out of fifty-five, prisoners, nine of them belonging to us, dividing us between both vessels, I being put on board Captain *Dawson*, where he paid me the compliment to put me in irons for fourteen days, being so much the more aggressor represented to him by Captain *Dory*. We were all fetched to *Halifax*, where we were oft obliged to live daily on two-thirds of a pound of bread and about two ounces of pork, one hundred of us being confined in a vessel's hold, about one hundred tons burthen, with a guard of twelve soldiers to watch us. There we were obliged to stay for two weeks more, when we had the pleasure to be put on board the cartel. We arrived at *Marblehead* yesterday, and got to this town last night; the only persons that are got so far belonging to us being *James Rogers*, *George Nicholson*, and myself; we being obliged to leave sick on board the cartel *Ben. Allen*, *John Fears*, and *Munroe*. As I intend to make the best of my way to *Philadelphia*, I hope in case you should fit out for another cruise before my arrival you will be so good as to order my chest and clothes to be given to *James Gallagher*, shopkeeper in *Front street*, near the drawbridge, or else order them into some person's care you can confide in. I hope you will excuse this trouble.

I am, with respect, sir, your most obedient humble servant, BERNARD GALLAGHER.

Captain *John Jones*, Esq., Sloop *Providence*, *Philadelphia*.

N. B. There was on board the sloop belonging to me, one chest, one trunk, one case, one bed, two quilts, two blankets, one sheet, with some sea-clothes, one quadrant, one spy-glass, one ten-gallon keg of spirit, one barrel of sugar, one hat.

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GENERAL WARD TO JAMES WARREN.

Boston, 3d November, 1776.

SIR: At the request of Colonel *David Brewer*, I beg leave to mention his desire to engage in the service in the new Army, if the General Court should think fit to employ him.

Colonel *Joshua Davis* also inclines to engage in the service. He has been Barrackmaster for this division of the Army for several months past.

Major *Daniel Wood*, of *Berwick*, also inclines to serve. All the above desired me to mention their names.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD.

Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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DANIEL HOPKINS TO JAMES WARREN.

HONOURED SIR: You will recollect I am one of the Committee appointed by the General Court to collect hard money for the *Canada* expedition. By a warrant from the honourable Board I drew out of the Colony treasury three thousand and fifty-five dollars, in bills, and have deposited the same number of dollars in the treasury, of hard money, for which I have the Treasurer's receipt. My request is that a Committee be appointed by the honourable House to inspect my accounts, and give me a discharge.

N. B. I have also delivered the Treasurer, in hard money, two hundred and fifty dollars, not included in the said warrant.

Your most humble servant, D. HOPKINS.

Honourable *James Warren*.

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VERNON HEBB AND TIMOTHY BOWES TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Leonard-Town, November 4th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to the requisition of your honourable Board, we examined into the state and condition of the vessels drifted on shore, or made captures of from Lord *Dunmore's* fleet, and are of opinion, that of the following vessels lying at *Kitt's Point*, to wit: one very large pilot-boat, one schooner of about fourteen hundred bushels burthen, one sloop of about two thousand bushels, delivered with some rigging—the sloop only in a condition to be removed; and in order to do that, it will be necessary to send hands down with an anchor and cable. No hands to be hired here.

At *Cherry Fields*, one sloop about fourteen hundred bushels burthen, one schooner of about twelve hundred bushels burthen—much repairs necessary before either can be removed.

If, gentlemen, it should be the opinion of your Board to have the vessels which, in our judgment, cannot be removed without repairing—which we should not have relied on could we have procured any skillful person to have examined them—disposed of, we should be glad to receive your instructions relative thereto, as soon as convenient.

We are, gentlemen, your very humble servants,

VERNON HEBB.
TIMOTHY BOWES.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE MARYLAND CONVENTION.

Philadelphia, November 4th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am particularly instructed by Congress to inform you that the resolutions of your House, to pay ten dollars in lieu of the hundred acres of land determined by Congress to be given to such non-commissioned officers and soldiers as shall inlist to serve during the war, will, in the opinion of Congress, prove extremely detrimental to these States, if carried into execution; as it will, in all probability, induce such soldiers as are to compose the remainder of the levies, to require an equal sum from the *United States*, and by refusing until their demands shall be complied with, compel the Congress to the immediate payment of an additional bounty, far beyond what is reasonable. The Congress are so entirely satisfied with the propriety of offering land to the soldiery as an inducement to inlist in the service, that they cannot rescind the resolve they passed for that purpose; and are moreover of opinion, that the faith of Congress, which they have plighted, (by virtue of the power with which they were vested,) must be obligatory upon their constituents; that no one State can by its own act be released therefrom, and that the interest of the *United States*

would be deeply and injuriously affected should the Congress at this time consent to a compromise between any State and the forces to be raised by such State. From the resolves of your House it should seem that you apprehended your State would be obliged in their individual capacity to make good the bounty of land hereafter to be given to the soldiery; whereas it was the intention of Congress to provide such land at the expense of the *United States*. I have it therefore in charge from Congress, to request you will reconsider your resolve on this subject, and give such instructions to your Commissioners appointed to repair to the camp as will enable them to carry into execution the views of Congress; and also to inform you, that the Paymaster-General has been furnished with a sum of money for the purpose of paying the bounty of twenty dollars ordered by Congress to such soldiers as shall inlist to serve the *United States* during the war.

I have the honour to be, with much esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *Pres't.*

Honourable Convention of *Maryland*.

Colonel *William Smallwood* was appointed Brigadier-General by Congress, *October* 23d.

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GENERAL MERCER TO DR. SHIPPEN.

Perth-Amboy, 4th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The bearer, Dr. *Wallace*, has been here in quest of you and necessaries for the sick of the *Maryland* troops. If you have as yet received no instructions from Head-Quarters, or from General *Greene*, relative to the Hospital, it is my opinion that the charge of all the sick on this side of the *North River* devolves on you, and that all the stores, assistants, &c., belonging to that department, on this side, are entirely at your disposal; but to prevent disputes it may be proper to inventory whatever has been brought from *New-York*, or is in Dr. *Morgan's* care. If the speediest measures are not pursued for the comfortable accommodation of the sick, now winter is set in, many lives must be lost in a way shocking to humanity. I am well satisfied that nothing of this kind will happen where you take the lead.

Yours, with great esteem, H. MERCER.

To Dr. *William Shippen*, Jr., Director-General of the Hospitals.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read November 14: Referred to Board of War.]

White-Plains, November 4, 1776.

SIR: By command of his Excellency, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of the 24th ultimo, and to inform you that he esteems the plan you propose to lay before Congress for preventing more rations being drawn than may be due, well calculated to answer the end. That respecting the sick seems to him not entirely perfect. The Captains or commanders of companies are prohibited from drawing pay for such sick as may be discharged from the Hospitals as unfit for service. If during their stay, and before it can be known whether their case will or will not admit of their return, it should become necessary to make up a regimental pay abstract, in what manner are the officers to make up their rolls? Are they to include the sick or not? As this is a case that may and must of necessity frequently happen, it appears to his Excellency that the intended regulation should be more general, and restrain the officers from including in their pay-abstracts or rolls all the sick they send to the Hospitals, and the pay due 'em previous to their going. In such case those who are discharged as unfit for service, may receive their pay as intended, and those who return to duty can obtain what was due them, when the regiment was paid, by applying to the Paymaster with the officers' and surgeon's certificates, or be included in a subsequent abstract. The inconveniences and abuses which are designed to be remedied by those regulations, his Excellency does not apprehend to arise so much from necessity as incident to the nature of armies, as from the imperfect institution of the present, and the great mixture and diversity of troops composing it, and also from the inattention of the officers, in whose appointments but too little regard has been had in choosing men of merit and honour.

The defenceless state of *Pennsylvania*, as communicated by the Committee of Safety to your honourable body, is a matter of much concern to his Excellency; which is not a little aggravated by the part too many seem ready to take in favour of the enemy. He trusts, however, the defection will be too inconsiderable to threaten any alarming consequences.

Before the receipt of your letter his Excellency had wrote to the commanding officer of the *Virginia* regiments at *Trenton*, directing him to march them forward toward General *Greene's* post, and there remain under his command till further orders, unless special instructions had been or should be given to the contrary by Congress or for their particular destination.

Agreeable to your request his Excellency has consulted with General *Lee* upon the best mode for employing the *French* gentlemen, and of making them serviceable. The result is, that they should be appointed to regiments by Congress, according to the ranks they have been pleased to give them, and with the same pay as is allowed other officers in such cases. Their want of our language is rather an objection, but it is hoped they will obtain a sufficient knowledge of it ere it be long to be of great service, and that in the interim their advice and assistance in directing of works may be of use where they may be stationed.

With great respect, I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

ROB. H. HARRISÓN.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read November 14: Referred to the Board of War.]

White-Plains, November 4, 1776.

SIR: This will be handed you by Messrs. *Robillard L'Anfin* and *Bordes*, two *French* gentlemen who, with others, lately arrived at the eastward from *Cape François*. They were introduced to his Excellency by the enclosed letter from *James Bowdoin*, Esq., which contains all the information his Excellency has of them, and which, by his direction, I transmit you. They have come, it seems, to offer their services to the States, and will make known their views and expectations to Congress.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROB. H. HARRISON.

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H. GLEN TO ELISHA AVERY.

Schenectady, 4th November, 1776.

SIR: Last night about twelve o'clock I got an express from *Johnstown*, that there was no flour for the troops, and unless I sent flour immediately, the troops ordered up that way would come back. This I expected, as I mentioned to you yesterday. I immediately sent off an express to *Nestickayouna*, and luckily got nine wagons there, and some few in town, and Major *Fonda* sent me five, who have rid all night. I got off by two o'clock eighty barrels of flour, which makes me feel very happy by what I did, when I heard the troops were to come back for want of flour. There must be some mistake, and a grand one, of Major *Fonda*. He told me he had engaged to supply all the Militia as he knew of, this route, and no flour when only part of the Militia was to go up. Making of contracts is of dangerous nature: the making of them is the least, but the performing is the principal matter.

By the sudden alarms and demands for flour, makes the merchants rise with their flour. As the quantity I had engaged is within a trifle forwarded to Forts *George* and *Edward*, and the quantity sent this day for *Johnstown*, and as there is some considerable to be made yet in town, and some ready, the merchants don't choose to let me have it. Their general cry is, "I will have as much for my flour as the merchants get in *Albany*;" and indeed, they tell me for certain, you have given twenty-four shillings. You will be pleased to let me know this day, or to-morrow, what you give at *Albany*, and if I must give that, you will all along give what you give at *Albany*.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

H. GLEN.

To *Elisha Avery*, Esq.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM TICONDEROGA, DATED NOVEMBER 4, 1776.

Last *Monday* we were alarmed early in the morning by the appearance of a few of the enemy's boats crowded with soldiers. Every man kept his alarm post almost through the day, expecting action every moment. In the course of the day a number of boats landed troops at *Three-Mile Point*, half an hour's march from our alarm post; at the same time some of their boats came up the lake so near our batteries, that one boat received half a dozen shot from one of them. We since hear they lost one man by the shot. The next day there were some small manœuvres of the same sort. After a few hours they reëmbarked for *Putnam's Creek* and *Crown-Point*, but, from intelligence, we have expected them ever since. The troops here have been constantly supplied with three or four days' provision, which they kept cooked. And the night before last and yesterday, about eighteen hundred men, with cooked provisions, marched on a secret expedition, it appears since, to attack the enemy's advanced post at *Putnam's Point;* however, when they came there they found the place clear, all their tents struck, and no one to oppose them. They marched on to *Crown-Point*, found that likewise abandoned, one vessel only lying in sight, with live-stock on board. Wheth er they have hid themselves a little farther down the lake, and intend to come unexpected—whether this is their policy or not, time will determine. I rather think, as they had last week a fair view of our camp and strength, they wisely conclude the season is too far advanced to do any great things

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *November* 4th, 1776:

Present: His Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy Governour, *Eliph't Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Hillhouse*, *Benj. Huntington*, Esquires.

*Andrew Martin* was returned as being chosen Captain, *Enos Hawley* Lieutenant, and *Nathan Chapman* Ensign, of a company of householders and able-bodied men, ready to march to join the regiment in whose limits they reside, which is *Woodbury*, &c.

*Voted*, To sell twenty-five tons of Pig-Iron, belonging to this State, to *Aaron Elliott*, at the price of £7 10*s.* per ton, at the Furnace at *Salisbury*, provided the same can be without interfering with the Cannon and Shot Foundry; said *Elliott* engaging to manufacture the same into steel, and to dispose thereof at a reasonable price, in proportion to the cost of the pigs, to the inhabitants of this State, for their own use and consumption. And Colonel *Joshua Porter* is hereby directed to deliver the same to said *Elliott*, and take the pay therefor and render his account.

*Voted*, To supply Messrs. *Samuel Bird*, *Arthur Jarvis*, *John Lathrop*, and *Pierpont Edwards*, with ten Cannon, four-pounders, and twelve Swivels.

*Voted*, To supply *Stephen Thorp*, *Abel Goold*, and associates, with twelve Cannon, four-pounders, eight small Swivels, half ton of Round-Shot, and one hundred weight of Grape-Shot, as also to exchange with them eight hundred weight of Powder, at Mr. *Doolittle's* works, at 5*s.* 4*d.* per pound for good and well-refined Saltpetre, at the stated price.

Delivered the order for Powder to Colonel *John Fitch*, *November* 7th, 1776.

*Voted*, To deliver to *Isaac Mills & Company*, twelve Cannon, four-pounders, and twelve Swivels, with Shot answerable.

*Voted*, To supply *Andrew Rowland*, and *Samuel Broom & Co.*, with eight Three-Pounders, double fortified, eight Swivels, five hundred weight of Gunpowder, at 5*s.* 4*d.* per pound, pounded weight, two hundred and forty rounds of Shot, and one hundred weight of Grape-Shot, two ounces each.

Order for Powder delivered Colonel *John Fitch*, *November* 7th, 1776.

*Voted*, To supply *John Osborn*, *Farrington*, and *Putnam*, with four Nine-Pounders, six Six-Pounders, six Three Pounders, and two Cohorns.

*Voted*, To supply *Luther Stoddard & Company* with four Six-Pounders, ten Four-Pounders, and twelve Swivels.

Order on the foregoing delivered to Captain *Isaac Mills*, *November* 27th, 1776.

*Voted*, To supply Messrs. *Lyon & Company* with ten Swivels, previous to any of the foregoing Guns granted, and the rest are to be supplied in the order in which they are entered here.

Hartford, November 4, 1776.

A number of respectable gentlemen in *Sharon*, who are out of the Militia roll, viewing it of importance to be constantly prepared, and under the best advantages to withstand the present cruel and unrighteous designs of the *British* Parliament against *America*, have formed themselves into a body, chosen proper officers to command them, equipped themselves, and stand ready to go forth at a minute's warning, either against the foreign enemy, or to crush any internal machination, as occasion may require. It is wished the laudable example may be generally followed.

JOHN BARTLETT TO COMMODORE HOPKINS.

Newport, November 4, 1776.

SIR: The General Assembly of this State have ordered that the house at present made use of as an Hospital, be immediately cleared. I have at present under my care upwards of twenty sick men belonging to the fleet. I know not what to do with them without some further order. I should think it would be best to take up some suitable building to lodge them in, and furnish it with such utensils as should be thought necessary, and take care of them altogether. The present expense would be less than to lodge them at private houses, and many inconveniences be avoided. Whatever furniture is provided now, will be ready for any that may have the like occasion hereafter. However, I submit the whole affair to your superiour judgment, but beg your order in the present case. I should be proud to be employed by you in taking care of any of your fleet that may at any time or place be so unhappy as to require the assistance of a Surgeon or Physician.

I am, with due respect, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN BARTLETT.

To Admiral *Hopkins*.

Newport, November 4, 1776.

Last *Monday* Captain *Shearman Clarke* arrived at an eastern port, in fifteen days from the *West-Indies*, and informs that he saw a letter from *France* a day or two before he sailed, advising that it might be depended on that *France* would declare war against *Great Britain* very soon; that the *Pomona*, and two other *British* ships-of-war, were supposed to have been lost in the late hurricane in the *West-Indies*, they not being heard of since.

A few days past, arrived safe at an eastern port, a Continental ship from *France*, having on board three thousand stand of arms, three hundred barrels of powder, one hundred chests of tin, dry-goods, &c.; the Captain of which, says there were great preparations in *France* for war, and a declaration may be expected very soon. She had seven weeks passage. Some very agreeable intelligence by this vessel it is thought not advisable to make publick at present.

Last *Thursday* arrived in East Passage, a large *Jamaica* ship, loaded with about six hundred hogsheads of sugar, ninety puncheons of rum, some cotton, &c., taken by the Continental brig *Cabot*, Captain *Hinman*. She mounts sixteen guns, but we do not learn that she made any resistance. About the same time, Captain *Job Pearce*, in a private sloop-of-war, went up the West Passage with a fine large brig, loaded with fish, being his third prize safely arrived.

HENRY BROWNFIELD TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Boston, 4th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By a letter from Mr. Deputy Secretary *Avery*, I am acquainted with your Honours' appointment of me for one of the Committee or Board of War. I beg leave to express to your Honours the high sense I have of this mark of your confidence and regard, as also to assure you of my attachment to my country and earnest wishes to promote

its interests by every means of which I am capable notwithstanding I find myself necessitated, on many accounts to decline the honour intended me by this appointment. The offices I hold in this town, together with my own private concerns, engross so great a portion of my time and attention as to be incompatible with the duties of that station. Therefore pray your Honours will dispense with my acceptance of an office which it is not in my power to execute.

I am, very respectfully, your Honours' most obedient, humble servant,

HENRY BROWNFIELD.

To the honourable Council and House for the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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VAN BIBBER AND HARRISON TO ROBERT TOWNSHEND, HOOE, & CO.

St. Eustatia, 5th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed you have invoice and bill of loading for one hundred and sixty half-barrels gunpowder—quantity fifty-three hundred pounds—on the proper account and risk of the State of *Maryland*.

Our Mr. *Harrison* is despatching Captain *Conway* from *Martinique*, with a very valuable cargo. I hope she has sailed, or about sailing, at this time.

We have just made a large purchase here of some woollens, muskets, and gun-flints, which we shall ship in the first of the Council's vessels that may arrive here.

We cautioned you and the Council some time past against sending your vessels to this island, thinking it the most dangerous and difficult to get into; which we are since sorry for, as it has proved less here than to any other island; and for the future advise you to send all your vessels here, for sundry reasons, viz: this is always the best market for our produce, particularly tobacco, which is now rising fast. All our purchases are made here, and freight paid to *Martinico*, for all the goods shipped from there, and most of the cargoes is sent from *Martinique* here to be sold, and very high freight paid on them; that on the whole this is the best place by far, and grows less difficult to transact here, as the *Dutch* have discovered that their laws when put in force must ruin their merchants. I am on the best terms with his Excellency the Governour, and have his word and promise relative to some particulars that give me great satisfaction, and puts much in our powers. I was not so happy some time ago, and very bad consequences to apprehend, on our new Governour's taking the command, but we are as well fixed with him now as we were with the former.

We are very largely indebted here on account of the State. Many sums now due, and many lately contracted, that will of course be due shortly. We are doing all in our power to serve our country, and hope they will not let our credit suffer.

We are, gentlemen, your most obedient, and very humble servants,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

To Messrs. *Robert Townshend, Hooe, & Co.*

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B. JOHNSON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Frederick-Town, November 5th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Captain *James Mackall* requested of me to inform you, the gentleman who was commissioned as First Lieutenant in his company is dead, that his Second Lieutenant has resigned, being a non-associator, and the men disapproving him. We therefore pray you will issue a commission to *William Macke*, as First Lieutenant, *Joseph Hill*, Second Lieutenant, and *John Thomas*, Ensign, and transmit them to me by some safe hand.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

B. JOHNSON.

To the honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis*.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 5th, 1776.

SIRS: The bearer, *John Gibbons*, has been in *Baltimore* this two years, and has behaved himself sober and well as far as I have heard, and is an industrious young man; is willing to take charge of the schooner *Friendship*, and I believe him fit for the task. He waits on you to know if it is agreeable, and for your further orders.

Please let me know by his return, how many barrels of beef I must have salted for you, and the particulars of the cargo you would have put on board the *Friendship*.

The *Resolution* has her flour on board, and her bread is ready. I shall put twenty hogsheads of tobacco, three hundred and fifty barrels of flour, and fill up with bread, on board the *Resolution;* and twenty hogsheads tobacco, and one-third bread, and two-thirds flour, for the *Friendship*, as by your former orders. If I receive no other, shall obey orders with Captain *Martin*.

From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

P. S. The carpenters are not done with any of the vessels yet. I put the twenty hogsheads of tobacco on board the *Ninety-Two* this morning.

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BENJAMIN NICHOLSON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 5, 1776.

SIR: Mrs. *Chamier* has requested me to inquire from your Board whether 'tis practicable for her to get to her husband in *New-York*, and what steps she can take to accomplish her desire, and give satisfaction and security to her native country. All her relations are on our side, and many of them in the Army.

I am yours, &c.,

BENJ. NICHOLSON.

To *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esq., President of the Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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GEORGE WELLS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 5th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Captain *Martin* has been speaking to me about lengthening the brig *Friendship*, which I think I can do. Captain *Martin* will acquaint you with the time, &c. If you'll agree to have the brig done, I'd be obliged to you to send me per Captain *Martin*, £400.

Please to let me know by the return of the Captain, how the row-galley is to be masted, as I can't provide the spars until I have your orders.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your most humble servant,

GEORGE WELLS.

To the honourable the Council of Safety for the Province of *Maryland, Annapolis*.

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CAPTAIN DEAMS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, 5th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: It is impossible for me to inlist a company of men, without you would first let me have the bounty money; therefore, I should be much obliged unto you if you would send me word at what time it would be suitable for me to come and receive it, so that I may not be disappointed.

My men that I have discharged, that I owe the ration money unto, think that I have cheated them out of it; therefore I should take it as a great favour if you would send me a line from under your own hands, to let them know to the contrary of it.

I should be glad you would send me word what I am to do with the men that I have inlisted since the others were discharged; whether I am to get them inspected directly, and put them into barracks, or how they are to be victualled. I likewise should be glad you would send me word what the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers are allowed per month. And in so doing, you will much oblige, yours to serve,

FREDERICK DEAMS.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 5th, 1776.

SIR: The Congress, apprehensive that Commissioners from some of the States for the purpose of appointing officers in the Army under the new establishment, may not have arrived at the camp, and at the same time fully and deeply impressed with the necessity of recruiting the Army to its full complement, have passed the enclosed resolves, author-

izing you to grant warrants to such officers as you shall think proper, provided there are no Commissioners from the State to which such officers belong.

As it is of the greatest consequence that the Militia now in service should not leave the camp at this crisis, it is the desire of Congress that you will take such steps as you shall judge best for attaining this end; and that in particular you should for that purpose write to such of the States as have any Militia in the government of *New-York*, requesting their assistance in the business.

The commissions for such officers as you shall please to appoint by warrant, in consequence of the enclosed resolves, shall be forwarded as soon as possible.

The resolves herewith transmitted, I am to inform you, do not extend to the *Maryland* troops, as the Commissioners from that State are on their way to Head-Quarters to appoint officers, agreeably to the former resolves of Congress. You will, therefore, be pleased to suspend any appointment of officers for that State until you shall hear further from Congress, or until the arrival of those gentlemen shall make it unnecessary.

The enclosed commission of Brigadier-General you will please to have delivered to General *Smallwood*.

With every sentiment of esteem and respect, I am, sir, your very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *Pres't.*

General *Washington.*

I send some commissions, and shall send others immediately. Mr. *Harrison's* letters to 3d instant are come to hand.

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*Return of the First* VIRGINIA *Regiment of Foot in the service of the* UNITED COLONIES, *commanded by* ISAAC RIED, *Esq., November 5*, 1776.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. *Commissioned.* Colonel. | Lieutenant Colonel. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | *Staff.* Ensigns. | Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | *Non-Com'd.* Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | *Wanting to complete.* Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Privates. | *Alterations since last Return.* Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Taylor | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 7 | - | 33 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Cunningham | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 6 | 2 | - | 32 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Seayers | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 4 | 38 | 12 | 20 | 25 | - | 95 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Fleming | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 19 | - | 9 | 3 | 5 | 36 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Balard | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 10 | 5 | - | 12 | - | 27 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Nelson | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 32 | 6 | 28 | - | - | 66 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Dickison | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 39 | 3 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 68 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Croghan | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | 57 | 3 | 60 | 4 | - | 129 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 12 | 220 | 49 | 151 | 60 | 6 | 486 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

N. B.—Captain *Seayers* absent, with leave.
Captain *Nelson* absent, sick.
Captain *Croghan* absent, sick.
Lieutenant *Cummins* and Ensign *Blackwell* on command, of Captain *Taylor's* company.
Lieutenant *Lawson* absent, with leave.
Lieutenant *Crump* and *Smith* and Ensign *Burwell* sick.

N. B.—Lieutenant *Garland* and *Clayton* absent, with leave.
Lieutenant *Higgins* absent, sick.
Colonel *Reade*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Eppes*, and Major *Green*, absent, sick.
Captain *Ballard*, Lieutenants *Scott*, *Moody*, *Woodson*, and Ensign *Shannon* absent, sick; and Ensigns *Payne* and *Godwin* on command.

JNO. FLEMING, *Commanding Officer.*

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*Return of the Third* VIRGINIA *Regiment of Foot in the service of the* UNITED COLONIES, *commanded by Colonel* GEO. WEEDEN, *camp at* JOHN FUSHEE'S, *November* 5, 1776.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. *Commissioned.* Colonel. | Lieutenant Colonel. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | *Staff.* Ensigns. | Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | *Non-Com'd.* Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | *Wanting to complete.* Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Privates. | *Alterations since last Return.* Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 32 | 1 | 11 | 7 | - | 51 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain West | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 31 | 4 | 22 | 9 | - | 66 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Thornton | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 34 | - | 20 | 6 | 2 | 62 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Washington | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 32 | 3 | 18 | 4 | - | 57 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Washington | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 25 | 2 | 29 | 9 | - | 65 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Lee | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 30 | 6 | 16 | 5 | - | 57 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 45 | 4 | - | 61 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Ashby | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 29 | 2 | 21 | 7 | - | 59 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Carleton | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 33 | 2 | 23 | 6 | - | 64 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Peyton | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 39 | 7 | 12 | 7 | - | 61 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 31 | 14 | 290 | 30 | 217 | 64 | 2 | 603 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

No Captain appointed to Major *Fitzgerald's* company; Captain *Johnson* resigned, and no Captain appointed to his company.
Captain *West* sick, at *North-Castle*; Captain *Lee* sick, on the *Jersey's* side of river; Lieutenant *Mercer* appointed Captain to the General's guard; Lieutenant *White* in *Virginia* recruiting.
Lieutenant *Powell* sick, at *North Castle*; Ensign *Robinson* sick, at *Philadelphia.*
Mr. *Brent*, Aid-de-Camp to Lord *Stirling.*

JOHN HAWKINS, *Adjutant of Third Regiment of Virginia Forces.*

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NEIL McLEAN TO ROBERT MORRIS.

New Jail, Philadelphia, November 5th, 1776.

SIR: I have for these several years past been in a bad state of health. I was last spring a twelvemonth seized with a dangerous pain in my breast, and, with a view to remove it, was advised to a change of air and climate. I went from *Dutchess* County, in *New-York*, where I had resided chiefly since 1769, to *Rhode-Island*, from thence by water to *Boston*, and from *Boston* to *Nova-Scotia*. I had directions from General *Gage* to assist in recruiting his Majesty's forces there, but found so many officers on that service in the Province, that I had nothing to do but attend on my health, which, by the latter end of the summer, was pretty well established. I then went to *Boston*, intending to

return to *Newport*, but was refused a pass by General *Howe*, and obliged to go back again to *Nova-Scotia*. I found the air and climate of that country so agreeable to my constitution, that I determined to establish a settlement there. I had several years since made a purchase of a small seigniory in *Canada*, and having nothing to do last winter, went across the country to visit it, and to settle other affairs that I have been concerned in, in that Province, since the years 1764 or 1765. I just arrived there when I was made prisoner by a party of the *American* Army, and carried before their General, who disgorged at me the vilest expressions of scurrility and abuse, and because I had not patience to bear such treatment with becoming submission, ordered me to be put in irons and to be carried in that manner to *Albany*. I was sent from *Albany* to *York*, and from thence to this place. Have been confined here since the middle of last *June*; most of the time in a close room, without bed or bed-clothes, but what the charity of a fellow-prisoner furnished me with, and have not hitherto been admitted to inquire why I undergo such ignominious treatment, or to offer a single syllable in my own defence. I gave a representation of my case last summer, directed to the Congress, to Doctor *Rush*, at his own desire, but found no favourable effect from his application, though I offered to affirm upon oath or honour the truth of every word I had declared.

It has been reported here that I am an officer in his Majesty's Royal Emigrants. This I cannot avow or deny, as I never had any certain notification of any such appointment. But if you will promise me leave to return to *Canada* on my parole of honour, and that I shall find it convenient to accept of such a commission, I shall engage to get an officer of equal rank in change for me; but if I am still on half-pay and incapable of service, the least regard to honour or justice will be a sufficient motive to discharge me.

I have the honour to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient humble servant,

NEIL McLEAN.

To *Robert Morris*, Esq.

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ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN AMERICA.

It is the misfortune of *America* in her great and virtuous struggle, to have too many internal enemies; which has provoked her real friends to advance many extravagant measures, as well as that of running into many acts of outrage, dangerous to individuals as well as subversive of the true happiness and prosperity of these *United States*. And now that we have the most important business to do that ever came before any nation, we seem most unfit to do it. The true friends of *America* have to defend their country by arms against the hostile force of the most powerful State in *Europe*, and at the same time to oppose the political machinations of its internal enemies, who are endeavouring at this important crisis to throw every thing into confusion, by impeding and distracting our civil polity. Such heats and animosities have thus arisen, that the attention of too many is taken off from the general cause, and aiming only (or chiefly) at the political destruction of each other. 'Tis time that this disposition should cease, and both Whigs and Tories unite in adopting the best measures for the security, peace, and happiness of *America*. These *United States*, notwithstanding all that can be said of, or done by, the power of *Great Britain*, must and will support their independence. What expectations, then, have either Whigs or Tories but from the happiest formation of the government, and governments, of these States? Is it not the interest of all, then, that this should be completed in the best manner to promote their common happiness? In this case all *Americans* should be governed by the same motive. But, for a moment, suppose we should fail in our opposition to *Great Britain;* should we not then share one common lot? Yes, I say, with a very few exceptions, both Whigs and Tories would lay at the feet of a most merciless and unrelenting tyrant, who has already rejected more humble and supplicating petitions than any other ever received from the most loyal subjects. What, then, can *America* expect after being subdued, but to be ruled with a rod of iron, which will fall equally on all?

From what has been said, it appears the political divisions that now exist between Whigs and Tories are equally dangerous to both, and can have no other effect than to prolong the war, or perhaps, if strained too far, may unsheath the sword of civil discord, which may complete what the common enemy has begun, by laying waste this country, and leave it not worth even the tyrant's acceptance. This or independence must certainly take place, as the spirit of liberty now reigning in *America* can never bow down at the feet of tyranny, but will sooner sacrifice the blood of all her sons. Let all consider these consequences, and avoid the evil.

But to return. The important business that I mean the *Americans* are now unfitted for by their political divisions, is that of legislation or the framing and establishing new governments. This is a work that requires the utmost wisdom of human nature, and those who perform it ought to be divested of every kind of prejudice, and governed solely by the wisdom and feelings of humanity. Every person concerned ought to view the whole subjects of the State (without respect to Whig or Tory) as his own children, and then conduct himself as a humane father would do in such case to make his posterity happy. But alas, a contrary spirit has greatly injured these States. Where the Whigs have prevailed, they have run into extravagant refinements, on republican principles; and where the Tories have prevailed, the spirit of monarchy has made large and dangerous strides; neither fitted to the genius and authority of the people. It should be constantly in mind that the government of these States are founded on the authority of the people only; and therefore, that there should be sufficient power left in their hands always to prevent the delegated power from becoming dangerous to their liberty. At the same time particular attention ought to be paid to the genius, manners, and customs of the people, as it is well known that innovations upon these things have often been fatal. If I may be permitted, then, to deliver my opinion of the genius of the *Americans*, I shall say it is of a monarchical spirit; this is natural from the government they have ever lived under. It is therefore impossible to found a simple Republick in *America*. Another reason that operates very strongly against such a government is the great distinction of persons, and difference in their estates or property, which cooperates strongly with the genius of the people in favour of monarchy. For these reasons I am induced to think that a mixed government is the best that can be adopted in the respective Colonies; and most of them have adopted such; but in some of them too much power is delegated from the people. One only has attempted to establish a simple Republick on the strictest principles, and this has met with the disapprobation of all parties, which is a further proof of the disposition of the people in favour of a mixed government.

And of mixed governments, the people will naturally be inclined to that which is most like what they have always been used to, viz: a supreme executive magistrate (with a necessary check) and two orders in the body of legislation. But these orders now are to derive their authority from the people only, and in a different manner from what has been usual; it therefore requires the utmost wisdom of the legislature which is to constitute them, so to balance their powers as effectually to secure the liberty and happiness of the people forever, the sole end and purpose of their appointment.

Several of the Colonies have adopted this order, by the name of Governour, Legislative Council, and House of Assembly. I would propose, then, (and only propose, as this is hallowed ground on which I tread,) that the House of Assembly should always consist of at least twice the number of members that is in the Legislative Council; that the House of Assembly should be elected annually by the people; and that after the first choice one third of the Council shall go out annually, and as many be elected annually by the people to serve in their stead; that the Governour or Chief Magistrate in every Colony should be appointed by the Continental Congress, to continue three years, behaving well; that he should have a Privy Council; that such Privy Council should consist of that one third of the Legislative Council which is to go out as aforesaid, for the year immediately preceding the time they are to go out of office: this will make a new Privy Council every year; that the Governour should be President of the Legislative Council, with only a casting voice; that the Legislative Council and House of Assembly should have the sole powers

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of legislation; that the Governour and Legislative Council should be the last Court of Appeals in law and equity; that all judicial officers* in the civil department, and general officers in the Army and Navy, should be appointed by joint ballot of both Houses, subject to the Governour's negative, and to continue during good behaviour; that all ministerial officers† in the civil department, and all inferiour officers in the military, should be appointed by the Governour and Privy Council, to continue seven years, if they behave well. These grand outlines being observed, it appears to me a happy government might be formed in each State; and Congress having the appointment of a Governour or Chief Magistrate in each, would greatly promote the bond of union so ardently wished for by many who now think a contrary spirit too much prevails in many of the Colonies.

These few observations are submitted, with the greatest diffidence, to the judgment of the publick, by a warm friend to the *American* cause, though but a

FARMER.

Philadelphia, November 5, 1776.

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JAMES LOVELL TO CAPTAIN PROCTER.

Jerseys, November 5th, 1776.

SIR: I left Captain *Francis Procter*, your brother, on board the prison-ship *Glascow*, in *New-York* harbour, the 3d of this month. He is in good health, has some encouragement of being speedily exchanged, but hopes his friends will exert themselves to bring about that desirable event, as much as if he had not received any hints about it, for he fears those hints are only to amuse him. He has once wrote, and he now earnestly wishes that proof may be sent to General *Washington* of his having had a regular discharge from the *Irish* Artillery, and consequently that he is not a deserter, as is sometimes thrown in his teeth. I have been his fellow-prisoner for months at *Halifax*, where he has fared hardly, but greatly better than when under the control of Captain *Montague*, who seemed to aim at his life.

I will be more particular by another opportunity, if I catch one in my hurry. Please to inform the friends of his Corporal, *Jerry Low*, of *Fredericksburg*, that *Lows* is with Captain *Procter*, in health. He served to a saddler in *Philadelphia*, and inlisted there.

I am your friend, though unknown,

JAMES LOVELL.

To Captain *Thomas Procter* or Mr. *John Handerson*.

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GENERAL MERCER TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Perth-Amboy, 5th November, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of 31st *October*, was delivered by an officer of the *German* battalion. As to the expediency of recruiting on the new establishment, the men now on duty are left in a great measure by the honourable Board of War to be determined by me. I am glad there are none of the *Germans* belonging to the Flying-Camp under my command at present. All the *Pennsylvanians* who are to serve until the 1st of *January* next, are at *Fort Lee*, under General *Greene;* to him I shall refer the consideration of this affair; but am of opinion that until he is reinforced by the *Virginia* troops, said to be on the way from *Philadelphia*, the circumstances of his post will not admit of his dismissing from duty there any soldiers of the Flying-Camp.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

HUGH MERCER.

To *Richard Peters*, Esq., Secretary to the Board of War, *Philadelphia*.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO GENERAL GREENE.

White-Plains, November 5th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your favour of the 30th ultimo, has been received by his Excellency, and I have it in charge to inform you that the holding or not holding the grounds between *King's Bridge* and the lower lines depends upon so many circumstances that it is impossible for him to determine the point. He submits it entirely to your discretion and such judgment as you will be enabled to form from the enemy's movements and the whole complexion of things. He says you know the original design was to garrison the works and preserve the lower lines as long as they could be kept, that the communication across the river might be open to us, at the same time that the enemy should be prevented from having a passage up and down the river for their ships. The other parts of your letter have been answered on former occasions.

I am, &c.

R. H. HARRISON.

To Major-General *Greene*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILLIPS'S MANOR, DATED NOVEMBER 5, 1776.

Yesterday deserted to our camp two of Major *Robert Rodgers's* Rangers; several Grenadiers were taken the same evening; have had one *Hessian* deserter. It is reported his Excellency has just received particulars of the *White-Plain* battle; in which, it seems, the enemy had killed four hundred and eighty, including two Colonels, three Captains, and several subalterns; while our missing are only eighty.

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GENERAL COURT MARTIAL.

At a General Court-Martial held at *Philipsborough, November* 5, 1776:

Lieutenant-Colonel *Nathan Tyler*, President.

Members: Major *Clap*, Captain *Cragin*, Captain *Farrar*, Captain *White*, Captain *Newell*, Captain *Lamb*, Major *Rand*, Captain *Black*, Captain *Rice*, Captain *Page*, Captain *Goss*, Captain *Edgell:*

For the trial of *George Coombs*, Assistant Commissary, in a charge of embezzling the Continental stores.

The prisoner being called, and the charge against him read, plead Not guilty, and offered himself for trial.

The Court then adjourned to next day morning, nine o'clock.

*Wednesday morning, nine o'clock.*—The Court being met according to adjournment, proceeded to the further trial of the prisoner.

The witnesses being sworn, made oath as follows, viz:

*Reuben Taft* testifies and says, that on the 2d of *November* instant, he saw nine barrels, which he took to be flour, hid under some buckwheat straw; that it was on fire, with a quantity of buckwheat, before it came to his knowledge, and that it was then impossible to secure it from the flames; and that the said *Combs* informed him that it belonged to the publick stores; that he hid it there in order to secure it from the enemy.

*Levi Rawson* testifies and says, that on the 2d of *November* instant, he saw nine barrels, which he took to be flour, under a quantity of buckwheat straw; that he heard *Reuben Taft* inquire of said *Combs* how that flour came there; that *Combs* answered he put it there, and did it to secure it from the enemy.

*George Hopson* testifies and says, that the said *Combs* sent for him in the evening of the 1st day of *November* instant, and asked him what he should do with the stores in his charge, that he was unwilling the enemy should have them; they concluded it best to convey the stores farther up the hill to have them more secure; and that he assisted said *Combs* in conveying seven barrels of flour and two barrels of pork under a quantity of buckwheat straw, about seven or eight o'clock in the evening of the said 1st of *November* instant.

*Ezekiel Woodbury* testifies and says, that he was on sentry at said *Combs's* store, in the evening of the said 1st of *November*, and saw three loads of stores carried off upon an old sleigh from thence by said *Combs*, at which time he questioned him for what he was carrying away said stores; he first answered it was none of his business; but on being further questioned, said *Combs* answered he was doing it to secure them; that he expected the enemy would come, and that it was better to secure part than have all lost; and that if stores were found about his house he should fare the worse by the enemy should they come.

The Court then adjourned to *Friday* morning, nine o'clock.

*Friday morning, nine o'clock.*—The Court being met according to adjournment, proceeded to the further trial of said *Combs;* and the further evidence sworn gave in as follows, viz:

*William Paulding*, Commissary, testifies and says, that

*Such as Judges, Justices, &c. †Such as Secretary, Clerks, &c.

on the 1st of *November* instant, he informed Mr. *Combs* that he expected the regiments at *Tarrytown* would retreat soon, and ordered him to take the best care he could of the stores in his charge; and as he saw no probability of procuring teams, ordered him to secrete and secure in the best manner he could the residue of the stores that remained in his hands, and that he approved of his putting the stores in the manner he did.

The question being put, whether *George Combs*, the prisoner, be guilty of embezzling the publick stores agreeable to the charge against him or not, the Court unanimously determined not guilty.

NATHAN TYLER, *President.*

A true sentence of procedure of the Court-Martial:

MICH'L GILL, *J. A.*

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BRIGADIER DANIELSON TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Near Head-Quarters, North-Castle, November 5th, 1776.

We received yours dated *October* 30th, 1776, by Mr. *John Fadon*, wherein you desire to be informed of the true situation and condition of our Army. We shall do ourselves the pleasure to gratify you as far as possible, and you may be assured that we have not been idle spectators the short time we have been in or near the camp.

The Continental Army are fronted to the west, extending their line from north to south, near *Connecticut* bounds, about the extent of four miles, Lord *Stirling's* division on the right and General *Heath's* on the left. The whole encamped on a ridge of hills, some of them almost inaccessible in front, all finely covered with woods. Soldiers and officers in high spirits, loath to give an inch to their enemies. Not more sick than may be expected in so numerous an Army. The *British* Army are extended in like manner on another range of hills, near two miles distant, in open view. The apparent reason of our retreat so far and so often, is this: the enemy are labouring to out-flank us, and pass into the country, if by any means they might cut off our supplies. The General, divinely inspired, has been apprised of their design, and to avoid an action at this critical state of our Army, has been playing back to give himself more room between the *Sound* and the *North River*. Small skirmishes happen, in which we have the better, and kill three to one.

We are in doubt with respect to our success in continuing our Militia for the time proposed. If they will not be prevailed upon, the General may reasonably expect to have their place supplied. His Excellency was disgusted at our Assembly's augmenting the soldiers' wages, which has occasioned our sending Mr. *Partridge* to Congress, as we wrote the Assembly the last post, and by the earnest request of the General are endeavouring to put the encouragement of our Assembly for continuing the Militia to first day of *February* next into another form, that it may not stand as an addition to their monthly pay. We shall soon know our fate on that account, and when known shall immediately inform.

We are fully satisfied with the situation and conduct of the Army. Most certain there is nothing to surprise a reasonable inquirer if he was on the spot. Impossible is it that the enemy should force our front in their present situation, and we fear never will be so infatuated as to attempt it, however you may hear to the contrary, but must tread their surly steps back ere long. High living for soldiers, good flour, beef, and pork in plenty, with grog to wash it down.

Thus far this night, and will wait on the General in the morning, to satisfy your second inquiry.

This morning, the 6th of *November*, waited on his Excellency, and after continuing long for an answer, (it being General Council,) the General desired us to continue our Militia in service if possible to 1st of *March*, for that he should expect four thousand of them to be in service to that time. Accordingly have presumed to issue our invitation to each battalion of recruits from our State, in the name of the Assembly of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, to continue their service to the first day of *March* next. Some will tarry, no doubt, and as soon as possible shall inform the Assembly what number. And if one half the aforesaid number can be prevailed upon to continue, the saving must be considerable.

This morning were informed that the *British* troops had lately quitted their post, and marched from the *White-Plain* toward *New-York*.

We are in good health—great fatigue—a job for time, and, gentlemen, your most obedient very humble servant,

By order of the Committee:

TIM. DANIELSON, *Ch'n.*

The Committee of the Assembly of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay.*

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GEN. SCOTT TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Camp on the Heights, near White-Plains, November 5th, 1776.

SIR: I was honoured this morning with the receipt of yours of the 2d instant. General *Clinton* and myself conferred on its contents. He thinks that his brigade will not, except in a very few instances, want clothing. Mine certainly will not, as they have but twenty-five days more to serve. I must earnestly recommend it to the Committee of Safety to expedite the commissions before my brigade is discharged, that there may be a chance of recruiting them, or some of them, on the new establishment.

Nothing new to communicate, but that this moment I have received information that there is a great movement and rumbling of carriages in the enemy's Army; that they have withdrawn their advanced guards, and quitted one of their encampments nearest to us. It is conjectured they are moving westward, but nothing certain can be concluded, on account of the fogginess of the weather, until the return of the scouts which General *Clinton* and myself have sent out. I shall keep this unsealed, with intent that if the rider should not set off before we can make discoveries, I may impart them to you. A few cannon this moment heard from a great distance.

Major *Fish* would be fond of accepting a majority on the new establishment. I can honestly recommend him as well qualified for that rank. This I am sure of—there is not a better Brigade-Major in the Army. Indeed I have not seen one who can do the duties of the grand parade so well as he, except Major *Henley*, and I think he does not exceed him. In other departments of his present appointment he gives me great satisfaction.

I am, sir, with great respect, yours and the honourable Committee's most obedient servant,

JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

To the honourable the President or Vice-President, &c., &c.

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COLONEL MALCOM TO JOHN MCKESSON.

Camp White-Plains, November 5, 1776, }
On a drumhead in the woods. }

DEAR SIR: As I apprehend the Convention will soon be upon the business of appointments for the new Army, I cannot in justice either to the country or the following worthy men, whose names I mention, omit recommending them in the strongest manner, viz: Captain *Edward Meeks*, Lieutenants *James Blake*, *Prentice Bowen*, *Aspinwall Cornwall*, and *John M. Toght*, and Mr. *John Sanford*, my Adjutant. I have had such repeated proofs of their qualifications as officers, that with the utmost freedom I can solicit companies for each of them. They are brave, active, sober, and well-disciplined, and I am sure General *Scott* will join very heartily in my solicitation for them. They are willing to serve in the capacity of Captains.

Since writing the above, I find the enemy have left their camp. The fog is fast clearing away, and I have sent out fifty men from my regiment to take possession of the Court-House, and the Rangers to reconnoitre to the eastward, and I shall detain Mr. *Mitchell* at my post (which is a mile advanced from our Army, and for eight days within musket shot of the enemy's advanced post) until I can send more certain intelligence. Our conjectures are various—a countryman just in says they are gone to *York;* if so, we shall have a chase.

It is now past three o'clock. The enemy are moved off to our right, *i. e.* to the heights northwest of the Court-House. I can make no farther discoveries in this quarter, but that I am delivered from troublesome neighbours, and have a prospect of sleep to-night. I therefore despatch Mr. *Mitchell* to General *Scott*, who, perhaps, will have some intelligence.

I have only to add that I always am, with esteem, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

W. Malcom.

To *John McKesson*, Esq., *Fishkill*.

I would write you oftener, but really have not time, being on an out-post with my regiment and the Rangers, and very critically situated.

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GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

King's Ferry, November 5, 1776.

Dear Sir: Colonel *Harrison* wrote me you were in great want of flour. 'Tis attended with very great difficulty to bring it up from *Fort Lee* by land. Wagons can't be got to transport a sufficient supply for your Army. At *Dobbs's Ferry* there are eight or nine hundred barrels, brought from the other side. I have directed Colonel *Tupper* to load a number of the pettiaugers and flat-bottom boats and send them up to *Peekskill*. Our troops are so arranged along shore, I am in hopes to keep a passage open for this mode of conveyance. If it can be done it will save an amazing expense.

I found every thing in this place in the utmost confusion—the wagons and flour detained for want of boats and assistance to transport them over. I shall send Captain *Pond* hither as soon as I get back, to take charge of the publick stores here, and to transport the things across. Colonel *Tupper* is to convoy the pettiaugers by the ships, and if the barges are manned the boats are to be run on shore, and Major *Clark*, who commands a party opposite the ships, is to protect them.

I shall attempt to transport publick stores from *Burdett's Ferry*, if the enemy make no new disposition. The utmost care shall be taken that nothing falls into the enemy's hands.

I am informed by Colonel *Harrison* that your Excellency approves of the plan for forming the magazines. I have directed the Commissaries of the department to lay in the provisions as fast as possible; and the Quartermaster-General is exerting himself to lay in provender.

Many of our people have got into huts. The tents are sent forward as fast as the people get their huts complete.

Should this ferry be wanted through the winter, the landing must be altered. I can, by altering the road, shorten the distance two miles—one by land the other by water. Where it now is, it freezes up very soon; where I propose it, it is open all winter.

I am now in the State of *New-York*, and am informed by Colonel *Hawkes Hoy*, that the Militia which he commands refuses to do duty. They say that General *Howe* has promised them peace, liberty, and safety; and that is all they want. What is to be done with them? This spirit and temper should be checked in its infancy. I purpose to send the Colonel about fifty men; and have directed the Colonel to acquaint them if they refuse to do duty agreeable to the orders of the State, that I will send up a regiment here, and march them to *Fort Lee*, to do duty there. I beg your Excellency's further advice.

I am informed the *Virginia* regiments are coming on. I wish I could form a party sufficiently strong to make a little diversion in the rear of the enemy, by the way of *King's Bridge*. The *Hessians* have relaid the bridges, and been across; but yesterday morning I believe they all went back again. What does your Excellency think of such a manœuvre? Is it practicable—has it the appearance of being successful if attempted and well conducted?

We have a flying report that General *Gates* has defeated *Burgoyne*. We also hear that a party of *Hessians* had deserted over to us. I wish to know the truth of both reports.

All things were quiet at *Fort Lee* and *York Island* yesterday, at noon.

The people seem to be much alarmed at *Philadelphia* from the success of the enemy. The country is greatly alarmed at having their grain and hay burnt, yet I believe it will answer a most valuable purpose. I wish it had been earlier agreed upon.

I am informed *Hugh Gaine*, the printer, is gone into *New-York*. I have ordered all the boats' stores from *Burdett's Ferry* to *Hobuck*, and from *Powley's Hook* to *Bergen Point*, to stop the communication. There is a vile generation here as well as with you. The Committee from *Philadelphia* for inquiring into the state of the Army, complains that inlisting orders are not given out. Please to let me know your pleasure.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's obedient servant,

N. Greene.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, Head-Quarters.

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GERARD BANCKER TO WILLIAM DUER.

Fishkill, November 5, 1776.

Sir: Pursuant to your order of last *Friday*, I have been to *Peekskill*, in company with Mr. *Campbell*, to view the ground on which he has begun to erect barracks. It is on a level, dry spot, with a considerable rising on the east side of it. Will contain barracks for about seven or eight hundred men. Mr. *Campbell* informs me there are good springs in its vicinity. Fuel is not very handy to it. We found the frames up and partly boarded, for ten rooms. They are placed in a line facing nearly west, without windows on the east side.

We sought for some more suitable place north of Mr. *Robinson's* mills, (which are about two miles north of the barracks now building,) and north of the entrance into the Highlands, but could find no place near said entrance where connected barracks can be built sufficient to contain one thousand men. The most suitable place, I think, will be just after ascending the mountain, where there is a considerable quantity of cleared land, on both sides of the road. But the descent towards the road is great from each side. Water and fuel are convenient here; and this cleared land is above the spot where I think it probable works of defence will be thrown up. About a quarter of a mile below this, and southeasterly from the bridge at *Robinson's* mills, is a stubble-field, that may contain barracks for one thousand men; has a creek west of, and adjoining it; a good spring in the road, which passes the east side of it, and fuel very handy on a mountain across the road, east of it. The objections to this place may be, that it is a quarter of a mile below the pass to be defended, and may, in a rainy season, be too wet; at present it is very dry.

When I returned to the *Fishkill*, instead of ascending the mountain a little north of *Robinson's* mills, I came up the valley, and found it a continued cleared meadow, nearly five miles up its mean breadth, about a quarter of a mile; it terminates in a wood and broken hills, through which, for a considerable distance, there is only a foot-path.

I am, with great respect, sir, your very humble servant,

Gerard Bancker.

To *William Duer*, Esq.

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COMFORT SANDS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fishkill, 5th November, 1776.

Sir: On the 18th day of *January* last, the Committee of Safety of this State appointed Mr. *Garret Roorback* Barrackmaster of *New-York*, but his commission does not mention what pay or rations he is to receive. I beg your direction respecting this matter.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

Comfort Sands.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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WARRANT TO TAKE WILLIAM MURRAY AND CORNELIUS THORP.

Orange *County:*

You are hereby authorized to take the bodies of *William Murry* and *Cornelius Thorp*, so called, and bring them forthwith to the house of Mr. *John Brewster*, to answer before the Precinct Committee of a charge against them for altering the Continental currency. And if aid or assistance be needful, you are likewise authorized hereby to call in for that purpose such part of the Militia as may be necessary.

Nath'l Satterly,
Arch'ld Little.

To *Joshua Miller*, to execute this order.

COMFORT SANDS TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Fishkill, the 5th November, 1776.

SIR: Captain *Belknap*, one of the Captains of the Rangers ordered to be raised in *Ulster* County, has applied for the pay, subsistence, and half-bounty, of his company. The former I have settled; the latter, want your directions about. It appears there has been money sent to the different County Committees for the one-half bounty; but as the company is not more than one half full, there must be money yet remaining in the hands of the Committee which I think it would be best to draw out, and settle their bounty there; for while money is continually advanced to different Committees and persons, it will be impossible for me ever to get the publick accounts settled.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

COMFORT SANDS.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention of *New-York*.

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JOHANNES SLEGHT TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Kingston, 5th November, 1776.

SIR: The necessitous cries and lamentations of the good people of this and the neighbouring townships, for the want of salt, is the occasion of my troubling the honourable Convention with these few lines. I am credibly informed that *Albany* and *Dutchess* have a considerable quantity of this necessary article in some of their stores, to supply the wants of their inhabitants, but I don't know of a single bushel to be had in our end of this County, although there are a great number who have not so much to salt a pound of butter. I am, therefore, desired to acquaint your honourable House of this, and beg the favour of you to grant us some relief if possible.

I am, gentlemen, in behalf of a number of the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring townships, your obedient and most humble servant,

JOHANNES SLEIGHT.

To the President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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JAMES YANCEY TO THE COMMITTEE OF BENNINGTON.

Mount Independence, 5th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your favour of the 24th *October*, per Mr. *Crain*, I received, and observed the contents. General *Gates*, on my request, discharged the number of men agreeable to your desire, for the purpose of forwarding provisions. I shall apply for assistance in mending the roads; doubt not it may be completed.

Your favour of the 28th same month, was handed me yesterday. I have sent men to *Skeensborough* to receive your flour, give receipts, and forward it to me. You will please to direct all the flour to be delivered to Messrs. *Gore* and *Crain*, assistants to me, they being appointed for that purpose.

I have sent you, by Mr. *Clark*, one thousand dollars, and as soon as can be, will wait on you with more cash. Would have sent you more at this time, but wait for a supply from the Paymaster. My business being in some confusion, owing to hurry, prevented my being with you before this. I hope we may be enabled to establish a further correspondence with your people. The particular attention you pay for the welfare of your country demands its most cordial thanks for the same. General *Gates* directs to return you his sincere thanks for your good attention to the supply of the Army.

I have communicated your letter to Congress, as two of the members were with me since your first letter. Should be glad to know what quantity of flour you can be able to supply between this and the spring. As I may make provision for establishing a magazine there, your answer upon this head should be glad to receive as soon as possible. It will suit me best to see you; which shall endeavour to do as soon as I can get my hurry of business a little over.

I am, gentlemen, with all the sincerity of a candid heart, your obliged friend and most humble servant,

JAS. YANCEY.

To the Chairman of the Committee of Safety and Supplies for the town of *Bennington*.

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GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Tyonderoga, 5 November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Within this hour I received your favour of the 2d instant, from *Albany*. The bearer will acquaint you with the particulars of the enemy's retreat from *Crown Point*. Sir *John Johnson* escaped with them. His *Indians* absolutely refused General *Carleton* to stay any longer up the lake, so you may sleep at ease respecting the *Mohawk* river. Let the Tory inhabitants of *Tryon* County know that I will send Captain *Whitcombe* and one hundred men to whip them into obedience the moment they are refractory. I impatiently wait the confirmation of the good news you sent me of the action near the *White-Plains*. Pray forward the nails, the clothing, the flour, &c., &c., as fast as you can by both communications.

I am, dear General, your affectionate, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To Major-General *Schuyler*.

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ISAAC PIERCE TO CAPTAIN GEERS.

Head-Quarters, Ticonderoga, November 5, 1776.

SIR: It is General *Gates's* orders that you immediately repair with the bearer, Lieutenant *Thurber*, to *Ticonderoga*, bringing with you all the money you had in your possession belonging to Colonel *Bedel's* regiment. Herein fail not at your peril.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

ISAAC PEIRCE, *Aid-de-Camp*.

To Captain *Shubael Geers*, at *Number Four*.

P. S. Such goods in your possession belonging to the regiment must immediately be delivered to the Chairman of the Committee of Safety at *Number Four*, who will forward them to this camp as soon as the roads will permit. I. P.

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GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Ticonderoga, 5th November, 1776.

SIR: I have the honour to send your Excellency a copy of my letter by the bearer, Major *Stuart*, to the President of the Congress.

General *Schuyler* has this morning informed me of the rumour of an action near the *White-Plains*. I hope soon to felicitate your Excellency upon having concluded your campaign in the most brilliant and triumphant manner.

I am, sir, your Excellency's most obliged and most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL GATES TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 15th.]

Ticonderoga, November 5th, 1776.

SIR: I have the honour to congratulate the Congress upon the retreat of Lieutenant-General Sir *Guy Carleton*, with the fleet and army under his command, from *Crown Point*. *Saturday* last, the works being put into the best order, the boom and bridge of communication finished, and every necessary preparative for defence made, I determined to send a detachment down each side of the lake, to beat up the enemy's quarters at their advanced post on *Putnam's Point* and the opposite shore. About eight at night, the detachment, under the command of Major *Delap*, proceeded down the east side of the lake, and the other, under Colonel *Connor*, down the west side. *Sunday* morning, Major *Delap*, with his detachment, took possession of *Putnam's Point*, which the enemy had just abandoned, and immediately detached a subaltern with a small party to reconnoitre *Crown Point*. The officer having returned, reported that he saw the enemy embark, a number of their vessels under sail, and the whole preparing to get under way. Colonel *Connor*, on taking possession of the post opposite to *Putnam's Point*, found that likewise abandoned. Yesterday, an officer and a party whom I sent to *Crown Point* returned, and reported he had been at *Crown Point*, with the inhabitants there; that the enemy were all gone from that post, and the inhabitants would come this day to *Ticonderoga*, to make their submission, and beg the protection of the *United States*.

I cannot help observing here, that the removal of our Army from *Crown Point* to *Ticonderoga* was a most fortunate and salutary measure; for had it continued at *Crown Point* after the disaster that befell our fleet, the enemy might have cut off all our resources, by stationing their fleet above the point. Desperate must then have been the situation of our Army.

I have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

His Excellency *John Hancock*, Esq.

P. S. This will be delivered to your Excellency by my first Aid-de-Camp, Major *Stuart*, a deserving officer.

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LIST OF THE WANTS OF THE NORTHERN ARMY.

Twenty-five hundred officers and soldiers for the winter garrison of *Tyonderoga* and *Mount Independence*.

Twenty-five hundred officers and soldiers to be cantoned upon the *Mohock* and *Hudson's* rivers, *Albany* therein included.

Two large floating batteries to be prepared to be built, one to cover the boom, the other, the bridge of communication, and to rake the bay on the south side of *Tyonderoga*.

Twenty good iron eighteen-pounders, to be sent from *Solisbury* works as soon as the snow will answer to transport them.

Ten brass 6-inch howitzers, with shells and a proper attirail.

A plan of a good fort upon *Mount Independence*, to be fixed upon and approved.

As there is an excellent bridge built over *Otter Creek*, at *Rutland*, and a good road cut from *Mount Independence*, abundant supplies might, in the winter, be thrown in from the Eastern governments by that road.

The recruiting the new establishment to be pushed with vigour, when the money wanted and voted the 21st *October* arrives.

The General Hospital for the future to be upon *Mount Independence*, except in case of contagious diseases; then, that at *Fort George* to be used.

A quantity of vegetables and anti-scorbutics should be sent to *Tyonderoga* as soon as possible, as the scurvy is apt to be fatal there in the spring of the year without such remedies.

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GENERAL ORDERS—NORTHERN ARMY.

Head-Quarters, October 14, 1776.

(Parole, *Waterbury.*) (Countersign, *Wigglesworth.*)

Lieutenant *Peter Hughes*, of the First Battalion of *Pennsylvanians*, is appointed Aid-de-Camp to Major-General *Gates*, during the absence of Major *Walter Stewart*.

As every regiment and corps are well acquainted with their alarm posts, the General expects the troops will be alert in marching to support the works they are severally intended to defend. He has the utmost dependence upon the bravery and fidelity of the whole Army, and believes when called to action they will show themselves worthy of the noble cause they are engaged to defend. He returns his thanks to General *Arnold*, and the officers, seamen, and marines of the fleet for the gallant defence they made against the great superiority of the enemy's force. Such magnanimous behaviour will establish the fame of the *American* arms throughout the globe.

Captain-Lieutenant *Gibbs Jones* is to take the command of the artillery upon the side of *Mount Independence*.

Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Colonel *Wheelock*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Officer of the day for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Wyngate*. Brigade-Major, First Brigade.

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Head-Quarters, October 15, 1776.

(Parole, *Washington.*) (Countersign, ——.)

As there are not intrenching tools sufficient to employ the whole of the men off duty, the General expects that the commanding officers of regiments will order one third of their men off duty to be paraded at seven o'clock every morning for fatigue, who are to be kept constantly at work until ten in the forenoon; one third more to relieve the first party at ten, who are to work till one in the afternoon; the other third to relieve the second party at one, and work till five in the evening. This order to be constantly and regularly obeyed until countermanded.

The General is very unhappy to see the want of that spirit, alertness, and industry so necessary for the immediate completion of the forts and redoubts, prevail so shamefully in this Army. The fleet have acted a noble part. Let it not be said hereafter that the cause of all *America* was injured by the supineness of the Northern Army.

Captain-Lieutenant *Jones*, of the Artillery, will return to the side of *Ticonderoga*, and Major *Biggalow*, being recovered of his indisposition, will resume the command of the Artillery upon *Mount Independence*.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Ogden*. Brigade-Major of the day, *Browne*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Swift*. Brigade-Major, Second Brigade.

The guard heretofore kept in the trench lines is to be advanced in front of the works to an eminence which will be shown them by Colonel *Wayne* and Colonel *De Haas*.

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Head-Quarters, October 16, 1776.

(Parole, *Falmouth.*) (Countersign, *Exeter.*)

At a General Court of the Line, of which Brigadier-General *St. Clair* was President, Captains *Jonathan* and *John Fassett*, Lieutenant *Rufus Perry*, *Jonathan Wright*, and *Matthew Lyon*, were tried for deserting their post on *Onion* river, without being attacked or forced by the enemy, and without orders.

The Court having duly considered the evidences for and against the prisoners, are of opinion that Captain *Jonathan Fassett*, Captain *John Fassett*, Lieutenant *Jonathan Wright*, and *Matthew Lyon*, are guilty of deserting their post without orders, or without being attacked or forced by the enemy; and that they are also, with Lieutenant *Rufus Perry*, guilty of a breach of the sixth article of war, and do adjudge that the said *Jonathan Fassett* and *John Fassett*, Lieutenant *Wright*, and Lieutenant *Rufus Perry*, and Lieutenant *Matthew Lyon*, be cashiered, forfeit all their pay, (to be appropriated towards making good the damages sustained by the inhabitants on *Onion* river on account of their unsoldierlike retreat,) and that they be, and that each of them are, hereby declared to be incapable of ever hereafter holding any military commissions or employments in the service of the *United States of America*, and that their names and crimes be published in the newspapers.

Sergeant *Phineas Ripley*, Corporal *Jno. Whitley*, *Jabez Amstead*, *Reuben Baker*, *John Welsh*, *Samuel Smith*, *Daniel Adams*, *Constant Reynolds*, *Zephaniah Holmes*, *Jonathan Carey*, *George Olds*, *Rufus Bates*, *Azariah Brooks*, *E. Starkweather*, *William Houlad*, *Stephen Holmes*, *Amos Fassett*, *Benjamin Holmes*, *Ephraim Smith*, and *Edward Turner*, were tried by the same General Court-Martial, for mutiny. The Court, after due deliberation, are of opinion that Corporal *Whitely*, *J. Amstead*, *R. Baker*, *J. Welsh*, *S. Smith*, *C. Reynolds*, *G. Olds*, *R. Bates*, *A. Brooks*, *E. Starkwether*, *W. Houlad*, *S. Holmes*, *A. Fassett*, *B. Holmes*, *J. Carey*, and *E. Turner*, are guilty of mutiny, and that *P. Ripley*, *D. Adams*, *Z. Holmes*, and *E. Smith*, are not guilty; and do adjudge Corporal *Whitly* to be reduced to the ranks and receive thirty-nine lashes on his bare back; *Amos Fassett* thirty-nine lashes; *Samuel Smith* thirty-nine lashes; and be all imprisoned one week picking oakum; the others to receive each twenty lashes on their bare back, at such place as the General may appoint, and be kept one week picking oakum.

The General approves the above sentences, and orders those relating to the officers to take place immediately; those on the soldiers to be put in execution—that is, the corporal punishment at guard-relieving to-morrow in the fort; after that the Deputy Quartermaster-General will direct their employment.

The General Court-Martial of which General *St. Clair* was President, is dissolved.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Craig*. Brigade-Major of the day, *Ryan*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Mott*. Brigade-Major of the day, *Howell*.

Head-Quarters, October 17, 1776.

(Parole, *Montgomery.*) (Countersign, *Essex.*)

The Commissary is immediately to issue one half gill of rum to every non-commissioned officer and soldier now in camp; and should the bad weather continue until evening, he is then to issue one half gill more.

A detachment of a Captain, three Subs, three Sergeants, and one hundred rank and file, to parade as soon as possible, from Colonel *Brewer's* and Colonel *Willard's* regiments, with axes, who are to proceed to cut down the trees across the *Crown-Point* road.

The Quartermaster of each regiment to deliver the spare tents belonging to their respective corps to Colonel *Morgan Lewis*, Deputy Quartermaster-General, at four o'clock this afternoon. Colonel *Lewis* will give his receipt for the same.

Mr. *Robert Hops* is appointed Quartermaster of the Sixth Battalion of *Pennsylvanians*, in place of Mr. *Nichols*, engaged with the Commissary.

Mr. *John King* is appointed an Ensign in the same battalion, in place of Ensign *McCoy*, dead.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Ab. Brown*. Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Marsh*. Brigade-Major, First Brigade.

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Head-Quarters, October 18, 1776.

(Parole, *Jersey.*) (Countersign, *Dye.*)

The Commissary to supply all the empty casks he has in store, that will hold water, to such regiments as have not water convenient to their alarm posts. These to be kept filled with fresh water, that the troops may have a supply ready when wanted. A quantity of rum to be also at hand, to be delivered according to orders.

As the enemy can have no reasonable hope of defeating this Army unless the troops posted in the redoubts and the advanced guards suffer themselves to be surprised, the General strongly recommends it to all officers and soldiers to exert their utmost vigilance whilst upon duty, never omitting the smallest attention to every approach of an enemy, and constantly giving the most vigorous opposition to all their attempts.

Colonel *Maxwell's* regiment is without delay to join Colonel *Winds's* regiment on the side of *Tyconderoga*. The most proper ground for their encampment will be shown them by the Deputy Quartermaster-General.

The Commissary to issue one half gill of rum to every non-commissioned officer and soldier now in camp, at one o'clock this afternoon.

The General expects an exact obedience to the order of yesterday respecting the delivery of all the spare tents to the Quartermaster-General. Only two regiments have as yet done their duty according to that order—*St. Clair's* and (late) *Bedel's*.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow, Lieutenant-Colonel *Leonard*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Shreve*. Brigade-Major, Second Brigade.

The Commissary is to deliver five sheep to each regiment to-morrow morning, as early as possible. The Artillery and corps of Artificers to receive four sheep each. They are to be reckoned in the allowance of provisions at their estimated weight.

The seamen belonging to the late gondola *Providence* are ordered to join the immediately, under Captain *Simmonds*, on *Ticonderoga*.

The guards to have one half gill of rum, issued at sunset, to every non-commissioned officer and soldier now upon duty.

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Head-Quarters, October 19, 1776.

(Parole, ——.) (Countersign, ——.)

Lieutenant-Colonel *Baldwin*, First Engineer, will take the direction of the works upon the side of *Tyconderoga*, with the following Assistants under him: Major *Paine*, Captain *Newland*, Lieutenant *Dollar*, and Ensign *Parrit*.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Pallisier*, Second Engineer, will take the direction of the works upon the side of *Mount Independence*, with the following Assistants under him: Captain *Patterson*, Mr. *Delazeene*, and any two other gentlemen that the Colonels upon that side shall recommend.

This arrangement being settled, and the particular works to be completed determined upon, the General has no doubt but the necessary preparations for a vigorous defence will be made, with that animated zeal becoming soldiers who are also free citizens of *America*.

Such non-commissioned officers and soldiers whose arms have been wet by the late bad weather and cannot be drawn, are to be drawn up in squads in proper places half an hour before sunset, and there discharged.

The regiments who want ammunition may be supplied by applying to Colonel *Trumbull*, Deputy Adjutant-General.

The Commissary is to deliver all the empty flour casks and hogsheads on this side the lake, to the order of Colonel *Anthony Wayne*, who will be directed where to place them.

The troops to have two days' provisions constantly ready dressed, until further orders.

All the spears that can be spared from the vessels, to be delivered for the defence of the *French* lines and redoubts.

The commanding officer of the Artillery will prove and scale such guns as want it, at the same time as the musketry are to fire.

Field Officer of the day for to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Benj. Browne*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence* to-morrow, Lieutenant-Colonel *Conner*. Brigade-Major-*Howell*.

—

Head-Quarters, Ticonderoga, October 20, 1776.

(Parole, *Warren.*) (Countersign, *Charleston.*)

The station of the Principal and Assistant Engineers being fixed by yesterday's orders, no person is to direct any new works, or the repairing any old ones, without first receiving the Engineer's approbation and orders for the same.

As it is uncertain on which of our posts the enemy may make their principal attack, the General desires and expects that the officers and men fit for duty in the regiments on both sides the lake, will hold themselves in instant readiness to march or embark for whatever part of the camp may need their support.

Adjutant *Hunt*, of late *Bond's* regiment, is ordered to do the duty of Major of Brigade to the First Brigade on *Mount Independence*, during the sickness of Major *Stoddard*.

Adjutant *Walker* is to do the duty for the Second Brigade, in the absence of Major *Rice*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence* to-morrow, Lieutenant-Colonel *Center*. Brigade-Major, First Brigade.

Field Officer for *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Roberts*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

—

Head-Quarters, October 21, 1776.

(Parole, *Oneida.*) (Countersign, *Kirkland.*)

The following arrangements of the Surgeons of the Army are to take place in case of action, viz: Doctors *Kennedy*, *Barnet*, *Taylor*, *Thacher*, *Silsby*, *Packer*, to attend at the old fort, with their Mates. Doctors *Johnson*, *Holmes*, *Allison*, *Harvey*, and *Stewart*, with their Mates, to attend at the place appointed, near Colonel *Wayne's* marquee, with all their instruments.

All the Surgeons and Mates on *Mount Independence* to attend Doctor *Potts*, at the General Hospital on the *Mount*.

Colonel *Maxwell's* battalion is to join and do duty with General *St. Clair's* brigade.

Mr. *William McKindry* is appointed Adjutant of Colonel *Wheelock's* regiment, in place of Adjutant *Trottingham*, resigned.

A guard of a Sergeant and twelve privates to mount this evening over the batteaus which are placed in the cove under *Mount Independence*, on the west side. This guard will suffer no boat to be taken without a written order from the commanding officer of a brigade, from Head-Quarters, the Quartermaster-General, or his Assistant.

Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Major *De Hart*. Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Officer of the day for *Mount Independence*, Lieutenant Colonel *Starr*. Brigade-Major, *Walker*.

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Head-Quarters, October 22, 1776.

(Parole, *Cadiz.*) (Countersign, *Spain.*)

Captain *Tobias Fernald*, of Colonel *Phinney's* regiment, is ordered to do the duty of Major in that regiment, in the absence of Major *Brown*, sick.

Whenever an action happens on the *Ticonderoga* side, the wounded, after being dressed at the places appointed in yesterday's orders, are to be carried to Doctor *Potts*, at the General Hospital on the *Mount*. Boats will be kept constantly ready at the carpenter's shop for this purpose, laying in the cove.

Colonel *Maxwell's*, Colonel *Wayne's*, and Colonel *Hartley's* regiments, are to furnish Major *Stevens*, of Artillery, each ten men with a non-commissioned officer, for the Artillery service. General *Bricket's* brigade will likewise furnish thirty men and an officer, for the same purpose. They are to bring their camp-kettles from the regiments. Tents will be furnished from store.

The two *Jersey* battalions are to do fatigue duty in common with the other battalions of the brigade, but their men are to be employed in their own alarm post, only except the parties wanted for the Artillery and Quartermaster-General.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Major *Butler*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer on *Mount Independence*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Worthington*. Brigade-Major, *Howell*.

—

Head-Quarters, October 23, 1776.

(Parole, *France*.) (Countersign, *Paris*.)

A General Court-Martial from the two brigades of Generals *St. Clair* and *Brickett*, to sit to-morrow morning, at the President's tent, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before them. President, Lieutenant-Colonel *Craig*; twelve members, Captains.

Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Major *P. Frazier*. Brigade-Major, *Browne*.

Field Officer on *Mount Independence*, Major *Sherburne*. Brigade-Major, *Hunt*.

—

Head-Quarters, October 24, 1776.

(Parole, *Ferdinand*.) (Countersign, *Brunswick*.)

The commanding officers of regiments are directly to draw for one quarter of a pound of buckshot for every man fit for duty in their respective corps.

The honourable the Congress of the *United States* have, for the reward and encouragement of every non-commissioned officer and soldier who shall engage to serve during the war, further resolved to give, over and above the bounty of twenty dollars annually to each man, one complete suit of clothing, which for the present year is to consist of two linen hunting-shirts, two pair of stockings, two pair of shoes, two pair of overalls, a leathern or woolen jacket with sleeves, one pair of breeches, and one leathern cap or hat, amounting in the whole to the value of twenty dollars, or that sum to be paid to each soldier who shall procure those articles for himself, and produce a certificate thereof from the Captain of the company to which he belongs, to the Paymaster of the regiment. This noble bounty of forty dollars and one hundred acres of land at the end of the war, is such an ample and generous gratuity from the *United States*, that the General is convinced no *American* will hesitate to enroll himself to defend his country and posterity from every attempt of tyranny to enslave it.

Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Major *Stacey*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Officer for *Mount Independence*, Major *Cilly*. Brigade Major, *Walker*.

—

Head-Quarters, October 25, 1776.

(Parole, *The States*.) (Countersign, *Independence*.)

Sergeant *Abraham Dull* is appointed an Ensign in the Second Battalion of *Pennsylvanians*, in place of Ensign *Ross* resigned.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow for *Mount Independence*, Major *Hale*. Brigade-Major, *Howell*.

Field Officer for *Ticonderoga*, Major *Rogers*. Brigade-Major, *Browne*.

—

Head-Quarters, October 26, 1776.

(Parole, *Grafton*.) (Countersign, *Conway*.)

Lieutenant-Colonel *Baldwin*, Engineer for the side of *Tyconderoga*, and Lieutenant-Colonel *Palissier* for the side of *Mount Independence*, are every day at eleven o'clock to send a signed detail of the works to be carried on, and the numbers wanted for the execution thereof, to Colonel *Trumbull*, Deputy Adjutant-General.

In case of a general alarm, one gun will be fired from the *Jersey* redoubt, to be answered by one gun from the main battery in the *French* lines; which is to be answered by one gun from the upper redoubt upon *Mount Independence*, when every regiment and corps are to repair to their proper alarm post. The commanding officer of Artillery on each side is to take care that a man is constantly ready, in the different redoubts, to give the signals.

Brigadier-General *Arnold* will take command of all the troops and redoubts on the flat ground north of *Ticonderoga*, and of the vessels which guard the boom, the stone redoubts upon the Point included.

Brigadier-General *St. Clair* will take the command of the *French* lines, advanced posts, and work in the rear of the *French* lines.

Brigadier-General *Brickett* will post himself in the old fort, and have the defence of the covert way and works depending thereon.

The brigades on *Mount Independence*, upon the signals of a general alarm being fired, to repair to their respective alarm posts and receive and obey the orders of Colonel *Stark*, Colonel *Patterson*, and Colonel *Poor*. The brigade late General *Arnold's*, is to be joined by Colonel *Mott's* and Colonel *Swift's* regiments of Militia, and to be under the command of Colonel *Poor*.

Fatigue parties at *Ticonderoga* to-morrow:

General *St. Clair's* brigade, 3 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 9 Sergeants, 9 Corporals, 6 Drums, 150 Privates, for the Engineer.

General *Brickett's* brigade, 5 Captains, 10 Lieutenants, 15 Sergeants, 15 Corporals, 10 Drums, 250 Privates, for the Engineer.

Quartermaster-General's party as usual.

On *Mount-Independence*:

First, or Colonel *Poor's* brigade, 3 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 9 Sergeants, 9 Corporals, 6 Drums, 140 Privates, the Engineer.

Second, or Colonel *Patterson's* brigade, 3 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 9 Sergeants, 9 Corporals, 6 Drums, 150 Privates, the Engineer.

Third, or Colonel *Stark's* brigade, 8 Captains, 16 Lieutenants, 24 Sergeants, 24 Corporals, 12 Drums, 300 Privates, to attend Colonel *Poor's*, for the bridge.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *De Haas*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer on *Mount Independence*, Major *Loring*. Brigade-Major, *Hunt*.

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Head-Quarters, October 27, 1776.

(Parole, *Glover*.) (Countersign, *Reed*.)

All the troops off duty to be under arms at one o'clock at their respective alarm posts, when, upon a signal given by the firing a cannon from the northeast angle of the covert way of the old fort, the whole will give three cheers for the glorious success with which it has pleased Providence to bless the arms of the *United States* on the 18th instant, in defeating the Army of the enemy near *East-Chester*.

As the enemy's attack will most probably be rash and sudden, the General earnestly recommends to every commanding officer of a regiment, party, post, or detachment, to be deliberate and cool in suffering his men to fire, never allowing them to throw away their shot in a random, unsoldierlike manner. One close, well-directed fire, at the distance of eight or ten rods, will do more towards defeating the enemy than all the scattered, random shot, fired in a whole day. The commanding officers of Artillery will give proper directions in this respect to all under his command. The good effects of a due observance of this order will, with the favour of Heaven, secure the victory.

The Commissary to issue one half gill of rum to every non-commissioned officer and soldier fit for duty in camp, at two o'clock this afternoon.

All officers who mount guards are to appear on the brigade parade with the men who mount, and to be marched with them to the grand parade.

The corps who have not drawn their buckshot, agreeably to the orders of the 24th instant, are to send in their returns immediately, and receive the same. Each corps will like-

wise make returns instantly of the number of cartridges wanting to complete to thirty rounds.

Field Officer for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Colonel *Maxwell*. Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Major *Sedgwick*. Brigade-Major, *Walker*.

Details of fatigue:

| | C. | L. | S. | C. | D. | P. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General *St. Clair's* Brigade, - | 3 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 170 | |
| General *Brickett's* Brigade, - | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 115 | |
| | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 285 | for the Engineers. |

Head-Quarters, October 28, 1776.

(Parole, *York.*) (Countersign, *Victory.*)

In case of a general attack, the Artificers are, upon an order given by the Chief Engineer and Quartermaster-General, immediately to join their respective regiments.

The advanced guards and the new advanced posts to be increased as General *St. Clair* will direct. One half the troops will be alert all night, the other half ready to repair to their alarm posts when commanded.

Major *Vermanet* and Captain *de la Marquise* are appointed Assistant Engineers, and are to be under Lieutenant-Colonel *Palissier*, Chief Engineer.

Fatigue on both sides as yesterday.

Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Colonel *Wynds*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Officer of the day on the *Mount*, Colonel *Phinney*. Brigade-Major, *Hunt*.

—

Head-Quarters, October 29, 1776.

(Parole, *Dresden.*) (Countersign, *Naples.*)

The General returns his thanks to the officers and soldiers of the whole Army for the alert and spirited manner with which they prepared to face the enemy yesterday, and particularly to the regiments of *Reed*, *Poor*, and *Greaton*, for the despatch they made in crossing the lake immediately upon their being ordered to reinforce the *French* lines and redoubts.

The regiments' abstracts for the month of *October* to be made out and sent to the Paymaster-General on *Saturday* morning.

Field Officer of day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Colonel *Wayne*. Brigade-Major, *Browne*.

Officer of the day for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Wyngate*. Brigade-Major, *Walker*.

*After Orders, four o'clock.*—At a General Court-Martial, of which Lieutenant-Colonel *Craig* is President, Captain *Daniels*, of Colonel *Wheelock's* regiment, was tried for neglect of duty on his post. The Court, on examination of the evidences, adjudge that the neglect was entirely in the sentries, and therefore acquit him with honour.

Lieutenant *Whitney*, of the same regiment, tried by the same General Court-Martial for neglect of duty on guard, is found guilty, and sentenced to be cashiered and rendered forever unfit for serving in the *American* Army as an officer.

A General Court-Martial from three brigades on *Mount Independence*, to sit to-morrow morning at the President's tent, at nine o'clock, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before them. President, Colonel *Phinney*. Members: Two Field Officers and ten Captains. Judge Advocate from the Second Brigade.

Fatigue on both sides the same as yesterday.

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Head-Quarters, October 30, 1776.

(Parole, *Morris.*) (Countersign, *Mercer.*)

For the future every recommendation for a discharge of a sick or infirm soldier must be signed by Doctor *Potts*, the Director of the Hospital, instead of the Regimental Surgeon as heretofore.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Colonel *Woodbridge*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer of the day for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Wyman*. Brigade-Major, *Howell*.

*After Orders.*—The Commissary is every evening to issue half gill of rum for each non-commissioned officer and soldier fit for duty to the Quartermasters of regiments. The Quartermasters will issue it to the men at their alarm posts in the morning.

Head-Quarters, October 31, 1776.

(Parole, *Putnam.*) (Countersign, *Lee.*)

The Commissary is for the future to issue one pound and a half of beef to each man, and one pound of flour, until further orders. The deficiencies of the rations hitherto issued by the Commissary are to be made good and paid by him as soon as the demand can be adjusted.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Wheelock*. Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer on *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Swift*. Brigade-Major, *Hunt*.

Fatigue to-morrow on this side, the same as this day. On *Mount Independence*, one hundred and forty, with officers, from the First Brigade; one hundred and fifty from the Second, and fifty from the Third, to attend the Engineers at the Battery at eight o'clock.

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Head-Quarters, November 1, 1776.

(Parole, *Boston.*) (Countersign, *Ward.*)

The troops are immediately to get three days' provisions ready dressed.

Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Wigglesworth*. Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Officer of the day for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Mott*. Brigade-Major of the day, *Walker*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 2d, 1776.

(Parole, *Stogden.*) (Countersign, *Clymer.*)

The regiments of *Reed*, *Greaton*, and *Poor*, are immediately upon a general alarm to repair to *Ticonderoga*.

Colonel *Dayton's* regiment are to occupy the Old Fort, and such regiments who have sick there must remove them as soon as possible.

Captain *John B. Scott*, of Colonel *Maxwell's* regiment, tried by the General Court-Martial of which Lieutenant-Colonel *Craig* is President, "for defrauding the *United States of America*, by presenting a full pay-roll and receiving the pay accordingly, for ungentlemanlike conduct in extorting some extraordinary prices for some articles purchased for his men, and for discharging soldiers without the Colonel's leave." The Court, on considering, find Captain *Scott* guilty of defrauding the Continent, by presenting a full pay-roll, drawing the pay accordingly, and also of ungentlemanlike behaviour in extorting extraordinary prices for some articles purchased for his men, and do sentence him to be cashiered, and repay the overplus money contained in the pay-roll.

Captain *Parker*, Lieutenant *Cheney*, and Lieutenant *Osburn*, of Colonel *Reed's* regiment, tried for disobedience of orders, are found not guilty, and accordingly acquitted with honour.

The General approves the above sentences, and orders them to take place immediately; as likewise the sentences on Captain *Daniels* and Lieutenant *Whitney*, which were entered in the orders of the 29th ultimo, and omitted to be approved at that time, are to take place immediately.

*John Brown*, soldier of Captain *Meeker's* company, in Colonel *Wynds's* regiment, tried by the same General Court-Martial for mutiny, is found guilty, and sentenced to receive seventy-eight lashes on his bare back.

The General approves the sentence, and orders it to be executed at such time and place as the commanding officer of the regiment thinks proper.

Fatigue to-morrow:

| | C. | L. | S. | C. | D. | P. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| From General *St. Clair's* Brigade, | 3 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 150 | |
| From General *Brickett's* Brigade, | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 100 | |
| | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 250 | |

Fatigue on the *Mount* the same as was ordered the 31st.

Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Lieutenant-Colonel *Irvine*; Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Officer of the day for *Mount Independence*, Lieutenant-Colonel *March*; Brigade-Major, *Howell*.

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Head-Quarters, November 3, 1776.

(Parole, *Massachusetts.*) (Countersign, *New-Hampshire.*)

*James Morris Jones* is appointed an Ensign in Colonel *DeHaas's* battalion.

At a General Court-Martial of the three brigades on

*Mount Independence*, of which Colonel *Phinney* is President, *Michael McGee*, a soldier of Captain *Downs's* company, in Colonel *Burrell's* regiment, was tried for abusing and threatening the life of *Allen McDonald*, an inhabitant, is found not guilty, and therefore acquitted by this Court.

*Ebenezer Foot* and *George Trason*, soldiers in Colonel *Burrell's* regiment, tried by the same General Court-Martial, in leaving their posts when on sentry and getting asleep, are both found guilty of a breach of the twenty-third article of the rules and regulations of the Army, and sentenced to be whipped, each twenty lashes on the bare back.

Lieutenant *Wallingsfield*, of Colonel *Wingate's* regiment, tried by the same Court above-mentioned, "for ungentlemanlike behaviour, in complaining that Captain *Badger* had cheated his men, for encouraging the desertion of *Daniel Rand*, and for leaving his arrest." The Court having considered the evidences in the case, are of opinion that Lieutenant *Wallingsford* is guilty of a breach of the forty-ninth and fiftieth articles of war, and sentence him to be discharged from the service.

The General approves all the above sentences, and orders that they may take place immediately.

Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Shreve*; Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Officer of the day for the *Mount*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Buell*; Brigade-Major, *Hunt*.

Working parties as yesterday.

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Head-Quarters, November 4th, 1776.

(Parole, *Williamsburg*.) (Countersign, *Virginia*.)

Field Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Lieutenant-Colonel *A. Brown*; Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer of the day for *Mount Independence*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Center*; Brigade-Major *Walker*.

Fatigue parties as per yesterday's orders.

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Head-Quarters, November 5, 1776.

(Parole, *Charlestown*.) (Countersign, *Carolina*.)

Colonel *Wynds* is ordered to prepare to embark to-morrow morning for *Skeensborough*, with such officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the First *New-Jersey* battalion, whose times of inlistment are expired, and who are desirous of being immediately discharged. They will embark at eight o'clock, five men in each boat. They are to return in all the ammunition that has been delivered out to them, this afternoon, to the Quartermaster of the regiment, who will deliver in the whole when collected to the Commissary of Artillery.

Such officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the First *Jersey* battalion as have an attachment to their General and an honest zeal for the service of their country, and are willing to remain in camp till 15th instant, shall then be permitted to depart with honour, and be allowed pay for their return home.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Lieutenant-Colonel *Roberts*; Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer of the day on the *Mount*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Starr*; Brigade-Major, *Howell*.

*Josiah Ramnant*, soldier in Captain *Bliss's* company, of Colonel *Patterson's* regiment, tried by a General Court-Martial, of which Colonel *Phinney* was President, for sleeping on his post, is found guilty and sentenced to be whipped twenty lashes on his bare back.

The General approves the sentence of the Court-Martial, but upon the request of the Court and their recommendation of the honesty and good behaviour of the criminal in every instance till this, he is pleased to grant his pardon, and orders the prisoner to be released from his confinement.

The General at the same time assures the Army, that this, as it is the first, shall likewise be the last instance of his pardoning a crime so dangerous as this of sleeping on a post.

The General Court-Martial of which Colonel *Phinney* was President is dissolved.

Colonel *Stark* will order the men off duty from his brigade, and such of the Militia as are able to assist, to give every aid in their power to finish the palisading of the new fort and the abatis round it.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW-YORK.

The 5th of November, 1776.

At a meeting of the Committee for the County of *Cumberland*, the Committee appointed by this body to take under consideration the expediency of the letter sent from this body to the Convention for the State of *New-York*, touching being laid to some other State, &c., &c., reported, That whereas the Committee of the County of *Cumberland* having received a handbill from the Convention of the State of *New-York*, desiring this Committee to withdraw a letter sent to them from this body, bearing date 21st *June* last, we, the Committee as aforesaid, having taken the same under consideration, report, that said letter ought to be withdrawn, and that we, notwithstanding, ought to enjoy all the privileges that any County in this State do enjoy, and that we hold it our right to present the honourable the Provincial Congress of this State a petition and remonstrance, setting forth those grievances that are the cause of uneasiness that subsists among us, for their wise consideration and redress; and if, on proper deliberation, it may be thought proper a separation should be most conducive to the peace and happiness of this country, we do not preclude ourselves the privilege of presenting our petition to the honourable the Continental Congress for their wise determination. We still mean to pay all due deference to the State of *New-York*, and to pay our proportion of the necessary charge of the State.

*Voted*, To accept the above Report, and that a copy be sent to the honourable Convention for the State of *New-York*.

Signed by the Chairman and attested by the Clerk.

JAMES CLAY,
*Chairman of the Committee of Safety.*

A true copy from the Minutes:

ELKANAH DAY, *Clerk*.

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PETITION OF COMMITTEE OF CHARLTON, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

*To the Great and General Court of the State of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

We, the Committee of Inspection, Correspondence, and Safety, of the town of *Charlton*, in the County of *Worcester*, desire to inform the honourable Court that we, the said Committee, have, by virtue of an act of the Assembly of this State respecting taking care of Tories' estates, so as it may be preserved for the benefit of the Continent, and in obedience to said act, we, the said Committee, have taken into our care a tract of land lying in said *Charlton*, which belonged to Mr. *William Brown*, of *Salem*, a Mandamus Councillor, which has now fled to the King's troops; and as we understand said land layeth in common with the honourable Judge *Danford's* and others, and as we, the said Committee, have heretofore sent to the honourable Court by our Representative our proceedings, and have not received any proper orders for our further proceedings on the affair, and as there is great strip and waste made on said land, we, the above Committee, pray the honourable Court for further orders for our further proceeding, unless said estate should be lost to the Continent.

Charlton, November the 5, A. D., 1776.

By order of the Committee:

NATHANIEL JONES, *Chairman*.

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In the House of Representatives, November 13, 1776.

*The Petition of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, for the town of* CHARLTON, *in the County of* WORCESTER:

*Resolved*, That said Committee be, and they hereby are, directed and empowered to commence and prosecute to final judgment and execution, in any Court proper to try the same, any action or actions of trespass, against any person or persons who have, since the twenty-seventh day of *June*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, or shall hereafter commit any strip or waste in or upon any land lying within the said town of *Charlton*, belonging to *William Brown*, of *Salem*, a Mandamus Councillor, until the further order of the General Court, said Committee to be accountable to the General Court of this State for their doings hereon.

Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, November 5, 1776.

Last *Thursday* was brought here, by Captain *Robert Parker*, in the *McClary* privateer, fitted out of this port, the ship *Hero*, *Charles Harford*, master, with five hundred hogsheads of rum, bound from *Jamaica* to *Quebeck*, but not being able to get up the river, bore away for *New-York*, was taken in latitude 43°, longitude 70°.

On *Friday* arrived the prize snow *Three Friends*, *Thomas Russel*, master, from *St. Eustatia* to *Ireland*, laden with two hundred and ten hogsheads of sugar.

Same day arrived the ship *Live Oak*, lately commanded by Captain *Duncan*, who died on his passage from *Honduras* to *London*, laden with mahogany and logwood. Both the above were taken near the banks of *Newfoundland*, by the above-mentioned privateer.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MAJOR-GENERAL MASSEY, COMMANDING HIS MAJESTY'S TROOPS IN THE PROVINCE OF NOVA-SCOTIA, TO ALDERMAN BAKER, OF CORK.

Halifax, November 5, 1776.

Dear Alderman: As so many of his Majesty's transports have scandalously given themselves up to the rebel pirates, in justice to Captain *Edward Carey*, commanding his Majesty's hired transport *Newcastle Jane*, as well as Captain *Murdock McLean*, who commanded twenty soldiers on board, I have the satisfaction to tell you, and you will oblige me if you will inform Messrs. *Coppingers*, of the city of *Corke*, who are his owners, that about one hundred leagues from this port, he was attacked in the evening by a rebel pirate, and after given them what is due to all rebels, the pirate sheered off, and remained near them to renew the engagement the next morning. They bore down on the *Newcastle Jane* in the morning, and began the fight within twenty yards of each other. The action continued for upwards of four hours, when Captain *Carey* observed the pirate was satisfied he had *True Britons* to encounter, and seeing him sheer off, Captain *Carey* took his speaking-trumpet and called out, "All hands ready for boarding," and then hoisted stunel sails to give chase; but seeing her get out her oars and run off, Captain *Carey* pursued his voyage. The *Newcastle Jane* had but two round shot left; had he had ammunition, he would have made a prize of the rebel.

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LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO GENERAL SIR WILLIAM HOWE.

Whitehall, November 6, 1776.

Sir: Being informed that his Majesty's service makes it necessary that a packet should be despatched to-night, I unexpectedly enjoy a very early opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your several letters of the 21st, 23d, and 24th of *September*, which you entrusted to the care of Captain *Balfour*. They were delivered by him in the evening of the 2d instant, and were by me laid before the King.

The city of *New-York* was an object of so great importance, that the news of the evacuation thereof by the Rebels, was received with general satisfaction. And I have a particular pleasure in being commanded to inform you, that his Majesty has in the strongest terms approved of your conduct, and highly applauds the behaviour of the officers and men employed upon that occasion.

The service of the Commander-in-Chief of the troops is a topick upon which I could here enlarge with much justice, and with no small degree of satisfaction, if the early sailing of the packet did not compel me to use an unwilling brevity.

Hurried, however, as I am, I cannot help observing that the commendations which you so liberally bestow upon the officers of the Navy, and the seamen belonging to the ships-of-war and the transports, is the most honourable testimony that could have been given in their favour; and I make no doubt but they esteemed it a circumstance peculiarly fortunate for them, that they were called upon to cooperate with a General who was known to have discernment enough to distinguish merit, and candour enough to give it its due weight, wherever it was found.

I am happy to learn that your success was attended with so inconsiderable a loss, and that Lieutenant-Colonel *Monckton* is in so fair a way of recovery.

The attempt which was made to burn the town of *New-York* might well exasperate the troops. I trust that an apprehension of condign punishment will deter the infatuated wretches from persevering in their resolutions, and have good hope that the inquiry which you have set on foot will serve to discover the original promoters and abettors of the villainous design.

Your short letter of *September* 24th requires no further answer, than that I should express my joy on account of the troops having met with no opposition, either to their lodgings upon *Paulus Hook*, or to their taking possession of the batteries and redoubts at that post. The advantages which you have hitherto gained over the Rebels have been rapid, and are extremely important; and I am confident you will, in reflecting upon them, derive a sincere satisfaction from the consideration, that the troops under your command have been able to give such signal proofs of their bravery, and render such essential services to their King and country, without suffering any material injury from the enemy.

I am, &c., Geo. Germain.

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LORD GEORGE GERMAIN TO SIR WILLIAM HOWE.

Whitehall, 6th November, 1776.

Sir: I communicated to the Lords of the Treasury your letter to me of the 16th of *August*, notifying your appointment of Captain *Mackenzie* to be Paymaster of the new levies, and containing your reasons for it; and I have the pleasure to send you enclosed, a copy of Mr. *Robinson's* letter to Mr. *Knox*, signifying their Lordships' approbation of that appointment.

The great importance of engaging the Southern *Indians* in our interest, has not escaped his Majesty's attention; and you will see by the enclosed copies of my letters to Mr. *Stuart*, what care has been taken to supply that officer with the means of securing the fidelity of those people, and the instructions which have been given him for his conduct respecting them. He will, of course, receive your orders for employing them in seconding any operations you may think fit to direct against those Colonies; and it must give you satisfaction to find he is in so good a condition to carry into execution whatever orders you may think proper to give him.

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 6th November, 1776.

Gentlemen: The only letters I have received from you were dated 5th and 6th of *June* last, five months since, during which time vessels have arrived from almost every part of *America* to every part of *France* and *Spain*; and I am informed letters from Mr. *Morris* to his correspondents, dated late in *July*. If the Congress do not mean to apply for foreign alliances, let me entreat you to say so, and rescind your resolutions published on that head, which will be but justice to the Powers of *Europe*, to whom you gave reason to expect such an application. If I am not the proper person to announce your independency, and solicit in your behalf, let me entreat you to tell me so, and relieve me from an anxiety which is become so intolerable that my life is a burthen.

Two hundred pieces of brass cannon, and arms, tents and accoutrements, for thirty thousand men, with ammunition in proportion, and between twenty and thirty brass mortars, have been granted to my request; but the unaccountable silence on your part has delayed the embarkation some weeks already. I yesterday got them again in motion, and a part are already at *Havre de Grace* and *Nantes*, and the rest on their way there, but am hourly trembling for fear of counter-orders. Had I received proper powers in season, this supply would before this have been in *America*, and that under the convoy of a strong fleet. The disappointment is distracting, and I will dismiss the subject after taking the liberty to which a freeman and an *American* is entitled, of declaring that by this neglect the cause of the *United States of North America* has suffered in this and the neighbouring Courts, and the blood that will be spilt through the want of these supplies, and the devastations, if any, must be laid at this door.

Captain *Cochran* being arrived at *Nantes*, I sent to him to come to me. He is now with me, and by him I send this, with a packet of letters. He can inform you of the price

of *American* produce in *Europe*, the very advance on which will pay you for fitting out a Navy.

Rice is from thirty to fifty livres per cwt.; tobacco, eight pence and nine pence per pound. Flour and wheat are growing scarce, and rising. Masts, spars, and other naval stores, are in demand, and the more so, as a war with *Great Britain* is considered as at the door.

Monsieur *Du Coudray*, who has the character of being one of the best officers of Artillery in *Europe*, has been indefatigable in our service, and I hope the terms I have made with him will not be thought exorbitant, as he was the principal means of engaging the stores.

The rage, as I may say, for entering the *American* service increases, and the consequence is, I am crowded with offers and proposals, many of them from persons of the first rank and eminence in the sea as well as land service. Count *Broglio*, who commanded the army of *France* the last war, did me the honour to call on me twice yesterday with an officer who served as his quartermaster-general the last war, and has now a regiment in this service, but being a *German*, and having traveled through *America* a few years since, he is desirous of engaging in the service of the *United States of North America*. I can by no means let slip an opportunity of engaging a person of so much experience, and who is by every one recommended as one of the bravest and most skillful officers in the kingdom; yet I am distressed on every such occasion, for want of your particular instructions. This gentleman has an independent fortune, and a certain prospect of advancement here, but being a zealous friend of liberty, civil and religious, he is actuated by the most independent and generous principles in the offer he makes of his services to the *United States of America*.

Enclosed you also have the plan of a *French* naval officer for burning ships, which he gave me, and at the same time showed me his drafts of ships, and rules for constructing and regulating a Navy, of which I have the highest opinion. He has seen much service, is a person of study and letters, as well as fortune, and is ambitious of planning a Navy for *America*, which shall at once be much cheaper and more effectual than any thing of the kind which can be produced on the *European* system. He has the command of a ship-of-the-line in this service, but is rather disgusted at not having his proposed regulations for the Navy of *France* attended to. His proposal generally is to build vessels something on the model of those designed by the Marine Committee, to carry from twenty-four to thirty-six guns on one deck, which will be as formidable a battery as any ship-of-the-line can avail itself of, and by fighting them on the upper deck, a much surer one. Had I power to treat with this gentleman, I believe his character and friends are such that he could have two or three such frigates immediately constructed here on credit, and manned and sent to *America;* but the want of instructions or intelligence, or remittances, with the late check on *Long-Island*, has sunk our credit to nothing with individuals, and the goods for the *Indian* contract cannot be shipped unless remittances are made to a much greater amount than at present. Not ten thousand pounds have been received, of forty thousand delivered in *America*, as early as last *February;* and I am ignorant what has become of the effects shipped. Under these circumstances I have no courage to urge a credit which I have no prospect of living up to the engagements for supporting it; but I will take Mr. *Morris's* hint, and write a letter solely on business, but politicks and my business are almost inseparably connected.

I have filled this sheet, and will therefore bid you adieu until I begin another.

I am, with the warmest esteem, &c., SILAS DEANE.

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### STEPHEN WEST TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Woodyard, November 6th, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: After thanking you for your civility while I was at *Annapolis*, I am to inform you that I have looked into my soldiers' stockings that I purchased, with a view of clothing my regiment. There are only one hundred and twenty-eight pair remaining unsold, and some of them (eighteen pair) are damaged, having been left open to the air and moth. The one hundred and ten pair are good, and are at your service, at seven shillings and six pence a pair. The eighteen pair may be mended, and you may have them at half price—three shillings and nine pence, or I can use them myself; indeed, I can sell them all, with thanks, among my neighbours. I send you three pair for samples.

If you choose to accept of my stockings, they shall be delivered to your order; and I hope your messenger will either bring the money or be authorized to give me an order at once on the Treasurer. For however honourable sentiments I entertain of your Board, and respect I have for the persons of the Board of Accounts, yet I will never, if I can help it, subject myself to their arbitrary determinations. I attended a whole week about an account that, if justice had been done me, I should have had publick thanks for; instead of which, I was delayed and injured against the most palpable evidence, and compelled to take in *November*, when our currency is not of half value, a great deal less than I had offered me in hand by Major *Marshall* in *June*. Such is the reward I have had for my publick spirit and love of country. Yet, although I thus smart, I do entirely confide in the integrity and candour of the Council of Safety.

I have about fifty good firelocks, and some other matters. We are manufacturing a species of linen cloth, that I think if pursued, would be of great publick utility. We take the tow of flax and hemp, card it into rolls, open it on the great wheel, then double and twist it, and weave it. It will make good tents, bagging, wagon-cloths, coarse sheets, sails, &c. 'Tis soft and pliable, and the doubling and twisting makes it exceeding strong. Our women spin in three days two and a half pounds each. It is carded for them. The doubling and twisting is new to me, and perhaps it may be so to others; and if it prove useful, my intention will be gratified. If the tow thread is warped and filled in with ordinary wove, it will make good fearnaught and bedding.

I am, your affectionate servant,

STEPHEN WEST.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*, with a paper parcel of stockings.

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Baltimore, November 6, 1776.

Last *Monday* arrived here from *Martinico*, Captain *John Martin*, in the brig *Friendship*, mounting ten carriage guns and forty men, belonging to this State, with a very valuable cargo, consisting of three thousand two hundred weight of gunpowder, two tierces of gun-flints, four hundred and ten bushels of salt, a large quantity of osnaburgs, blankets, and a considerable quantity of saltpetre, brimstone, sailors' jackets, &c.; likewise drugs and medicines. With Captain *Martin* came passengers the following *French* gentlemen, viz: *Henri Dieu Donné, le Chevalier Drouant de Givricour*, Captain *Jean André, Jean Antonie Coutura, Jean François Taillason, François Clinet Chirujien, Nicolas Tronc, François Pelletier. Cyrus Copper*, merchant at *Alexandria*, and *Daniel Tebbs*, of *Virginia*.

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### CAPTAIN HAMILTON'S CERTIFICATE.

I do hereby certify, that the bearer, *William Douglass*, has lost his arm in the service of this State, having been a matross in my company of Artillery, thereto belonging; and he is accordingly recommended to the Convention thereof, as entitled to the provision made by a late resolve of the Continental Congress, for those disabled in defence of *American* liberty.

A. HAMILTON, *Captain*.

New-York, November 6, 1776.

Pay was drawn for the above *William Douglass* till the first day of *August*. A. H.

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### GENERAL LEE TO DR. FRANKLIN.

Camp at Philipsburg, November 6th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The gentleman who will deliver you this, was, as I understand, sent by Congress to General *Washington*. He was to have given specimens of his abilities as engineer, and been recommended accordingly. Whether he is a great engineer or no, I cannot pretend to say, as he has had no fair opportunity of displaying his talents. The few small works he has thrown up have been in haste, at the same time labouring under the disadvantage of not being able to explain himself to the workmen. From the little I

can judge of him, he is a man of capacity and knowledge, and I am told by his countrymen, that his fort lies in surveying geographically and military a country. I know not any kind of officer more wanted in *America* than a military surveyor of those parts which are likely to be the scene of action. General *Washington* and myself have therefore concurred in opinion that he should begin with the *Jerseys;* and if he gives satisfactory proofs of his talents in this line, to recommend him to Congress for this important office. I must beg leave to recommend him to your protection and patronage, and request that you will furnish him with the necessary instruments. And as I am so well acquainted with your liberal way of thinking, and manners, it will be unnecessary to desire you to show him all possible personal civilities.

So far for Monsieur *Imbert*. You will naturally expect something from me on our present situation. We have by proper positions brought Mr. *Howe* to his *ne plus ultra*. He has therefore apparently given all hopes of taking us prisoners, as I believe he lately sanguinely promised himself. Monsieur *Imbert*, as you know *French*, will be able to explain the circumstances of both armies. The spirit of our present troops is upon the whole good, and if *America* is lost, it is not in my opinion owing to want of courage in your soldiers, but, pardon me, to want of prudence in your high mightinesses. Adieu! God bless you, my dear sir. Live long and make your country and friends as happy as you have rendered yourself admirable in the eyes of all good and sensible men.

Yours, most sincerely, CHARLES LEE.

Dr. *Benjamin Franklin*, member of the Continental Congress.

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A LIST OF OFFICERS IN GENERAL GREENE'S BRIGADE, APPOINTED UPON THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT.

### *Sixth Regiment.*

*Field Officers:* Jonathan Brewer *Colonel*, Wm. Buckminster *Lieutenant-Colonel*, Nath'l Cudworth *Major*.

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lem. Trescott | John Clarke | Jno. Kilby Smith | Jno. Mills, |
| Dan'l Whiting | Elisha Brewer | Abraham Williams | Isaac Barber, |
| Aaron Haynes | Nath'l Cushing | Holden | Sam'l Willington, |
| Benja. Ballard | Thos. Willington | Abraham Tuckerman | Caleb Welch, |
| Wm. Hudson Ballard | Alexander | Sacket | Russell, |
| Abner Cranston | Joseph Perry | Sam'l Blodget | Williams, |
| Chapin | Willer | Toogood | Charles Dehorety, |
| Sole | Noah Allen | Taber | Ebenezer Smith. |

*Staff Officers:* —— *Chaplain*, Abr'm Tuckerman *Adjutant*, Charles Dehorty *Quartermaster*, *Surgeon*, *Mate*.

### *Ninth Regiment.*

*Field Officers:* James M. Varnum *Colonel*, Christ'r Greene *Lieutenant-Colonel*, Arch. Crary *Major*.

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sam'l Ward | Benja. Diamond | James Varnum | James King, |
| Christ'r Smith | Jno. S. Dexter | Micah Whitmarsh | Chandler Burlingham, |
| Sion Martindale | Lewis | Amos Crandall | Michael Moulton, |
| Ebenez'r Flagg | Noel Allen | Joseph Whitmarsh | James Webb, |
| Elijah Lewis | Lem'l Bailey | Charles Rhoads | Philip Peirce, |
| Nath'l Hawkins | Will'm Potter | Daniel Peirce | Elias Hull, |
| Oliver Clarke | Silvanus Shaw | Sam'l Bissell | Deuty Jerauld, |
| Thos. Cole | Ephraim Weedon | Clarke Browne | Sam'l Stephens. |

*Staff Officers:* John Murry *Chaplain*, Jno. S. Dexter *Adjutant*, Clarke Browne *Quartermaster*, Joseph Joslin *Surgeon*, Benj'n Greene *Mate*.

### *Eleventh Regiment.*

*Field Officers:* Dan'l Hitchcock *Colonel*, Ezekiel Cornall *Lieutenant-Colonel*, Israel Angell *Major*.

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jere'h Olney | Amos Jenckes | Edward Slocum | Holim'n Potter, |
| John Topham | Ephraim Bowen | Cyprean Sterry | Thos. Carlile, |
| Simeon Throp | Jno. Spurr | Ebenezer Fitch | Christ'r Hopkins, |
| Wm. Tew | Moses Turner | Thos. Hughs | Ebenezer West, |
| Ephraim Richardson | Israel Church | Jno. Wyman | Jno. Armstrong, |
| Silas Talbot | Will'm Allen | Will'm Humphrey | Jno. Thomas, |
| James Williams | Will'm Blanchard | Will'm Bradford | Nathan Olney, |
| Coggeshall Olney | Stephen Olney | James Childs | Philip Traffin. |

*Staff Officers:* —— *Chaplain*, Wm. Bradford *Adjutant*, Cyrean Sterry *Quartermaster*, Caleb Fisk *Surgeon*, James Walcut *Mate*.

### *Twelfth Regiment.*

*Field Officers:* Moses Little *Colonel*, —— Henshaw *Lieutenant-Colonel*, James Collins *Major*.

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jacob Gerrish | Silas Adams | Amos Atkinson | Nath'l Persons, |
| Jno. Baker | Caleb Lambson | Joseph Fisk | Gould, |
| Abrah'm Dodge | James Lord | Enoch Pearsons | Wm. Story, |
| Gideon Parkes | Moses Kent | Jared Smith | Huse, |
| Ezra Lunt | Stephen Jenkins | Nath'l Montgomery | Nath'l Mitchel, |
| Nath'l Wade | Thos. Browne | Jno. Carr | Michael Farley, |
| Nath'l Warner | Jno. Burnum | Dan'l Collins | Jona. Woodman, |
| Benja. Perkins | Silvanus Smith | Dudley Coleman | Amos Persons. |

*Staff Officers:* —— *Chaplain*, Dudley Coleman *Adjutant*, Elisha Story *Surgeon*, Jno. Cary *Quartermaster*, Josiah Lord *Surgeon's Mate*.

### *Twenty-Fifth Regiment.*

*Field Officers:* Wm. Bond *Colonel*, —— Alden *Lieutenant-Colonel*, Michael Jackson *Major*.

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Josiah Harris | Bartholomew Trow | Jedediah Thayer | Thos. Pritchard, |
| Abijah Childs | Joshua Swan | Ab'm Hunt | Thos. Hunt, |
| Pheneas Cook | Peter Hobert | Aaron Richardson | Jno. Pownall, |
| Nathan Fuller | Nathan Smith | Jno. George | George Abbot, |
| Nailer Hatch | Nathan Eaton | Jno. Vezee | Elisha Cox, |
| Moses Draper | Caleb Brooks | Job Sumner | Charles Ward, |
| Amos Walbridge | Nathan Goodale | Abijah Lincoln | Jno. Trotter, |
| Dan'l Eggrey | Solomon Bowman | Avery Parker | Thos. Marshall. |

*Staff Officers:* —— Henshaw *Chaplain*, Abraham Hunt *Adjutant*, George Abbot *Quartermaster*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 11th: Referred to Board of War.]

White-Plains, November 6th, 1776.

SIR: I have the honour to inform you, that on yesterday morning the enemy made a sudden and unexpected movement from the several posts they had taken in our front. They broke up their whole encampments the preceding night, and have advanced towards *King's Bridge* and the *North River*. The design of this manœuvre is a matter of much conjecture and speculation, and cannot be accounted

for with any degree of certainty. The grounds we had taken possession of were strong and advantageous, and such as they could not have gained without much loss of blood in case an attempt had been made. I had taken every possible precaution to prevent their out-flanking us; which may have led to the present measure. They may still have in view their original plan, and by a sudden wheel, try to accomplish it. Detachments are constantly out to observe their motions, and to harass them as much as possible.

In consequence of this movement I called a council of General Officers to-day, to consult of such measures as should be adopted in case they pursued their retreat to *New-York*; the result of which is herewith transmitted. In respect to myself, I cannot indulge an idea that General *Howe*, supposing he is going to *New-York*, means to close the campaign, and to sit down without attempting something more. I think it highly probable, and almost certain, that he will make a descent with a part of his troops into *Jersey*; and as soon as I am satisfied that the present manœuvre is real, and not a feint, I shall use every means in my power to forward a part of our force to counteract his designs; nor shall I be disappointed if he sends a detachment to the southward for the purpose of making a winter campaign. From the information I have received, there is now a number of transports at *Red-Hook*, with about three thousand troops on board. Their destination, as given out, is to *Rhode-Island*; but this seems altogether improbable for various reasons: among others, the season is much against it. In the Southern States they will find it milder, and much more favourable for their purposes. I shall take the liberty of mentioning that it may not be improper to suggest the probability of such a measure to the Assemblies and Conventions in those States, that they may be on their guard, and of the propriety of their establishing and laying up magazines of provisions and other necessaries in suitable places. This is a matter of exceeding importance, and what cannot be too much attended to.

From the approaching dissolution of the Army, and the departure of the new levies, which is on the eve of taking place, and the little prospect of levying a new one in time, I have wrote to the Eastern States, by the unanimous advice of the General Officers, to forward supplies of Militia in the room of those that are now here, and who, it is feared, will not be prevailed on to stay any longer than the time they are engaged for. The propriety of this application, I trust, will appear, when it is known that not a single officer is yet commissioned to recruit, and when it is considered how essential it is to keep up some show of force and shadow of an Army.

I expect the enemy will bend their force against *Fort Washington*, and invest it immediately. From some advices, it is an object that will attract their earliest attention.

I am happy to inform you, that in the engagement on *Monday* sevennight, I have reason to believe our loss was by no means so considerable as was conjectured at first. By some deserters and prisoners we are told, that of the enemy was tolerably great; some accounts make it about four hundred in killed and wounded; all agree that among the former there was a Colonel *Carr*, of the Thirty-Fifth Regiment. The force that will be sent to *Jersey*, after I am satisfied of Mr. *Howe's* retreat, in addition to those now there, according to my present opinion, will make it necessary for me to go with them, to put things in a proper channel, and such a way of defence as shall seem most probable to check the progress of the enemy in case they should attempt a descent there, or a move towards *Philadelphia*.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF WAR.

At a Council of War held at Head-Quarters, *White-Plains, November* 6th, 1776:

Present: His Excellency General *Washington*.

Major-Generals: *Lee, Putnam, Spencer, Heath, Sullivan, Lincoln*.

Brigadier-Generals: Lord *Stirling, Mifflin, Nixon, McDougall, Parsons, Scott, Clinton*.

The late movements of the enemy having made it necessary to consider what may be now proper for this Army to do, the General proposed the following questions, viz:

Supposing the enemy to be retreating towards *New-York*, will it not be proper to throw a body of troops into the *Jerseys* immediately?

Unanimously agreed in the affirmative.

It was then proposed whether it would not be proper to detach immediately all those troops which have been raised on the western side of *Hudson's River*?

Agreed; but that in such case, those regiments belonging to the eastern side of *Hudson's River* should remove to the eastern side, if the movements of the enemy and circumstances of this Army will admit.

Upon the question, What number of men would be necessary to take post at *Peekskill* and the passes in the *Highlands*, for the defence of those posts, erecting fortifications, &c.?

Agreed upon three thousand.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 1st, 1776.

(Parole, *Belford.*) (Countersign, *Spain.*)

*Peter Buise*, under sentence of death, and to be executed this day, is reprieved unti *Monday*, eleven o'clock.

The General Court-Martial whereof General *McDougall* is President, to sit to-morrow at the house above General *Lee's* quarters, for the trial of Colonel *Graham*. Colonel *Foreman*, of General *Heard's* brigade, and other witnesses, to attend.

The moving state of the Army will occasion some irregularity, but the General hopes that officers of all ranks will exert themselves to correct all abuses, particularly the following:

Straggling from camp, or plundering parties.

Taking up and keeping horses.

Loading the teams with heavy lumber and unnecessary baggage.

Firing in and about the camp.

To prevent the first, the rolls are to be frequently called, at least three times a day, and the absent punished. To prevent the second, all horses not belonging to the artillery, or ammunition, or Field Officers, to be collected and sent to the Quartermaster-General, near Head-Quarters. To prevent the third, the Field Officers should have a general examination of the baggage of their regiments, and all heavy chests, tables, chairs, and other lumber, be left; or after this, they will be thrown off the wagons, wherever met with. To prevent firing in camp, the order of yesterday to be executed, by giving the offender ten lashes on the spot, let him belong to what regiment he may.

A relief having come for the Light-Horse under Major *Backus*, that corps is now dismissed, with the General's hearty thanks for their faithful services, and the cheerfulness and alacrity they have shown upon all occasions.

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Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 2d, 1776.

(Parole, *Westchester.*) (Countersign, *Sussex.*)

The General expressly forbids any person or soldier belonging to the Army, to set fire to any house or barn, on any pretence, without a special order from some General Officer.

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Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 3d, 1776.

(Parole, ——.) (Countersign, ——.)

The General is sorry to find that there are some soldiers, so lost to all sense of honour and honesty, as to leave the Army when there is the greatest necessity for their services. He calls upon the officers of every rank to exert themselves in putting a stop to it, and absolutely forbids any officer, under the rank of a Brigadier-General, discharging any officer or soldier, or giving any permission to leave the camp on any pretence whatever.

The sick of the Militia may be discharged by their General Officer, after he has seen them, and is satisfied of their incapacity to do duty, but not otherwise.

The situation of the Army, and the season, requiring that the soldiery should be as well accommodated as possible, especially at night, the taking of straw, or even grain in the sheaf, is not to be considered as included in the orders against plundering.

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Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 4th, 1776.

(Parole, ——.) (Countersign, ——.)

The General desires, in express and positive terms, that

the Brigadiers and Colonels commanding brigades, see every regiment, respectively belonging to them, paraded to-morrow, (but not at the same instant,) the rolls called over, and every officer and soldier satisfactorily accounted for, or sent after; their arms also to be examined, and a report thereof to be made. Where the Brigadiers are absent, or incapable of acting, the Major-General is to attend to the execution of this order.

*Peter Buise*, under sentence of death for desertion, is further reprieved till *Wednesday*.

All deserters and prisoners to be reported to the Brigadier of the troops to whom they come, or by whom they are taken, who is to send them to Head-Quarters as soon as possible.

The Colonels and commanding officers of regiments will remember that they stand accountable for the arms received by their respective regiments; that all their spare arms are to be carefully collected, and sent to the Commissary of Stores, or reported immediately to Head-Quarters.

Colonel *Baily's* regiment, now in General *Nixon's* brigade, to join the brigade of which Colonel *Glover* is commandant, and Colonel *Reed's*, now in Colonel *Glover's*, to join General *Nixon*.

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Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 5, 1776.

(Parole, *Maroneck.*) (Countersign, *Goshen.*)

Some barracks having been already built at *Peekskill*, and others erecting for the reception of the troops at that place, the General directs that the Major-Generals do select from their several divisions all their convalescents, and others not entirely fit for duty, and have them sent up there under proper officers. Those men who have been sent into the country to recruit are to be included if they are not well enough to return to their duty in camp. This order is not to extend to such sick as are fit subjects for the hospital, nor is it intended to countermand the orders of the 3d instant for discharging such of the sick Militia as choose to go home, after the inspection of the General Officer commanding them. The arms and baggage of such men as move to *Peekskill*, to be taken along, as they are intended for the security of that post. Spare arms properly put up, may also be removed there.

The General is very sensible that the time of service of many of the Militia will soon expire: but as this is the most interesting and critical part of the campaign, and their departure would greatly discourage the other troops and injure the service, he doubts not their love to their country will induce them to prolong their stay until the close of the campaign, which must soon happen.

The several Brigadiers and Colonels commanding brigades, are immediately to make report of the tools in their respective brigades, to the Quartermaster-General.

The General gives it strictly in charge to the commanding officer of every regiment, to see that the bottom of the tents are not covered with earth; and that upon the removal of the Army at any time, and upon all occasions, tents are the first things that are put into the wagons allowed each regiment. The Brigadier must pay attention to this also.

The order of yesterday with respect to Colonel *Bailey* joining Colonel *Glover's* brigade, was founded on a mistake: that regiment is to continue as at present. Colonel *Webb's* is to join Colonel *Glover's* brigade, and Colonel *Reed* is to join General *McDougall's* brigade.

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Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 6th, 1776.

(Parole, ———.) (Countersign, ———.)

As the late movements of the enemy will require some change of our present disposition, the General most earnestly requests that the men who have been at the hospital, and out of camp on any other account, may be immediately collected and join their respective regiments.

It is with the utmost astonishment and abhorrence the General is informed that some base and cowardly wretches have, last night, set fire to the Court-House and other buildings which the enemy left. The Army may rely on it, that they shall be brought to justice and meet with the punishment they deserve.

Mr. *John Story* is appointed Paymaster to the regiment commanded by Colonel *Hitchcock*.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSIONERS OF ARRANGEMENT.

White-Plains, November 6th, 1776.

Gentlemen: Your favour of the 23d *October*, expressing your astonishment that recruiting orders had not been issued to Colonel *Magaw* and Colonel *Cadwalader*, has been duly received. As it seems founded on assurances given by me, I think it my duty to explain the matter, and call to your recollection some circumstances, which perhaps, in the hurry of business, you may have forgot. At the time you left *King's Bridge* no one officer, that I recollect, was fixed on, nor was it known whether Colonel *Cadwalader* would accept the regiment, if in his power. There was not money in the Continental Treasury at that time to advance for the bounty of even *Hand's* regiment; and all those who were consulted, agreed that it answered no purpose to attempt the business without the money in hand.

Another thing, gentlemen, you will, I doubt not, agree with me in, that it could not be the General's duty, or that of any other General Officer, to attend upon the officers of those two battalions to know whether they would serve, or set about the business of recruiting; and I am very confident that no application was made for money or recruiting orders; nor, indeed, could they, for the enemy landed immediately after at *Frog's Point*. The Army immediately moved, and has been moving ever since, so that there has not been leisure or opportunity for transacting business of this kind. Our communication with *Mount Washington* has now been cut off for two weeks; and, in short, the variety of avocations to the immediate safety and interest of the Army, under constant alarms, and the approach of the enemy, has made that very natural to those on the spot which may appear very much otherwise to gentlemen whose short stay at such times in the camp does not enable them to judge of the difficulties which occur upon such occasions.

The necessity of appointing the officers who were to execute the recruiting orders will appear, when it is recollected that at that time it was understood that ten shillings was to be allowed for every man recruited; so that the appointment must, of course, precede the service. This the Congress have since altered.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To the Commissioners of Arrangement from *Pennsylvania*.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

White-Plains, November 6th, 1776.

Sir: By a letter from Major-General *Greene*, who is stationed on the *Jersey* side of the *North River*, his Excellency is informed that six officers belonging to privateers, who had been taken by the enemy and made their escape, report that twenty sail of transports and ships have fallen down to *Red-Hook*, having on board about thee thousand troops, and their destination, as given out, is to *Rhode-Island*. His Excellency, supposing there is such an embarkation, does not apprehend that the expedition will be to the eastward. He inclines to think that it will be to the southward, and that something may be attempted there by way of a winter's campaign. However, he has thought proper to transmit the intelligence to you and Governour *Cooke*, that you may be on your guard, and have such precautions taken as may appear most likely to counteract their designs, in case they should attempt a descent.

Since I had the honour of writing you on the 2d, the enemy have attempted nothing; such vigilance and care have been had, that they have been unable to pass by either of our wings. From our present advices and their movements, we have reason to believe they are upon the retreat to *New-York*, being sensible that an attempt to pass our posts must be attended with difficulty, and a great effusion of blood, if our people will do their duty. It is certain that they have broke up their encampments, which were opposite our front, and moved southwesterly towards the *North River*. Several parties are gone out to watch their motions, and to harass them, if possible, in their march.

From the returns that have come in, I am happy to acquaint you that we have reason to believe our loss in the action of *Monday* se'nnight is by no means so considerable

as was apprehended at first. We are told by some prisoners, that the enemy's, upon that occasion, was tolera le great; some make it near four hundred in killed and wounded—among the former a Colonel *Carr*, of the Thirty-Fifth Regiment. It is the prevailing opinion, that if General *Howe* is going to *New-York*, he has some further object in view, to wit: that of throwing a part of his Army into the *Jerseys*.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your humble servant,

ROBERT H. HARRISON.

To Governour *Trumbull, Connecticut.*

[The same to Governour *Cooke, Rhode-Island.*]

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

White-Plains, November 6, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The situation of our affairs is critical and truly alarming. The dissolution of our Army is fast approaching, and but little if any prospect of levying a new one in a reasonable time. A large part of it, under the denomination of new levies, are now on the eve of their departure, and this at a time when the enemy have a very numerous and formidable force, watching an opportunity to execute their plans, and to spread ruin and devastation among us. Impressed with the importance of these matters, I this day laid them before a council of General Officers, with a view of obtaining their opinion upon the same, and of the measures which, in their judgment, should be immediately adopted. The result was, that I should apply to several of the States for supplies of Militia; and that your honourable Assembly should be requested to furnish, as soon as possible, four thousand as their quota, to be properly accoutred and equipped with every necessary, to supply the place of those who are now here under General *Lincoln*, and who, I fear, will not be prevailed upon to stay longer than the time they engaged for at first. The hope and probability of raising a new army, within a convenient time, are so little, and the consequences so evidently alarming, if a sufficient force is not kept up to counteract the designs of the enemy in the mean time, that the council and myself have unanimously agreed that the Militia should be engaged, if possible, to continue till the 1st of *March*, unless their return can be sooner dispensed with. We flatter ourselves, by that time, if not long before, such an Army will be levied as to render any further claims upon them, unless in cases of the most pressing emergency, altogether unnecessary.

From the experience I have had of your past exertions in times of difficulty, I know that nothing in your power to effect will be wanting; and with the greatest confidence, I trust that the present requisition will have your most ready approbation and compliance, being in some degree anticipated by the inquiry you have directed to be made into the state of our affairs, and whether any further aid will be necessary.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To the General Court of *Massachusetts-Bay.*

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COLONEL REED TO MRS. REED, DATED CAMP NEAR WHITE-PLAINS, NOVEMBER 6, 1776.

A new cause of alarm has arisen since I wrote you last. The enemy, as we suppose, finding our Army too advantageously posted to venture an attack, the night before last began to move with all their baggage. Their course was towards the *North River*, which they still continue. Opinions here are various: some think they are falling down upon *Mount Washington*, and after carrying that post are going into winter quarters; others, that they mean to take shipping up the *North River*, proceed up, and fall upon our rear; others and a great majority think, that finding this Army too strongly posted, they have changed their whole plan, and are bending southward, intending to penetrate the *Jerseys*, and so move on to *Philadelphia*. A few hours must determine it. If the latter is the case, a part of this Army I suppose will pass over into *Jersey*. My heart melts within me at the thought of having that fine country desolated, for it is of little consequence which Army passes. It is equally destructive to friend and foe; and when I consider your situation—your exposed situation, I feel peculiar anxiety. My own opinion is, that the season is too far advanced for any movements of consequence, but that it is probable some excursions may be made to distress and alarm the inhabitants of *New-Jersey*, and revive the drooping spirits of their friends, which begin to sink at the prospect of the campaign closing without the entire conquest of the Rebels, as they term us. However, I may be mistaken, as I am almost singular in my opinion.

EBENEZER HAZARD TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

North-Castle, November 6th, 1776.

SIR: I duly received your letter of the 25th ultimo, and would have answered it sooner, but my frequent removals of late have kept me in so constant a hurry as to prevent it.

There is no way of complying with the resolves of the Committee of Safety respecting the newspapers but subscribing for them; and one year is the shortest time for which a subscriber may enter his name. I have already written to *Boston*, desiring that the papers printed there may be regularly sent me, directed to the Convention of this State. I intend writing for the others by the earliest opportunity, and will endeavour to procure the Constitutions of the different States, which have already been or may be hereafter published. The plans of Government for *Pennsylvania* and the *Delaware* States are in one of the papers sent herewith; the generality of the other papers now sent, contain either remarks upon some form of government, or something else which may perhaps be useful to the Convention.

You will oblige me, sir, by procuring an order of Convention for the payment of postage arising, and which may arise, on letters for the members of that honourable body. Every letter I send from the office without receiving the postage, I send at my own risk; and as I have not received the postage of letters already sent, I am apprehensive the members will not receive their letters in future quite so soon after their arrival at the office as heretofore, unless some such order is passed.

As I necessarily write in haste, I beg you to excuse blots and interlineations. I am, respectfully, sir, your and the Committee's very humble servant,

EBEN. HAZARD.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq.

COMFORT SANDS TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fishkill, November 6th, 1776.

SIR: Here enclosed is an account of arms and accoutrements that have been delivered to General *Scott's* brigade, which account I have framed from the returns of Messrs. *Norwood & Curtenius*. As these arms were to be returned or paid for, the Convention will probably think fit to send the enclosed account to General *Scott* before the time is expired for which that brigade is inlisted, that stoppages may be made if the arms, &c., are not returned.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

COMFORT SANDS.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 6, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Since my last I have been honoured with a letter from General *Washington;* he is now with the Army at the *White-Plains*, and the enemy near him. They make every effort to out-flank him, and he as carefully guards against it. Twelve hundred men and six months' provision are thrown into *Fort Washington*. It has been attacked by some men-of-war, who suffered so much in the attempt that they were obliged to retire very much shattered.

The General has approved the sentence of the court-martial on Lieutenant Colonel *White*, Captains *Patterson* and *Ross*, and Lieutenant *Gordon*, all of Colonel *Dayton's* regiment, which you will please to publish in orders.

Colonel *Lewis* arrived yesterday. I have every thing in proper train, and I hope he will keep it so. He shall not want my advice and best assistance.

I hope General *Carleton* will in a very few days, by the

severity of the weather, be obliged to return with the main body of his Army to *Canada*. As soon as that event takes place, I dare say you will send down the country as many of the troops as can be spared. Barracks for one thousand men will be complete in a few days at *Saratoga*. Carpenters are gone to build for four hundred more at *Fort Edward*, and if materials can be procured, I propose to erect for four hundred more at *Stillwater*. About five hundred can be lodged here, and I hope to have shelter for six hundred at *Schenectady*.

I am, dear General, with every friendly wish, your obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Hon. General *Gates*.

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COLONEL WYNKOOP TO GENERAL GATES.

Skeensborough, November 6, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have few soldiers at this place to forward the business as I ought. I keep four batteaus out constant fetching hay and corn. I would be very glad if the General would please to order me one company of men more, on purpose to batteau between here and *Fort Ann*. The Militia that has been here won't do the least thing for me, nor can I make them do it.

I shall send you two batteaus load of hay this afternoon. The vessel will be loaded with corn to-morrow. I shall also want more batteaus. The General has ordered me the carpenters at this place to build barracks; they are here, and have the barracks raised and partly boarded up.

I have two hundred head of cattle on the ground, and expect another drove in to-day. I do not know what to do with them all, as the pasture at this place is gone, and am obliged to furnish a party of my men to guard them out in the fields. I shall send the iron down with the vessel. As for the saw-mill crank I can't find it.

I am, dear General, your most obedient,

CORNELIUS WYNKOOP.

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GENERAL GATES TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 18th: Referred to the Board of War.]

Ticonderoga, November 6th, 1776.

SIR: The Commissioners who arrived last week to this camp, from the *Massachusetts-Bay*, having informed me on last *Monday* that their Assembly had granted, over and above the very great bounty allowed by Congress, three dollars and one third per month, to every private raised by them, I then foresaw the fatal consequences this resolve must produce on other soldiers who should not be allowed a similar bounty by the States to which their respective corps may belong. For this reason, having thought it my indispensable duty to risk the entire loss of my popularity with the soldiers of this Army, I did not fail to entreat the Commissioners to urge their Assembly to rescind that vote. But, sir, a few hours after my letter of yesterday's date was sent off, I learnt that the State of *Connecticut* had granted the additional allowance of two dollars every month to the privates inlisted in the regiments of their own State. I shall not attempt to fix those limits beyond which, in my judgment, our new confederate Commonwealth will no more be able, without the help of inexhaustible mines, to extend the progress of this evil; but it is evident to me, that the cupidity of our soldiery may be stimulated to such a degree as to ruin the noblest cause that any army ever was truly employed to defend. And, though Congress should procure the rescision of every resolve that shall have passed to the same effect, there is just reason to fear that the troops which are now employed in opposing General *Howe*, will, as well as those in this department, be tempted to desert, or at least retire from the Army, for the sake of inlisting as substitutes in the Militia, and extorting sums, proportionably larger than heretofore, from the men who may be drafted for the service.

I am very willing to believe that the authors of the resolves for such additional pay, did not intend to sacrifice the general interest of our Union, to a local, temporary popularity. On the contrary, I judge that the excessive price now given for every article of clothing, &c., misled their compassion for their fellow-citizens, and that their errour proceeded from the most liberal principles, and from their not being acquainted with the measures of Congress to supply the Army.

Oh! sir, may the *Massachusetts* delegates in Congress be the first to move that august assembly for recommending that none of the States shall, without the previous approbation of Congress, allow any additional pay to their respective troops in the Continental service. Unless a speedy measure be adopted to check this amazing effusion of benevolence, I foresee that it will corrupt our soldiery, that our enemies will expose our impossibility to continue such profusions, and I fear they may succeed in undermining our credit at home and abroad.

As my zeal alone has dictated this letter, I shall not apologize for it, but assure you, that with the greatest respect, I shall ever remain, sir, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To his Excellency *John Hancock*, Esq.

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GENERAL ARNOLD TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Ticonderoga, November 6, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I beg leave to recommend to your particular notice the following gentlemen, who were taken at *Quebeck*, and lately returned on their parole, viz: Major *Lamb* and Captain *Lockwood* of the Artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel *Oswald* and Captain *Morgan:* the two last went with me from *Cambridge*. They have all distinguished themselves for their bravery and attachment to the publick cause, and will, I make no doubt, be very useful hereafter, and do honour to the commissions they may hold. If it is not inconsistent with your engagements, I beg they may be among the first who are exchanged.

On the 3d instant the enemy began to embark at *Crown Point*, and several vessels sailed yesterday morning. Two vessels only remain there, on board of which the last troops were embarked. They give out their intention is to return to *Canada*, and pay us a visit in the spring. I wish it may not be a feint to put us off our guard, and to return the first fair wind. As the season is so far advanced, I am rather inclined to think they are in earnest to return.

I wish to hear the enemy with you have taken up their winter quarters. I hope this winter will effect as much for us as a victory.

I am, with sentiments of perfect esteem and respect, dear General, your affectionate and most obedient humble servant,

B. ARNOLD.

His Excellency *George Washington*, Esq., General and Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the *United States of America*, Head-Quarters, *King's Bridge*.

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JOHN BARRETT TO GENERAL GATES.

Hubbardton, 6th November, 1776.

SIR: The party at work on the road have accomplished the cutting a road through from the *Mount* to *Otter Creek*, and will in a day or two effect the bridging; and I think they may be essentially serviceable to the publick the remainder of their time in cutting and clearing the road between *Otter Creek* and *Number Four*, if it be your Honour's pleasure. The parties seem much engaged to proceed, if your Honour's pleasure to permit.

I am your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

JOHN BARRETT,
*Superintendent of the work.*

The Honourable General *Gates*.

P. S. Colonel *Meeds* informs me that the block-house is almost finished at the bridge, and begs your Honour's pleasure whether he must continue to guard there.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *November* 6, 1776:

Present: His Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *Titus Hosmer*, *William Hillhouse*, and *Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

Captain *John McCleave* exhibited an account against the State of £428 9*s*. 5*d*., which is allowed, for wages and billeting, and other expense of the men, &c., on board the row-galley *Whiting*, lately under his command; and voted to draw on the Pay-Table for the same.—(Order drawn *November* 7, 1776, and delivered Captain *John McCleave*.)

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*Voted*, To give Order to Colonel *William Pitkin* to deliver what Powder he has in his hands belonging to this State to the care of *John Lawrence*, Esq., Treasurer, who is hereby directed to receive the same, and store and guard it in some secure place at his discretion.—(Copy given, *November* 6, 1776, to Colonel *Pitkin*.)

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table for one thousand Pounds, in favour of Mr. *Chancey Whittlesey*, of *Middletown*, to enable him to purchase Clothing for this State, for the use of the troops, &c.; to render his account.—(Order drawn 6th *November*, 1776, delivered Mr. *Chauncey Whittlesey*.)

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New-Haven, November 6, 1776.

A few nights since, between three and four hundred troops, from the State of *Rhode-Island*, crossed the *Sound*, and landed on *Long-Island*, near *Setasket*, where they engaged a party of the troops newly inlisted into General *Howe's* Army, commanded by one *Smith;* five or six of his men were killed in the action, and himself and twenty-three of his company made prisoners, who were brought off, with seventy-five excellent muskets. The prisoners are a motley herd, about one half of them being *Negroes* and *Indians*. Of the *Rhode-Island* troops one was killed and one wounded.

We hear that near two hundred sail of the enemy's fleet are on this side of *Hell-Gate*, the chief of them lying near *Hart Island*.

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COMMITTEE OF GUILFORD TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

The honourable Congress of *New-York*,

To *Samuel Brown*, Dr.

To five trips of the sloop *Polly*, fifty-five tons burthen, from hence to *Long-Island* and back to *Guilford*, bringing horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, people, household goods, &c., at £20, this currency, per trip, £100.

Errours excepted. SAMUEL BROWN.

Guilford, September 30, 1776.

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Guilford, November 6, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: On receiving your letter, dated *Harlem*, *August* 28th, 1776, directed to the Chairman of the several Committees on the sea-coast, the Committee of this place immediately called a meeting and determined to comply with your request, as per vote enclosed and record of their doings may appear, dated *August* 31, 1776.

SAMUEL BROWN,
*Clerk of the Committee of Inspectors in Guilford.*

To the honourable Congress of *New-York*, now convened at *Fishkill* in said Province.

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Guilford, November 6, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As I was owner of the above sloop *Polly*, the Committee applied to me for her to be employed in the above business, which was readily complied and with no particular agreement made; and as it is almost impossible to give any particular account of what was bought, concluded on the above sum, which I think is reasonable, provided I take on myself the whole charge and damage, which was very great—as one anchor of three hundred and forty-one weight was lost by the cable being cut off with rocks, the cable much damaged, and almost the whole of the running rigging worn out, used for halters, and gone; the expense for victualling, drink, and more especially hands' wages, running high, as we could hire no otherwise than by the day, and a lighter at three shillings per day for shipping cattle the whole time, she much damaged, &c.

If the within charge is thought reasonable, please to pay the sum to the bearer, *Ezra L'Hommedieu*, Esq., and his receipt shall be your discharge. We looked on the vessel in this affair at the risk of the Congress, and if it be more agreeable to pay the damage, charter, and whole expense, I shall be satisfied, or settle the matter in any other way that your Honours shall judge just and right.

I am, gentlemen, your friend and humble servant,

SAMUEL BROWN.

To the honourable Congress of *New-York*, now convened at *Fishkill*.

N. B. The Chairman of this Committee now absent attending the Assembly, could not write or attest what I have exhibited. S. BROWN.

GOVERNOUR OF RHODE-ISLAND TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Providence, November 6th, 1776.

SIR: The General Assembly of this State have ordered two battalions to be immediately raised, agreeable to the requisition of the honourable Continental Congress, signified to them in a letter from the President of that august body.

Congress recommended that a Committee should be appointed to repair to the Army, and there appoint the officers; but as your Excellency was pleased to enclose in your favour of the 12th ultimo a list of such gentlemen as would be agreeable to you to receive commissions, the General Assembly strictly adhered to your nomination, although Lieutenant *Pendleton* and Lieutenant *Crandall* belong to the State of *Connecticut*, and Ensign *Hunniwell* to *Massachusetts-Bay*. Colonel *Varnum* is complimented with a commission by this State; but as General *Greene*, in his letter, has signified that Colonel *Varnum* will decline the appointment, the vacancy can be filled with Colonel *Greene*, who was upon the *Canada* expedition.

The General Assembly have not appointed any of those gentlemen who are now upon their parole, but leave that trouble for your Excellency and General *Greene* to do, as soon as they may consistent with honour receive commissions.

Your Excellency was pleased to mention the advantages that would result to the Army by a judicious choice of men of strict honour and reputation to officer the two battalions. The General Assembly are very sensible of the great benefit that will arise by having such men only appointed; and as the officers in the two old battalions have been immediately under your Excellency's command, and the two battalions heretofore raised by this State have now joined the Army, the General Assembly could devise no better means of effecting that salutary measure than referring the filling up of all vacancies in the two battalions now raising to your Excellency and General *Greene*, which they have done, and desire that the officers nominated may belong to this State, as they suppose this to be the meaning of Congress; and request your Excellency that those appointed may immediately inlist every man possible belonging to the four *Rhode-Island* battalions, in order to complete this State's quota, and that you would be pleased to give every necessary indulgence to the inlisting officers that can consistently be done to effect the same.

The Assembly requests that your Excellency would immediately despatch as many recruiting officers to this State as can well be spared from duty in order to effect the completing of the battalion, if they cannot be reinlisted out of the *Rhode-Island* forces now in the Army. Attention will be paid to the officers sent upon this occasion, that they be such as are most likely to succeed in the business. The General Assembly being extremely anxious that the two battalions should be forthwith raised, have, as a further encouragement for the soldiers to inlist, granted a bounty of twenty dollars, to be paid by this State to each and every non-commissioned officer and private soldier who shall so inlist, over and above the provision made for them by Congress.

Messrs. *Hazard* and *Holden*, the bearers, will deliver to your Excellency blank commissions for the officers, which you will please to cause to be immediately filled and delivered to the gentlemen you approbate.

Your Excellency will be pleased to excuse the trouble that the General Assembly have laid on you from the necessity, they not knowing who will accept of commissions.

Messrs. *Hazard* and *Holden* are appointed Paymasters to the battalions ordered to be raised by this State, and are furnished with money to pay the extra bounty allowed by this State, and are to assist in inlisting the men.

At the request and in behalf of the General Assembly, I have the honour to subscribe myself, with great esteem and respect, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

General *Washington*.

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State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, }
In General Assembly, October Sessions, A. D., 1776. }

Both Houses being resolved into a Grand Committee, made choice of the following gentlemen as Officers in the two Battalions or Regiments to be raised by this State, agreeable to requisition of Congress:

*First Battalion.*

James Mitchell Varnum, Esq., *Colonel;* Adam Comstock, Esq., *Lieutenant-Colonel;* Henry Sherburne, Esq., *Major.*

Captains: Ebenezer Flagg, Silas Talbut, Thomas Cole, John S. Dexter, Simeon Martin, Jonathan Wallen.

First Lieutenants: Joseph Arnold, William Belcher, Timothy Lock, Samuel Bissell, Wilson Rawson, William Potter, Handy, Thomas Noyes.

Second Lieutenants: Ichabod Prentice, John Chapman, John Remington.

Ensign: Zephaniah Bowen.

Staff Officers: Clark Brown, *Quartermaster;* Jonathan J. Hazard, *Paymaster.*

*Second Battalion.*

Daniel Hitchcock, Esq., *Colonel;* Israel Angel, Esq., *Lieutenant-Colonel;* Christopher Smith, Esq., *Major.*

Captains: Jeremiah Olney, William Tew, Coggesral Olney, Ephraim Bowen, William Bradford, John Carr, Abimelech Riggs.

First Lieutenants: Stephen Olney, William Allen, William Littlefield, Gilbert Grant, Joseph Whitmarsh, David Peirce, Amos Crandel, Micah Moulton.

Second Lieutenants: Thomas Hughes, Duty Jerrald.

Ensigns: Ebenezer West, Holliman Potter, Thomas Waterman, Oliver Jencks, Richard Hunniwell.

Staff Officers: Cyprian Sterry, *Quartermaster;* Charles Holden, *Paymaster.*

A true copy,
Witness: Henry Ward, *Secretary.*

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO THOMAS CUSHING.

Providence, November 6th, 1776.

Sir: I received yours, and have inquired, and find that there is no light duck on board the ship Captain *Manly* told you of, but there is a fourteen-inch cable, of about one hundred and twenty or thirty fathoms, which has never been used, though it has been on board a year. The Captain of the ship tells me it was made in *London*, and he thinks it a very good one. I spoke to Mr. *Tillinghast*, the agent here, and he says, if it suits you, you may have the cable for the same weight in other rigging, or for what he gives for rigging here, which is the extravagant price of twenty dollars per hundred; but as the greatest part of it belongs to the Continent it is no great matter as to the price. If the cable should suit you, please to write to Mr. *Daniel Tillinghast*, as I shall go to *Newport* to-morrow, and perhaps to sea before I return.

I am, with great respect, sir, your humble servant,
Esek Hopkins.

To *Thomas Cushing*, Esq., at *Boston*.

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NEW-HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GEN. GATES.

State of New-Hampshire,
In Committee of Safety, November 6, 1776.

Sir: The bearer, Mr. *James Anderson*, employed by this State to ride express to *Ticonderoga*, waits on you to receive any commands you may have on this State. Hoping success may attend your endeavours for supporting the rights of *America*, in behalf of the Committee, I subscribe myself your humble servant.

General *Gates*.

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MATTHEW TILGHMAN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Annapolis, November 7th, 1776.

Sir: Mrs. *Chamier* being desirous of going to Lord *Howe's* camp on a visit to her husband, I am directed by Convention to request that you, sir, will grant her a passport to the *American* camp, with a recommendation to General *Washington* to grant permission to Mrs. *Chamier* to visit her husband, on giving her parole of honour not to say or do any thing to the injury of the *United States*, or any of them.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant,
Math. Tilghman, *President.*

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress, at *Philadelphia*.

GEORGE WOOLSEY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, of 7th November, 1776.

Gentlemen: Yesterday I received a few lines from Mr. *Ridgely*, by your orders, requesting my presence at *Annapolis*, to take charge of a ten-gun schooner. He also says he wrote me a few days ago, which I never received; if I had, I should have answered it. I am much obliged to you, gentlemen, for your good opinion of me in giving me a preference; and I wish my health would have permitted me to accept of it. At present I am under the care of Doctor *Weisenthall*, and he will not permit me to be out at night or get wet. Such a person I am sure is not fit to serve the publick in the capacity you propose for me. Within this week I think I am something better, and he gives me hopes; if I get able by the spring, be assured I will not draw back my service from the publick. I expect my brother here every day. On his arrival I shall write you about him. I know he has offered his service to the publick, and believe he does not intend to draw back. I wish he would suit you for this vessel, as I make no doubt of his accepting of it. He is now at Colonel *Trevers's*, on *Hooper's Island*. Was sick when he went there, but expect him every day.

I am, gentlemen, your very humble servant,
Geo. Woolsey.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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CAPTAIN SMITH'S COMPANY OF MATROSSES TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 7th, 1776.

Honoured Sir: Our present situation obliges us to request (having no one in the company that will see us done justice to,) I hope your Honour will please to consider us, and see our cause righted. Your Honour was pleased to order us leggins and draws, which we have never received. Hunting-shirts not one half of the company received. In regard to our provisions that's allowed us by the Convention, we don't receive but bare meat, bread, and beer. Our allowance is as follows: Beef, one pound per day; bread, one pound per day; beer, one quart per day; rum, one gill per day. In short, we are allowed meal, pork, peas, vinegar, molasses, soap, salt, candles, &c., forty shillings per month, which we don't receive but thirty-five shillings, which is too little to keep us in shoes and stockings, every thing is at such an extravagant price—shoes fifteen shillings per pair, linen seven or eight shillings per yard, stockings seventeen or eighteen shillings per pair.

We hope your Honour will please to take our cause in hand, and see us done justice to. If we don't meet with a speedy redress from your Honour, we must be under the necessity of petitioning the Convention, as we can never subsist this winter on the provisions we receive at present.

Your Honour's obedient and humble servants.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON.

Philadelphia, 7th November, 1776.

My dear Sir: My last was by the schooner *Betsey*, by whom through your favour I shipped twelve barrels flour. I now take the liberty to enclose *James Miller's* receipt for the same. Have desired Mrs. *W.* to settle the freight with you, and shall also desire her to apologize for the trouble I give you. I have got an order on the Treasury, and shall honour your drafts whenever they appear.

I mentioned by Colonel *Bartlett* how matters stood respecting the guns, and cannot help flattering myself you'll have them from *Connecticut*. The furnaces here have been very unfortunate. The guns that were brought down before I left this place last *August*, have been tried a second time, and many of them would not stand the proof, so that there is not guns in this city for one ship.

The President tells me he has forwarded the commissions for the officers. It happened unlucky for the officers of the *Raleigh*, that the rank was established before my arrival; had not that have been the case, I am inclined to think they would have been higher on the list; however, their merit, I am in no doubt, will recommend them to promotion.

The Marine Committee have received a letter from the

Committee of *Providence*, in answer to one sent them, in consequence of what you wrote Colonel *Bartlett*, a copy of which, also a copy of one from Governour *Hopkins*, (who is now at *Providence*,) I shall procure and transmit, and leave you to comment on them; in the mean time I'll undertake to defend you against calumny.

I have just received your favour of the 21st ultimo. Your giving up to Captain *Plance* his small adventure is, in my opinion, very right; but by some hints that have been dropped, am inclined to think that some gentlemen suppose you have exceeded your power. Captain *Bowden*, I find, has preferred a petition, which is referred to a committee. I have a letter from Colonel *Wentworth* on the subject, which I shall answer in a day or two. I heartily wish there may be some method adopted whereby that gentleman may be relieved, but must confess am doubtful of the success of his petition—for a publick body to break their own general rules may be attended with evil consequences; however, I shall do all in my power to have this matter determined as speedily as possible, and shall use my endeavours to serve Captain *Bowden*, so far as (in my opinion) is consistent with the publick good.

I have no news to tell you. Accounts from abroad are very favourable; hope to have it in my power to transmit you some pleasing intelligence shortly; in the mean time I wish effectual measures may be taken to procure clothing for the Army. Congress pass resolves and send them abroad, but gentlemen, even those who compose publick bodies, suffer their attention to be so much engrossed by their private interest, that the publick concerns of the utmost importance are neglected, notwithstanding their own and their country's salvation is at stake. Our Army are in good spirits; but can it be expected that that will be the case long, when they are almost naked? Congress have been disappointed in some goods that was expected some time ago; perhaps they will still arrive; no doubt some will. In the mean time it has been recommended to the several States to make all the provision they can, but I don't see that such recommendation has any effect. I have wrote very freely, but hope you'll make a prudent use of it. I by no means would discourage; my desire is to animate every one to exert himself in the glorious cause in which *America* is engaged; for my own part I have not a doubt of success in the end, but my wish is to put a speedy end to slaughter and devastation, which already is great, but must be still greater, if the war continues, which nothing will prevent but the utmost exertions of the friends to liberty and humanity: such exertions, under the smiles of Heaven, will restore peace to, and establish happiness in this western world.

Our last accounts from the Army is favourable; General *Lee*, in a private letter to a friend, says that *Howe* has but two moves more, in which we shall checkmate him. I must leave the explanation of this to those who understand the game of chess. A report is just arrived that many *Hessians* had deserted. If this proves true, it's a favourable circumstance; great pains have been taken to persuade those people that they would be massacred if they fell into the hands of the *Americans*. Those that have been taken are very agreeably disappointed, and say that if their countrymen were undeceived, there would be a general revolt; some measures have been taken for this purpose, and perhaps with effect.

Enclosed you have some late resolutions of Congress repecting the Navy. Some further proposals are before Congress, which I expect will be soon taken up.

Present my regards wherever due, and be assured of the best wishes of your friend, &c.,

WM. WHIPPLE.

*November*, 10th.—General *Howe* not liking the situation of our Army, removed very suddenly in the night from *White-Plains*, where he has been encamped. This movement was a matter of great speculation in our Army, but from the observations made on his motions, it was conjectured that he intended to cross over to *New-Jersey*. General *Washington* has detached about four thousand, under the command of General *Putnam*, over the river above him, in order to give him a proper reception on this side. Advice is just arrived that the enemy had retreated from *Crown-Point*. The particulars of this affair is hourly expected by an express that's on the road.

### PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 7, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Salt purchased by the Council for the use of the inhabitants of this State shall be proportioned to the several Counties, as near as may be, according to the number of inhabitants in each; and that the quantity allotted to each County be delivered to such persons as shall apply for it, by order of the several Committees, on their paying the prime cost of fifteen shillings per bushel, to be distributed by said Committees amongst the people at the same price, expense of carriage only added.

Extract from the Minutes:

JACOB S. HOWELL, *Secretary*.

There are in store a few wagon loads ready to be delivered for each County.

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### GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fort Lee, November 7, 1776.

DEAR SIR: By an express from Major *Clarke*, stationed at *Dobbs's Ferry*, I find the enemy are encamped right opposite, to the number of between three and five thousand, and the Major adds, from their disposition and search after boats they design to cross the river. A frigate and two transports or provision ships passed the cheveau-de-frise night before last; they were prodigiously shattered from the fire of our cannon. The same evening, Colonel *Tupper* attempted passing the ships with the pettiaugers loaded with flour. The enemy manned several barges, two tenders, and a row-galley, and attacked them. Our people run the pettiaugers ashore, and landed and defended them. The enemy attempted to land several times, but were repulsed. The fire lasted about an hour and a half, and the enemy moved off. Colonel *Tupper* still thinks he can transport the provisions in flat-boats. A second attempt shall be speedily made. We lost one man mortally wounded.

General *Mercer* writes me the *Virginia* troops are coming on. They are now at *Trent-Town*. He proposes an attack on *Staten-Island;* but the motions of the enemy are such I think necessary for them to come forward as fast as possible. On *York-Island*, the enemy have taken possession of the far hill next to *Spiten-Devil*. I think they will not be able to penetrate any further. There appears to be about fifteen hundred of them. From the enemy's motions I should be apt to suspect they were retreating from your Army, or, at least, altering their operations.

Mr. *Lovell*, who at last is enlarged from his confinement, reports that Colonel *Allen*, his fellow prisoner, was informed that transports were getting in readiness to sail at a moment's warning sufficient to transport fifteen thousand men.

The officers of Colonel *Hands's* regiment are here with inlisting orders. The officers of the *Pennsylvania* regiments think it a grievance (such of them as are commissioned for the new establishment) that the officers of other regiments should have the privilege of inlisting their men before they get orders. I have stopped it until I learn your Excellency's pleasure. General *Ewing* is very much opposed to it. You'll please to favour me with a line on the subject.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's obedient servant,

NATH'L GREENE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, at *White-Plains*.
Favoured by General *Morris*.

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### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON.

White-Plains, 7th November, 1776.

SIR: On *Tuesday* morning the enemy broke up their encampments which were in front of our lines, after having remained there several days without attempting any thing. They have gone towards the *North River* and *King's Bridge*. This sudden and unexpected movement is a matter of much speculation. Some suppose they are going into winter quarters, and will sit down in *New-York*, without doing more than investing *Fort Washington*. I cannot subscribe wholly to this opinion myself. That they will invest *Fort Washington* is a matter of which there can be no doubt; and I think there is a strong probability that General *Howe* will detach a part of his force to make an incursion into *Jersey*, provided he is going to *New-York*. He must attempt something on account of his reputation, for what has he done as yet with his great Army?

Persuaded that an expedition to the *Jerseys* will succeed his arrival in *New-York*, with a detachment of his Army, as soon as I can be satisfied that the present manœuvre is a real retreat and not a feint, I shall throw over a body of our troops, with the utmost expedition, to assist in checking their progress. At the same time, I beg leave to recommend to your consideration the propriety and necessity that some measures should be taken to place your Militia on the best footing possible, and that a part of 'em may be in readiness to supply the place of the troops (denominated new levies) from your State, whose time of service will presently expire. Your vigilance and attention I know will not be wanting in any instance; yet there is one thing more I will take the liberty to mention, that is, that the inhabitants contiguous to the water should be prepared to remove their stock, grain, effects, and carriages, upon the earliest notice. If they are not, the calamities they will suffer will be beyond all description, and the advantages derived to the enemy immensely great. They have treated all here without discrimination. The distinction of Whig and Tory has been lost in one general scene of ravage and desolation. The article of forage is of great importance to 'em; not a blade should remain for their use. What cannot be removed with convenience should be consumed without the least hesitation. These several matters I thought it my duty to suggest to you, not doubting but you will give 'em such attention as they may seem to deserve; and that your own good judgment will point out many more necessary regulations adapted to the exigency of our affairs.

I do not know the state of the barracks about *Elizabeth-Town*, *Amboy*, and *Brunswick*. They may be exceedingly necessary to cover our troops. I think it will be advisable to have them examined, and that you should direct such necessary repairs to be made as they may require.

I have the honour to be, with sentiments of respect, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Governour *Livingston*, *New-Jersey*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL GREENE.

White-Plains, November 7th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The enemy, after having encamped in full view of us and reconnoitring our situation for several days, thought proper, on *Tuesday* morning, to decamp. They have bent their course to *Dobbs's Ferry*, inclining towards *King's Bridge*. What their real designs are, we, as yet, are strangers to; but conjecturing that too little is yet done by General *Howe* to go into winter quarters, we conceive that *Fort Washington* will be an object for part of his force, whilst *New-Jersey* may claim the attention of the other part.

To guard against the evils arising from the first, I must recommend to you to pay every attention in your power, and give every assistance you can, to the garrison opposite to you. To guard against the latter, it has been determined (but this as much as possible under the rose) in a council of war to throw over a body of troops so soon as we can with more precision ascertain the destination of the enemy into the *Jerseys*. To facilitate this move, the Quartermaster General has sent over for teams to meet the troops at the ferry above; and I should be glad to know your sentiments of the place they should be marched to as best for covering the inhabitants and impeding their progress towards *Philadelphia*, if such a scheme is in contemplation. Would not *Brunswick* be the most likely place to answer this end? or is it too far from *New-York*? They can have no capital object in view unless it is *Philadelphia*. Making excursions only into the *Jerseys*, unless it is for forage, is playing no more than a small game, but such a one as may be necessary for them and distressing to the farmers; for which reason the inhabitants should always be prepared to drive off their wagons, teams, and stock, that neither of them may fall into the hands of the enemy. Impress this speedily and forcibly upon them. They may rely upon it, that the enemy will leave nothing they find among them, nor do they discriminate between Whig and Tory. Woful experience has convinced the latter, in the movements of the enemy in this State, of this truth.

If you have not already sent my boxes with camp tables and chairs, be so good as to let them remain with you, as I do not know but I shall move with the troops designed for the *Jerseys*, persuaded as I am of their having turned their views that way. I am of opinion that if your magazines at *Princetown* were increased and those in the vicinity of *New-York* lessened, it would be better. We find great risk and inconvenience arising from having stores near navigation. Perhaps a magazine at *Brunswick* might not be amiss. The barracks there should be got in order.

I am, very sincerely, dear sir, your most obedient,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Greene*.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

White-Plains, November 7th, 1776.

SIR: In obedience to his Excellency's command, I am to inform you that yesterday the General Officers met, to take a summary view of our affairs. They appeared to be critical and truly alarming, on account of the approaching dissolution of our Army, and the departure of a large part of it, under the denomination of New Levies, on the eve of taking place.

Impressed with the importance of these matters, at a time when the enemy have a very numerous and formidable force watching an opportunity to execute their plans and to spread ruin and devastation among us, the council unanimously advised that application should be made to several of the States for supplies of Militia to fill the places of those who are now here, and in part the vacancies which will be occasioned by the return of the levies. The hope and prospect of raising a new army within a convenient time is so little, and the consequences so evidently alarming, if a sufficient is not kept up to counteract the designs of the enemy, that the council were of opinion that they should be engaged, if possible, to continue in service till the 1st of *March*, unless their return could be sooner dispensed with; flattering themselves that by that time, if not long before, such an army will be levied as to render any future claims of their service altogether unnecessary, unless in case of the most pressing necessity.

His Excellency, well knowing the exertions of your State and the difficulties you have experienced on account of the frequent large drafts from it from time to time, declines mentioning any particular or precise quota as necessary to be furnished by you, and means only to submit the propriety of the requisition, and the performance of it, to your consideration, fully confiding that whatever aid is in your power will be most readily granted. His Excellency thinks it material that some measures should be adopted for the purpose especially, as the Militia which lately came under General *Saltonstall* are extremely impatient to return. Two or three of their Colonels applied to him yesterday for that purpose, urging that they had not engaged for any particular time. He could not grant their request in the present situation of our affairs, but has little doubt but many of the men, as they have already, will go off.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

R. H. HARRISON.

To Governour *Trumbull*, *Connecticut*.

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GENERAL McDOUGALL TO COLONEL DE WITT.

White-Plains, 7th November, 1776.

SIR: Since Mr. *Harper* and you left me, I find, that if *Henry G. Livingston*, late Brigade-Major to Lord *Stirling*, should be appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of my old regiment, those officers who are worth retaining in the service will not continue. I therefore judge it my duty to give you this intelligence. As I expect my brigade will move in a few days I cannot answer Mr. *Cortlandt's* letter on the subject of the clothing of the troops, till we take our next post. The enemy have moved to the northward and westward towards *Dobbs's Ferry* yesterday, but we have not been able with certainty to gather their design. They have destroyed all furniture before them, and drove off the cattle and sheep within their reach.

Time will only permit me to add, that I am, with respect, your humble servant,

ALEX'R McDOUGALL.

To Colonel *Charles De Witt*, Esq., Member of Convention of *New-York*.

COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Camp North-Castle, 7th November, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: A lordly mansion never contained more health and contentment than the little cell, half under ground, that we occupy here in the fields, dwelling with my own people. The soldiery have become very ragged, often very dirty, and sometimes hungry, without the means to satisfy. They daily called to fatigue or other duty, if not to uncommon hardships, yet they go to, and through all, with alertness and cheerfulness—I speak of my own regiment in particular. I wish I could retain them in service. I am much concerned for the Army, between the old and the new inlistment. The old troops cannot be indulged with furloughs; they will not, I fear, inlist again without such a privilege.

The enemy have retreated from *White-Plains*. It was a happy thought, the burning of a few houses upon our retreat from thence. That measure convinced them they had little to expect from penetrating the country. They saw how much we would sacrifice to the safety of our Army and disadvantage of theirs; at the same time it must have struck terrour into the Tories and influence them in our favour from the strong motive of interest, as they perceive their dwellings, &c., depend on our success.

*7th, P. M.*—The enemy are gone from their lines on the *Sound*. Do not yet learn their route; it is not unlikely they are returning to the city by way of *Frog's Point*, where they first landed, and near where their ships have been ever since laying; or may be, they will take a shorter way and go down the post-road; if so we shall hear of them at *Fort Washington*. We are told they insisted on taking their good friends the Tories along with them, though much against the inclination of the latter. They will serve them to bear burdens, if not to bear arms. I wish more of them might fall in their way. We do not find that the *British* Army show them any favour, except here and there a particular one. A *Scot* soldier, of more than common understanding for his class, who lately deserted, tells that the *British* officers are often disputing with one another on the merits of the controversy; that they begin to own us to be good soldiers save the want of a little more discipline; that the Army is very sickly.

*Eight o'clock, Thursday Eve.*—This moment an express from Head-Quarters, ordering Colonel *Throop's* regiment to march immediately, the rest of us to be in readiness, upon information that the enemy intend to take the passes at the Highlands. *Fellows's* brigade are ordered to *Croton's Ferry* to interrupt them; *Bell's* brigade to follow.

I am, with love and respect to mother, son, &c., your affectionate son,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER DATED NORTH-CASTLE, NOVEMBER 7, 1776.

Since I wrote you the other day, an event has taken place which I think will finish this campaign: the enemy have suddenly and unexpectedly decamped. The general opinion is, that they are going into winter quarters at *New-York;* and indeed some of the deserters or prisoners told us this was what they intended; but I think the season is not yet so far advanced as to render this step immediately necessary. It is probable they will take *Fort Washington* in their return, or rather, that our people will abandon it, by which means they will at last become masters of *New-York* Island. They have become possessed of more territory this campaign than the last, but they will derive very little if any more advantage from it, than from their possessions in and about *Boston:* of honour, they will hardly gain so much, for they do not deserve it.

Let us review their mighty deeds: Two hundred sail of *British* ships gained possession of *Staten-Island*, a sandy spot of very little extent, inhabited by Tories, who surrendered it to them without firing a gun. At *Long-Island* they gained more credit, for by fighting they obtained a part of it, but much the largest part remains in our possession yet. The city of *New-York*, and every other place the enemy became masters of, was evacuated by us, and not conquered by them, except a small hill at *White-Plains*, which they bought and paid a high price for (by their own accounts) in *British* blood. This very hill they have now given up to us, as they did *Bunker's*, last campaign. In every battle and skirmish, except at *Long-Island* and the hill above-mentioned, we have been victorious. Now what have they to boast of? Nothing but a little territory which we evacuated, and by evacuating it obtained important advantages. Will this repay the expenses of the largest fleet and army *Great Britain* ever sent to *America?* Have all the enemy's exertions effected the so-much talked-of junction with *Burgoyne*, which was to produce wonders? Have they subjugated the "rebellious *Americans*"—the grand design of their coming here? Nothing of all this; but, to the eternal disgrace of Lord and General *Howe*, impartial history will record that they crossed an ocean of three thousand miles, with a fleet of three or four hundred sail, an army of near thirty thousand men, and a very large train of artillery, to subdue men who had been declared in the *British* Parliament to be "cowards;" and after all, marched but twelve miles from their ships during a whole summer and part of the fall, and then went into winter quarters. How is the glory of *Britain* fallen! how have her arms been sullied! I think General *Howe* must feel very much ashamed of himself.

Six sailors and three soldiers (prisoners) are brought in this morning: the sailors were sent on shore to get wood. I have been talking with the prisoners. The soldiers say the talk in their camp is, that the enemy intend attacking *Fort Washington*, and then retiring into winter quarters at *New-York*.

I must not omit telling you of a clever exploit of some *Connecticut* Rangers under Major *Colburn*. When the enemy attacked the lines of *Harlem*, these Rangers took a forewheel and a hind-wheel of a wagon, and fixed an axletree to them; upon the axletree they placed a keg which would contain about ten gallons, mounted like a mortar; in this they put a canteen with two cartridges in it, and fixed a rope to each end of the axletree. Another person got a pitchfork and wrapped some rags about it to make it look like a sponge. Thus equipped about forty of them marched off dragging their mortar with them; when they got within a proper distance of the enemy, they set fire to the cartridges in the canteen, and fired a volley of small-arms. The enemy observing the keg, mistook it for a mortar, and ran away with great precipitation. I have this piece of intelligence from an officer who saw the whole transaction, and from another who was told of it at *Fort Washington*. I think the epithet of cowards may be justly retorted; not from this instance only, but from others which might be mentioned.

The Light-Horse are certainly a set of poltroons. I have already sent you several instances of their cowardice, such as their retreating upon a single shot being fired at them at *White-Plains;* suffering a few of our Riflemen to take thirty sheep from them, &c., which you will easily recollect.

Since writing the above two more prisoners have been taken. They are a sergeant and private of the Grenadiers. And a drummer and fifer have deserted from the enemy. We are this minute informed that ten more prisoners have been taken by the scouting parties.

*November* 8.—The enemy's left wing is at *Dobbs's Ferry;* their right about three miles nearer *New-York. Entre nous*, I think the enemy must try to strike some important stroke which will make a noise before they go into winter quarters. From their lying along the river I suspect they intend either to enter *New-Jersey*, or make a push up the *North River*. In either case we are ready for them.

I have heard nothing about the packet, except that some women who live about two miles below the *White-Plains*, at whose house some *British* officers lodged, heard one of the officers say to the other that a packet had arrived which had brought d—d bad news. The very next morning the Army began to remove.

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COMFORT SANDS TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fish-Kill, November 7, 1776.

SIR: Agreeable to an order of Convention of the 20th *September* last to me, to prepare the publick accounts of this State, to be transmitted to the Treasury Office of the *United States*, at *Philadelphia*, I have to inform you that I have used the utmost diligence to complete them, but have not been able finally to do it, as there still remain some few accounts unsettled, which will be Continental. However, have got them in such a state as to be able to settle the

greatest part; the remainder of them have a prospect of soon getting, which can be forwarded to me.

I apprehend it will be necessary for me to have an ample power from the Convention to take with me all the accounts and vouchers, as the Continental and Provincial accounts are so blended in the same vouchers that no separation can be made. I submit whether it will not be necessary for me to have discretionary power to settle the Continental account in the best manner I can.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

COMFORT SANDS.

To *P. V. Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COÖPERATE WITH GENERAL SCHUYLER.

The Committee appointed to coöperate with General *Schuyler* in devising and carrying into execution all such measures as they shall deem most effectual for repelling the invasion of the enemy's Army on the northern and western frontiers of this State, do report that they have, agreeable to order, performed the services assigned them, in the manner set forth in the Minutes of their proceedings, and the several papers numbered from No. 1 to No. 41, which are submitted this 7th day of *November*, 1776.

ROB'T YATES, *Chairman*.

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The Committee of Safety for the State of *New-York*, convened at *Fishkill*, by their Resolves entered into the 19th *October*, 1776, appointed Brigadier-General *Ten Broeck*, *Evert Banker*, *Robert R. Livingston*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *Robert Yates*, *John Bleecker*, *Christopher Yates*, *John Taylor*, *John Ten Broeck*, *James Duane*, *Volkert Veeder*, and *William Harpèr*, a Committee, in order to coöperate with Major-General *Schuyler* in devising and carrying into execution all such measures as they shall deem most effectual for repelling the invasion of the enemy's Army on the northern and western frontiers of this State; and that for the purpose of carrying into execution the said Resolves, any four of the above number, together with the Chairman, be a quorum.

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Albany, October 24th, 1776.

In consequence of the above Resolves, brought up by *R. R. Livingston*, Esq., the following gentlemen met at the above place, to wit: *Evert Banker*, *Robert R. Livingston*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *Robert Yates*, *John Taylor*, *John Ten Broeck*, *James Duane*.

And after having the Resolves read, thereupon proceeded to the choice of a Chairman, and appointed *Robert Yates* Chairman of the said Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be sent to General *Schuyler*, and that *R. R. Livingston* prepare a draft for that purpose.

Mr. *Livingston* produced a draft, which being read and agreed to,

*Ordered*, To be engrossed, [front the Letter No. 1,] which was sent off by express the same evening.

*Resolved further*, That another Letter be despatched to *P. R. Livingston*, Esq., President of the Convention, acquainting him with the measures taken by this Committee, and suggesting what ought to be done below, and that Mr. *Duane* draft the same.

*Resolved further*, That Mr. *Avery*, the Deputy Commissary, be requested to render an estimate of the Provisions at the different Posts under his direction.

A Paper, dated the 24th instant, (marked No. 2,) signed by *Thomas Esmay*, a Sergeant in Colonel
regiment, in the Manor of *Rensselaerwyck*, was read, giving information of an insurrection of disaffected persons at the *Hellebergh*.

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That the Second Battalion of the *Claverack* Militia, commanded by Colonel *Van Ness*, and now at *Schuyler's Ferry*, be ordered to return to this city, to be ready to march for the suppression of the said insurgents. And an express was despatched accordingly.

*Resolved*, That a Spy be sent among the insurgents, to discover their numbers, motions, and designs.

Colonel *Van Schaack* having recommended a soldier of his battalion for that purpose, he was accordingly despatched, with instructions, and promise of a reward of ten pounds if he should perform the service satisfactorily.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

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October 25, 1776.

Met according to adjournment.

Present: *Robert Yates*, President, *James Duane*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *Robert R. Livingston*, *John Ten Broeck*, *John Taylor*.

A Letter from Colonel *Whiting*, of *King's* District battalion, dated at *King's* District, the 24th instant, was read, (marked No. 3,) giving information of a number of disaffected persons in that District.

*Resolved*, That an officer and fifteen men, of the *Albany* Rangers, commanded by Captain *Baldwin*, and now quartered in this city, be immediately despatched to assist in opposing and securing the said insurgents; and that application be made to the Committee of *Albany*, under whose directions the said Rangers are, for that purpose. Which was accordingly done and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to Colonel *Whiting*, directing and authorizing him to raise and detain for the same service the well-affected Militia remaining in that District, and to call on the nearest Township in the *Massachusetts-Bay* for such a number of men as will, together with his own and the Rangers, make up one hundred; and that he be further directed to see the men properly supplied with provisions, agreeable to the Continental allowance, upon which they will be placed both with respect to pay and rations. The whole body to be commanded by the said Colonel *Whiting* until he shall be superseded by a superiour officer.

The draft of a Letter to Colonel *Whiting* was read and approved of.

*Ordered*, To be copied, signed by the Chairman, and sent off by express. (Front the Letter No. 4.)

Mr. *Avery*, agreeable to request, delivered in an estimate of Provisions at the different stations. (See the Estimate, No. 5.)

It was represented to this Committee that Dr. *Henry Van Dyck*, *Cornelius Glen*, *Benjamin French*, *Jacob A. Lansing*, *John Stevenson*, *Henry Ten Eyck*, *John Van Allen*, *John Visscher*, of *Schenectady*, Major *Edminston*, a half-pay officer, *Peter Van Schaack*, *Peter Vasburg*, *Robert Oksly*, *James Dole*, *Baker*, *John Tryon*, are persons disaffected to the cause of *American* liberty, and that their stay in the County of *Albany* will be dangerous.

And thereupon, *Resolved*, That the members of this Committee who are members of the Committee of the County, wait on the Committee of the said County, and submit it to their consideration (if they have just grounds of their unfriendly disposition) to remove them out of this State immediately.

Whereas it is represented to this Committee that there are many disaffected persons in the Manor of *Livingston* and its neighbourhood, and that the remaining Militia who can be relied on are few in number and illy armed:

*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to the Commanding Officer of the Manor Regiment, directing him to detain the Militia there, and hold them in readiness to suppress any insurrections among the disaffected in that part of the State, or wherever else they may be ordered by this Committee or the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of the Manor of *Livingston* be requested to arm and equip the Company of Rangers raised in that District immediately, and order them to be quartered at or near the place of rendezvous, and kept in readiness for immediate service; and that a copy thereof be sent to Lieutenant-Colonel *Henry Livingston*, of the Manor of *Livingston*. Which was accordingly done.

Mr. *Duane*, according to order, produced a draft of a Letter to *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York;* which was read and approved of, and ordered to be signed and sent, together with the several papers referred to in the said Letter. (See No. 6.)

*John Vanden Bergh* was brought before this Committee for examination. He is a person who lives near the *Hellebergh*, and suspected to be well acquainted with the pro-

ceedings and designs of the disaffected in those parts; which he, upon a long examination and with great backwardness, at last discovered. (See the Examination, No. 7.)

*Agreed*, To despatch a messenger to Colonel *Vanden Bergh* and Captain *Slingerlandt*, requesting their attendance on this Committee, to inform them of the situation of the country in and about the places alluded to in the above examination, and to march with Colonel *Van Ness's* Regiment, as guides, to those places. Which messenger was despatched accordingly.

Adjourned to-morrow morning.

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October 26, 1776.

Met according to adjournment.

Present: *Robert Yates*, Chairman, *John Ten Broeck*, *Robert R. Livingston*, *John Taylor*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *James Duane*.

Colonel *Vanden Bergh* and Captain *Slingerlandt* appeared according to request, and with them Lieutenant *Luke*. Colonel *Vanden Bergh* produced returns of such persons in his regiment who have not marched up with the Militia of the County; and it appears by other information, that most of them are such as have collected themselves in and about the *Hellebergh*, for the purpose of opposing by force the measures of Congress.

Agreed upon sending a Letter to Captain *John Bradt*, at *Coxsackie;* which was accordingly done. (Front the Letter No. 8.)

Colonel *Van Schaack* being sent for, and asked whether he could spare about fifty of the Continental troops two or three days, to march under the directions of this Committee to the *Hellebergh*, and he agreeing to it, he was desired to order them under the command of Captain *Hicks*, to be in readiness as soon as possible.

Captain *Baldwin* was also called in, and informed this Committee that he had only about fifteen men of his company of Rangers, which he was ordered to hold themselves in readiness for the same purpose.

Colonel *Van Ness* was ordered to detach eighty men out of his regiment for the same service, and the remaining part of his regiment are to remain in this city to perform the duty of those troops who are ordered out.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Abraham Slingerlandt*, of Colonel *Vanden Bergh's* regiment of Militia, be ordered to attend the above detachments, as a guide in the route they are to take for the apprehending the disaffected persons.

*Resolved*, That a set of Instructions be drawn for Major *Ford* and the party under his command.

Which said Instructions being drawn and agreed to,

*Ordered*, That the same be copied, and given to the said Major, for his conduct. (See the Instructions, No. 9.)

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October 27, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates*, Chairman, *John Ten Broeck*, *John Taylor*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *Robert R. Livingston*.

Received a Letter from General *Schuyler*, of the 26th instant, enclosing copies of Letters from Generals *Gates* and *Arnold*. (Marked No. 10, 11, 12.)

Also, received a Letter from Secretary *McKesson*, of the 22d instant. (No. 13.)

*Resolved*, That an answer be sent to Convention; and that copies of the Letters received from General *Schuyler* be therein enclosed.

Which is accordingly done, and sent by the return of the Express. (See the draft, No. 14.)

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October 28, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates*, Chairman, *Robert R. Livingston*, *James Duane*, *John Taylor*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *John Ten Broeck*.

The following Letters were received last night and now laid before the Committee, to wit: A Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated the 27th *October*, instant, covering a Letter from Captain *Allen*, dated *Fort Dayton*, 21st of *October;* and also another Letter from General *Herkimeyer*, dated the 25th *October*, giving an account of the situation of *Tryon* County, and the information they have respectively received of the desertion of some of the inhabitants to the enemy, and the probability that the County will soon be invaded. The General thereupon acquainting this Committee that he had ordered Colonel *Dayton* with his regiment to halt on their march until they should hear from this Committee, and that if a sufficient body of Militia could not be sent to secure *Tryon* County, that Colonel *Dayton* is to obey the directions of this Committee. (See No. 15, 16, 17.)

Thereupon *Resolved*, That this Committee will detach the following Troops for the defence of the western frontiers, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Captain *Bradt's* Rangers, who have performed the service at *Coxsackie*, - - - - - - - - - - | 50 men. | |
| A detachment of Captain *Baldwin's* Company of Rangers, - - - - - - - - - | 20 | |
| A detachment under Major *Ford*, of Colonel *Van Ness's* Regiment of *Claverack* Militia, | 80 | |
| A detachment of *Schoharie* Militia, under Captain *Hager*, - - - - - - - - - | 55 | |
| | | 205 |
| Captain *Hicks's* and *McCracken's* Companies, of Colonel *Van Schaack's* Continental Regiment, | | 120 |
| | | 325 |

If there be added to the Troops now on that service and the *Tryon* Militia, viz:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Elmour's* Regiment, - - - - - | 443 | |
| *Nichols's* Regiment, - - - - - | 150 | |
| *Tryon* County Rangers, - - - - | 150 | |
| Militia supposed at - - - - - | 1,000 | |
| | | 1,743 |
| The total will be, - - - - | Men, | 2,068 |

*Resolved*, That a Letter be despatched by express to General *Schuyler*, enclosing the above Resolves, and containing the sentiments of this Committee upon the propriety of ordering Colonel *Dayton's* Regiment back, and the Troops which may be ordered to *Tryon* County.

Which was accordingly done. (Front the draft of the Letter, No. 18.)

Received a Letter from Major *Ford*. (No. 19.)

*Resolved*, That an Answer be despatched to Major *Ford*, requiring his return as soon as the service whereon he was sent is despatched. (No. 21.)

Received a Letter from *John Bradt*, commanding the party at *Coxsackie*, whereby he acquainted the Committee of his proceedings. (No. 20.)

*Resolved*, That an Answer be sent to him, requiring his return and the party under his command to this city, as soon as their business is accomplished. (No. 22.)

*Resolved*, That an order be issued to the Commissary, Mr. *Avery*, to victual Major *Ford's* party with three days' Provisions.

Which was accordingly done, and sent up by some of the wagons belonging to the party.

*John Vanden Bergh* again appearing before this Committee, and discovering nothing further respecting the Tories in and about the *Hellebergh*, he was thereupon dismissed, and for his former services he was given forty shillings.

A draft of a Letter was prepared to be sent to General *Herkimer*, which was agreed to, and ordered to be copied and sent, and a copy thereof ordered to be enclosed in General *Schuyler's* Letter.

Mr. *Dirck Swart* was called in, in order to give this Committee information of such particulars as he heard at *Bennington* respecting two Letters which had been received by their Committee from Commissary *Young* and Deputy Adjutant-General *Trumbull;* and the information he gave is as follows. (See the Examination on the file subscribed by Mr. *Swart*, No. 23.)

—

October 29, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates*, Chairman, *James Duane*, *Robert R. Livingston*, *John Ten Broeck*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *John Taylor*.

Major *Ford*, with the party under his command, returned from the *Hellebergh*, and reports, that he could not discover any parties of disaffected persons assembled together; that he had traversed the country, and found that most of the inhabitants had absconded; that he has apprehended, however, (see his Narrative, Letter A,) *John Reid*, *John Long*,

*Gerrit Slingerlandt, Wouter Slingerlandt, Myndert Bradt, John Seeger, Jeremiah Pemberton, John Halenbeeck,* (who he discharged,) *Gerrit Seeger, Mathys Hoghtailing,* (who he released, but retained his arms.)

Thereupon the Committee proceeded to the examination of *John Reid, John Long,* and *Myndert Bradt.*

As to the first, upon examination, his character appears suspicious, and therefore he was remanded to jail.

As to the second, that is to say, *John Long,* he appears to have been misled; and professing his hearty repentance, and promising a ready concurrence with the measures of Congress, was thereupon dismissed upon his promise to go up and join his Militia regiment at *Fort Edward.* (No. 24.)

*Myndert Bradt* appeared to be an ignorant lad, of about seventeen years, but not sufficiently candid, was thereupon remanded.

Received from General *Schuyler* a Letter of the 29th instant, in answer to that of yesterday's date, acquainting this Committee that he had ordered Colonel *Dayton's* regiment to prosecute their march to the northward, and that about four hundred of the Militia were ordered to march from *Fort Edward* to *Tryon* County, to be under the command of General *Herkimer* or Colonel *Van Schaick,* whom he had ordered into that quarter, with the two companies of his regiment up with him. (See No. 25.)

Thereupon *Ordered,* That Mr. *Avery,* the Deputy Commissary-General, be made acquainted with this movement, in order to be ready to furnish those Troops with Provisions.

*Resolved further,* That Captain *Bradt* march with his Company of Rangers into *Tryon* County, and to put himself under the command of Colonel *Van Schaick,* and that Captain *Hager,* with the party of Militia under his command, return to *Schoharie,* and hold themselves in readiness at a moment's warning, whenever they shall receive orders from Colonel *Van Schaick,* that they may contribute, with the rest of their fellow-subjects, who are now in arms, to the utmost of their power in defence of the rights and liberties of their country.

—

October 30, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates,* Chairman, *James Duane, Robert R. Livingston, John Taylor, Jacob Cuyler.*

From the information received from General *Schuyler,* it is judged necessary to alter the contents of the Letter intended to be sent to General *Herkmyer.* Which was accordingly done, and agreed to. (See the draft, No. 26.)

Mr. *Duane* prepared a draft of an Answer to General *Schuyler's* Letter of the 28th and 29th instant, which being read, approved of, and copied, was despatched by express, *D. B. Van Schoonhoven,* (No. 27.)

—

October 31, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates,* Chairman, *John Taylor, Jacob Cuyler, James Duane.*

Received by the return of the Express sent yesterday to General *Schuyler,* an Answer, (see the Letter, No. 28.) and enclosing therein despatches for Colonel *Van Schaick* and Major *Cochran,* in *Tryon* County, which were by express immediately sent forward.

Also received a Letter from Colonel *Whiting,* from *King's* District, giving an account of the state of that District, and referring to two Affidavits brought up by the messenger. (Nos. 29, 30, and 31.)

Mr. *Duane* was requested to prepare a draft of a Letter to General *Schuyler.* Which being reported and agreed, ordered to be copied and sent. (No. 32.)

A draft of a Letter was also produced, directed to Colonel *Whiting.* Which being also agreed to, copied and sent by Major *Bush.* (No. 33.)

Also, another Letter to Colonel *Van Rensselaer,* which was sent by the same conveyance. (No. 34.)

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November 1st, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates,* Chairman, *John Ten Broeck, James Duane, Jacob Cuyler, John Taylor.*

By the return of the Express from the *Fishkill,* received the following Despatches from the Committee of Safety of *New-York.*

A Letter dated the 29th of *October,* (see the Letter, No. 35.) Enclosed therein a copy of their Resolves. (No. 36.)

Also, a copy of a Letter from Mr. *Tilghman,* from Head-Quarters. (No. 37.)

*Resolved,* That an Agent be appointed and empowered to purchase Wheat for the use of the Continental Army; and that he cause the same to be manufactured into Flour, and transported to such places where the same may be manufactured, with the utmost despatch.

*Resolved,* That if any shall so far disregard the safety and preservation of this country as to refuse to dispose of their Wheat, or other commodities necessary for the Army, on reasonable terms, (which this Committee have no cause to apprehend,) that the names of all such persons be forthwith returned to the Committee of Safety or Convention of this State, in order that proper measures may be devised for preventing the publick interest from being sacrificed by the disaffection or rapacity of individuals.

*Resolved,* That such Agent, if necessary, be authorized to impress Drivers, Wagons, Teams, or Carts, or other carriage, for the purpose of executing with the utmost despatch the Resolutions of this Committee.

Transmitted a copy of the above Resolutions to Mr. *Avery,* Deputy-Commissary, in a Letter. (See the draft, No. 38.)

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November 2d, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates,* Chairman, *James Duane, Joh Ten Broeck, Jacob Cuyler, John Taylor.*

Captain *Stephen Lush* furnished this Committee with a copy of a Letter, dated 20 *October,* 1776, from *Joseph Trumbull* to the Committee of *Bennington.* Also a copy of a Letter from *James Yancey,* Deputy-Commissary, to the said Committee, of the same date. (No. 39 and 40.)

Thereupon agreed to send for Mr. *Avery,* in order to be informed whether he has given information to Head-Quarters, at *Ticonderoga,* which could justify the reflections against the County of *Albany,* contained in one of those Letters; and also to know his reasons for not answering the Committee's Letter.

Mr. *Avery* was accordingly called in, and says, that he would have waited on the Committee before, but was, being much engaged, prevented; that he expects and has received considerable quantities of provisions. He was then told that this Committee were ready to give him their assistance, and that no exertions in the power of this State would be wanting to supply the Army, and that if he could point out anything that would be serviceable, it should be taken into consideration. He answered, that he would choose that an agent should, agreeable to the Committee's proposal, be appointed to purchase for manufacturing about one thousand bushels of flour; that he is also in want of coopers. Whereupon the Committee showed him the resolves of Convention respecting the exemption of coopers from militia duty, and that this Committee had already acquainted the County Committee with the said resolves, and that they had requested them to recall the coopers already gone up. He also said that he wanted about one thousand bushels of peas; that he does not know that he has met with any obstructions in transporting the provisions; that the Committee of *Albany* had promised him all the assistance in their power, but that (when he was in want of wagons when the Militia was called) he could not get a ready assistance, though he does not know but that the Committee did all in their power to assist him; that he has made no complaints to General *Gates,* but that he has wrote to the Commissary that there was a difficulty in getting wagons, because the Militia were called up that way. Mr. *Duane* thereupon read to him Mr. *Yancey's* letter to the Committee of *Bennington,* as also Mr. *Trumbull's* letter to the said Committee; thereupon he was asked from whom this information could arise. He said he had never given the Commissary any other information respecting the want of wagons, or the obstruction of their transportation, than what he has before related, and particularly that he had laid no blame on the inhabitants of the County of *Albany;* that the Committee of *Albany* have always behaved genteelly to him, and have readily offered their service to assist him; that the interruption of transporting the provisions occasioned by the calling out the Militia continued for a short time only. Where-

*

upon the Committee declared, that as nothing could work a greater prejudice to the publick services, sowing the seeds of jealousy and distrust at so critical a conjuncture, the Committee should think it their duty to make the strictest inquiry into Mr. *Yancey's* letter, and the information and motives which induced him to write it; for that as on the one hand they would have taken care that any person who might have been guilty of obstructing the transportation, should be punished with the strictest severity, so it was equally their duty, if the charge in that letter were groundless, to have it publickly exposed, that the ill impressions which it had occasioned might be removed, and for this purpose they must request Mr. *Avery*, if he could do it consistently, to furnish this Committee with extracts or copies of such letters as he has lately sent to *Ticonderoga* upon the subject of transportation, either to General *Gates* or the Commissary there. He gave for answer, that he would; and thereupon withdrew.

In the afternoon he again waited on the Committee, and acquainted them that he had not kept copies of the letters which he had lately sent to *Ticonderoga*.

The Committee having, at their first interview with Mr. *Avery*, inquired further what quantity of provisions the Deputy Commissary-General had delivered over to him when he entered upon his office, answered, a sufficient quantity of beef, though but little flour. The Committee thereupon directed the late Deputy Commissary to lay before them a return of the flour delivered over by him to Mr. *Avery*, (No. 41,) which he accordingly did; from which it appears the quantity so delivered over, amounts to fourteen tierces and sixteen barrels of bread, sixteen *Connecticut* barrels and three thousand two hundred and nine *New-York* barrels of flour; being fifty-nine days' rations for eleven thousand men. At the interview with Mr. *Avery* on this day, the said return was produced to him, which he perused.

General *Schuyler* being arrived, and upon a conference with him respecting the situation of *Tryon* County:

*Resolved*, That General *Schuyler* be requested and authorized to issue his orders to the commanding or other officer in *Tryon* County, in case the enemy should invade the western frontiers of this State, to cause all the Cattle, Sheep, Swine, and Provisions, which may be exposed to their ravages, to be driven in and secured; or if that shall not be practicable, destroyed, that at all events they may not fall into the hands of the enemy. And for this purpose they are hereby authorized to impress Horses and Carriages.

*Resolved further*, That General *Schuyler* be furnished with a copy of the above Resolution.

The Committee entered into a conference with General *Schuyler* respecting the state of supplies for the Northern Army, and, among other things, inquired whether the transportation of provisions had been obstructed by the calling out the Militia, or from any other cause? In answer, the General informed the Committee that the Militia having been attended with a great number of baggage-wagons, he had immediately given orders for detaining and employing those carriages on the communication; that he had further ordered all the Militia of the *Half-Moon* District who chose, to be excused from military duty on condition that they would assist with their teams in transporting provisions, which a great number of them accordingly did; that in consequence of these measures the transportation, instead of being obstructed by calling out of the Militia, had been greatly facilitated; that he had never heard, nor did he believe, that the transportation had met with the least obstruction from any cause whatever, but, on the contrary, that provisions had been carried forward as soon as they were ready to be delivered by the Commissary; that during the present struggle, he had experienced so much readiness in the inhabitants of the County of *Albany* to assist in the transportation, that he had in no instance been under the necessity of impressing a single carriage.

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Albany, November 3d, 1776.

Present: *Robert Yates*, Chairman, *John Taylor*, *James Duane*, *John Ten Broeck*, *Jacob Cuyler*.

*Resolved*, That *Cornelius Cuyler* and *Peter Cantine* be, and they are hereby appointed Agents to assist Mr. *Avery*, agreeable to his request, in purchasing Wheat, and manufacturing the same into Flour, to the amount of about one thousand barrels; and also to purchase one thousand bushels of Peas; and that they acquaint Mr. *Avery* from time to time of their proceedings, and take his directions as to the disposition of the said Provisions, and to apply to him to furnish them with money for that purpose.

ROBERT YATES, *Chairman*.

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Papers relative to the Proceedings of the above Committee.

[No. 1.]

Albany, October 24th, 1776.

SIR: We are informed by Mr. *Taylor*, who is just arrived from *Cumberland* County, that the Militia of that County, and those of *Gloucester*, were ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march, on their receiving intelligence that the enemy were besieging *Ticonderoga*, and that it was their intention to take their route through the country to that place. We deemed it expedient to inform you of their intentions, knowing the scarcity of provisions at that garrison. From the affidavits transmitted you by the Committee of *Albany*, we are led to believe that some part of the enemy's force propose to make an incursion in the western frontiers. We cannot therefore but lament the necessity that calls Colonel *Dayton's* regiment to *Ticonderoga*, and leaves the guard of the communication, on which the safety of the whole country depends, principally to the Militia. We submit to you the propriety of employing active scouts, who should go from the head of *Hudson's River* to *Ticonderoga*, to whom rewards might be offered, on their bringing intelligence of the enemy's approach.

We are, sir, &c. By order:

R. YATES, *Chairman*.

P. S. As we have just now received information of a most dangerous conspiracy of the Tories in and about the *Hellebergh*, we have recalled Colonel *Van Ness's* regiment, who is on his march to *Fort Edward*, in order to employ it against them. As soon as this necessary service is over, we shall order him to march up.

—

Albany, October 24, 1776.

SIR: Agreeable to the directions of Convention, we have conferred with General *Schuyler*, at *Saratoga*, and some of the Field Officers, on the subject of the new arrangement of the Army; and have appointed recruiting officers at proper stations, and given them their instructions.

Having despatched what was necessary in this quarter, we should have proceeded immediately to *Fishkill*, had we not been prevented by the resolutions of the Committee of Safety, which requires us to assist in a new department here. We now wait for further directions, as, if we should leave *Albany*, there would not remain a quorum of the last Committee, of which we are members. You will be pleased to communicate to us the pleasure of the Committee of Safety by the return of this express. To avoid delay, we have borrowed twelve hundred pounds, to furnish the recruiting officers with the means of proceeding immediately on this special service, which we beg may be sent us by the express.

We are, sir, your most obedient servants,

JAS. DUANE,
ROB'T YATES,
JACOB CUYLER.

To *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

—

*Instructions for the Captains of the Ranging Companies.*

I. The Captains ought, at the time of receiving their warrants, to have taken an oath that they would respectively once in each month make out and return a true muster-roll of their respective companies. But,

II. As this has been neglected from misapprehension, each Captain must now make out a muster-roll for every month they have been in service, and swear before the Chairman of the Committee that each of the said muster-rolls is a just and true muster-roll, and containing the names of the officers and men under their command, and of the time of their respective inlistments and service; which deposition must be endorsed on each muster-roll and signed by the Chairman of the Committee, in the words following: "*Alexander Baldwin*, Captain of a company of Rangers

raised and serving in the County of *Albany*, maketh oath that the within is a just and true muster-roll of his company of Rangers for the month of , (specify the month,) containing the names of the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the said company, and the times of their respective inlistment and service.

"Sworn the day of 1776.

A. B."

"Before me, J. B., *Chairman of the Committee of Albany County.*"

III. Each Captain must also take the following deposition before the Chairman, of which the Chairman must give him a certificate in the following words: "I, *Alexander Baldwin*, Captain of a company of Rangers, raised and serving in the County of *Albany*, do solemnly declare, that I will once in every month, or as soon after the expiration of any month as possible, transmit to the Convention or Legislature of this State a muster-roll of the name of every officer or private under my command, and of their respective times of inlistment and service. A. B.

"Sworn the day of 1776, before me, J. B., *Chairman of the Committee of the County of Albany.*"

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[No. 2.]

October 24, 1776.

I, the subscriber, according to orders of the Committee, went out in order to warn the men belonging to our company that staid behind about half a mile from my house. I saw upwards of thirty men on a march, well armed and accoutred; which men are livers in *Rensselaerwyck*, the chief thereof belonging to our regiment. They publickly said they intended to march to the *Helleberg*h, where it is said there were four hundred men in a body yesterday, well armed. It is said that their club increases every day.

As witness my hand, Thos. Esmay, *Sergeant.*

—

Albany, October 24th, 1776.

Sir: As we will have immediate use for your regiment for a day or two in this neighbourhood, we request that you will immediately march them back to this city, where you will be informed of the nature of your service.

We are, sir, your humble servants.

By order of the Committee of the Convention of the State of *New-York:* Rob't Yates, *Chairman.*

To Colonel *Peter Van Ness.*

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[No. 3.]

King's District, October 24, A. D. 1776.

Sir: By several ways I am informed that your Board determined to send the Tories that are now at *Albany* to *Hartford*; therefore I thought it my duty to inform your Board of some matters as they appear within and around our district; that the unfriendly parties have disregarded all orders relative to the call to march to *Fort Edward*; that they have since been seen to ride about in the night, and some of their troops, with members in them, late at night; that *John Savage* and *Richard Power* were at home since our regiment marched, and it is highly probable, in my view and others, that they determined to wrest the Tories out of the hands of the guard, unless it be a strong one, which I pray it may be, at least until they have passed through the land of the *Moabites*. The friends of the State I got together as soon as I arrived, and we determined at once to enroll ourselves and keep in large companies without intermission, until we can be better satisfied that we are in some degree secure from that abandoned set of persons that have, and still are, unwearied in their wicked machinations to complete our ruin. I hope, sir, you will at least send us such directions as will encourage and strengthen us, as our situation is, in my view, distressing, being kept in a constant danger of having our arms taken from us, and what next they may have the boldness to do, God only knows. I am sensible the mode we have adopted is, and will be attended with great expense, but as matters stand to the northward and southward, I cannot conceive that we are safe among internal enemies, unless constantly under arms. I could wish for more of our regiment to be at home for the good of the whole, or some Rangers to be on this side of the *North River*, but submit the matter, and remain, sir, your obedient, humble servant, W. Whiting.

To Mr. *Barclay*, Chairman.

P. S. Pray if there be any interesting news let me know.

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[No. 4.]

Albany, October 25, 1776.

Sir: Your letter of yesterday, directed to the Chairman of the Committee of *Albany*, was delivered to us. We have ordered an officer with fifteen men, to go to your assistance, and would at the same time have you raise those of the Militia on whom you can rely, and call upon the nearest township in *Massachusetts* for such a number of men as will, together with your own and the Rangers, make up a hundred. With these we hope you will be able to take up and send the ringleaders to *Fishkill*, disarming the rest. You will take care to see the men under your command properly supplied with provisions agreeable to the Continental allowance, upon which they will be placed both with respect to pay and ration, and give us the earliest intelligence of your motions; and as the Rangers are much wanted in this place, you will be pleased to send them back as soon as they can safely be spared.

Your humble servant,

Rob't Yates, *Chairman, &c.*

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[No. 5.]

Flour remaining at *Ticonderoga* and the several stages between that place and *Albany*, *October* 1, 1776:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| At *Ticonderoga*, - - - - - - - | 1,020 | barrels. |
| *Lake George* Landing, - - - | 360 | " |
| *Fort George*, - - - - - - - | 588 | " |
| *Fort Edward*, - - - - - - - | 230 | " |
| *Stillwater*, - - - - - - - | 185 | " |
| | 2,383 | |
| Already purchased in and about *Albany*, | 1,441 | |
| Received from Mr. *Schaaks*, - - - | 546 | |
| To be sent from *Schenectady*, - - | 400 | |
| *St. Croix*, - - - | 200 | |
| To be purchased in *Albany*, about - | 700 | |
| | 3,287 | |
| | 5,670 at | |
| 200 lbs. p. is | 1,134,000 | |
| Suppose already expended of the above, | 350,000 | |
| 20,000 men consume in 14 days, - | 280,000 | |
| | 630,000 | |
| | 504,000 | |

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[No. 6.]

Albany, October 25, 1776.

Sir: We met in Committee yesterday, on the arrival of the gentlemen appointed to arrange the Army from *Saratoga*. A number of important objects immediately engaged our attention. A capital one is the supplying the Army at *Ticonderoga* and the Militia marching to their assistance. The papers which we have the honour to transmit, will show the steps which have been taken by the Committee of this County to aid the Deputy Commissary-General here, who, without their exertions, we fear, would not have been able to procure the necessary supply. At the best, it will, on so sudden an occasion, be a difficult task. It has added to our anxiety to learn, by a letter from General *Washington* to Mr. *Livingston*, that the Army in that quarter was also in danger of being distressed for want of provisions. His Excellency entreats Mr. *Livingston* to use his influence to send, without delay, flour and beef for that Army towards the *White-Plains*, and also a number of teams—the more the better—to aid in removing the Army as occasion may require. We submit it to your consideration whether, if teams cannot now easily be procured from the eastward, it will not be advisable to order down a sufficient number belonging to such persons in the Manor of *Livingston*, *Kinderhook*, and *Dutchess* County, as cannot be trusted with arms. If this plan should be adopted, every owner of a carriage should be directed to supply himself with a week's provisions, to ease the Commissary as much as possible.

The spirit of disaffection has appeared at the *Helleberg*h,

*King's* District, and *Coxsackie*, in this County, and it requires vigorous measures to oppose and suppress it. Nothing is more necessary than that the jails here should be cleared of the State prisoners without delay, and the more especially as all the Militia of this city and neighbourhood are marched. We have therefore advised the County Committee to send those prisoners, with the causes of their confinement, to *Fishkill*, by water, in order to be forwarded to one of the neighbouring States, or disposed of as you shall judge most advisable. It would have been imprudent in every view to have marched them to another State at this juncture, when none but the disaffected remain in the County, and many of them are in arms and have threatened a rescue. We have found it necessary to detain a part of Colonel *Van Ness's Claverack* regiment, consisting of about one hundred and forty men, here, to oppose the designs of the disaffected at the *Hellebergh*. As they are much wanted to the northward, we did it with very great reluctance, and indeed, it could only have been justifiable on the most urgent necessity. It is much to be wished that Colonel *Van Rensselaer*, with part, or detachments of two regiments under his command, could be immediately ordered up to *King's* District, to which we have been able, notwithstanding the importunity of the inhabitants, to send only a small detachment of fifteen Rangers, commanded by a Lieutenant, and to direct Colonel *Whiting* to raise one hundred men in the neighbourhood and the *Massachusetts* Government. A party of fifty of the *Schoharie* regiment, and some of the Manor regiment, are detached to *Coxsackie*, where they are employed in dispersing and seizing the disaffected who are now in arms, and there is yet no account of their progress. We have thought it advisable to direct the few armed and well-affected Militia of the Manor of *Livingston* to be detained and kept in readiness for the internal service of the County, conceiving it unsafe, when the spirit of revolt is so prevalent in that quarter, to leave it defenceless. The information from *King's* District and the *Hellebergh* are enclosed.

We are, sir, your most humble servants.

By order: ROBERT YATES, *Chairman.*

To *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

—

Albany, 17th October, 1776.

SIR: On receipt of yours this morning, directed to General *Ten Broeck*, we issued our orders to the several Colonels to march the whole of their regiments, with the greatest despatch, to *Fort Edward*; and on inquiring of Mr. *Avery*, the Commissary-General, about providing carriages and provisions for the Militia on their march, and if any quantity was stored at *Fort Edward*, he answered that he had no instructions from you for providing the Militia; and as for provisions, there was none at *Fort Edward*, and that the whole of the provisions at the forts above was only a sufficiency for about three weeks at most, and that the supplying the Militia would entirely deprive the intended supplies to be forwarded for the Continental troops. In this alarming situation we request your immediate direction regarding the present march of our Militia.

We are, sir, your most humble servants,

JOHN BARCLAY, *Chairman pro tem.*
WM. TEN BROECK, *Brig. General.*

—

Albany, 19th October, 1776.

'Tis my request that the Committee of the County of *Albany* will employ a sufficient number of persons to purchase and forward on to such places as the troops now marching for the *United States* as they may be stationed at, upon the cheapest and best terms they can, cattle and flour for subsistence of said troops; and upon producing receipts of the persons they purchased of, for the cost of the same, and also receipts from the Commissaries at those places for the delivery of said articles, they shall receive pay from me for the same, as well as for their trouble and expenses. Also, the said Committee will furnish me with a sufficient number of wagons to transport provisions sufficient to supply the present exigencies of the Northern Army.

ELISHA AVERY, *D. C. G.*

—

Albany Committee Chamber, 21st October, 1776.

SIR: We have perused your request of the 19th instant, and are of opinion that your terms are too general and extensive; for if we employ a sufficient number of persons to purchase a sufficient number of wagons to transport provisions for our Northern Army, we should then take upon us the whole business of contracting and forwarding at least the most troublesome parts, and leave you only to issue, which, as our affairs are at present circumstanced, it is impossible for us to do, but will, with pleasure, give you what assistance we can.

We are, sir, your humble servants.

By order: JOHN BARCLAY, *Chairman pro tem.*

To Mr. *Elisha Avery*, D. C. G.

I do hereby certify that the above are true copies from the originals now in the custody of the Committee.

MAT. VISSCHER, *Secretary.*

[This was received enclosed in the letter of *James Duane*, *Robert Yates*, and *Jacob Cuyler*.]

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EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE AT ALBANY.

18th *October*.—This Board took into consideration how, and in what manner, the Militia now ordered to march to the northward, should be supplied when there; and thereupon

*Resolved*, That the Commissary be sent for and requested to inform this Board, whether he has orders from General *Schuyler* to supply the Militia with Provisions and other necessaries, whilst up to the northward.

Mr. *Avery* appeared, and informed this Board that he had no orders from the General to supply the Militia. He was then asked whether there was a quantity of provisions in store? He answered, no large quantity. He was then asked, how, and in what manner, the garrisons to the northward were supplied? He answered, there was at *Ticonderoga* a supply for about three weeks. He was then asked, whether he had any contractors out in the country? He answered, he had, and expected a pretty large supply of cattle in a few days. The Committee then informed him that they would assist him in purchasing and transporting provisions as far as their influence would extend, and advised him to write a letter to his Honour Major-General *Schuyler*, stating the above circumstances, and that this Committee would write him on the same subject. And thereupon,

*Resolved*, To send the following Letter to General *Schuyler*, viz: (Letter.)

And in order that the Commissary may the better understand the intention of this Committee,

*Resolved*, That the Commissary be served with this Resolution.

*Resolved*, That this Committee will at all times, upon application of the Deputy Commissary-General, assist him in procuring Provisions and Carriages, as far as their influence will extend.

19th *October*.—The Committee again took into consideration the distressing situation the Army to the northward may happen to fall for want of Provisions; and thereupon,

*Resolved*, That Messrs. *John Ten Broeck*, *Jeremiah Van Rensselaer*, and *Stephen Schuyler*, be a Committee to confer with the Deputy Commissary-General, what assistance he should want in procuring and transporting Provisions.

The Committee returned and reported, that they had waited on the Deputy Commissary-General, and requested from him what assistance he required from this Board, and that he had furnished him with the following written request:

The Deputy Commissary-General applied to this Board that the Cooper in the store, and four other persons employed in issuing Provisions and procuring Carriages for transporting the same, might be detained, and excused from the present march with the Militia to the northward.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary's request be granted. And the said persons are hereby excused accordingly, and that the Commissary's request, with the names of the persons, be delivered him; and that *Nicholas Mersailles*, one of the contractors for purchasing Cattle, be added to the persons excused.

The Deputy Commissary-General requested that *Tennis T. Van Veghten* might be excused from marching with the

Militia to the northward, as he had employed him to purchase Cattle for the use of the Northern Army,

*Resolved*, That the Commissary's request be granted. And the said *Teunis Van Veghten* is hereby excused accordingly.

Mr. *Myndert J. Ten Eyck*, one of the members of this Board, being employed by the Deputy Commissary-General to purchase Flour and other Provisions,

*Resolved*, That the said *Myndert J. Ten Eyck*, and such others as are employed by the Commissary to purchase Flour and Provisions, proceed on their business with all despatch, and forward the same to such places as they shall be directed by the Commissary, with the greatest despatch; and they are hereby empowered to detain such persons as they shall deem necessary for the manufacturing of Flour, purchasing Provisions, and transporting the same.

20th *October*.—The Commissary appeared before this Board, and requested them to join with him in an application to the Convention of this State for a quantity of Flour said to be purchased by them at *Esopus*, and other places below: And thereupon

*Resolved*, To join with the Commissary in the following manner: "We join in the Commissary's request, and beg you will send forward, with all despatch, if not the whole quantity, as much as can be spared, for this department."

21st *October*.—The Committee took into consideration the Commissary's request, and conceived that his requisition was too general and extensive: And thereupon

*Resolved*, That the following answer be sent thereto by Captain *George White*, who is ordered to offer himself as a contractor for purchasing Cattle. [Front.]

Captain *White* returned, and reported that he had offered himself to the Commissary to purchase cattle; that the Commissary told him he had a sufficient number of contractors out at present, and if he wanted any, he would apply to the Committee.

Extract from the Minutes of the Committee of the City and County of *Albany*.

MAT. VISSCHER, *Secretary*.

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[No. 7.]

EXAMINATION OF JOHN VANDENBERGH.

*John Vandenbergh*, of *Niskishaw*, in the County of *Albany*, saith, that his wife being ready to lie in, he did not choose to march with the Militia; that he went with about twenty to the *Helderbergh*, to consult what they had best to do, and took their arms with them to defend themselves if any should attempt to hurt them. Their first meeting was last *Monday*, at Mr. *Commons's*. *Howe's* Proclamation was mentioned. *Richard Ridley* had it at his house. *John Commons* said that those who thought that Congress were in the right should go, and those who thought the King was right should stay, but *Commons* said he did not know who was right. At this meeting were present *Commons*, *Adam*, *Joachim*, and *Christian Huyck*, and himself, who met accidentally. He first went to *Commons* for a pound of butter, and returned home to fetch his gun, and then went to the *Hellebergh*, and consulted the people there, the company being in all about twenty. The party they met there said that if the examined and his company would go, they would go; and he and his party agreed to go, and so they parted and each went home. That the examined is a Whig and thinks the Congress right. *Hans Seger* said he could get soldiers if he would go for them, but he would not; that they had been told that the Rangers would come and pull down their houses, and that they were determined to oppose them; that they heard that there were four hundred Tories at *Stighkook*. He thinks that the people he met are friends to the country, but that they won't fight if they can help it, and so agreed at said meeting; that the reason for not fighting for the country is, that they will not be against the King. The persons present at the said meeting, whose names he disclosed, are as follows: *Jno. Read*, *Jacobus Oliver*, *Adam Seegar*, *Joachim*, *Jacob*, and *Christian Huyck*, *Jacobus Long*, *John Commins*, *Jacob Bradt*, and *Hans Segar*, *Arent Wormer*, *Garrit Bradt*. *Commins* and *Read* advised him not to fight against the King, for if he did, he would be ruined and sent away. *Read* told him this yesterday, *Commins* a month ago. That they were to meet in three parties this morning to defend themselves against any troops which should attack them—one party at the *Hellebergh*, another at the *Norman's Kill*, and the other at *Niskishaw*, near *Albert Bratt's*; about thirty in each party, to be commanded by *John Commins* and *Arent Wormer*. If one party should be attacked, they were to give notice to the other, and then all were to join in; they were to come from the *Hellebergh*, *Niskishaw*, and the *Norman's Kill*; that he has heard them say, that if the King's troops should come into the country they would join them. Being further examined, he says that the party to be commanded by *Arent Wormer* is to lie at *Niskishaw*, near the house of one *Stoppleheen*; that the second party are to lie at *Norman's Kill*, but he does not know the place or commander; the third party to lie at the *Hellebergh*, under the command of *Albertus Van Alstyne*. Upon further examination, he says *Commons* is to command the party at the *Norman's Kill*; that all the whole party kept up a correspondence with them at *Coxsackie*, and they were to inform each other of what passed; that there were two people yesterday from *Stichkook*, when this agreement was made; that they were to stand upon their defence till the King's troops came. *Hans Seger* said he could get *Indians* at *Schoharie* to join them, and if it came upon a pinch he would go for them; that he believes the said several parties are now together, and it was agreed that every man should find his own provisions.

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[No. 8.]

Albany, 26 October, 1776.

SIR: We are much surprised that no information of your motions has yet been given to the Committee. In order to obtain it, we have sent this express, whom we wish you to return back with some intelligence as soon as possible. We have accounts of about ninety Tories having collected at the *Hellebergh* and its neighbourhood. If you can safely spare any part of your force, we would be glad if you could send the *Schoharie* company and the Rangers that way, as soon as possible, the most direct route. We shall send a party from here to meet them.

I am, sir,

ROB'T YATES, *Chairman*, *&c.*

To Captain *John Bradt*.

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[No. 9.]

*To Major* FORD:

This Committee having received undoubted information that a number of disaffected persons are collected in different parties in and about the *Hellebergh*, *Norman's Kill*, *Nestadher*, and *Beaver-Dam*, with an evident design by force of arms to oppose the measures pursued for the preservation of the liberties of *America*, order you immediately to collect and take under your command eighty men, detached from Colonel *Van Ness's* regiment, one company of Continental troops under the command of Captain *Hicks*, and Captain *Baldwin's* company of Rangers, and having paraded and seen them properly equipped and provided, you are to march them to *Coenradt Luke's*, or *James Slingerlandt's*, where you shall refresh your men till near daybreak, when you shall again march from thence to the *Hellebergh*, and endeavour to take and disperse the disaffected who have been or are now assembled in arms, or in general all others between the ages of fifty and sixteen, who can give no good reason for their not having marched with the rest of the Militia agreeable to order. If they should not be at that place you are to follow them to the *Norman's Kill*, *Nestoha*, the *Beaver-Dam*, or wherever else they may be assembled, advising on this head with your guide. You are always to march with good intelligent scouts ahead, and flanking parties, to prevent surprise or being discovered by persons lurking in the woods for that purpose, and to retain all those who you may expect design to give intelligence of your motions. You are to be particularly careful that the men under your command do not plunder or maltreat the inhabitants of the country, whatever may be their political character. You will be attentive to secure those persons whose names you are furnished with. You are to send daily intelligence of your motions to the Committee of *Albany*, in order that you may be reinforced if necessary, or supplied with provisions if your stay should be longer than is at present expected.

ROB'T YATES, *Chairman*.

[No. 10.]

Saratoga, October 26, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am honoured with your favour of the 24th instant. The affidavits transmitted me, would countenance the supposition that the enemy intend an irruption on the *Mohawk's* river, but I can hardly imagine they will attempt it until they have met with success at *Ticonderoga*, which I both hope and believe they will not have. I did not, however, like to move *Dayton's* corps from the western quarter, but was pressed to do it in such terms by General *Gates* that I could not prudently refuse it. Lest, however, an accident should happen, I would advise that Colonel *Van Ness*, with his regiment, should on his return from *Cox-sackie*, march to *Schenectady*, or such place where he can be of most service in case of an attack. Our scouts from *Johnstown*, *Fort George*, and *Fort Edward*, all agree that there is not the least appearance of an enemy in the north-west quarters. I enclose you copies of letters from General *Gates* and General *Arnold*. I have had a copious eruption since you was here; it is going off, and I find myself in much better health.

I am, gentlemen, with every friendly wish, and with the greatest esteem, your most obedient servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

The Committee of Convention, *Albany*.

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[No. 11.]

Ticonderoga, October 24, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Your letters of the 14th, 17th, and 18th instant, are received in course, and are now before me. The ammunition arrived safe, and in as good order as could be wished; a most seasonable supply I assure you.

Not any of the Militia are yet come in. I hear of numbers being on their march, and I shall advise you as they arrive. Colonel *Dayton's* are not yet on this side the lake; I expect them every day. Our communications are free and unmolested; and the Eastern post and travelers are continually coming to *Mount Independence* by *Otter Creek*, and the roads that lead from thence, no scouts of the enemy appearing to disturb them. Cattle are pretty plenty upon the ground, as you will see by Mr. *Yauncey's* return enclosed. If you order cattle to be killed at *Lake George*, you had better direct them to be salted down in barrels, and sent over the lake in that way, for it arrives in a wretched condition when sent in quarters fresh. I shall be careful to have batteaus and vessels enough at *Skenesborough* to bring all the provisions you send there. Flour seems to me more in request than meal. You may be assured we are doing every thing our judgment can direct or our industry accomplish, for receiving the enemy properly. Spades, which I have so long and so often sent for, are so much wanted that even one single hundred would be most welcome. General *Carleton* keeps very close at *Crown Point*, his navy at anchor upon his flanks. I have scouts continually down both sides of the lake. I apprehend by this time his force is all collected, and expect this stillness will be succeeded immediately by a grand attack. Heaven grant he may be defeated! The Army here are in good spirits and think only of victory. Tenpenny, eightpenny, and shingle nails are exceedingly wanted, and where are the one or two thousand bushels of turnips and potatoes you was to send here? They would be of the utmost benefit to the Army. If you can send a good parcel of nail-rods our smiths can assist in making nails.

I am, dear General, your affectionate, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

The Honourable Major-General *Schuyler*.

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[No. 12.]

Ticonderoga, October 24, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Your kind favour of the 17th I received some days since. I am greatly obliged to you for the friendship you express on my safety and having escaped the enemy.

I am extremely glad to hear the Militia are coming to our assistance. I believe the enemy, from the best accounts we can collect, are endeavouring to fortify *Crown Point*. I am afraid we shall not be able to detain a sufficient garrison for this place from the troops now here.

A boom will be laid across the lake this day, and a bridge to-morrow, from *Ty* to *Mount Independence*. We cannot ascertain the strength of the enemy. In a few days we shall be ready to make a trial of their force, if they think proper to attack us.

I have only time to add my most respectful compliments, and that I am, with every friendly wish, dear General, your affectionate and obedient humble servant,

B. ARNOLD.

To the Honourable Major-General *Schuyler*.

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[No. 13.]

Fishkill, 24th October, ten o'clock at night.

GENTLEMEN: While the rider is sent for and preparing, I have copied Mr. *Tilghman's* letter, received past nine o'clock. Excuse the copy, 'tis made in haste. A letter of Colonel *Nicoll*, received this evening, confirms the report that three fellows taken in arms are condemned, and were to be hanged yesterday. The sentence was delivered by Lord *Stirling*, as President of the Court. I first heard they were part of a small body of Tories who fired on some of our troops, and have since heard they were deserters taken in arms.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient,

JOHN MCKESSON.

To General *Ten Broeck*, *James Duane*, *Robert R. Livingston*, *Jacob Cuyler*, *John Ten Broeck*, *Robert Yates*, *William Harper*, and *Paris*, Esquires, &c., &c., *Albany*.

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Head-Quarters, Valentine's Hill, 22d October, 1776.

DEAR SIR: We are so constantly on the move that I am obliged to write when I can find an opportunity. We shall take up our lodgings at *White Plains* this evening, which the General intends to make his head-quarters for the present. The enemy are endeavouring still to outflank us, and we are moving rather ahead of them. Early yesterday morning an advanced party, consisting of *Rodgers's* Rangers, took possession of *Mamaroneck*, which our Militia abandoned with the utmost precipitation, as usual. The General rode up to *White Plains* to take a view of the country, and hearing of this party, laid a plan to cut them off. He accordingly detached Major *Green*, of *Virginia*, with one hundred and fifty men of the First and Third *Virginia* Regiments, and Colonel *Haslet*, of *Delaware*, with six hundred men, to support them. They attacked *Rogers* about day break, put the party to flight, brought in thirty-six prisoners, sixty arms, and a good many blankets; and had not the guides undertook to alter the first disposition, Major *Rogers*, and his party of about four hundred, would in all probability have fallen into our hands. We don't know how many we killed, but an officer says he counted twenty-five in one orchard. We had twelve wounded, among them Major *Green* and Captain *Pope;* the former in the shoulder, the latter slightly. We had removed all our stores from *Mamaroneck*, except some onions, so that I think they have made a losing voyage.

*White Plains*, 23d.—I wrote the above yesterday. We just this moment hear that the enemy have engaged General *Lee's* division. We have sent down for the particulars, which you shall have to-morrow.

Yours, TENCH TILGHMAN.

*William Duer*, Esq.

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[No. 14.]

Albany, 27th October, 1776.

SIR: We were this day favoured with a letter from Mr. *McKesson*, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. *Tilghman*. We are certainly anxious to hear the event of the battle with General *Lee*. We enclose you copies of letters received from Generals *Schuyler*, *Gates*, and *Arnold*, which contain our latest intelligence from the Northern Army. We could wish that the Committee of Correspondence would establish expresses to this place, as good news published by authority would have a very happy effect on our Army and people.

I am, sir, ROB'T YATES, *Chairman*.

To *Peter R. Livingston*, Esq., President of the Convention of *New-York*.

[No. 15.]

Saratoga, October 27th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Yesterday I received a letter from Captain *Allen*, and this morning another from General *Herkimer*, both of which I enclose you. I think it absolutely necessary that a body of troops should be immediately sent to the *Mohawk's* river. I have ordered Colonel *Dayton*, with his regiment, which is at *Canistighenna* or *Half-Moon*, until they shall hear from you. If you can send such a body of Militia into *Tryon* County as will in all probability secure that part of the country, I then wish you to send orders to Colonel *Dayton* to prosecute his march to *Ticonderoga*, where he may be much wanted. If not, you will please to order him back to that country. He has my orders to obey your directions.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Committee of Convention.

P. S. Please to return the enclosed, as I have no copies.

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[No. 16.]

Canajohary, 25th October, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIR: I have to acquaint your Honour that last *Saturday* night *Peter Ten Broeck*, of the *Fall Kill*, *Hanyost Schuyler*, *Kackyake Johnson*, with about twelve others, from the *Klacebergh*, went off to our enemies. I endeavoured to inquire for their route, and found out, of a very creditable person, a wife of one of those runaways and traitors, that they are gone to *Oswego*, in hopes to meet the enemy there. The same woman declared that the leaders of this runaway party received a letter from our enemies, which mentions that within six days from the day of their escape, the enemy would be assembled in *Oswego*. Sir *John* shall command six hundred regulars, and twenty-two nations of *Indians* having joined them. An *Indian* squaw was the express of the above-mentioned letter to the *Canajohary* Castle, and a belt should have been sent from those nations to *Oneida*, to invite them to join with those, threatening that if they would not agree to their proposal, they (the *Oneidas*) should depend upon it that they would be attacked first, and not a child's life would be then spared. This hostile invasion, says the above-mentioned woman, shall exist soon and surely upon the *Mohawk* river.

The circumstances of our present situation are so powerless, that we are not able to resist such a force against us, and have nothing to expect but to be slaughtered and drove off at the enemy's pleasure. I must, therefore, lay and recommend this to your Honour's discreet consideration, begging that you would please to procure us an expeditious succour of troops to oppose such cruel enemies, and to stop and annihilate their fatal intentions. I must add, that I apprehended already that if we should not be assisted with a sufficient number of troops, the inhabitants, or the major part of them, are inclined to lay down their arms before they would be so helplessly sacrificed. It is really my opinion that now is the time to hinder the enemy to invade the country here, and to ravage the same. It would be a pity to let the true patriots of the country in such a desolate condition, and therefore I don't doubt you will not delay with your needful assistance. I flatter myself of your answer in a few lines per this express, and am, as always, with great respect, honourable sir, your obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS HERKIMER.

To His Excellency Major-General *Ph. Schuyler, Fort Edward.*

P. S. I understand, also, yesterday, of *Oneidas* passing my house to go hunting, that most all the *Oneidas* are gone at present to hunt, and but a few chiefs left in the Castle.

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[No. 17.]

Fort Dayton, October 21, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: Colonel *Elmer* having gone with the chief part of his regiment up to *Fort Schuyler*, agreeable to your Excellency's order, he left me to command at this post till the return of Major *Cochran*. I thought proper to inform your Excellency of the present circumstance of our affairs, agreeable to my instructions, viz: On hearing some news to our disadvantage from *Lake Champlain*, we are credibly informed that there was a consultation held at *Canajohary* Castle among the *Indians* and several Tories, since which several of said Tories have (as is generally believed) absconded to join the enemy, viz: one *Hanjoost Schuyler*, sergeant in one of our Ranger companies, *Hanjoost Haskamun*, a son-in-law of the old widow *Haskaman*, and several others who were reputed to be dis affected persons. There are likewise, since said consultation, passing along upwards, a considerable number of *Indians*, as though to leave the place, endeavouring, as they pass, to get clear of their paper money. Upon the whole, as such multitudes of Tories, &c., have gone from this part, it is not altogether unlikely that if our Northern Army should be unsuccessful, we may soon have an invasion here; or if not, yet since it is our part to be in readiness, I would inform your Excellency that we have not more than twelve pounds of powder and a few cartridges, which, in case of necessity, would be short allowance for one hundred and twenty-three effective men, which is the number of this detachment, including Captain *Eisinlord's* company, to which I trust your Excellency will pay due attention, and forward a sufficient quantity of ammunition as soon as may be. There are likewise four swivel guns in this fort, for which, if we had proper ammunition, they might be of use in case of an attack.

I have the honour of being your Excellency's most humble servant,

LATHROP ALLEN, *Captain.*

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[No. 18.]

Albany, October 28, 1776.

SIR: We received your favour of the 27th instant last night, and have agreed to the resolution which we have the honour to enclose. The night before last we despatched a detachment against the disaffected at the *Hellebergh* and its neighbourhood, which has been attended with the wished-for success, as they dispersed without opposition, and many of them are taken. Captain *Bradt*, who was despatched on a similar occasion to *Coxsackie*, writes us by express that he had successfully performed the service he was sent upon, and that he thinks the *Coxsackie* and *Catskill* companies will be sufficient for any further business in that quarter. Indeed, it appears to us that the report of the disaffection there has been greatly exaggerated, since the Committee of the District have thought fit to discharge even those who were apprehended as Tories, which, however expedient, is at least a proof that they are not thought dangerous. These vigorous measures having so happily suppressed domestick insurrections, will put it in our power to detach the troops, which, with the forces already on the western frontier, are particularly specified in our resolution.

You, sir, are the best judge of their competency; and it must, therefore, be submitted to your determination, whether Colonel *Dayton's* regiment shall be sent forward to *Ticonderoga*, or be commanded to their former station. It appears to us to be of the utmost moment that an active and spirited officer should, in the present conjuncture, be invested with the command on the western frontier, and especially as the apprehensions of at least part of the Continental troops seem to be more alarmed than the intelligence communicated to us can justify. We are strangers to Colonel *Elmore*. If his military character is not sufficiently established, we submit it to you whether Colonel *Dayton*, (in case his regiment should proceed to *Ticonderoga*,) Colonel *Van Schaick*, or some other officer of known abilities, ought not to be appointed for that important department. Such of the proposed detachment as consist of Militia, will march without delay. The two companies of Continental troops not being under our directions, must attend your orders. If this arrangement meets with your approbation, Captain *Lush's* company of Town Guards, seventy of Colonel *Van Ness's* regiment, under his command, besides the *Canadian*, will remain for your duty.

We are, &c., ROB'T YATES, *Chairman.*

To the Honourable Major-General *Schuyler.*

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[No. 19.]

Sunday evening, October 27.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to orders we have arrived at the *Hellebergh*, and there we have taken several prisoners,

amongst whom is *John Reed, Pembleton*, and others, seven in the whole, chiefly under arms, and well equipped with arms and ammunition. We had certain intelligence, as we thought, that there was about three hundred in one place, well fortified. We compelled a pilot, and formed ourselves in the best manner, and marched up to give them battle, in high spirits, and came to the place and found it destitute of men, which discouraged us greatly, and from here we sent out different scouts, and they bring in men pretty fast that they find under arms. This instant we have got new pilots, that I hope will help us, and by the intelligence that I have got, I think that we must stay two or three days longer; and all our men are almost out of provisions; being up night and day, takes more provision. We must have provisions sent to us for our suppers to-morrow night, or go without. Some of our men are now out of provisions, and it is difficult to get any here. I think we shall want two days' provision for our men—for eighty-two men in our regiment, and fifty-two in Captain *Hicks's* company. I desire that we may be favoured with salt provisions, for fresh does not agree with our people.

Gentlemen, I would be glad to be favoured with a letter from you, and such instructions as you shall think proper.

I am, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

JACOB FORD.

To Mr. *Robert Yates*, Chairman of the Committee of *Albany*.

P. S. Our place of rendezvous at present is at *Oliver Bront's*, at the *Hellebergh*.

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A LIST OF PERSONS TAKEN BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE OF ALBANY.

| | Guns. | Powderhorn. | Bullet-pouch. |
|---|---|---|---|
| John Reid, - - - | do. | do. | |
| John Long, - - - | do. | do. | |
| Gerrit Slingerland, - | do. | do. | do. |
| Wouter Slingerland, | do. | do. | do. |
| Menord Bradt, - - | do. | do. | do. |
| John Sagor, - - - | do. | do. | |
| Jeremiah Pembleton, | | | |
| Jacob Hallenbake,* | do. | do. | do. |
| Garret Sagor, - - | do. | do. | do. |
| Matthias Houghtaling,† | do. | do. | do. |

*This man I thought proper to send home, finding no sufficient proof against him, but thought proper to retain his arms.

†Afterwards released, but his arms retained.

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[No. 20.]

Lunenbergh, 27th October, 1776.

SIR: I received your favour of yesterday's date and note the contents. In compliance with my orders I have continually ranged the woods with my company, and have taken several Tories, whom I delivered from time to time to the Committee here, who, it seems, for reasons known to themselves, have discharged them.

The *Schohary* company proceeds immediately with me and my company for the *Hellebergh* the shortest way, agreeable to your directions. I have ordered the *Coxsackie* company, together with Captain *Whitbeck's* company, to attend the orders of the Committee now met at this place, which I deem sufficient for any business here, consequently my presence unnecessary.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

JOHN A. BRADT.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of the Convention of the State of *New-York, Albany*.

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[No. 21.]

Albany, October 28th, 1776.

SIR: We all are much pleased with your activity and spirit. We have sent up provisions, as you request, for all but the Rangers, who find themselves. As business increases on our hands, we must beg you to return as soon as ever your task is despatched, which we hope will be very shortly.

We enclose a letter to Captain *Bradt*, which we must request you immediately to send to him wherever he may be.

I am, &c.,

By order, &c., R. YATES, *Ch'n.*

To Major *Ford*.

[No. 22.]

Albany, 28th October, 1776.

SIR: We are happy to hear the favourable accounts you give us from *Coxsackie*. As we find your company and the *Schohary* detachment will be unnecessary at the *Hellebergh*, where the insurgents are already dispersed, we must request you to return with them immediately to this place; and are &c.,

By order, &c., R. YATES, *Ch'n.*

To Captain *Bradt*.

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[No. 23.]

DIRCK SWART'S INFORMATION.

Mr. *Dirck Swart* gives information, that passing through *Bennington* on *Wednesday* last, one of the Committee of that place told him that two letters had been received, one from Mr. *Trumbull*, the Commissary-General, and the other from Mr. *Trumbull*, Deputy Adjutant-General at *Ticonderoga*; the first of which mentioned that some evil-minded people in and about *Albany* had stopped the provisions from going up to *Ticonderoga*, and that they had orders to purchase the wheat and send it to the mills, and to send up the flour at any expense, even if it should be on pack-horses. That wheat was accordingly purchased at five shillings and six pence lawful. That on hearing this report, some of the Militia who were going up, were much enraged and wished *Albany* in flames. That the express who brought the letters was a person who used to attend the store at *Ticonderoga* with Mr. *Avery*. That the examinant was invited to hear the letters read, but declined it.

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[No. 24.]

JOHN READ'S EXAMINATION.

*John Read* says that he lives about ten miles from the city of *Albany*; that he came over to this country last war with Lord *Howe's* regiment; that he has lived before at *Claverack*; that he has served as a soldier for some years in that regiment; that on the morning that he was apprehended he was alarmed by his wife, who told him that the Rangers were coming; that he jumped out of bed, and with his shoes in his hand, in order to escape; that he was afterwards taken in the woods. That at the time he left his house there was no other person in his house except his wife and children, and that there was no other person then in the house.

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AN EXAMINATION TAKEN ON A SOLEMN PROMISE NOT TO REVEAL HIS NAME.

*John Long*, of *Nicadha*, on examination, says, that *Dirck Becker* is his Militia Captain, and being warned to go up to *Fort Edward*, that he was ready to go, and prepared himself accordingly, but on his way he was dissuaded from proceeding by *Frederick Oliver, Philip Luke*, a son of *John Luke*, who were the principal persons that dissuaded him, saying that they would not go to be slaughtered by the Regulars, who would have this country in a month's time. That thereupon he repaired to *Arent Wormer's*, where there were about one hundred, who agreed not to go up, not to injure any person, but if the Rangers or Militia of *Albany* came against them and injured them, they would resist them. That they there agreed to keep scouts on the roads, and that they should notice each other upon any alarm. That besides the above persons, *Frederick Wormer, Frederick Crousie, John Commons*. That the views of those people when assembled were to hold out until the Regulars should come, and then they would join them. That *Arent Wormer* was to direct one of the parties, *Bat Halenbeck* another, and *Frederick Oliver* the third party.

*November* 1st, 1776.—The further examination of *John Long*, who says that there was present at *Arent Wormer's*, in the above company, *George Swans, Peter Classe, Peter Bradt, Staats Bradt, Wouter* and *Garret Slingerlandt, Storen Bradt, Myndert Bradt, Gerrit Bradt, John Commons*, a principal, *Jacobus Oliver, Jacob Ball*, a Captain of the *Beaver Dam*, which latter he was heard to declare he would not go up at all, *Henry Waernar, Jacobus Hoghtaling, Johannes Seeger, Adam Seger, Jellis Creeble, John Wedenman*.

[No. 25.]

Saratoga, October 29, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am honoured with your favour of yesterday's date. As I found that the Militia moved with the greatest reluctance from *Fort Edward*, I resolved to let Colonel *Dayton* prosecute his march to *Ticonderoga*, and to let about four hundred of the Militia from *Fort Edward* march into *Tryon* County, and gave orders accordingly early yesterday morning. Colonel *Dayton* is already passed this, and I momently expect the Militia here. Although I am quite in sentiment with you on *B. Huston's* information, yet it is very possible that General *Carleton* may detach, or already has detached, a part of his force (especially his *Indians*, Tories, and *Canadians*, who would be of very little service in an attack on our lines) to the *Mohawk* river. I shall therefore order the Militia whom I expect from *Fort Edward*, to proceed without delay to *Tryon* County, and to put themselves under the command of General *Herkimer*, or Colonel *Van Schaick*, whom I have ordered into that quarter, and referred to you for instructions. I do not apprehend that an attack will be made by the way of *Fort Stanwix;* and as the garrison at that place is sufficiently numerous, I would not advise the sending any more men there. I do not think it would be proper to strip the city altogether of troops, and you will therefore please to cause some of the Militia to remain, and desire Colonel *Van Schaick* to take the two companies of his regiment up with him.

I am, gentlemen, respectfully, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Committee of Convention.

[No. 26.]

Albany, October 30, 1776.

SIR: General *Schuyler* enclosed us a letter from you containing your reasons for believing that the enemy proposed to make an irruption into your County. We cannot help thinking that the information comes through a very suspicious channel; however, it is possible they may send small scalping-parties. A great force cannot come this season; and as for the twenty-two nations of *Indians*, it is too improbable to deserve the least credit. At a time when the Militia are all called out for the defence of their country invaded on the north and south, we cannot help expressing our surprise that the Militia of a County which has hitherto been respected for its zeal and spirit, should entertain the most distant idea of submitting to their inveterate enemy, and that, too, before they have seen or tried their force. We take the liberty to remind you that there is already in your County, exclusive of your Militia, seven hundred and forty-three men, which, when joined by the troops under your command, must, we apprehend, be greatly superiour to any force the enemy can send. However, we send you two companies of Continental troops, under the command of Colonel *Van Schaick*, with whom we wish you to consult about the proper disposition of the troops, and one company of Rangers. General *Schuyler* has ordered to your assistance about four hundred men. The Militia who will cross from *Fort Edward* are sent in compliance with your wishes, though we really think them unnecessary if the people of your County will exert any degree of that spirit which we have reason to expect from men animated by the glorious cause in which they are engaged. We doubt not, sir, that you will be careful to inspire them with proper sentiments on this subject. It would be advisable for you to order one thousand of your Militia to be raised, equipped, and sent to their proper stations, in which case they will be allowed Continental pay and rations. Captain *Huger*, with fifty men of the *Schohary* Militia, are now sent home, and have orders to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning, whenever you may think it necessary to call upon them. You will be careful to keep out scouts on every quarter, who will be rewarded for their trouble.

We are, sir, &c.,

By order: R. YATES, *Chairman.*

To General *Herkimer*.

[No. 27.]

Albany, October 30, 1776.

SIR: We are favoured with your despatches of the 28th and 29th instant. From the uncertainty of the western intelligence, added to the importunity of General *Gates*, we do not see how you could well avoid sending *Dayton's* regiment to the northward; and yet if there should be an irruption into *Tryon* County, which is not altogether improbable, we shall find the want of a force that can be depended upon to give them a vigorous opposition. May it not still be prudent to detain *Dayton's* regiment at *Fort George*, so that they may be in readiness to proceed to *Ticonderoga*, or the western frontier, as the progress of the enemy may render necessary? Colonel *Van Schaick* will march this day with the two companies of his regiment, and Captain *Bradt's* company of Rangers. Captain *Hager*, who commands a detachment of fifty of the *Schohary* Militia, we shall order to repair to *Schoharie* and to be in readiness to attend Colonel *Van Schaick's* orders, on a moment's notice. We shall also direct General *Herkimer* to detach one thousand of his best Militia for immediate service. Colonel *Van Ness's* detachment of about one hundred and forty men, we shall detain here under his command, for town duty, leaving Lieutenant *Conyer*, who is one of our recruiting officers, to assist and advise Colonel *Van Ness* in the conduct of his department, which may be necessary on account of his inexperience in the military line.

The detachment is returned from the *Hellebergh*. They found only a few people in arms, seven of whom they have seized. The rest fled with precipitation. Defection in that quarter has, as usual, been much exaggerated, though we are satisfied that some designing knaves among them have endeavoured to sow the seeds of revolt. The majority are ignorant and deluded, and will readily return to their duty on forgiveness of their past misconduct.

We learn from Major *Fonda*, that one *Hendrick Hicks*, who pretends to be a deserter from General *Carleton*, is returned to *Tryon* County, as he says, by the way of the *Split Neck*, on the west side of *Lake Champlain*. Major *Fonda* is of opinion that it is practicable for the enemy to penetrate the western frontier by that route. He adds, that from the expressions and conduct of the Tories in *Tiger*, it is evident that they expect a sudden irruption of the enemy, headed by Sir *John Johnson*. You will give such weight to these hints as you think they deserve.

We have nothing before us which can authorize our longer continuance at this place, especially as our assistance is much wanted in Convention, and the military arrangement, which is so essential, must be delayed till our return to *Fishkill*. We propose, therefore, to set out for that place in the morning.

We are, sir, &c.,

By order: R. YATES, *Chairman.*

To General *Schuyler*.

[No. 28.]

Saratoga, October 30th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am this moment favoured with yours of this date. An hour ago Colonel *Ogden* arrived from *Ticonderoga*, which he left on *Monday*. He brings intelligence that there are not above two hundred tents at *Crown Point*. General *Carleton* has consequently only a small part of his Army there. This circumstance, the information of *Hoff*, and the movement of the Tories in this quarter, give me great reasons to supect that the enemy intend to penetrate by the *Mohawk* river, or to throw themselves on some part of the communication between this and *Fort George*. In this situation, it is extremely difficult to determine what measures are most eligible to take. I shall, however, venture on sending down part of the Militia, *Dayton's* being already near *Skenesborough*, and his men extremely averse to return to *Tryon* County. I must entreat you, gentlemen, not to think of leaving *Albany* at this very critical juncture.

I enclose you letters for Colonel *Van Schaick* and Major *Cochran*, which I beg you will seal and immediately forward to them by express, and if you please, convey similar orders to Brigadier-General *Herkimer*. I shall despatch an express to General *Gates* to request him to send a scout forty or fifty miles to the westward, and if he finds that any body of the enemy have marched towards the *Mohawk* river, then instantly to detach three regiments at least to that quarter, or more, according to the number of the enemy that have

taken that route. Similar orders will be sent to General *Ten Broeck* and Colonel *Ganseroort*. Thus we shall have the most early intelligence of the enemy's movements, and be enabled to take proper measures to defeat their purposes.

I am, most respectfully, gentlemen, your obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Committee of Convention, at *Albany*.

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[No. 29.]

October 29, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Part of the number of men specified in your letter are ready. I hope to be able to raise the whole soon. The Rangers are repeatedly sent out in small parties, but no discoveries of importance until this day, which is comprehended in the information sent by Major *Buck*, to whom I shall refer you for particulars; and remain, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

W. B. WHITING.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of a Sub-Committee from the State of *New-York*, now sitting in *Albany*.

N. B. In regard to arms, if it be possible, let us have some relief, as we at home are very needy of powder and lead.

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[No. 30.]

THE DEPOSITION OF ISAAC PEABODY AND SAMUEL ALLEN.

The Deposition of *Isaac Peabody* and *Samuel Allen*, of lawful age, who depose and say, that on the 12th instant they called at the house of *Seth Chase*, of *Little White Creek*, and hearing some words dropped which induced them to believe the said *Seth* an enemy of the country, they feigned themselves to be of the same sentiments. The said *Seth* and other persons then there, asked these deponents from whence they came; and upon answering that they came from *Kinderhook*, they said they had often heard that all the inhabitants there were Tories. These deponents thereupon said, that the word Tories was more properly applicable to their accusers than to themselves. The said *Seth*, and the persons at his house, said that they were of the same opinion. These deponents then asked them if they had not seen or heard of any friends to Government that had fled from persecution at *Kinderhook* and thereabout; they answered they had not. They then said that one of their Committee had lately been to them with the Association and requested them to sign, which they refused to do, as they did not choose to sign any promise of what they did not intend to perform. That the above discourse passed in the house of the said *Seth Chase*. These deponents then rode off, and after going some distance from the house, were called back by a person whose name they afterwards discovered to be *Hough*, and who had been in company with them at the tavern before they left it. These deponents then rode back, and *Hough* informed that after they left the house, he told the landlord that they (these deponents) were friends to Government and strangers in the place, and he thought they had better call them back; whereupon he had called to these deponents to return. He then invited these deponents to return to the house and lodge there, and if they were willing, they might be there secreted; which offer these deponents declined. These deponents then asked if their *Kinderhook* friends could get through northward to *Burgoyne's* Army. *Hough* said no, but that there was a much safer way to make their escape, for that there were eighty men from *Arlington* and *Sunderland*, that were to march the next night, and there were two of the King's Armies coming down. *Burgoyne* was coming around the lake, and Sir *John Johnson* was to come down the *Mohawk* river with the other Army, and that the best way for your *Kinderhook* Tories was to join that party, and they would meet the King's Army in three days, and be safe and out of danger. These deponents then desired him, if he had an opportunity, to give our *Kinderhook* friends this information, which he promised he would; whereon we bid him good night, and rode to one *Samuel Hodge's*, where we put up for the night, and upon consideration of what had passed, we agreed that it was best that one of us the next morning should go back to *Chase's*, and the other go and acquaint *Cambridge* Committee of what had passed; whereupon next morning we took our different ways as aforesaid. Deponents further said, that the said Esquire *Hough* said they are all friends about; we have got good friends in our Committee; had they not been as cunning as the devil we should have been torn to pieces before now, for the people down towards *Cambridge* were as fierce as the devils, and we would not have you go there, for you will be surely taken. He further said, I did not mean to take up arms or fight on either side, but I have been so harassed, that I have determined that I will go off with the party to *Burgoyne*, and in a few days turn and let them know what or whom I am, and that great part of the neighbourhood was going too; that there was a number of us met at this place (*Seth Chace's*) a night or two ago, it being a place of rendezvous—it being a dark rainy night. We said we believed you had an entertaining opportunity. He then talked and conversed two and two.

ISAAC PEABODY,
SAM'L ALLEN.

Bennington, October 14, 1776.

JOHN YOUNGLOVE, *Chairman*.

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[No. 31.]

DEPOSITION OF ISAAC PEABODY.

The Deposition of Captain *Isaac Peabody*, of lawful age, being duly sworn, saith: That on *Sunday* morning, the 13th instant, he returned to the house of *Seth Chase*, in *Little White Creek*. I asked Mr. *Chase* if he had seen any of our *Kinderhook* friends the night past. He answered, no. I told him I wanted to see Mr. *Hughs*, the man we discoursed with last night in the road. He then told me Mr. *Hough* told him the discourse he had with us, and that Mr. *Hough* knew no more of the plan than what he had communicated to him. I asked him if he had for certain that *Burgoyne* with his Army was coming round the lakes? He answered, that Colonel *Man* had sent a page to *Arlington*, and he was at his house night before last, on his return to Colonel *Man*, and told him that Colonel *Man's* order to the people of *Arlington* was to remain peaceable and still, if their intentions were undiscovered, till further orders from him, for he found, by intelligence from *Burgoyne*, he would not get through his march so soon as expected; but if they were discovered, to make the best of their way to him. The page further saith, that the people of *Arlington* had made such preparations for their march, that they could not forego it without being discovered; therefore, would march to-night. Mr. *Chase* then said, the people of *White Creek* are secure, they would not march till further order from Colonel *Man*. He likewise said, that Colonel *Man* had twelve fat oxen for the purpose of victualling the friends of Government on their march to join the King's Army. And others had several more cattle for the same purpose. I then asked him to direct me to a plan whereby our *Kinderhook* friends could get safe to the King's Army. He then told me that Colonel *Man* had given countersigns at two places, and if these countersigns could be conveyed to your friends, they can pass safe, and get all intelligence necessary. He then spoke to his wife to bring him a paper, on which she immediately came to us and takes a paper out of her bosom and gave it to her husband, and he handed it to me, saying, Now I give you my life. I took the paper and read it to be this: "At Landlord *Northrop's* the countersign is *Tryon*; and at *Jacob Lansing's* Ferry, the countersign is *Burgoyne*." I told him for fear I should make a mistake in these countersigns, I would write them down. Then wrote them down. He then said that upon giving these countersigns out at these two places, we could be secreted, have provisions, or be helped on our way, or any thing we desired to forward. He further said, that *Simon Covill* was a good friend to Government, and that I might not be afraid of him; he further said, that his house was a place where Colonel *Man's* page came for entertainment, and to bring news to the friends to Government.

ISAAC PEABODY.

Bennington, October 14, 1776.

JAMES YOUNGLOVE, *Chairman*.

The said *Isaac Peabody*, upon recollecting further, said, that the above-said *Seth Chase* told him that Colonel *Man* had given orders, in the day time to keep the woods, and in the night to come upon the roads, and to march twenty

in a body, at the distance of one mile one body from the other, and before and after each body of twenty men, one man should be placed at the distance of ten rods, and if anybody was coming after them, the rear guard was to speak loud enough for those before to hear, and the parties were then to skulk into the woods, and if any person were to meet them, the advance guard to act in like manner.

ISAAC PEABODY.

A true copy from the original, examined and transmitted by order of the Committee.

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[No. 32.]

Albany, 31st October, 1776.

SIR: We were early this morning favoured with your despatches of the 30th instant. From your last intelligence it may be conjectured that no attempt will be made on *Ticonderoga*, which strengthens the apprehension of an incursion into our western frontier. In that case, the defenceless condition of that frontier will be lamented, and too probably, by those who judge only from events, censured. An inexperienced militia, if sufficiently numerous, cannot be relied upon, especially when their fears may be raised on account of the *Indians*. Under these difficult circumstances, increased by General *Gates's* importunity for *Dayton's* regiment, though all the Continental troops (two companies only excepted) were already at *Ticonderoga* and on the communication, it is very easy to account for your embarrassment, in which we participate.

*Peter Ten Broeck*, and the four other disaffected persons who have lately gone over to the enemy from *Tryon* County, were, we are informed, pursued by a party of the *Oneidas*, but these friendly *Indians* were given to understand by the *Onondagas* that it was disagreeable to them, and that the *Oneidas* should suffer if they did not desist. We submit it, sir, whether it will not be proper for you to send a spirited message to the *Onondagas* through Major *Fonda*, or in such other manner as you may judge best, complaining and demanding satisfaction for this unprovoked infraction of treaty, and insisting peremptorily to know whether they are to be considered as enemies or friends, that they may be treated accordingly. It will, at least, show a vigilant attention to their conduct and a contempt of their enmity, and, if it should not convert, may intimidate and keep them in awe, not to mention the necessity of our being apprised of the terms we stand upon with a neighbour who, in proportion to the measure of our deception, will be able to injure and distress us.

We have just received intelligence that a party of Tories of *King's* District and the southeast part of *Rensselaerwyck*, were collecting together to join the enemy; that they determined to cross the ferry at this place under the guise of Militia, but were to keep on the west side of the river, in expectation of being supported by their friends, and of meeting *Indians* and *Canadians* to conduct them to the enemy; that to distinguish themselves as Tories they were to club their firelocks; that one *Palmeter* was their Captain, and *Showers* and *John Bay* their Lieutenants; that if they should be discovered they were to make a wad of their muster-roll, and put it into the barrel of the Captain's gun; that *Simon Warner*, *Barot Dyer*, two *Burnams*, and two *Hagermans*, were among the company; that *Palmeter* had marched before to prepare the way for them. Another examination affirms that the Tories had orders to march on this alarm to the northward as Congress men, and to draw provisions till they could get to *Fort George*, and then to take possession of and keep it for the enemy. We can give no opinion of the truth of this intelligence. It is evident that every account of this nature has been greatly exaggerated, but it may be of use nevertheless to put us on our guard.

Before your letter came to hand, Mr. *Robert Livingston* had set out on his return, and as that part of the Committee for arranging the Army, which went to the southward, are got back to *Fishkill*, we think ourselves under the necessity of joining them. Indeed, considering the nature of our power, which chiefly respected the Militia, who are all now in motion, we do not see that we can be of any essential service here.

We are, sir, with great respect, your most obedient humble servant.

By order of the Committee of Convention of the State of *New-York*:

R. YATES.

To the Honourable Major-General *Schuyler*.

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AUGUSTUS ODELL'S DEPOSITION RESPECTING THE TORIES.

The information of *Augustus Odell*, who saith, that this morning, about ten o'clock, he was in the woods about ten miles southeast of *Albany*, he came across one *Showers*, who asked which way this informant was traveling, who answered, he could hardly tell; but by dropping a few words of Tory talk, this informant soon discovered said *Showers* to be a Tory. He then told said *Showers* he wanted to get with *John Savage*. Said *Showers* said *John Savage* was gone; that he went away day before yesterday, with two men with him, to the northward to join the Regulars, determining to keep the west side of the river at *Fort Edward*. Then this informant asked for one *Palmeter*. Said *Showers* said *Palmeter* went yesterday the same way. Then this informer asked if there was any more men that he could find. Said *Showers* said he had been with one of his neighbours last night and the day back just before day, and he took his shoes in his hand and ran out into the woods and stood still, and perceived there was a number of men, but did not know how many that was under arms, and perceived they were Rangers; but told the informant if he would go with him to a house they could know, for they were strong Tories. Then this informant went with said *Showers* to the house where he (*Showers*) was to ask, and he began to talk with the woman in *Dutch;* and this informant heard the woman say fifty. Then said *Showers* turns to this informer and saith, there is fifty men; and this informer thinks that he (*Showers*) said they had been at old *Michelse's* the last night, and was now collecting together to go off to the enemy, and intend to go over *Albany* ferry under pretence to join our troops, but intended to keep the west side of the river, and expected to have friends to help them, and to meet *Indians* and *French* to convey them to the Regulars; and in order that they (the *French*) may know them to be Tories, they were to club their muskets. Also this informer saith, that said *Showers* said *Palmeter* was chosen Captain, and said *Showers* Lieutenant, but he refused, because he did not like *Palmeter's* plan, for he had got a roll of the men's names, and *Showers* asked said *Palmeter* what he would do with it if he was taken. Said *Palmeter* said he would roll it up and make a wad of it and put it into his gun. Also, *John Boys* was chosen First Lieutenant. The Second Lieutenant this informant has forgot his name, and a number that did not join the Militia was in the company; and the informant says to the best of his remembrance two of *Burnham's* sons and two of *Hageman's* sons was in the company. Also, this informant saith, said *Showers* said he was appointed Lieutenant over seven or eight men that tarry behind, and told this informer if he would stay with him he should be secreted, and did not know how soon he should march to join the Regulars. The above said *Palmeter* marched before his company to prepare the way for them.

AUGUSTUS ODELL.

Sworn before *John Beebe*, Chairman of the Committee of *King's* District, *October* 29, 1776.

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DEPOSITION OF STEPHEN KITCHEN.

October 29, 1776.

The information of *Stephen Kitchen*, who saith, that on *Friday* last he saw one *Simon Warner*, and after common compliments, said to this informer, "I suppose I may say any thing?" Upon which this informer replied, you may. "Then," said *Warner*, "last night I saw *Barret Dyre* in *New-Briton;*" and said *Warner* said, "it was orders from an officer above for the Tories to form themselves into a body, for they expected when our Army got defeated at the northward, the Whigs would destroy all the Tories they could find, and that the Tories were to embody for defence." This informer further says he was with the said *Warner* yesterday, and told the said *Warner* he came on purpose to see him, and wanted to know if there was any way to escape to the King's Army; to which the said *Warner* replied, there was no other way to escape but to go over the *North River*, and so go around our Army. This informer asked the said *Warner* if *Barret Dyer* had been to the King's Army; and he said

he had not, but that the said *Dyer* lived sometimes in *New-Briton*, and sometimes north of that place with *Palmatier*. The said *Warner* told this informant that they (the Tories) had but a few guns now, but that *Dyer* told him that they expected some up the *North River*. This informer asked the said *Warner* if he could go to *Dyre*. He said he thought not, for he changed his head-quarters often. The said *Warner* told this informer that *Palmetier* was with *Dyre*, the day before he saw *Dyre*. This informer asked *Warner* how *Dyre* and the rest of the Tories lived. He said about and amongst the rest of their friends. This informer says *Warner* further told him that *Dyre* informed him how he got away from *Richmond*—that he (*Dyer*) kept in the woods there till daylight, then came across the mountains, and by Captain *Baldwin's*, and to one *Goodfellows*, who is a corporal in the Grenadier company, and when he (the said *Dyre*) got to *Goodfellows's*, he whistled, and *Goodfellows* came to him. The said *Warner* told this informer that *John Savage* had with him about five hundred men, and that they had disarmed one Colonel of the Militia, and taken some guns and other warlike stores from him. The said *Warner* told this informer there had been a post-rider kept from Army to Army, (viz: the King's Armies,) but lately had been broke up. The said *Warner* told this informer that there was no orders, particular now, for the Tories from the King's Army; but as soon as our head-quarters were smashed, the Tories then would have orders what to do. This informer asked the said *Warner* what the Tories would do as to guns. We the Tories will have all them in the district, for he looked upon it there was Tories enough in this Government to manage what Whigs there was in the same. The said *Warner* told this informer the Tories had orders to march on this alarm to the northward in the name of Congress men, and to draw provisions till they got to *Fort George*, and then take possession of the same and keep it. The said *Warner* further said that there would be Tories enough going to the King's Army if the Militia came back, for that would be their orders. If any Tory was going to be carried off, only let him know of it, and there should not be a man carried off, for they would be rescued. And further this informer saith that *Warner* told this informer, if he would come on the hill and whistle he would show this informer people that knew better where *Dyre* was then he did. The said *Warner* told this informer that *John Brigs*, and *Wart* that lived with *Brigs*, was good friends, and that *Joseph Chapman* could go though the woods, meaning, as this informer supposes, to the King's Army.

STEPHEN KITCHEN.

Sworn before *John Dube*, Chairman of the Committee of *King's* District, in *Albany* County.

—

*The request of General* HOWE, *Governour* TRYON, *and Sir* JOHN JOHNSON, *to raise Troops in* ALBANY *County, with a copy of the Oath of Secrecy and Allegiance to the King.*

By the request of the Honourable *William Howe*, commander of his Majesty's Forces in *America*, and *William Tryon*, Esq., Governour in and for the Province of *New-York*, and likewise by the desire of Sir *John Johnson*, Bart., that a Battalion of Loyal Volunteers be inlisted in the County of *Albany* to serve in and for the Province of *New-York*, and for the preservation of their lives and properties, and more especially to show their loyalty and affection to his Majesty, in order to assist in restoring publick peace and tranquillity in this distressed country, as they cannot expect any friendship or protection from his Majesty's Forces if they do not do their utmost endeavours to assist his Majesty in subduing and conquering his rebellious subjects, in order to bring them to condign punishment: Therefore, for the more speedy, and in the most secret manner, a battalion of Loyal Volunteers be inlisted, and each officer and private volunteer to take an oath to keep secret every thing that shall be communicated to them by their superiour officers; that *J. H.*, Esq., is chosen and appointed Colonel and Commandant of said battalion of Loyal Volunteers, and each company is at least to consist of fifty rank and file, with one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Ensign, and when raised and joins his Majesty's Forces, each officer and private volunteer will receive the same pay, clothing, arms and accoutrements, as any other inlisted *American* volunteer, and be entitled to the same lands as any regular soldier. The said Loyal Volunteers will be discharged with the first *American* battalion.

"I, *A. B.*, do swear to be true to his Majesty King *George*, and to serve him honestly and faithfully in defence of his person, crown and dignity, against all his enemies in *America*, or opposers whatsoever; to keep secret, and to observe and obey, the orders of my superiour officers that shall be issued out to me from time to time. So help me God.

"I, *A. B.*, do swear to keep secret all that you shall say or read to me, and not to reveal the same to blood relation or any person whatsoever. So help me God."

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[No. 33.]

We received your favour of the instant, early this morning. Not knowing the extent of the conspiracy of which you gave us information, nor whether you could raise and arm the company we directed, with sufficient despatch, we ordered Colonel *Van Rensselaer*, with one hundred and fifty of the *Claverack* Militia, to march into *King's* district, where you may soon expect to see him. As he is much wanted for an important service in this quarter, he must be detained no longer than the safety of the district and the condition of the disaffected renders absolutely necessary. After these vigorous measures, which will convince our internal enemies both of our vigilance and our power, the disaffected will no doubt be intimidated and disperse, and we think a guard of forty or fifty men, kept in constant motion, will be sufficient for your protection. Mr. *Beles* assures us so many can be armed. We recommend it to you to imbody them accordingly; indeed, even if it had been otherwise, it is out of our power at present to furnish arms and accoutrements, as you request.

By order: R. YATES, *Chairman.*

To Colonel *Whiting*.

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[Letter No. 34 has been cut out. Its endorsement is, "Dr. of a Letter to Colonel *Rensselaer*."]

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[No. 35.]

Fishkill, October 29, 1776.

SIR: The Committee of Safety have received the letter of your Committee by express, inclosing minutes of the Committee of the County of *Albany*, relative to the department of the Deputy Commissary-General. The exertions which they have made to procure the necessary supply for the Northern Army, are highly laudable, and deserve the warmest approbation of the Committee of Safety.

We have been loudly called upon by his Excellency General *Washington* to forward a supply of flour for the use of the Army at the *White Plains*. We have devised all the means we can think of to prevent the Army from suffering for the want of that article, which you will see by our resolutions, a copy of which we now transmit you. We are of opinion that if a similar mode was adopted to the northward it would be productive of good effects. We are informed that there are several mills between *Albany* and *Lake George*, which might be kept constantly employed in manufacturing flour for the Northern Army, if the Commissary-General would engage persons to purchase up grain and to have it transported to the mills most contiguous. It would, however, be needless for us to enter into a particular detail on this subject. Your Committee, from being on the spot, are the best judges of what further measures will be necessary for supplying that Army, and are invested with full powers for carrying into execution all such measures as you shall think effectual for repelling the invasions of the enemy on the northern and western frontiers. Whilst we, therefore, in this quarter, exert ourselves in devising and executing whatever shall appear to us most conducive to the publick safety, we trust that your attention and zeal will not be wanting in giving vigour to our military operations to the northward, and in quelling, by such means as you shall deem most prudent, the insurrections of the disaffected in that part. We highly approve of your having detained those detachments of the Militia which you mention for that purpose, but it is not in our power to order up the detachment under the command of Colonel *Van Rensselaer*, as

we have now in custody near two hundred and twenty dangerous and disaffected persons, whom we propose removing to *Exeter*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*. A detachment of seventy-six persons of this stamp was sent off a few days ago; and from the information we have received from the Committee appointed by the Convention of this State for inquiring into, detecting, and defeating, all conspiracies which may be formed in this State against the liberties of *America*, we have reason to think that there will be a necessity of apprehending and removing several other persons. You must, therefore, be sensible that no dependence can be put on this quarter. Should you find it necessary to employ a further force for the purpose of seizing and securing the disaffected, we recommend it to you to endeavour to raise as many men in the *Massachusetts-Bay* Government as you shall think necessary.

We transmit you a copy of the last intelligence we have received from Head-Quarters. We flatter ourselves that our accounts from the northward will be equally favourable.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your and the Committee's most obedient and very humble servant,

By order: PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *V. P.*

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee appointed to repair to *Albany* to confer with General *Schuyler*.

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[No. 36.]

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, Fishkill, October 29, 1776.

Whereas the Committee have been called upon by his Excellency General *Washington*, by a Letter from *Tench Tilghman*, Esq., dated the 26th instant, to exert themselves in devising all possible means for the expeditious supply of Flour for the *American* Army, in the County of *Westchester*:

*Resolved*, That *Henry Schenck*, Esq., or such agents as he may think proper to employ, be empowered to purchase up Wheat for the use of the Continental Army, and that he cause the same to be manufactured into Flour, and transported to the landings most contiguous to the places where the same may be manufactured with the utmost despatch.

*Resolved*, That the names of all the persons who shall refuse to part with their Wheat at a reasonable rate, be forthwith returned to the Committee of Safety, or to the Convention of this State, in order that proper measures may be devised for preventing the publick interest from being sacrificed to the perverseness, disaffection, or avarice of individuals.

*Resolved*, That *Henry Schenck*, Esq., or the Agents by him employed in purchasing Wheat, be authorized to impress Drivers, Wagons, Teams, Ox-Carts, or other Carriage, for the purpose of executing, with the utmost despatch, the resolutions of this Committee.

*Resolved*, That all the Coopers in the Counties of *Dutchess*, *Westchester*, *Orange*, *Ulster*, *Albany*, *Tryon*, and *Charlotte*, be exempted from all Militia duty of what kind soever, for the space of two months from the date hereof: *Provided*, *always*, That the said Coopers are employed in exercising their trades in preparing and making flour, beef, and pork Barrels.

*Ordered*, That copies of these Resolutions be transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*, to the Commissary-General, and to the Committee of the Convention of this State, now sitting at *Albany*; and further, that the last Resolution, respecting the Coopers, be transmitted to the Commanding Officers of the Militia in the Counties abovementioned.

Extract from the Minutes:

ROB'T BENSON, *Secretary.*

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[No. 37.]

Head-Quarters, White Plains, 27th October, 1776.

SIR: I have your favour of yesterday. The General highly approves of your plan of having *Rogers's* prisoners sent up to your Convention, and will have it done out of hand. You will receive with them several prisoners taken about this part of the country. The one that appears to be deepest in their schemes is *James Budd*, whose examination you have enclosed. You may question him without letting him know you have the examination; and from comparing the accounts given at different times, form a judgment of the truth. Our scouting parties are very active and very successful. Yesterday they brought in five *British* prisoners, and this morning twelve *Waldeckers*. The latter are amazed at the kind treatment they receive. They say they were torn away from their own country, and will willingly remain among us. They say if their fellow-soldiers knew how kindly they would be treated, and how plentifully and happily they might live, they would lay down their arms and come among us. We shall contrive to make a good use of those fellows.

Our neighbours remain very quiet in this quarter, but we have heard a heavy cannonade about *Fort Washington*; we don't know the occasion yet, but have sent down for intelligence. You are misinformed as to the quantity of provisions we have lost. When General *Lee* removed he was obliged to leave eighty or ninety barrels of provisions of all kinds for want of wagons. We already make a very respectable figure, our front lined and abutted, and some redoubts well forwarded on our rear, impassable for horse or foot, but through passes of which we have possession. Send us good news from the northward, and never fear us—we will play our part.

I am, dear sir, yours sincerely, TENCH TILGHMAN.

To *William Duer*, Esq., of the Committee of Correspondence, *Fishkill.*

True copy: ROB'T BENSON, *Sec'y.*

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[No. 38.]

Albany, November 5, 1776.

SIR: In order that this State may aid you to the utmost in furnishing the Northern Army with provisions, we have agreed to the resolutions, of which we enclose you a copy, and are accordingly ready to assign you an agent fully authorized to carry into effect that part which relates to the purchase and manufacture of wheat with vigour and despatch. If you can point out any thing more effectual, or stand in need of further advice or support respecting your department, we shall cheerfully assist you on the first information, it being our intention to leave nothing undone which at this arduous conjuncture may contribute to the important purpose of supplying the Northern Army with provisions.

We are, sir, your most humble servant,

R. YATES, *Ch'n.*

Mr. *Avery.*

—

[No. 39.]

Ticonderoga, Head-Quarters, October 20th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The late success of the enemies of *American* liberty on this lake renders it probable, I might say certain, that this post will very soon be attacked. In that case, as the enemy may perhaps attempt a blockade rather than an immediate attack on our lines, a large supply of provisions will be absolutely necessary. You are therefore requested, gentlemen, to lend all the assistance in your power in forwarding provisions of every kind from *Bennington* to this place by way of *Skenesburgh*. The badness of the road may render it necessary to send flour, &c., on pack-horses in bags; if no other method is practicable make use of that. Regard not the expense. Mr. *Yancey*, Deputy Commissary-General, has the General's orders to pay every necessary expense and charge that may arise.

I am, gentlemen, by the General's orders, your very obedient servant,

J. TRUMBULL, *D. C. Gen'l.*

To the Gentlemen in Committee of Safety for the town of *Bennington.*

The within is a true copy of a copy of a letter taken by me at *Bennington*, from the original in the hands of the wife of the Chairman of the Committee of that place, in consequence of a request of the General Committee of *Albany* County.

STEPHEN LUSH.

November 2d, 1776.

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[No. 40.]

Ticonderoga, October 20th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: This is to inform you, that in consequence of a number of disaffected persons in and about *Albany*

to the common safety of this continent, there is great danger of a too long delay of the contracted provisions for this Army from that place, and in particular the article of flour, and that we have not more than will answer for bread for the Army present than about sixteen days. And as the advances of the Army may be but slow, and in order for a blockade, and to cut off all communications to this place—all which makes it of the utmost importance that we have an immediate supply—and as I am appointed and empowered to act and contract for every necessary provision for this department, by the Commissary-General, *Joseph Trumbull*, Esq., I thought it of the highest importance to make this pressing application, that you would contract and immediately forward to *Skenesburgh* landing all the flour that can be purchased for the Army on the northern department. And relying, gentlemen, on your publick patriotism to serve your country, I make not the least doubt that you will comply with this request; and as your pay, I will from time to time furnish you with the Continental currency as fast as my present hurry of business will permit, and beg you will forward me your answer immediately, how much you will be able to supply me with, and in what time, so that I may be able to satisfy the Commander-in-Chief at this place with this very important business; and you will greatly oblige yours, with the greatest respect, your most humble servant,

James Yancey, *D. C.*

To the honourable Committee of Safety, *Bennington.*

The within is a true copy of a copy of a letter taken by me at *Bennington*, in consequence of a request of the General Committee of the County of *Albany.*

Stephen Lush.

November 2d, 1776.

N. B. The original was in the hands of the wife of the Chairman of the Committee of *Bennington.*

*Return of the quantity of Flour remaining at the undermentioned stations, September* 28, 1776, *viz:*

| Stations where remaining. | Bread. | | Flour. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tierces. | Barrels. | Connecticut barrels. | New York barrels. |
| At *Ticonderoga*, as per Mr. *Avery's* return to General *Schuyler* | - | - | - | 1,020 |
| Do. North end of *Lake George*, as per do. | - | - | - | 360 |
| Do. *Fort George*, do. | - | - | - | 588 |
| Do. *Fort Edward*, do. | - | - | - | 230 |
| Do. *Saratoga*, as per Mr. *Holme's* return | - | - | - | 252 |
| Do. *Stillwater*, as per Mr. *Avery's* return to General *Shuyler* | - | - | - | 185 |
| Forwarded from *Albany* to *Half-Moon* from 28th *September* | - | - | - | 271 |
| Delivered over by Mr. *Livingston* to Mr. *Avery* | 14 | 16 | 54 | 303 |
| Total | 14 | 16 | 54 | 3,209 |

N. B. The above bread and flour will victual eleven thousand men for fifty-nine days.

Walter Livingston.

RICHARD VARICK TO GENERAL GATES.

Fort George, November 7th, 1776.

Dear General: On *Sunday* last, General *Schuyler* being informed of the scarcity of flour with the Army, ordered Major *Rensselaer* and myself to repair to the communication between *Half-Moon* and this place, to order the flour, amounting to above twelve hundred barrels, then at the different posts, to be forwarded instanter.

After having given the proper orders below, I came to this place yesterday, and found above four hundred and fifty barrels lying here, for want of men to navigate the batteaus; and on pressing the matter to Colonel *Ganscvoort*, he assured me that he had not a man to spare from his garrison, who are not continually employed in procuring wood for the general hospital, in scouts, and mounting the different guards. Little assistance can be expected from our Militia. I would therefore ask the liberty to request you to send a party of men from *Tyonderoga*, to carry the provisions across the lake.

As the enemy have decamped, the Army will be in a situation to be mustered very soon. I have sent to the Quartermaster-General for paper, &c.; hope to find it at *Albany* on my return thither.

You may be assured, my dear sir, that I shall make no unnecessary delay in entering on the duties of my office. I hope soon to have the honour of paying you a visit.

I am, my dear General, your most obedient, humble servant,

Rich'd Varick.

To the Honourable Major-General *Gates.*

GENERAL GATES TO A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.

Ticonderoga, November 7th, 1776.

Gentlemen: The enclosed letter to Mr *Hancock* will give you some idea of the perplexities I have undergone from the *New-England* Deputies. It will likewise convince you that it has not, nor is yet in my power, to send you the all that is wanted, and the all that will be wanted this winter and the next campaign, for this Army.

The knowledge of military service in general, and of this in particular, cannot be reasoned upon in abstracts; and were it attempted, it must multiply needless debates, and perhaps absolutely confound the business in view; I will therefore confine myself to the sending you of a list of what should be supplied, to stop the enemy's progress this winter, and secure us against their threatenings next campaign.

It is the ruling maxim of my conduct in military operations, to suppose the enemy will do what he might and should do. On this principle I can scarcely be deceived, unless I do not do what I ought to do.

I am almost tired of applying to Congress for supplies. They mean to do right; but, besides their labouring under very great difficulties to supply in due time the demands of their Generals, they certainly want judicious, and very often disinterested information. Let them put an unlimited confidence in their commanding Generals respecting those matters, and such only which in the nature of things it is morally impossible Congress should perfectly know; and if they think it unsafe to put such trust in their Generals, let these be instantly removed. Honour will then prevail, and its irresistible influence be felt in every department. By these means the *United States* will be well served. I think no other road can lead us to success.

I am, with unfeigned respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

Horatio Gates.

To the Hon. Messrs. *Rich'd Stockton* and *George Clymer*, Esqs.

P. S. After the perusal of the enclosed, I desire it to be sealed up and forwarded immediately after.

GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

New-Haven, November 7th, 1776.

Sir: I have the honour to transmit you the enclosed, the purport of which is of that consequence and importance to this State in its present situation that I flatter myself Congress will give the earliest attention thereto, and will afford all the needed assistance. The exposedness of our seacoasts whilst so formidable an Army is on our borders and a triumphant Navy in possession of our Sound, and the seat of war still likely to remain in our neighbourhood, together with the exhausted circumstances of this State, by means of its extraordinary exertions in the common cause, we trust will afford such obvious arguments in favour of our request that your assistance will not be denied us.

And am, with esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

Jonathan Trumbull.

To President *Hancock.*

GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL'S PROCLAMATION LAYING AN EMBARGO.

*By the Honourable* Jonathan Trumbull, *Esquire, Governour and Commander-in-Chief of the State of* Connecticut, *in* America:

A Proclamation.

Whereas it hath been resolved by the General Assembly now convened at *New-Haven*, "that an embargo be laid upon the exportation out of this State, by land or water, (without a permit from the Governour,) of Wheat, Rye, Indian

Corn, Pork, Salt, Peas, Beans, Bread, Flour, and every kind of Meal, except necessary stores for vessels outward-bound; likewise all kind of Cloths, Linen and Woolen, fit and suitable for clothing for the Army, except such as shall be provided and sent for the use of our Army or Navy; and also, that an embargo be laid upon the exportation out of this State, by water, of the following articles, viz: Beef, Live Cattle, Sheep, Butter, and Cheese: Provided, this act shall not extend to prevent any particular person or persons from carrying or sending to such soldiers in the Army as may be under the care and special relation of such person or persons, any necessary clothing or provision they may want for their own use and consumption:" And said Assembly have requested me to give notice thereof:

I have, therefore, thought fit to issue this Proclamation, hereby notifying all persons that said embargo is laid, and requiring them to comply therewith. And I do hereby prohibit all persons from transporting, by land or water, and from shipping on board any vessel for transportation, any of said articles, (excepting only as in said Resolves is excepted,) under the penalties of the law of this State in such case provided. And I do require and enjoin all persons to exert themselves that said Resolve be effectually carried into execution.

Given under my hand, at *New-Haven*, this seventh day of *November*, Anno Domini, 1776:

JONTH. TRUMBULL.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut*, *November* 7th, 1776:

Present: His Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy-Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *Titus Hosmer*, *Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

*Voted*, To join with the Commissary-General to enter into partnership with him for importing one hundred thousand bushels of Salt, and that the writings for the same be prepared accordingly.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO COMMODORE HOPKINS.

Council Chamber, Providence, November 7th, Saturday Evening, 7 o'clock.

SIR: Yours of this day is just handed me by Mr. *Brownel*, and thank you for the intelligence, though had repeated advice thereof by land from each side of the Bay, the Committee having taken up about forty prisoners of the sailors brought here by the several privateers, and believe there is as many more yet about the street. Our jail is very full, and sending them in the country may not answer, as there will be but few or no men there to take care of them. I have called in all the men in this County to the defence of the State. About five hundred men have marched for *Newport*. Before I received yours, had got printed and dispersed a great number of the enclosed handbills, so that should the enemy delay their attack on this part of the State a few days, I hope to give them a very handsome reception.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To *Esek Hopkins*, Esq., Commander of the Continental Navy, on board the *Warren*, near *Pawtuxet*.

P. S. Please to let me know as soon as may be, what number of the above prisoners shall be sent on board your ships.

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ESCAPE OF BRITISH PRISONERS FROM NORTHAMPTON JAIL.

Northampton, November 7, 1776.

Escaped from the jail in *Northampton*, *Robert Arnold* and *Henry Stanhope*, two prisoners, lately Midshipmen in the *British* Navy; the former a short, well-set, smart-looking, fresh-complexioned man, about thirty-five years old, wore a coat of a *London* brown colour. The latter absconded heretofore when on parole, and was retaken at *Middletown*; he also is a short man, with light hair, pale complexion, large eyes, lips and nose. Whoever will apprehend and secure either of said persons shall receive twenty dollars reward and necessary charges, from

AARON WRIGHT, *Jailer*.

BOSTON COMMITTEE TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

*To the Honourable the Council of this State:*

The Committee of Safety, &c., for the town of *Boston*, report to your Honours, that this day was brought before them one *John Dean Whitworth*, a prisoner, taken in arms against the forces of the *United States of America*; that the said Committee ordered the said *Whitworth* to be committed to the jail in this town, there to remain until your Honours shall give orders concerning him.

In the name and by the order of the Committee, I am, very respectfully, your Honours' most obedient and very humble servant,

NAT. BARBER, *Chairman*.

Boston, November 7th, 1776.

To the honourable the Council of this State.

The guard who brought the prisoner have an account of expenses attending the same. As the Committee have no fund to discharge it, they have advised them to lay the same before your Honours.

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Head-Quarters, October 31, 1776.

*To* BALDWIN:

You are to conduct Lieutenant *Dean*, of *Rogers's* Rangers, to *Stamford*, then deliver him to the Committee, in order to be forwarded to *Boston*, there to be delivered to the General Assembly or authority deputed by them for the management of publick affairs, to be disposed of as they think proper.

J. REED, *Adj. Gen.*

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Stanford, October 31, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to the General's order we send you the within-named prisoner to be transported to *Boston*.

JOHN HAIS, Jun., *Com. Clerk*.

To the Committee of *Norwalk*.

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Norwalk, November 1, 1776.

Agreeable to the General's order we send you the within-named prisoner to be forwarded to *Boston*.

THAD. BETTS, *Clerk Committee*.

To the Committee of *Fairfield*.

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Fairfield, 1st November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to the within directions we send you by Mr. *Joseph Dyer* and his attendants, the within-named prisoner, Lieutenant *Dean Whitworth*, of *Rogers's* Rangers.

Signed per order, THADDEUS BURR, *Ck. Com'e*.

To the General Assembly of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, or the authority deputed by them to manage publick affairs.

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I, *John Dean Whitworth*, Lieutenant in *Rogers's* Regiment of Rangers, do promise, upon the word of honour of an officer, that I will comport myself as a prisoner ought to do upon my journey to *Boston*; that I will not attempt any escape from the person who shall accompany me, or hold any correspondence with the enemies of the *American* States, or do any act prejudicial to the interests of said States.

JOHN DEAN WHITWORTH.

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NEW-HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COL. WINGATE.

State of New-Hampshire, in Committee of Safety, November 7, 1776.

SIR: This State has employed Mr. *James Anderson* to ride post from hence to *Ticonderoga*, and he is to bring all the letters from the troops directed to *New-Hampshire*, free of cost.

In behalf of the Committee, I am your humble servant.

To Colonel *Wingate*.

P. S. You will notify the troops belonging to *New-Hampshire* of the above.

BY THE KING.—A PROCLAMATION

*For recalling and prohibiting Seamen from serving foreign Princes and States; and for granting rewards for discovering such Seamen as shall conceal themselves.*

GEORGE R.

Whereas we are informed that great numbers of mariners and seafaring men, our natural-born subjects, are in the service of divers foreign Princes and States, to the prejudice of our kingdom: We have, therefore, thought it necessary, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to publish this our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby strictly charge and command all masters of ships, pilots, mariners, seamen, shipwrights, and other seafaring men whatever and wheresoever, (being our natural-born subjects,) who are in the pay or service of any foreign Prince or State, or do serve in any foreign ship or vessel, that forthwith they, and every of them, do, according to their known and bounden duty and allegiance, withdraw themselves, depart from, and quit such foreign services, and return home to their native countries. And further, we do hereby strictly prohibit and forbid all masters of ships, pilots, mariners, seamen, shipwrights, and other seafaring men whatsoever, (being our natural-born subjects,) from entering, and do charge and command them, and every of them, from henceforth, to forbear to enter themselves into the pay or service of any foreign Prince or State, or to serve in any foreign ship or vessel whatsoever, without our special license first had and obtained in that behalf; to all which we expect due obedience and exact conformity. And we do hereby publish and declare, that the offenders to the contrary shall not only incur our just displeasure, but be proceeded against for their contempt according to the utmost severities of the law. And we do hereby declare, that if any such masters of ships, pilots, mariners, seamen, shipwrights, or other seafaring men, (being our subjects,) shall be taken in any foreign service by the *Turks*, *Algerines*, or any others, they shall not be reclaimed by us as subjects of *Great Britain*. And we do hereby promise and declare, that a reward of two pounds for every able, and thirty shillings for every ordinary seaman, shall be paid any person who shall discover any seaman or seamen who may secrete themselves, that so such seaman or seamen shall be taken for our said service by any of our sea-officers employed for raising men, on or before the thirty-first day of *December* next; the said rewards to be paid for any seaman or seamen so discovered and taken in and about *London*, by the principal officers and Commissioners of our Navy; and at the out-ports, by the Naval Officers, (where there are any;) and where there are no Naval Officers, by the Collectors of our Customs, immediately upon a certificate being produced to the said principal officers and Commissioners of our Navy, Naval Officers, or Collectors respectively, by the person who may make discovery of any seaman or seamen as aforesaid, certifying his name, and the name or names, and number of seamen procured in consequence of his discovery; the said certificate to be given by such officer as may take such seaman or seamen for our service.

Given at our Court at *St. James's*, the eighth day of *November*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, in the seventeenth year of his reign.

God save the King!

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VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO WILLING AND MORRIS.

St. Eustatia, November 8th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The present tends to inform you we have received from Captain *Samuel Pote* the sum of thirteen hundred and twenty pounds, this currency, which we have already appropriated to the service of the State of *Maryland*. For this sum we have given our obligation, with Mr. *Richard Gennings*, merchant of this island, as security, payable ten days after demand, with interest of ten per cent. We have, therefore, to request, as Captain *Pote* takes passage in this vessel for *Philadelphia*, you'll endeavour to take up this obligation, which otherwise we may find difficult to discharge here when demanded.

The terms with him rely on you to make, but think you had better give currency per currency, in specie, together with interest accruing, than suffer a demand of the money here. Should you take up the above obligation, which will be rendering the State of *Maryland* a singular service, please to advise us thereof by first opportunity.

We are, gentlemen, with esteem, your most obedient servants,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

To Messrs. *Willing & Morris*, merchants, *Philadelphia*.

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VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

St. Eustatia, 8th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The foregoing is what we have wrote Messrs. *Willing & Morris* relative to the obligations given Captain *Samuel Pote* for a sum of money which we had imminent occasion for, but fearing they will not exert themselves in that business unless they have orders from you, therefore must entreat you on receipt of this to write to and press them to take up said obligation, that we are incapacitated to discharge, should it be demanded here, we being so largely in advance of the publick already. We flatter ourselves, as we have strained every nerve to serve the State on every occasion, you will pay particular attention to our request.

Time will not permit us to enlarge, therefore conclude, with the highest esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient servants.

To the honourable the Council of Safety, State of *Maryland*.

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Williamsburg, Virginia, November 8, 1776.

By the last *South-Carolina* Gazette, we learn that General *Howe* and the brave Colonel *Moultrie* were just returned to *Charlestown* from *Georgia*, and that there had been two skirmishes to the southward, in both of which our people were successful, but no particulars are mentioned; that a *French* sloop, with a valuable cargo of warlike stores, linens, wines, molasses, &c., were also arrived from *Martinico*.

Arrived in *York* river, the sloop *Jane*, *Booker*; schooner *Success*, *Hill*; and schooner *Rambler*, *Buffington*; all from *St. Eustatia*, with eight hundred casks of gunpowder, considerable cargoes of salt, cordage, and dry goods.

Letters of undoubted credit from *Martinique*, dated the 27th of *July*, say, there are now in the *French* Islands about fifteen thousand troops; that their fortifications are in the best order, and that they only wait for a pretext to break with *Great Britain*, which most people there imagine will soon be found. The *French* are much pleased with the *Americans* becoming an independent people, and highly extol them for the struggle they are making for their liberties. Every kind of Continental produce is much wanted in the *French* Islands, and bear a high price.

Since the 1st instant, a *Spanish* ship arrived in *Hampton* road; it is said she has come to purchase a cargo of flour, and has on board six thousand dollars. Advices by this ship say, that the *French* seem determined to strike some capital blow against *Great Britain* in a very short time.

We hear that eight hundred *North-Carolina* troops are daily expected at *Suffolk*, who are on their march to join the Northern Army, near *New-York*.

A couple of vessels are gone up the Bay with nine hundred barrels of gunpowder each, besides salt and dry goods.

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Williamsburg, November 8, 1776.

The Officers of the Second Regiment who are now recruiting will please to inform me immediately of their success, and so soon as their companies are completed, to repair without loss of time to *Williamsburg*.

Letters directed to me near *Fredericksburg*.

ALEX. SPOTSWOOD,
*Lieutenant-Colonel of Second Regiment.*

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Williamsburg, November 8, 1776.

All Marines out upon furlough, belonging to my quota, are desired immediately to repair on board the brig *Muskito*, Captain *Harris*. Deserted, *Jesse Harden*, *Joseph Hairlow*, and *Thomas Meriman*, for apprehending each of whom I will give three pounds reward.

JACOB VALENTINE.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 8, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have received only five hundred pounds towards building gondolas. They are both decked, and now a calking, and will be ready very soon. You may order rigging and the materials as soon as you please. I want a further sum of money, which please to pay to Mr. *John Donelson*.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

ARCH'D BUCHANAN.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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CUMBERLAND DUGAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, 8th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your favour of the 6th instant have received, desiring of me to be informed what readiness the schooner *Ninety-Two*'s in for sea, &c., of which the bearer, Captain *Kilty*, can inform you particularly; only I have to say her cargo is all ready to go off. She has been hove down and graved with tallow, bottom, &c., but yet the carpenters have some little to do to her. How long it will take them, Captain *Kilty* will advise you, but I think she will be all clear for sea this day week. She has now in some of your staves, twenty hogsheads tobacco, and two hundred and twenty barrels flour; the rest of her flour I expect to get in to-morrow and the beginning of next week, and then her bread to fill up. As to a master, I imagine you won't get your choice of an undoubted good man, without you give the consignment, which they seem all to hang out for here; but by the time the vessel is loaded, I hope shall be able to procure a man of merit, and if such applies to you, hope you'll send him here.

I am informed you have some salt vessels arrived to you, which is an article much wanted here, and the present is principally to propose purchasing a cargo of you, which shall take immediately out of your vessel at the highest price any person will give here, and shall pay on receipt for the same, or load the vessel for you as you may order, or shall otherwise receive the salt in my warehouse, and retail it to the publick as you may think proper to order it; in all which expect to be accountable to you, and do your business to your satisfaction, I hope, and on as low terms as any person in this place. Should be glad you would please to favour me with a line on this head, which shall esteem a favour; and having now nearly done with the *Ninety-Two*, shall be out of business, and do wish you would order me the loading of another of your vessels, or any other business you may have to do this way; in all which I hope to act to your satisfaction.

Gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

CUMB'D DUGAN.

To the honourable the Council of Safety for *Maryland*, at *Annapolis*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WARD.

Philadelphia, November 8, 1776.

SIR: I do myself the pleasure of forwarding the enclosed resolve, by which you will be informed that Congress, in consideration of your keeping the command in the Eastern Department, have come to the determination to allow you the pay of a Major-General commanding in a separate department, from the time of your resignation until a suitable person can be appointed in your stead, or the matter shall be otherwise ordered by Congress.

Wishing you all possible health and happiness, I am, with sentiments of esteem, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

To Hon. Major-General *Ward, Massachusetts-Bay*.

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BOARD OF WAR TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

War Office, November 8th, 1776.

SIR: Mr. *Lewis* (a brother Delegate) has given Congress information that application had been made to your Excellency by a flag from General *Howe*, to permit Mrs. *Watts* and Mrs. *Barrow*, the paymaster's wife, to go to their husbands in *New-York*, and at the same time, requested Congress to assist him with their authority to obtain the release of his lady, whom the enemy would not permit to come out. The House having referred the matter to the Board of War, we beg leave to represent to your Excellency the propriety of obtaining Mrs. *Lewis* and Mrs. *Robinson*, her daughter, with her children, in exchange for Mrs. *Watts* and Mrs. *Barrow*; and if you have not already permitted these ladies to go into *York*, or given General *Howe* a promise to that effect, that you will make the release of our ladies, if we may be allowed the expression, a necessary requisite. Indeed, should you have complied with General *Howe's* request, we submit it to your Excellency whether Mrs. *Lewis* and Mrs. *Robinson* may not be asked for in return. We do not imagine that you will be refused; but should you, we must recur to the unhappy expedient of withholding in future every similar indulgence to those ladies in our power, who may desire to visit their connexions in the Army.

We are very sorry that our enemies have compelled us to resolve upon any thing which looks like severity, or indeed to lay any restraint upon the fair sex; but though we cannot approve the practice, we shall be obliged to follow the example of his *Britannick* Majesty's commanders.

We have the honour to be, with the most perfect esteem, your very obedient servants,

BENJ'N HARRISON,
JAMES WILSON,
EDWARD RUTLEDGE.

His Excellency General *Washington*, &c., &c., Head-Quarters.

P. S. Should Mrs. *Watts* and Mrs. *Barrow* carry in their baggage, Mrs. *Lewis* and Mrs. *Robinson* must have the same indulgence. Perhaps if the ladies cannot be exchanged upon the above terms, Mrs. *Lewis* may be exchanged for Mrs. *Kempe*.

B. H.
J. W.
E. R.

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RICHARD PETERS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

War Office, Philadelphia, November 8th, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: General *Schuyler* is very desirous of having an answer to his letters respecting the *Nanticoke Indians*. The *Six Nations* repeatedly complain that those of that nation who were left in *Maryland* are detained there, contrary to their inclinations. This idea, though not founded in truth, creates much uneasiness, and is constantly held up by the *Indians*, in their conferences with the General.

Congress have before written to your State on the subject on which I have now the honour of addressing you by order of the Board of War, but have not been favoured with an answer, which I have it in command to request you will now be pleased to give, that it may be transmitted to General *Schuyler*, and he may thereby be enabled to satisfy the minds of the *Indians* on this subject.

With the greatest respect, I have the honour to be, your most obedient humble servant,

RICHARD PETERS, *Sec'y*.

To the honourable Convention, or Council of Safety, *Maryland*.

P. S. The Board have received an account of prisoners of war in your State, and would be obliged to you for a list of the officers of Continental troops raised in your State, their ranks, and dates of commission, and also the number of privates.

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MEETING OF CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA.

At a meeting of a number of the citizens of *Philadelphia*, in the Philosophical Society Hall, the 8th of *November*, 1776, *Peter Chevalier* Chairman:

*Resolved unanimously*, That the following Instructions to the Representatives of the City of *Philadelphia*, in Assembly, be published for the consideration of the citizens previous to a town-meeting to be held at the State House, the 12th instant, at nine o'clock in the forenoon:

*To* GEORGE CLYMER, JOSEPH PARKER, ROBERT MORRIS, MICHAEL SHUBERT, JOHN BAYARD, *and* SAMUEL MORRIS, *Jun., Esquires:*

GENTLEMEN: The late suffrages of your fellow-citizens

in appointing you to represent the City of *Philadelphia* in the ensuing General Assembly of *Pennsylvania*, is a sufficient proof that we confide in your wisdom and integrity. We lament that the frame of Government formed by the late Convention of the State is such that we are obliged to charge you to use your utmost influence to prevent the immediate execution of it. We feel, with our fellow-citizens in every part of the State, the inconveniences of a want of a regular Government, that shall collect and exert the strength of the State against our powerful external and artful internal enemies; but we choose rather to suffer these inconveniences for a few weeks longer than submit to a Government which we apprehend is by no means equal to those purposes, and which destroys the great objects of equal liberty and free Government, for which alone we consented to draw the sword in the present contest with *Great Britain*.

We require of you, therefore, to propose to the Assembly, as soon as it is convened, to make such alterations and amendments in the constitution formed by the late Convention as are necessary to render it a safe, rational, and consistent frame of Government; and we require your particular attention to the following Instructions relative to that important business:

First. You will consider well, that all Government is founded in the weakness and depravity of human nature, and that the perfection of Government consists in forming its powers in such a manner as shall most effectually guard against arbitrary power on the one hand and licentiousness on the other; and by these means give security to every individual for his liberty, property, and life.

Secondly. You are to consider well the influence of ancient habits upon the minds of your constituents, and therefore you are to oppose unnecessary alterations in the late form of Government of *Pennsylvania*, confining yourselves chiefly to such innovations as are necessary to abolish the late regal and proprietary power of the State, and to place the whole Executive power of the Government in the hands of the servants of the people.

Thirdly. You are carefully to adopt such parts of the constitution formed by the late Convention as secure to the people annual elections, suitable division and rotation of offices, liberty of conscience, freedom of the press, and trial by juries.

Fourthly. You are to use your endeavour to divide the supreme legislative power in such a manner as shall produce wise, just, and well-digested counsels, and thus secure the State from the influence of hasty, incorrect, passionate and prejudiced determinations.

Fifthly. You are to urge the necessity of Judges holding their commissions during good behaviour, as a regulation essential to the equal administration of justice.

Sixthly. You will endeavour to form a Government in such a manner as to leave the people at all times in a situation adequate to their wants, and by no means encroach by any arbitrary article in the constitution upon the liberty of succeeding years, but allow the suffrages of the people, collected in any way they shall think proper, to make such changes in their constitution and laws as they shall at any time judge essential to their freedom and happiness. You will therefore oppose those dangerous and alarming innovations in a free Government, a Council of Censors, and a Septennial Convention.

Seventhly. You will use your influence to have such temporary ordinances passed as are necessary for the safety and protection of this State, as well from internal as external enemies.

Eighthly. You are to remember that the consent of a majority of the people alone can render a frame of Government, as well as laws, valid, and therefore you will propose that the frame of Government be submitted to the consideration of the people a reasonable time, and after having collected their opinions in such a manner as shall be most expedient, you are to alter or confirm the same, as shall be found necessary. You will then immediately dissolve yourselves, having previously issued writs for the election of Assembly and other officers of Government.

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COLONEL MORGAN TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Fort Pitt, November 8, 1776.

SIR: I have the happiness to inform Congress that the cloud which threatened to break over this part of the country, appears now to be nearly dispersed. The *Six Nations*, *Delawares*, *Munsies*, *Mohicans*, and *Shawanees*, who have been assembled here to the number of six hundred and forty-four, with their principal chiefs and warriours, have given the strongest assurance of their resolutions to preserve inviolate the peace and neutrality they have engaged in with the *United States*. About sixty or seventy families, composed of most of the different tribes of the *Six Nations*, and a few of the *Lake Indians*, but principally of the *Senecas*, who removed from near the mouths of *Cross Creeks*, on the *Ohio*, a few years ago, and are now seated on the heads of the *Scioto*, have been the perpetrators of all the mischief and murders committed on the frontiers of *Virginia*, since the last treaty.

The murders which have come to my knowledge are of two women at the mouth of *Fish Creek*, (where one boy is missing,) one man opposite *Hockhocking*, where four others were wounded, and two soldiers, who were killed and scalped within half a mile of *Fort Randolph*, at the mouth of *Great Kenawha*, all on the banks of the *Ohio*. Two days before the last-mentioned happened, the *Shawanese* made it their business, as they frequently have done, to inform the commanding officer at *Kenawha*, that a party of *Mingoes*, as these people are generally called, were in the neighbourhood, with hostile intentions. Before any of these murders were committed our frontier inhabitants were generally flown from their farms and evacuated the country for two hundred miles in extent, except at particular places, where some of them forted, and proposed to make a stand. This flight was occasioned by the false alarms we received in the months of *August* and *September* last, respecting the great assemblies of *Indians* to attack this post, and of a general war being inevitable. In order to put a stop to the conduct of the banditti above-mentioned the *Six Nations* have now deputed a principal chief and several warriors to go and remove the whole of them to the *Seneca* country; or at least, to make them sensible of their errour, and engage them to desist. In case of a refusal, they are to threaten them with a total extirpation, as disturbers of the general peace; in which several chiefs of different nations have assured me they will unite. Several principal men of the different nations having accepted the invitation of Congress to visit them, is a further proof of the peaceable disposition of their tribes. The *Indians* having frequently complained of our surveying their lands, and having now pointed to a recent instance thereof in publick council, will give Congress a good opportunity to convince them of the sincerity of our professions on that head. For the particulars of every transaction here, I beg leave to refer to the Commissioners who wait upon Congress with their report.

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GENERAL STEPHEN TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Trenton, 8th November, 1776.

Enclosed are the receipts for what we have had for the use of the brigade under my command.

Please to inform the Board that we left sick and convalescent at this place: of the Fourth Battalion, 95; of the Fifth Battalion, 130; of the Sixth Battalion, 99;—324.

I give out that we are on our march to join the grand Army. When we arrive at *Brunswick*, I will wait on General *Mercer*, at *Amboy*, and if any thing can be done on *Staten-Island* I will rejoice at the opportunity.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ADAM STEPHEN.

To Secretary *Peters*, War Office, *Philadelphia*.

P. S. The brigade are moved to *Princeton*.

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GENERAL MERCER TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

[Read 11th: Referred to the Board of War.]

Perth-Amboy, 8th November, 1776.

SIR: By an express just now arrived, General *Greene* informs me that the motions of the enemy discover an intention of crossing over to the *Jersey* side. About ten thousand of them appeared yesterday opposite to *Dobbs's Ferry*. General *Washington* has ordered a part of his Army to cross the river above the enemy. I have ordered the *Virginia* troops at *Trenton* to move on with all possible

expedition, and shall draw together what force can be spared from these posts to join our Army at *Fort Lee*. The disaffected inhabitants of *Monmouth* County, along the shores of *Middleton* and *Shrewsbury*, expect daily that the enemy will make a descent on that part of the coast. They are forming associations to join the *British* troops on their landing. Colonel *Thompson*, with part of his battalion of *Sussex* Militia, marched two days ago to reinforce Colonel *Hendrickson*, who commands the Militia of *Monmouth*, with orders to secure such persons as were openly inimical, and to drive off all the stock fit for use.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

HUGH MERCER.

To Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER AT MOUNT WASHINGTON, TO A GENTLEMAN IN PHILADELPHIA.

Mount Washington, York Island, November 8, 1776.
Friday night, 10 o'clock.

This day a few of the common soldiers of the Third and Fifth *Pennsylvania* battalions gave rise to a little skirmish, which, though trifling in itself, yet I cannot help relating, as it serves to point out some of the effects of discipline.

The scene of this little rencountre lay on an eminence between the termination of *Mount Washington* and *King's Bridge*, in a transverse line with, and under the full command of a height in possession of our *Hessian* enemy. Near the summit of this eminence, and facing some of our works, is a large rock or natural breastwork, where a small body of their men were posted. Two of our people had the boldness to advance up this hill, without the least cover, in order, as they said, to have a fairer shot at those planted behind the rocky barrier. These sustained the musketry of the *Hessians* and the fire of a field-piece from the neighbouring height. Some more of our men came up to their assistance. The fire upon the breastwork was now redoubled, and poured in upon their enemies in such a close and well-managed succession as entirely silenced them.

The *Hessian* main guard, who were posted about four hundred yards from this place, seeing the danger of their sentries, turned out and marched to their relief. I think there was about fifty of the enemy in motion. Our little body was now augmented to between fifteen and twenty. They were now at but a very small distance from the rocky breastwork, when perceiving the route of the *Hessians*, they saw that they must either give up the ground they had gained, or intimidate the approaching enemy. At this critical juncture I could see the brave fellows form with the utmost regularity and order; and then, as if under the command of the best officer, arrange into three divisions. The spectators on both sides, as if by mutual agreement, seemed willing to trust the issue of this little affair to those already in the field and in motion.

Two of our divisions immediately began a circuit round the bend of the hill, in order, as was supposed, to get on the rear of the enemy at the rocks, and opposite the main guard, who were coming on, whilst the centre division advanced towards the rock, keeping up all the while a regular fire. This little piece of instinctive, or rather mechanical generalship, had a most beautiful effect. The sentries, aware of their danger, precipitately retreated, carrying off with them two killed or wounded. Our men took possession of their post, burned their huts, and secured a rifle-gun, a musket, and blanket, which I suppose belonged to those who were carried off. Upon gaining the contested ground, they gave three cheers for the Congress, which was returned by their flanking parties, and replied to by a discharge from the *Hessian* artillery. The divisions now united, and seemed, notwithstanding their enemy's field-pieces and superiour force which was advancing against them, resolved on defending the height they had so martially obtained. For this purpose we could see them dispose themselves along a railed fence that commanded the road by which the *Hessian* guard must pass before they could make an advantageous attack. They were now reinforced with a few stragglers from other regiments. Their fire was so very well directed and judiciously managed as to keep the *Hessians* at bay; and at length forced them to take shelter in an orchard nearly opposite to our little line of adventurers. They held their ground till night, and then came off in good order, and with only one man wounded, a Sergeant *Wright* of the Third *Pennsylvania* Regiment. He received a ball in advancing to the rocky breastwork.

I have been the more particular in the detail of this little affair, as it serves to show, in some measure, the force and advantage of good discipline. Here a few men out of the Third and Fifth *Pennsylvania* battalions, which are remarkable for their discipline, without any preconcerted plan, met together by chance, and without a leader to direct them, exhibited an epitome of generalship that would not have dishonoured even *Hannibal* or *Scipio*. Examples of this kind show more than any thing else the importance and necessity of early and late inculcating the strictest forms of discipline. It is by no means improbable that the beauty and order of most of the animal motions arise from repetition. This, particularly in the soldiery, begets habits which are often preferable to the greatest courage.

*November* 9th.—Hitherto the achievements of our little Army on *York Island* have been extremely fortunate. The genius that presides here seems to be of the enterprising kind. Last campaign it was thought matter of great hardihood and praise to burn the enemy's guard-house at *Roxbury*, on *Boston Neck*, and a few houses in *Charlestown*, under cover of the night. But here such exploits are conducted in open day.

This morning we found the enemy once more in possession of the rock from whence we had routed them yesterday. About eight men, under the command of Colonel *Penrose*, of *Philadelphia*, and Major *Hubley*, (lately an officer to the northward,) resolved to dislodge them a second time. As the men were in high spirits, and the barn and dwelling-house which the guard occupied at but a small distance, the Colonel proposed storming them. We soon regained the rock, and, with surprising rapidity, the houses, notwithstanding an incessant fire from their artillery, main guard, and a small redoubt in an orchard adjoining the guard that commanded the road. The *Hessians* were soon obliged to abandon their posts. We killed on the spot about ten, the rest either escaped or were burned in the houses, which some of our men, without order, immediately fired.

It is something remarkable that on our side we had only one man wounded. Perhaps the sally was so unexpected as to have entirely disconcerted and confused them. No men ever behaved more resolutely or bravely than ours.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

White-Plains, November 8, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have been favoured with yours of the 31st ultimo, by Monsieur *Laytamai*, and must take the liberty of referring you to my former letters upon the subject of providing for the *French* gentlemen who shall incline to enter the service of the States. To me there appears that one of two modes must be adopted: they must either be appointed to places in some of the regiments, or formed into a distinct corps. The former was advised as the most eligible in respect to the gentlemen who were here before. It requires time to form an accurate opinion of the merits of an officer, and the present situation of the Army will not allow me to pay a particular attention to Monsieur *Laytamai*, or such notice as he may wish to receive, or I to give; nor is there any way of making his stay here agreeable.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL GREENE.

Head-Quarters, November 8th, 1776.

SIR: The late passage of the three vessels up the *North River* (which we have just received advice of) is so plain a proof of the inefficacy of all the obstructions we have thrown into it, that I cannot but think it will fully justify a change in the disposition which has been made. If we cannot prevent vessels passing up, and the enemy are possessed of the surrounding country, what valuable purpose can it answer to attempt to hold a post from which the expected benefit cannot be had? I am therefore inclined to think it will not be prudent to hazard the men and stores at *Mount Washington;* but as you are on the spot, leave it to you to give such orders as to evacuating *Mount Washington* as you

judge best, and so far revoking the order given Colonel *Magaw* to defend it to the last.

The best accounts obtained from the enemy assure us of a considerable movement among their boats last evening; and so far as can be collected from the various sources of intelligence, they must design a penetration into *Jersey*, and fall down upon your post. You will therefore immediately have all the stores, &c., removed, which you do not deem necessary for your defence; and as the enemy have drawn great relief from the forage and provisions they have found in the country, and which our tenderness spared, you will do well to prevent their receiving any fresh supplies there, by destroying it, if the inhabitants will not drive off their stock, and remove the hay, grain, &c., in time. Experience has shown that a contrary conduct is not of the least advantage to the poor inhabitants, from whom all their effects of every kind are taken, without distinction and without the least satisfaction.

Troops are filing off from hence as fast as our circumstances and situation will admit, in order to be transported over the river with all expedition.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Greene*.

P. S. I need not suggest to you the necessity of giving General *Mercer* early information of all circumstances, in order that he may move up to your relief with what troops he has.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN VIRGINIA, DATED HEAD-QUARTERS, WHITE-PLAINS, NOVEMBER 8, 1776.

We have certain information that the enemy are retreating towards *King's Bridge;* in consequence of which our General has sent out strong parties to harass their rear. He has acquired great honour in baffling the schemes of General *Howe*, who is most certainly disappointed in his grand plan of surrounding our Army. He has been employed in this business since the 17th of last month, and has now pushed off without having benefited his cause in the smallest degree. His Army have marked their march and retreat with every act of rapine and desolation, not confining their depredations to the Whigs, for the Tories have equally sufferred with them. It is alleged that it is not in General *Howe's* power to restrain the *Hessians* and other foreigners in his Army, it being of too much consequence to offend them for trifles.

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ROBERT BOYD TO MATTHEW CANTINE.

New-Windsor, November 8th, 1776.

Sir: I am requested by the Committee of our County to solicit the members thereof now representing it in the Convention of the State, to have the matter determined relative to the members of the Precinct Committee being subject to military duty. As there is some uneasiness prevailing in the County, I beg you will use your endeavours to have the matter fixed in absolute terms, so that it may be clearly understood whether Committees are subject to the command of military or militia officers.

I further request that you will endeavour to have the matter determined what is to be done concerning recruits who neglect to attend County Committees, after due notice given them.

Sir, your compliance will much oblige your constituents, also save trouble to your humble servant,

Robert Boyd, Jun.

To *Matthew Cantine*, Esq., one of the members for *Ulster*, in Convention, *New-York*.

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JOHN THOMAS TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fishkill, November 8, 1776.

Sir: The beginning of *June* last, when in *New-York*, I purchased a quantity of tea and sent it up to *Esopus*, in *Ulster* County, for safety. A few days ago I went up to fetch the tea, intending to carry it to *Connecticut*, the place where I live, and found that one box of it had been opened by persons unknown, and that the remaining part was in the custody of the Committee. I applied to them for it, which they refused delivering me, until I could get an order from the Convention of this State. I therefore beg the favour of the honourable Convention to give such directions to the Committee that I may receive my property again, which I humbly conceive I am justly entitled to.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, John Thomas.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of Convention.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany, November 8th, 1776.

Sir: Mr. *Livingston's* furnace not being in blast, has disappointed me in getting stoves from thence. That at *Salisbury* is employed in casting cannon, and I am informed that there is a furnace in the Highlands, where they may be procured. Permit me to beg the favour of you to get the owner to cast fifty of the largest size in common use; they are to have pipes fixed on them. I wish them to have them done as soon as possible, and sent to this place. I shall immediately order payment on receiving the account.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,

Philip Schuyler.

The honourable President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Albany, November 8, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have the honour to inform your Excellency that General *Gates* has advised me of the retreat of the *British* troops from *Crown-Point*. The last of them left *Crown-Point* on *Monday* morning. Sir *John Johnson* is returned with them.

I am, most respectfully, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

Ph. Schuyler.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

Be so good as to forward this account to Congress, as I have not time to write, this going by the Convention post.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 8, 1776.

Dear Sir: I am just favoured with your letter of the 5th instant, advising me of the departure of the *British* troops from *Crown-Point*, an event that will give great pleasure to the country. General *Washington* continues securely posted on the heights, near the *White-Plains*. Nothing material has lately happened there, except that the enemy's ships sustained considerable damage in their attack on *Fort Washington*.

Accounts from *Boston* say that a vessel is arrived there, the master of which declares that war is proclaimed by the *French* against *England*. He goes so far as to say that he had himself read the declaration. A prisoner and deserters from the *British* Army near the *White-Plains* say that such a report prevailed with them.

As the Militia are now coming away, there will not be a person left to assist in conveying the boards, &c., to you from *Cheshire's*. You must therefore send men to *Skenesborough* and *Cheshire's*. Flour is getting on very fast, and I hope in a few days to send you more nails.

Pray cause the lake, from the redoubt to *Mount Independence*, to be sounded, and all the different depths marked down on a line, of the distance between the two.

In ten days we shall have barracks at *Saratoga* for a thousand men.

I am, dear General, with every friendly wish, yours most sincerely,

Ph. Schuyler.

The Honourable General *Gates*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany, November 8th, 1776.

Sir: I have the honour to advise you that General *Carleton* with his whole Army is retreated to *Canada*. The last of his troops left *Crown-Point* at ten o'clock on *Monday* morning. Sir *John Johnson* returned with him.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Ph. Schuyler.

Honourable President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

MATTHEW VISCHER TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany, November 8th, 1776.

Dear Sir: Yesterday we had accounts from Colonel *Ten Broeck* that *Barent Roseboom*, with fifteen of our *Albany* Militia, had been to *Crown-Point*, where they found some horses and cattle, which have been brought into our camp. Just now Major *Stewart* arrived, who brings accounts that the enemy have entirely evacuated *Crown-Point*, and are returned to *Canada*, telling the inhabitants at that place they would return early in the spring, when they would give our Army hot work. Nothing from the westward but peace. Messrs. *Gansevoort*, *Lush*, Dr. *Young*, and myself, are appointed a Committee to correspond with the Convention. Mrs. *Yates* and the family is well.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Vischer.

To Mr. *Yates*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 15.]

Albany, November 8th, 1776.

Sir: Before this comes to hand you will probably be informed that the enemy have retreated from *Crown-Point* into *Canada*, an event of which General *Gates* advised me by the bearer hereof, Major *Steward*. I have ordered such of the Militia to be dismissed as still remain to the northward and westward.

Messrs. *Stockton* and *Clymer* are expected here to-day. I shall communicate to those gentlemen what I think necessary to be done in this department in the course of the winter.

I have been disappointed in procuring stoves for the barracks at Mr. *Livingston's* iron works, which are not in blast. It is hardly possible to do without them, and I shall therefore send to some other place; but as I cannot procure sheet-iron for the pipes, I wish to have one hundred and fifty sheets expedited to me the soonest possible.

I am, sir, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

Ph. Schuyler.

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LEONARD GANSEVOORT TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Albany, 8th November, 1776.

Sir: I am directed by the Committee of the City and County of *Albany* to acknowledge the receipt of the resolve of your House by express.

By Major *Walter Stuart*, Aid-de-Camp to General *Gates*, who just now arrived from *Ticonderoga*, we learn that the enemy have entirely evacuated *Crown-Point*, and are returned to *Canada*, telling the inhabitants that the season was too far advanced this year, but that early in the spring they would return and give them (meaning our Army) hot work.

We have received nothing from the westward, but that every thing was peace in that quarter.

I am, most respectfully, your very humble servant,

Leonard Gansevoort.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq.

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MORGAN LEWIS TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 8, 1776.

Honoured Sir: Immediately upon my arrival here I was informed by General *Schuyler* that the reason of my being sent for was in order that I might perform the duties of my department, he being determined to act in the Quartermaster line no longer; so that I imagine I shall be detained altogether at this place. I have delivered the General your memoranda of the articles wanted at *Ty*. He informs me he has wrote for them some time since, and will forward them as soon as they arrive. When at *Skenesborough* I gave all necessary orders relative to the procuring provender for the cattle, and hope ere this they have been complied with; although I confess I cannot put so great a confidence in the present commanding officer there, as I at first imagined.

By express from *New-York* we learn that our Army and the enemy have had many skirmishes lately, in most of which we have proved successful. That Head-Quarters is at *North-Castle*, the two Armies in view, each endeavouring to out-flank the other, and a general action supposed to be unavoidable. General *Burgoyne* is confidently asserted to be at *New-York*, and if there is any faith in *Dutchmen*, which I greatly doubt, Sir *John Johnson* is near the *Mohock* country.

Permit me now, sir, to congratulate you on the arrival of that happy period to which we have all looked forward with the most anxious expectation: *France* has declared war with *Britain*. General *Schuyler* last night received information from Head-Quarters at *New-York*, that a vessel had arrived at *Boston*, from one of the *French* islands, bringing the intelligence; and what induces me to believe it true is, that a deserter who came from the enemy says they had received the like information. *God* grant that this may divert the arms of *Britain* to another quarter, is the sincere wish of, sir, your ever affectionate and obedient humble servant,

Morgan Lewis.

General *Gates*.

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BERNARD ROMANS TO GENERAL GATES.

Skene's Borough, November 8, 1776.

Honoured Sir: Agreeable to the instructions you were pleased to honour me with, I have repaired to this place, and also to *Fort Anne*, or *Cheshire's*, where I have viewed, and, as well as the shortness of time and the want of instruments would allow, surveyed the works already done at both places, the result of which please to accept in the following report:

At *Skeenesborough* the spot pitched upon appears to be the best place on the west side of the river, or, indeed, any where at all for the protection of the mills, which I take to be in no small danger, should the enemy ever attempt to destroy them. But the thing called a fort, baffles all description: It is an irregular polygon; irregular indeed; and by its form, indefensible with a vengeance. Add to this that it occupies so much ground as to require at least three hundred men to defend it in every part, to which material defect the stupidity of its plan adds not a little; nor could a body of men hold out in it for want of water—a well, I fear, being unattainable within the stockado. The plan will exactly acquaint you with its size and shape. The palisadoes are bad; many are slabs, as are all the fraizes. The gate is only three inches thick, of white pine. The barracks forty-five foot by twenty, and of the foolish structure called a story and a half. On the subject of the two last articles, I have told the commanding officers what I now inform you of. To the first, he seems to believe that the gate is thick enough; my last remark he was sensible of, but the carpenters must go home, and the late season will not admit of a more extensive building. The pricked lines on the same plan will show you my opinion how this piece of ground might have been occupied to some advantage. Colonel *Wynkoop* seems, however, to think much of a vigorous defence he could (with fifty men) make in the present fort; and on the whole, that gentleman seems very averse to have any more work done here.

The stone house on the east side appears to me calculated to become a great nuisance in the hands of a partisan, who might slily come here; therefore I think it necessary to be dismantled, or if not, I would recommend the blocking up of its doors and windows. The small building joining, affords one good flanker already, and if it was stockadoed on its south side, as my pricked line, and part of the roof on the north side prepared to remain as a blind towards the hill, while the remaining part be ready to take down in case of attack: thus altered, this small work, in the hands of sixty or eighty men, (notwithstanding its vicinity to the hill,) might make an obstinate defence against a very furious assault, especially if the garrison be conducted by an officer who is acquainted with the methods of defence in such posts, the more so as one or two light cannon might be employed to advantage in it, and as it appears to stand on a spot where a well might be obtained.

The work at *Cheshire's* is good, substantial, and well contrived, but its flankers ill executed. Enclosed is its plan. The dotted lines denote how I thought of altering it; but as I had no orders, could give no positive direction about it. The simple line will show how it was intended to be enlarged, but, in my opinion, such enlargement would be folly,

as it is now of sufficient extent for two hundred men. Whoever built the works at the mill at *Cheshire's* was either well guided by chance, or had very clear ideas of the defence of a piece of ground, joined to an excellent *coup d'oeil*, but the woods must be cleared around it, without which the mill is in danger, in spite of the block-house. The officer at this last place has only seventeen men fit for duty—a number scarce enough to work the mill. I think that with about thirty men I could undertake its defence against five hundred small-arms, while provision lasted. It has an inexhaustible supply of water. A plan would afford very imperfect ideas of it. I will, therefore, furnish you a perspective of it, in case I return there. The mill seems to me to have some small defect in its construction; it cuts, however, many plank. When I was there, I saw from twenty-two hundred to twenty-four hundred good boards at it, but Mr. *Yates* tells me he cannot send them down for want of men and boats. I have not had an opportunity of seeing the returns here, but it does not appear to me that there is much above fifty—a number very incompetent to do the necessary duty of the place; if, therefore, you choose to have any thing more done, it will be requisite that at least two well-conducted companies be sent to this place.

I beg your excusing the roughness of the draughts. I could not execute them better for want of time and instruments.

I wait your orders, to which I shall pay the utmost deference in their execution.

I remain, with all possible esteem, honoured sir, your most obedient servant,

B. Romans.

To General *Gates*.

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GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Ticonderoga, November 8th, 1776.

Dear Sir: The vessels and a number of batteaus were sent about a fortnight ago to *Skeensborough*, as you desired; but an insignificant quantity of flour has been received from that post, and nothing lately from *Fort George*. Major *Livingston*, who arrived here yesterday from that place, does not give me the most promising hopes of a supply that way. Our demands being great, and the means in our power here very small, I entreat you will exert your utmost authority to provide us with a sufficiency of flour.

When Colonel *Trumbull* left this camp, he told me he then had a very large sum of money in hand, and promised he would immediately send one hundred thousand dollars for the recruiting service. This happened about one month ago; and, to my astonishment, he now writes to his assistant here, that his cash it mostly paid off! Unless I be immediately supplied with the double of that sum, the indispensable recruiting of this Army for the defence of these posts during next winter, will be utterly defeated, notwithstanding all the pains and generous exertions of Congress for its accomplishment. The arrears of all the regiments, and the ration money so long due, must now all be cleared off; hence you may easily judge of the demand.

The proceedings of the Court-Martial on Colonel *Donald Campbell* were sent by him and sealed up, to General *Washington*, for his opinion, but I have not received it as yet.

There was not, on *Tuesday*, the least sign of an enemy forty miles below *Crown-Point*; and the inhabitants who daily come here from down the lake, besides several other circumstances, give reason to believe the enemy have, in good earnest, retired into winter quarters, but I will remit nothing of my vigilance.

I sent yesterday a barge to *Isle-aux-Noix*, with Lieutenant *Evans* and a *Frenchman*, who has a family in *Canada*. I expect the return of the barge will favour me with good intelligence, which I shall communicate to you as speedily as possible.

To the Hon. Major-General *Schuyler*.

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New-London, November 8, 1776.

Some time ago, one *Samuel Glover*, a notorious offender, was taken at *Mastick*, on *Long-Island*, and is committed to jail in this town. The following papers were found with him:

This is to certify that Ensign *Samuel Glover* is authorized to inlist men to join my company, to complete a battalion in his Majesty's service, for the defence of the liberty of *America*.

Given under my hand, at *Brook-Haven*, this 22d day of *September*, 1776.

Jacob Smith.

Brook-Haven, October 18, 1776.

Sir: In consequence of instructions I have just received from Head-Quarters, you are forthwith to impress wagons and horses for his Majesty's service. The number is unlimited; therefore do not stint the cause. If you can't get a sufficient number of wagons, teams will answer, a driver for every team, which you will send without loss of time to *White-Stone*, near *Flushing*.

I beg, sir, you will exert yourself upon this occasion, and do not omit one moment, as it seems to be critical.

Jacob Smith,
*Captain in the first Company in first Battalion, Brigadier-General Delancey's Brigade.*

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

Providence, November 8th, 1776.

Gentlemen: Mr. *Earle*, the master of the *Alfred*, has applied for leave to come to *Philadelphia* to see his family; and as he has done his duty since in the service as a good officer, have given him leave to come to you and take your further directions.

Captain *Field*, in the *Eagle*, has made a complaint to me against Captain *Jones*, for taking out some of his hands. I have inquired so far as to find that Captain *Jones* met the privateer a coming in from a cruise, and on sending on board found two men belonging to the fleet, and two more belonging to the *Rhode-Island* brigade, all four of whom he took out, and I believe some more, which can't be well accounted for any other way than Captain *Jones* knew that the privateers made a constant practice of carrying away the men belonging to the fleet, thought it would put some stop to that practice, and not be any damage to the owners, as she was coming in from a cruise. I can't but believe that Captain *Jones* did as he thought best for the good of the publick, and I confess I shall be glad if it meets your approbation.

I hear that the *Cabot* has been in at *Cape Ann*, and expect her in to *New-London* in a few days; if so, shall try to get her fit to join in the expedition.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your most obedient humble servant,

Esek Hopkins.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the honourable Marine Committee at *Philadelphia*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN HINMAN.

Providence, November 8th, 1776.

Sir: I received yours of the 2d instant, and congratulate you on your success. And now to let you know that I have received orders from the Marine Committee to proceed on an expedition in which the *Cabot* is to be employed. Should you be arrived at *New-London*, I desire you will get the *Cabot* graved and fitted for sea as soon as possible with four months' provisions on board. I have a Captain's commission from the Marine Committee, appointing you Captain of the *Alfred*, but as she is out at present, shall continue you on board the *Cabot* or on board the *Columbus*. Should be glad to see or hear from you as soon as possible. I desire you will on your arrival let my negro man *Loushir* come home, and send *Surrinam Wanton* with him, as I have bought him at vendue.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

Esek Hopkins.

To *Elisha Hinman*, Esq., Commander of the Brigantine *Cabot*, at *New-London*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO WILLIAM ELLERY.

Providence, November 8th, 1776.

Sir: There was a negro man on board the *Andrew Doria* named *Dragon Wanton*, which I have purchased. Should be extremely glad if you will take the trouble to take some charge of him, and either send him to me, or see

that he is employed in the service with Captain *Biddle*, or any other way, as you may think fit.

My brother showed me a letter of yours, in which it seems I was roughly handled in Congress. It is true that I applied to the Committee for blankets for slops in the ships, but how they came by them I am altogether ignorant; however I am extremely obliged to you for supporting me.

We have no news here, nor nothing extraordinary, except that the privateers have great luck, and getting money fast. I wish they may not carry it so far as to be any ways detrimental.

I am, with great respect, sir, your friend and humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Honourable *William Ellery*, Esq., one of the members of the honourable Continental Congress at *Philadelphia*.

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### ESCAPE OF ABRAHAM HAIT FROM SPRINGFIELD JAIL.

Made his escape from the County jail in *Springfield*, in the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, in the night after the 8th instant, *Abraham Hait*, who was sent by the Committee of *New-York* to be confined in said jail for treasonable practices against the *American* States. He is about thirty years of age, five feet ten inches high, of a light complexion, wore away a blue coat and leather breeches. He says he belongs to *New-Castle*, in the State of *New-York*; also *John Pickering*, who was sent by said Committee to *Worcester* jail, and was taken sick in *Springfield*. Whoever will take up and return them to said jail shall receive five dollars reward.

THOMAS STEBBINS,
*Chairman of said Committee.*

Springfield, November 8, 1776.

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### SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 9th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have wrote you often and particularly of affairs here. The want of intelligence retards every thing. As I have not a word from you since the 6th of *June* last, I am well-nigh distracted.

That I may not omit any chance of sending to you, I write this, though I have long and minute letters by me waiting the departure of Monsieur General *Du Coudray* and his train, who, had I been properly and in season instructed, would before this have been with you; at present I have put much to the hazard to effect what I have.

Enclosed you have my thoughts on naval operations; and I pray you send me some blank commissions, which will enable me to fit out privateers from hence without any charge to you.

A war appears at hand, and will probably be general. All *Europe* have their eyes on the States of *America*, and are astonished to find month after month rolling away without your applying to them in form. I hope such application is on its way: nothing else is wanting to effect your utmost wishes.

I am, with compliments to friends, and respect to the honourable Congress, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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### PLIARNE, PENET, & CO. TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Nantes, le 9 Novem'r, 1776.

MES SEIGNEURS: C'est pour avoir l'honneur de vous assurer de mes respects, et celui de vous prevenir que j'écris à Monsieur le Docteur *Franklin*, et le prié de vouloir bien vous communiquer ma lettre, tant pour les trois passagers qui ont desiré passer au Continent, que pour mes opérations particulier et nouvelles de *France*.

Le Capitaine *Rawlens* ne partira qu'à la fin de *Novembre*. Nous le retenons dans l'espérance de recevoir encore quelques fonds afin de lui donner un plus fort chargement. Nous nous recommandons toujours à vos faveurs et aux demandes de nos lettre premiere, esperons que vous ferez enlever cette hyver au moins les objets que nous avons contracté avec vous, Mes Seigneurs, et que nous avons à votre disposition, dans nos magasins depuis bien du tems.

En cas que M. le Docteur *Franklin* ne fut à *Philadelphia*, nous vous prions de retirer sa lettre que j'ai l'honneur de lui écrire, et d'en prendre connoissance. Vous trouverez cy-joint le discour du Roi au Parlement et aux Communes, lequel nous est arrivé aujourd'hui de *Londres*.

Nous avons l'honneur d'être, Mes Seigneurs, avec un profond respect.

30 Novem'r, 1776.

MES SEIGNEURS: Nous avons l'honneur de vous expédier ce jour le navire le *Sally*, commandé par Capitaine *Rawlins*, chargé de plomb, poudre, fusils neufs du dernier modelle d'infanterie de *France* à l'épreuve, platines à doubles brides, tous du même calibres et proportions, tel que l'on les fournit au Roi, les ayant tiré de ses manufactures; ses armes sont munis de leurs bayonettes, avec leurs fouraux de cuire, baguettes d'acier et un tirbour et tirballe. C'est de ce modelle que nous vous fournirons les quinze mil demandé par notre contract. Vous trouverez aussi de belles platines pareille à ceux des fusils, bien finies et perfectionnés. J'y ai joint des aiguilles à voilles et ordinaire avec quelques balles de differentes espèces de toilles; nous prions le Seigneur que cela vous arrive heureusement, espérant que vous serez satisfaits de la qualité des marchandises et munitions ainsi que des prix que nous vous passons au meilleur compte possible, persuadé qu'il n'en parviendra pas au Continent de meilleure qualité et à meilleur compte à moins qu'elles soyent fournies par notre maison.

Nous sommes toujours à l'attente de vos navires, et nous nous referrons aux demandes de nos premieres lettres, espérant que l'intérest que nous prennons pour le bien de votre nation, nous méritera de plus en plus votre confiance. Nous sommes informé que vous avez de capitaux dans plusieurs places d'*Europe*. Nous vous prions de vouloir bien avoir égard aux expéditions que nous devons vous faire, ayant les munitions et autres effets en magasin depuis six mois, que ce monte à un somme de 30 à 40 mil livres sterling de laquelle nous en avons reçus à peine six.

Vos maisons à *Cadiz* qui ont des fonds considerables à vous, n'en ont pas encore rendu compte à M. *Schweighauser*. Rien arrivé à *Nantes* depuis six mois, qu'un de vos navires chargé de grains à l'adresse de Monsieur *Schweighauser*. Voici le tems bon pour vos expéditions, nous esperons en recevoir pendant cette hyver, nous ferons tout ce qui dependra de nous pour expédier vos capitaines aussitôt arrivé.

Monsieur *le Chevalier de Vraicourt*, Ingénieur et Officier d'Artillerie, que j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de vous annoncer, aura celui de se présenter chez vous et vous offrir ses services. Il emporte avec lui tous les instruments et livres nécessaires à son état. Nous n'avons fait aucune condition ensemble: ce n'est qu'aprés qu'il aura fait connoître son mérite et ses talents pour la guerre qu'il espére mériter vos faveurs. Il a fait toute la derniere guerre, s'est toujours distingué dans toutes les opérations, il en a même des certificats avec lui, il a servi à l'armée comme Capitaine du génie et de l'artillerie, et est munis de tous ses brevets et commission. C'est un très bon gentilhomme de très grand noblesse dans le *Luxembourg;* M. son père étoit M. le Comte de *Vraicourt*, Directeur Général du génie; ce n'est qu'en ces considérations que je l'ai determiné de passer au service de la liberté, qu'il entreprend avec plaisir. Je me ferai toujours un devoir, Mes Seigneurs, lorsqu'il me sera possible de vous procurer un pareille sujet.

On vient de nous annoncer, que la flotte Espagnol a fait voile le 13 avec 20 mil hommes de troupes, l'on ignore sa destination; l'on dit aussi le Roi de *Portugal* est mort. *La France* vient d'expédier une petite flotte pour les Colonies *Françaises*, laquelle vous viendrat avantageuse pour les battiments que vous expédiez, chargé de denrees dans nos Isles. Cette flotte empêchera les frégattes Anglaises d'approcher de si près de nos côtes. On annonce aussi dans le moment qu'un navire *Américain* sortant de la riviere de *Bordeaux*, fut pris par un *Anglais*. Ce navire étoit (à ce que l'on dit) chargé de draps et autres marchandises seches pour aux environs de 20 mil livres sterling. Il en est arrivé en même tems deux autres, l'un venant de la *Caroline*, chargé de riz et indigo, l'autre venant des environs de *Boston*. La plupart des navires *Américains* viennent à *Bordeaux*, c'est cependant le plus mauvais port de *France*, tant pour les risques a courir pour l'entrée que pour ceux d'être vendue, par quantité de maisons *Anglaises* et *Irlandaises*, qui y sont établies. Ces personnes ne s'occuperont qu'à rendre compte chaque fois qu'il arrive un de vos navires. Vous verrez, Mes Seigneurs, que vous perderez quantité de

navires dans ce port. Je suis même surpris que ce soit une maison *Juif-Irlandaises* qui soit dans cette ville à la tête de vos opérations les plus secrettes: c'est la maison *Delaps*, qui recevoit toutes les expéditions du Continent. On m'a dit que cette maison a reçu des ordres en conséquence du Congrès et de votre envoyé en *France*, qui a toute confiance en eux. Je desire, Mes Seigneurs, que vous ayez tous lieux d'être satisfait d'eux, mais j'ose vous dire que ce n'est pas ce que la publique pense. Avant qu'il ayt reçu de vos battiments il passoit pour le plus grand royaliste qu'il y ayt en *France*.

Nous avons à *Bordeaux* notre maison, Messrs. *Reculé de Basmarain et Raimbeaux;* nous avons pris la liberté de vous les recommander. Nous leurs avons envoyé dernierement une ordre pour retirer les lettres qui parviendrout à notre adresse à *Bordeaux*, par la voix des capitaines *Américains*. Nous avons joint aussi sur ce billet que si les dits capitaines n'avoient point d'adresse directe dans la dite ville nous les prions de traiter avec la ditte maison, en qui ils peuvent avoir toute confiance. Messrs. *Delaps* ont été informés de cela, ils nous ont écrit une lettre peu reflêchie en nous menaçant du Congrès, nous sommes très tranquilles à cette égard et voici le faitte que nous avons l'honneur de vous mander.

Nous avons l'honneur d'être, avec la considération la plus distingué, Mes Seigneurs, votre très humble et très obeissant serviteurs,

PLIARNE, PENET, & Co.

Mes Seigneurs, membres du Committée Secret de l'honourable Congrès Général, à *Philadelphia*.

P. S. Monsieur *J. D. Schweighauser* a payé une somme de 1443l. 10s. pour des instruments necessaires à M. *le Chevalier de Vraicourt*, qu'il aura l'honneur de vous remettre, j'ai fait faire cette emplette ici, vue qu'il m'a dit avoir besoin de ces articles pour travailler aussitot arrivé au Continent. Vous trouverez cy-joint les quittances.

On vient nous annoncer qu'un de vos corsaires *Américains* est arrivé au Cap *Quiberon* avec une capture de vin de *Sicurre*, venant de *Bordeaux*, expédié sur un navire *Anglais* pour *Londres*. Comme le capitaine corsaire pourrait avoir besoin de quelques choses, nous lui avons fait savoir de l'adresser à nous en l'assurant que nous lui donnerons tous les secours qu'il nous sera possible.

A la sollicitation de Messieurs *Penet et Compagnie*, &c., je donne ma parole d'honneur de passer au Continent, pour y rendre tous les services dont je serais capable, mais sans contracter icy aucun engagement, me reservant toute liberté, en cas que je ne me trouve pas bien en *Amérique*, soit pour les grades, ou tous autres arrangements, qui pourroit ne me pas convenir, auquel cas les Seigneurs du Congrès me fourniront passage pour repasser en *France* quand je voudrais.

Signé:

[L. S.] LE CHEVALIER COMTE DE VRECOURT.

Je soussigné certifie que M. *Penet* a payé, pour livres, ustensiles, et instruments du génie, pour le compte du Congrès—le tout commandés et arrivés de *Paris* sur mes modelles—sçavoir: mille livres d'une part, et quatre cents quarante trois livres dix sols faisant la somme de 1443 livres 10 sols, et qu'il les fait embarquer sur le navire le *Sally*, sur lequel je passe.

Fait à *Nantes*, le 24 9bre, 1776.

LE CHEVALIER CTE. DE VRECOURT.

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[TRANSLATION.]

Nantes, 9th November, 1776.

MY LORDS: I have the honour to assure you of my respect, and to inform you that I write to Dr. *Franklin*, and desire him to communicate my letter to you, as well in regard to the three passengers who desire to go to the Continent, as my particular operations, and news from *France*.

Captain *Rowlens* will not sail until the latter end of *November*. We keep him in hopes we shall receive some funds, and be able to give him a more considerable cargo. We continue to recommend ourselves to your favour, and refer to the demands in our first letter. We hope that you will enable us to ship this winter at least those articles we contracted with you for, which we have now laying in our stores at your disposition for this long while past. In case Dr. *Franklin* should not be at *Philadelphia*, we beg of you to open his letter and read it. Enclosed you have the King's speech to his Parliament, which arrived this day from *London*.

We have the honour to be, with profound respect, yours, &c.,

Nantes, the 30th November, 1776.

MY LORDS: This day we have the honour to despatch to you the ship *Sally*, Captain *Rawlens*, loaded with lead, powder, new muskets according to the last model of the *French* Infantry, with doubled-bridled locks, proof, with each its bayonet, scabbard, steel ramrod, and screw on this same model, will be the fifteen thousand we shall furnish agreeable to our contract. You will also find the gun locks equal to those in the muskets, well finished and perfect. I have added some sail needles, with some bales of different kinds of linen, which we hope will arrive safe to you, and that you will be pleased with the quality of the goods and the prices, which we have charged as low as possible, and we are persuaded you will receive none in the Continent of a better quality and at a cheaper rate, except what may be supplied your house.

We are still in expectation of some of your vessels. We refer to the contents of our first to you, and hope that our sincere attachment to the interest and success of your States will procure us your confidence more and more. We are informed that you have large sums of money in different cities of *Europe*, and we beg you will consider the large remittances we are to make to you, as we have the ammunition and other goods in store since six months, amounting to thirty or forty thousand pounds sterling, of which we have hardly received six.

Your houses at *Cadiz* have large sums of yours, and have not yet accounted with Mr. *Schweighauser*. Nothing has arrived at *Nantz* since six months, except one of your ships, loaded with grain consigned to Mr. *Schweighauser*. As this is a good time for your expeditions, we are in hopes we shall receive some during this winter, and we shall endeavour to give your captains the quickest despatch.

Mr. the Chevalier *de Vraicourt*, Engineer and officer of Artillery, who I have already had the honour to mention to you, will present himself to you and make you an offer of his services. He carries with him all the books and instruments necessary to his profession. We have made no agreement together: it is only after making known his merit and military talents that he hopes to merit your favour. He was in the army all last war, and was distinguished in all the operations of it, of which he has undoubted certificates. He served as Captain of Engineers and Artillery, and has all his commissions. He belongs to an ancient and noble family in *Luxembourg:* his father was the Count of *Vraicourt*, Director-General of Engineers. It is only on those considerations that I have persuaded him to enter into your service; and he has undertaken it with pleasure. I shall, my Lords, always regard as my duty when in my power to procure you such persons.

We have been this moment informed that the *Spanish* fleet sailed the 13th with twenty thousand troops: its destination unknown. It is also said that the King of *Portugal* is dead. *France* has despatched a small fleet for the *French* Islands, which will be advantageous to your States, as it will be a safety to the vessels you may send to the *French* Islands, by preventing the *English* frigates approaching their coast. We are also informed of an *American* vessel which sailed from the river of *Bordeaux*, loaded with broadcloths and other dry goods to the amount of twenty thousand pounds sterling, was taken by an *English* vessel. Two ships are arrived: one from *Carolina* with rice, and the other from the neighbourhood of *Boston*. Most of the *American* ships go to *Bordeaux*, although it is the most dangerous port in *France*, as well in regard to the entrance of that river as the danger of being betrayed by numbers of *English* and *Irish* houses established there, who give daily advices of the arrival of your vessels. I fear you will be convinced of this by losing many vessels at and from that port. I am also surprised that it should be an *Irish-Jew* house that should be at the head of all your most secret operations in that city: it is the house *Delaps*. They receive all the despatches from the Continent, and I am told that this house has received orders also from Congress and from your Envoy in this Kingdom, who has placed all his confidence in them. I wish, my Lords, that they may give

you entire satisfaction, but I can assure you it is not the general opinion here. Before they had consignments from *America* they were reported the greatest royalists in *France*.

We have our house at *Bordeaux*, by the firm of *Reculé de Basmarain & Raimbeaux;* and we have taken the liberty to recommend them to you. We have lately sent them an order to take your letters by the *American* ships. We have also mentioned to them that if the *American* captains were not consigned in that city, to do every thing in their power, and tender them their services; which Messrs. *Delaps* hearing of, have wrote us a letter, with little discretion, and threatening us with the resentment of the Congress—but we are very easy on that account.

My Lords, we have the honour to be your most humble servants,

PLIARNE, PENET, & Co.

To the honourable the Secret Committee of the honourable Congress at *Philadelphia*.

P. S. Mr. *J. De Schweighauser* has paid 1443 livres 10 sols, for instruments necessary to Mr. the Chevalier *Vraicourt*, which he will have the honour to deliver you. I had those things bought here, as he told me he would want them on his arrival in the Continent. Enclosed you will find the receipts.

We just now hear that one of your *American* privateers is arrived at *Cape Quiberon*, with a prize loaded with wine of *Segure*, loaded on an *English* ship bound to *London*. As the Captain of that privateer might want something, we have sent to let him know we would supply him with any thing he may want.

At the solicitation of Mr. *Penet & Co.*, I engage my word of honour that I will go to the Continent, there to render all the services I am capable of, but without contracting here any engagements, reserving myself at entire liberty. But in case I should not find myself well in *America*, either as to my rank or other arrangements, which might not be agreeable to me, in this case the Lords of the Congress will furnish me with a passage to return to *France* when I shall choose it.

THE CHEVALIER COUNT DE VRECOURT.

I, underwritten, do certify, that Mr. *Penet* has paid for Engineer's books, utensils, and instruments, on account of the Congress—the whole coming from *Paris* on my models—viz: 1,000 livres of the one part, and 443 livres 10 sols of the other, making in the whole 1,443 livres 10 sols, and that he has embarked them on the ship *Sally*, in which I am to go passenger.

At *Nantes, November 24th*, 1776.

THE CHEVALIER CTE. DE VRAICOURT.

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VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

St. Eustatia, 9th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We think it highly necessary to advise you of our draft, bearing date 8th instant, on Messrs. *Willing & Morris*, for four hundred and fifty pounds, *Pennsylvania* currency, (for the emolument of the State of *Maryland*,) in favour of Captain *Samuel Skinner*. We have given them suitable information relative to said bill, and hope it will be duly honoured.

We are, with the greatest esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servants,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

To the honourable the Council of Safety for the State of *Maryland*.

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JOHN DENT AND J. PARNHAM TO THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Annapolis, November 8th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. *Hugh Gardner*, of *Charles* County, being desirous of serving the *American* States in the military way, we beg leave to recommend him to your honourable Board. From a thorough knowledge of Mr. *Gardner*, his strong attachment to the interest of his country, the zeal he has always shown in the common cause, his indefatigable assiduity and application to and knowledge of military affairs, we can assure that his merit would well entitle him to the command of a company, or, indeed, to a higher commission. But as he is sensible that there are men of merit who have been some time in the service, and ought to be preferred, all that he at present aspires to is a lieutenancy, and I believe he would be glad of being in the matross service. We would, therefore, propose him as First Lieutenant in the company of Matrosses now raising for this town; to the command of which company, from the good opinion we entertain of his abilities, we hope Mr. *William Campbell* may be preferred.

We are, gentlemen, most respectfully, yours,

JNO. DENT,
J. PARNHAM.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Philadelphia, November 9th, 1776.

SIR: You will perceive from the enclosed resolve that Congress, having reconsidered their vote of the 14th *October*, have agreed to give the former allowance of one dollar and one third of a dollar to the officers on the reinlistment of every soldier in the camp. The completing the Army at present being an object of the utmost importance, the Congress are desirous of adopting every means in their power to induce the officers to fill up their respective companies as soon as possible.

The situation of the Northern Army being at this juncture extremely critical, and your services in that department of the highest use and importance, the Congress wish for a continuance of your influence and abilities on behalf of your country. They have, however, agreeable to your request, consented that you should repair to this city, whenever the service, in your opinion, will admit of your absence.

Although Congress have repeatedly applied to *Maryland* on the subject of the *Nanticoke Indians* without effect, yet are they determined to make another application, the result of which shall be immediately transmitted to you.

I do myself the pleasure to forward blank commissions, agreeable to the enclosed resolves, and am to request you will fill them up according to the ranks and times of service of the officers, making in Colonel *Elmore's* regiment such arrangements as you shall think proper.

*November* 13th.—Congress has had sundry resolves from *Massachusetts-Bay* laid before them, increasing the pay of their troops, beyond what Congress had given. The enclosed resolves will inform you that this measure was disapproved of by Congress, who have agreed that the troops may be inlisted during the war, or for three years, as shall be most agreeable to them.

I have the honour to be, &c., &c.,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

To Hon. Major-General *Schuyler*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 9th, 1776.

SIR: You will perceive from the enclosed resolve that Congress, having reconsidered their vote of the 14th *October*, have agreed to give the former allowance of one dollar and one third of a dollar to the officers on the reinlistment of every soldier in the camp. The completing the Army being at present an object of the utmost importance, the Congress are desirous of adopting every means in their power to induce the officers to fill up their respective companies as soon as possible.

You will please to take the most effectual steps for punishing, in an exemplary manner, as far as the articles of war will admit, all deserters from the Army at this time of trial and danger. The baseness of those officers and soldiers who can turn their backs upon their country, in her present situation, merits the severest chastisment.

The enclosed letter from Colonel *Miles* to Mr. *Wister*, of this city, I am directed by Congress to transmit to you, that you may take such steps relative to the exchange of the gentlemen therein mentioned as you may judge proper.

Mr. *Partridge*, one of the Committee from the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, having laid before Congress sundry resolves of that State increasing the pay of their troops beyond what the Congress had given, they have come to a resolution disapproving of that measure, and have agreed that the troops in the *American* Army may be inlisted for

*

three years, or during the war, as shall be most agreeable to them, subject to the terms mentioned in the enclosed resolves.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

To his Excellency General *Washington.*

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CAPTAIN HARRIS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, 9th, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIRS: I arrived here the 2d instant, with seventy-six privates. A return of my company, stores, &c., the state of our guns, I delivered the Board of War, and begged that those wanting repairs might be sent to the smiths for that purpose: my request was not complied with. To have marched to camp with guns in such order would have been folly. I therefore applied to Colonel *Ramsey* for money, who procured me two hundred and fifty pounds.

I have taken the liberty to enclose my account, by which you will see there is a balance due the company, which I beg may be sent, or an order therefor, to Colonel *Ramsey.* I have been obliged to advance money, as the company was in need and unwilling to march without being paid.

I am, honourable sirs, your most obedient, humble servant,

ROBERT HARRIS.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis.*

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DR. *The State of* MARYLAND *to* ROBERT HARRIS, *F. Camp.*

| Dates. | Names. | Time of subsistence. | | Price. | | Amount. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1776. | | *Weeks.* | *Days.* | *s.* | *d.* | £ | *s.* | *d.* |
| Sept. 16 | James Coop | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Matthew McElhany | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Joshua James | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Jno. Chance | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | James Treno | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Levi Low | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Wm. Feely | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| 16 | Alex'r Stevenson | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Rob't Hannah | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Gregory White | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| 18 | Rob't Gordon | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| 21 | James Bull | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | James Harris | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | Wm. Hall | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | Rich'd Hopkins | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | Wm. Chambers | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | Patrick Nowlan | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| Oct. 4 | Wm. Crooks | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| | Jas. Watson | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| | Rob't Armstrong | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| | Michael Daugharty | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| 5 | Jas. Donnaly | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| | Matthew Creswell | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 16 | Edw'd Daugherty | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| 19 | Jona. Smith | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Sept. 16 | Zebedie Hicks | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | Horatio Coop | 6 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| 25 | Rich'd Jordan | 6 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| 28 | Jas. Blaney | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | Christopher Fort | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| Oct. 15 | Wm. Lattimore | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| | Francis Gibson | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| | Jno. Davidson | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 16 | Dav'd Armstrong | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| | Barnet Rain | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| | Tho's Roads | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| | Jno. Cook | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| | Jno. Bush | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 17 | Wm. Cook | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| | Alex'r Thompson | 2 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 19 | Hugh Huston | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 8 |
| | Wm. Gordon | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 8 |
| Sept. 26 | Wm. Cuthbert | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| | Jas. Munday | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| | Joseph Saunders | 5 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| 25 | John Armstrong | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 28 | Jona. Eddy | 5 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 18 | 6 |
| 29 | John Baker | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | Jno. Lattimore | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | Aquila Dunham | 5 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| Oct. 1 | Edw'd Morgan | 4 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| | David Wavy | 4 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| 4 | Jno. Haig | 4 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| | Gykes Hodges | 4 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 16 | James Riedden | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 17 | Jas. Witgus | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| 18 | Benj. Wailey | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| 20 | Tho's Capen | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| | David McCullough | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Sept. 27 | Able Green | 4 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| Oct. 1 | Matthew Skel | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| 2 | Cha's Anderson | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 12 | 0 |

STATEMENT—Continued.

| Dates. | Names. | Time of subsistence. | | Price. | | Amount. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1776. | | *Weeks.* | *Days.* | *s.* | *d.* | £ | *s.* | *d.* |
| Oct. 3 | David Campbell | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| | Thomas Steuart | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| | Wm. Kirk Patrick | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| 6 | Joseph Steel | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| | Jno. Orr | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| | Jno. Patrick | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| | Jno. Pain | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | Jno. Taylor | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | Joseph Dueberry | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 7 | Ja's Miller | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| | Jessy Logan | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| | Rob't Spencer | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| | Griffith Evans | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| | | | | | | 117 | 10 | 10 |

DR. *The State of* MARYLAND, *in account with* ROBERT HARRIS, *Captain of a Company for the Flying Camp,* CR.

| | | 1776. | CR. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| To bounty and advance to 76 men | £418 0 0 | *Sept.* 26.—By cash from the Council of Safety | £429 0 0 | |
| To board for men per account on the other side | 117 10 10 | By ditto | 70 0 0 | |
| To officers' wages and rations for 1 month | 40 0 0 | By balance due | 109 4 8 | |
| To men's mileage for 91 miles | 28 16 4 | | £608 4 8 | |
| To a drum and fife for the company | 3 17 6 | | | |
| | £608 4 8 | | | |

November 1st, 1776.

E. E. ROBERT HARRIS.

| 1776. | | 1776. | CR. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Nov.* 1.—To balance of contra | £109 4 8 | *Nov.* 8.—By cash received from Treasury at *Philadelphia* | £50 0 0 | |
| 9th.—To cash paid for repairing guns as per account | 12 2 6 | Balance due | 91 7 3 | |
| To a musket with bayonet, &c., one being wanting for the company | 5 0 0 | | £141 7 3 | |
| To officers' expenses in raising 76 men | 15 0 0 | | | |
| | £141 7 3 | | | |

FIELD-OFFICERS OF SIX VIRGINIA BATTALIONS.

Field-Officers to the six new Battalions to be raised in this State on the Continental establishment, viz:

*Colonels:* Edward Stevens, Daniel Morgan, James Wood, Samuel Meredith, Charles Lewis, and David Mason, Esquires.

*Lieutenant-Colonels:* Christian Febiger, John Gibson, Lewis Willis, John Neaville, Richard K. Meade, and James Innis, Esquires.

*Majors:* William Heath, Abraham Buford, Charles Simms, George Lyne, George Nicholas, and Holt Richeson, Esquires.

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FIELD-OFFICERS FOR TWELVE PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENTS.

The following is a list of the Field-Officers for the twelve *Pennsylvania* Regiments in the Continental service:

*First Regiment:* Colonel Hand, Lieutenant-Colonel Chambers, Major Ross.

*Second Regiment:* Colonel De Haas, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Morris, Major Jonathan Jones.

*Third Regiment:* Colonel Joseph Wood, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Craig, Major William Butler.

*Fourth Regiment:* Colonel L. Cadwalader, Lieutenant-Colonel D. Brodhead, Major William West, Jun.

*Fifth Regiment:* Colonel A. Wayne, Lieutenant-Colonel F. Johnson, Major Percifer Frazer.

*Sixth Regiment:* Colonel Robert Magaw, Lieutenant-Colonel , Major John Beatty.

*Seventh Regiment:* Colonel William Irwine, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Hartley, Major David Greer.

*Eighth Regiment:* Colonel Æneas McCoy, Lieutenant-Colonel George Wilson, Major Richard Butler.

*Ninth Regiment:* Colonel James Irvine, Lieutenant-Colonel G. Nagle, Major John Patton.

*Tenth Regiment:* Colonel Joseph Penrose, Lieutenant-Colonel James Dunlap, Major Henry Becker.

*Eleventh Regiment:* Colonel Richard Humpton, Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Gurney, Major F. Mentges.

*Twelfth Regiment:* Colonel William Cooke, Lieutenant-Colonel N. Gray, Major James Crawford.

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COMPANY OFFICERS OF ELEVENTH PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT.

A list of Captains and Subalterns in the Eleventh *Pennsylvania* Regiment in the Continental service, viz:

*Captains:* Samuel Dawson, John Coats, Adolph William Hedrick, William Bradford, William Scull, William Henderson, John Douglass, William M'Kissack.

*First Lieutenants:* William Thomas, Samuel Cunningham, Samuel Dean, George Ross, John Pearson, William Leavers, William Mackey, Enoch Anderson.

*Second Lieutenants:* Maybury Jolly, Robert Patten, Peter Jones, John Stotsberry, Benjamin Hammond, Andrew Robinson, Henry Boogh, Thomas Lucas.

*Ensigns:* Alexander Carmichael, John M'Elberry, Nathaniel Martin, Ralph Williamson, James Wilcox, John Henderson, Jacob Fiss, Giles Hicks.

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COMPANY OFFICERS FOR TWELFTH PENNSYLVANIA REGIMENT.

The following is a list of the Officers appointed by the Council of Safety for the Twelfth Battalion of Foot, to be raised in this State for the Continental service, to be commanded by Colonel *William Cook*, viz:

*Captains:* Henry M'Kinley, Alexander Patterson, Hawkins Boon, John Harris, Nicholas Miller, John Brady, Peter Withington, William Work.

*First Lieutenants:* Stephen Chambers, Thomas Brandon, Christopher Gettig, Hannaniah Lincolin, John Reily, William M'Elhatton, William Sawyer, and John Henderson.

*Second Lieutenants:* John Carithers, Robert King, William Bard, John Boyd, James Williamson, Edward M'Cabe, Samuel Quin, and John Hays.

*Ensigns:* Benjamin Lodge, Jun., Thomas Hamilton, John Stone, William Boyd, Blackall William Ball, Stewart Herbert, Henry Stricker, Andrew Engle.

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GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Elizabeth-Town, 9th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your favour of the 7th instant I had the honour of receiving last evening, being accidentally in town, where, upon occasion of it and some other publick business, I stayed the whole night. After sending for General *Williamson*, and beginning to prepare a copy of your letter for General *Mercer*, the latter happened to come in person, and was of great use in the business before us. We examined six or seven women who came from *New-York*, and though they appear to be Whigs, and had part of their effects and near relations amongst us, have a number of stories to tell, which, though probably told with no ill intention, yet have a natural tendency to discourage the weaker part of our inhabitants.

For my part I am utterly against this kind of communication between this State and *New-York*, and could earnestly wish the officers under your command would be as sparing as possible of their permissions. The sex are mistresses of infinite craft and subtlety, and I never heard or read of a great politician who did not employ petticoats to accomplish his designs. Certain it is that the greatest politician on record, I mean the devil, applied himself to a female agent to involve mankind in sin and ruin.

We had also a *Hessian* deserter under examination, who is, I believe, the first of that people that has come over to us from *Staten-Island*. He was not capable of giving much information, but in general says they are very sickly on the Island—would desert in numbers if not prevented by the water—were forced into the service—have received no pay.

Respecting the subject-matter of your letter, I have in the strongest manner recommended that part of it relative to the removal of the grain, &c., to the Committee, who are to meet upon it to-day. If they do not exert themselves in the matter agreeable to the wishes of the military, I mean to the necessity of the case, the military must act as prudent people in such cases ought to do.

As the Governour of this State is a civil magistrate, it cannot be expected that he will act an arbitrary, that is, an illegal part. But I doubt not all our magistrates will connive as much as possible at every thing done by the military, which bears the evident stamp of necessity, and cannot be impeached of wantonness or the causeless exertion of power. I think it is so absolutely necessary to remove the articles you mention, that I have already begun to set the example.

As our Assembly meets next *Wednesday*, I shall lay before them the importance of taking some measures to place our Militia on the best footing possible, and that a part of them may be in readiness to supply the place of the troops denominated the New Levies. At any time of an apprehended invasion, I shall be ready to call out what numbers of the Militia you think proper to repel it, that being an undoubted prerogative of the Governour of this State; but whether they will obey the orders, God only knows; and that they will be worth but little if they do, I experimentally know.

Our Council have passed an exceeding good Militia bill the last session, but it did not pass the Lower House. Whether it was there obstructed on account of its goodness, does not become me to say. Should I be honoured with any of your letters after *Monday* next, you'll please to direct to me at *Burlington*.

With my sincere respects to Colonel *Read*, I have the honour to be, sir, your most humble servant,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

To His Excellency General *Washington*, at Head-Quarters.

In consequence of my orders in virtue of your requisitions to have all the prisoners belonging to the *British* Fleet and Army in this State collected at *Brunswick*, the enclosed is the first return I have received.

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DR. SHIPPEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 12th: Referred to Medical Committee.]

Newark, 9th November, 1776.

DEAR AND HONOURABLE SIR: I think it proper to inform the honourable Congress that I have not yet taken any of the Continental sick on this side the *North River* under my direction agreeable to their last regulation, because Dr. *Morgan* differs in opinion with me concerning the meaning of Congress, and because General *Washington* desires they may remain under his care, as you will see by the enclosed letter from his Excellency the General, who makes no distinction between my appointment in *July* and your resolves in *October*, and, in my opinion, has not seen the letter, "which expressly says," all the sick on this side of the *North River* shall be under my care and direction.

The Congress will see by the enclosed from General *Mercer*, his sentiments on the subject, and the necessity of my receiving further directions from them. I should not trouble the Congress on this head, but that I imagine they expect I am exerting my best endeavours to relieve the poor soldiery from the great distress they suffer daily, and because it is impossible Dr. *Morgan* can pay any attention to them, as he is now busy in establishing hospitals at a great distance on the other side of *Hudson's River*.

I have the honour to be, dear sir, your and the Congress's obedient and very humble servant,

W. SHIPPEN, Jun.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fort Lee, November 9, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your Excellency's letter of the 8th this moment came to hand. I shall forward the letter to General *Stevens* by express. The stores at *Dobbs's Ferry* I had just given orders to the Quartermaster to prepare wagons to remove them. I think the enemy will meet with some difficulty in crossing the river at *Dobbs's Ferry*; however, 'tis not safe to trust too much to the expected difficulties they may meet there.

By the letter that will accompany this, and was to have gone last night by Major *Mifflin*, your Excellency will see what measures I took before your favour came to hand. The passing of the ships up the river is, to be sure, a full proof of the insufficiency of the obstructions in the river to stop the ships from going up; but that garrison employs

double the number of men to invest it that we have to occupy it. They must keep troops at *King's Bridge* to prevent a communication with the country, and they dare not leave a very small number, for fear our people should attack them. Upon the whole, I cannot help thinking the garrison is of advantage; and I cannot conceive the garrison to be in any great danger. The men can be brought off at any time; but the stores may not be so easily removed, yet I think they can be got off in spite of them, if matters grow desperate.

This post is of no importance only in conjunction with *Mount Washington*. I was over there last evening; the enemy seems to be disposing matters to besiege the place; but Colonel *Magaw* thinks it will take them till *December* expires before they can carry it. If the enemy don't find it an object of importance they won't trouble themselves about it; if they do, its a full proof they feel an injury from our possessing it. Our giving it up will open a free communication with the country by the way of *King's Bridge*, that must be a great advantage to them and injury to us. If the enemy cross the river I shall follow your Excellency's advice respecting the cattle and forage. These measures, however cruel in appearance, were ever my maxims of war in the defence of a country; in attacking they would be very improper.

By this express several packets from Congress are forwarded to you.

I shall collect our whole strength and watch the motions of the enemy, and pursue such measures for the future as circumstances render necessary.

As I have your Excellency's permission, I shall order General *Stevens* on as far as *Equacanock* at least. That is an important pass. I am fortifying it as fast as possible.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient, and very humble servant,

N. Greene.

To His Excellency General *Washington*, at *White-Plains*.

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COLONEL ATLEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

New-York, November 9, 1776.

Sir: Persons in captivity, let whatever pains be taken to make that state agreeable, are still unhappy and anxious for a releasement.

Such, sir, at present, is my state. I have been so happy this minute to be visited by a gentleman of the *King's* Army, to whom I am particularly obliged with the information of the imprisonment of a certain Mr. *Thomas Irving*, Receiver-General of the Quit-Rents of *South-Carolina*, taken by Mr. *Hopkins*, and now in *Connecticut*. He was kind enough to inform me that Lord *William Campbell*, with himself, had been mentioning an exchange between Mr. *Irving* and myself, and that they doubted not, if it was agreeable to General *Washington*, that General *Howe* would readily consent to it, and that it might be immediately effected.

I have by this opportunity taken the liberty to lay the above before you, and if agreeable to you, sir, must beg the favour of as speedy an answer as possible.

I am, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

Sam'l J. Atlee.

General *Washington*.

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COLONEL MILES TO WILLIAM WISTER.

New-York, November, 1776.

Dear Brother: I this moment received yours with the money sent by Mr. *Foxcroft*, as did all the other gentlemen. I should be extremely glad to be released from my confinement here, if such a thing could be obtained, and I have some reason to believe that if a proper application was made to Congress, an exchange might be accomplished between myself and Mr. *Foxcroft*, and perhaps Colonel *Atlee* or Lieutenant-Colonel *Piper* would be given up for Mr. *Dashwood*. I hope no time will be lost by my friends in making this application to Congress, and I have no doubt but Mr. *Foxcroft's* interest here will effect my desire, if the request should be made by the Congress to General *Howe*.

I am in good health, and hope all my family, friends, and acquaintances are so too.

Captain *Wister* is here.

I am, dear brother, yours, &c., Sam'l Miles.

To Mr. *William Wister*, Merchant, in *Philadelphia*.

PETITION OF MILES OAKLEY.

*To His Excellency General* Washington, *Commander-in-Chief of all the Forces of the* United States of America:

*The Petition of* Miles Oakley *humbly showeth:*

That by his labour and industry he had procured himself a small piece of land at the *White-Plains*, contiguous to the Court-House; that on it, within the last four or five years he built him a comfortable and convenient house and barn; that he kept an inn for the entertainment of travelers, which enabled him to maintain his family, which consists of a wife and four small children; that on the approach of the enemy he removed his wife (who lay in but six days before) with his children to the north of the lines formed by the troops under your Excellency's command; that on his return to bring off some of his furniture and most valuable effects, he found his house robbed and pillaged, his desk split to pieces, his money, books, and papers taken and carried away by our own troops, by which means he is left without a second bed and scarce a change of clothes for himself, his wife or children; this your petitioner bore with resignation, not doubting but if he should again get into his house he should by his industry in time retrieve his losses. But so it is, may it please your Excellency, that on *Tuesday* night last, your petitioner's house and barn was by some of the *American* troops burnt to the ground, and your petitioner and his family left without any means whatever of obtaining a subsistence. That your petitioner's losses do not amount together to less than seven hundred pounds currency.

Your petitioner begs leave to observe to your Excellency that he has ever been a friend to his country; that he served as a Lieutenant in the late northern expedition under the command of Generals *Schuyler* and *Montgomery*. Your petitioner therefore begs your Excellency will be favourably pleased to take his melancholy case into consideration, and give him such relief in the premises as to you in your great wisdom shall seem just and reasonable. Your petitioner further begs, if your Excellency should be of opinion that the granting your petitioner relief is not properly within your department, that your Excellency will be pleased to inquire into the truth of the facts within set forth, and give your petitioner such certificates and recommendations, either to the honourable Continental or Provincial Congress, as you shall think your petitioner's hard case truly deserves.

And your petitioner shall ever pray.

Miles Oakley.

November 9th, 1776.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read the 12th.]

White-Plains, November the 9th, 1776.

Sir: I have the honour to transmit you a copy of a letter from General *Gates* to General *Schuyler*, and of another paper containing intelligence respecting the Northern Army, and the situation of the enemy in that department. They this minute came to hand, and to them I beg leave to refer you for particulars.

By every information I can obtain, and the accounts I had last night by two deserters who were very intelligent and particular, General *Howe* still has in view an expedition to the *Jerseys*, and is preparing for it with the greatest industry. I have detached the first division of our troops, which was thought necessary to be sent, and which I hope will cross the river at *Peekskill* to-day. The second I expect will all march this evening and to-morrow morning. I propose to follow myself, in order to put things in the best train I can, and to give him every possible opposition. I hope, when the two divisions arrive and are joined to such other force as I expect to collect, to check his progress and prevent him from penetrating any distance from the river, if not to oblige him to return immediately with some loss. Whatever is in my power to effect, shall be done.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

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Ticonderoga, 31st October, 1776.

Sir: *Monday* morning, between eight and nine o'clock,

our advance guard-boat down the lake made the signal for the approach of the enemy's fleet. In about one hour, five of their largest boats or gondolas appeared in sight, and a number of troops, *Indians* and *Canadians*, were seen landing upon *Three-Mile Point*. Soon after, two of the armed boats stood over to the east side of the lake, inclining upwards, as if sent to reconnoitre. When they came considerably within shot, they were fired upon from two redoubts very near the shore, and by a row-galley that is stationed to cover the boom. They thereupon retired. In the mean time the enemy's troops were distinctly seen to land upon the back of the Point, and presently after, thirteen small batteaus and birch canoes crossed from the west to the east side of the lake into a bay, about four miles below our redoubts. Upon these threatenings of an attack, our lines, redoubts, and posts, were all manned; and as the motions of the enemy seemed to indicate they were gathering their main force upon the west side of the lake as if intending to make their push there, I ordered three regiments, *Poor's*, *Read's*, and *Greaton's*, from *Mount Independence*, to reinforce this side. The orders were instantly obeyed, and nothing could exceed the spirit and alertness which was shown by all officers and soldiers in executing every order that was given. About four in the evening, the boats and canoes that had passed to the west side of the lake, returned, and the enemy were seen plainly to reëmbark at the *Three-Mile Point*. I immediately ordered the guard-boat to resume her station, and by sunset it was observed the body of the enemy had retired.

By the information I receive daily, I find that General *Carleton* continues in his post, and that three large vessels are anchored near *Putnam's Point*, a little below which all the Light Infantry, Grenadiers, and a large body of *Indians* and *Canadians* are encamped. *Chemung-Point* and *Crown-Point* are also occupied by the enemy.

Yesterday I received the enclosed intelligence from *Newbury, Co'os*. If Sir *John Johnson* did actually march at the time he is said to have done it, he must be upon the *Mohawk* river now; or if he aims at *Fort George*, *Dayton's* regiment cannot be better stationed than there. Surely the *Oneidas* will give you all the necessary information upon this head. But how could Sir *John* get back should he meet with a check? I have seen the *Mohawk* river fast frozen the 10th *November*.

Colonel *Lewis* set off yesterday morning by the way of *Skeen*. He has memorandums of our wants, and will be with you as soon as this letter. Colonel *Ganseoort* writes me for spades; you must answer his demand, for I cannot.

We received the good news you sent us from *New-York* with joyful hearts. It was immediately made publick to the Army in the manner you advised.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To General *Schuyler*.

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*A Return of the Division under the command of Major-General* WILLIAM HEATH.

| BRIGADES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieuten't Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Paymasters. | Quartermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Com'd. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and file. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted or joined | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Parsons | 3 | 4 | 1 | 32 | 28 | 24 | 31 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 120 | 50 | 864 | 176 | 397 | 553 | 7 | 1999 | 14 | 7 | 858 | - | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| General Scott | 3 | 4 | 4 | 29 | 30 | 26 | - | 3 | 4 | - | 4 | 4 | 1 | 93 | 31 | 498 | 80 | 198 | 279 | 7 | 1063 | 13 | 39 | 1284 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| General Clinton | 5 | 3 | 1 | 34 | 35 | 30 | 1 | - | 5 | - | 5 | 5 | 1 | 108 | 56 | 773 | 147 | 290 | 331 | 20 | 1561 | 2 | 10 | 594 | 1 | 7 | - | 36 |
| Total | 11 | 11 | 6 | 97 | 93 | 80 | 32 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 14 | 12 | 4 | 321 | 137 | 2135 | 403 | 885 | 1163 | 34 | 4623 | 29 | 56 | 2736 | 2 | 12 | 10 | 41 |

The above is agreeable to the Returns delivered to me.

EBEN'R HUNTINGTON, *Assis't Adj't Gen'l.*

Camp at White-Plains, November 9, 1776.

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*A Return of the Regiment of Militia from the State of* CONNECTICUT, *in the service of the* UNITED COLONIES, *commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel* STORRS, NOVEMBER 9, 1776.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | Non-Com'd. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Bissel | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 13 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 33 |
| Captain Nichols | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 16 | 4 | 35 |
| Captain Morgain | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | 10 | - | 13 | 3 | 26 |
| Captain Kipley | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 | 5 | 8 | - | 22 |
| Captain Hende | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 20 |
| Captain Stidman | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 11 | - | 22 |
| Captain Barrows | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 14 |
| Captain Sumner | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 6 | - | 10 | 3 | 19 |
| Captain Thomson | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 19 |
| Captain Smith | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 19 |
| Total | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 14 | 7 | 67 | 29 | 106 | 27 | 299 |

North-Castle, November the 7, 1776.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. JAMES LOVELL, LATELY RELEASED, DATED FORT LEE, 7TH NOVEMBER, 1776.

From the jealousy and caution used in regard to me while in *New-York* harbour, and in the course of my conveyance across *Staten-Island*, I was unable to make myself master of any circumstances which can tend to form any proceedings of the illustrious assembly in which you preside, except, perhaps, this single one, that orders were given out on the first, or a day before, to prepare into a complete readiness transports for fifteen thousand men. The purpose is mere matter of my conjecture. If great success should be the lot of the *British* Army early in this month,

I conceive an attempt might be made to push some round to the northward; but if defeat or disappointment continues a little longer, I imagine a southern expedition may be the consequence. General knowledge collected already, or daily arriving, to found your Councils, will fix the value to be set upon the above intelligence. I wish time may prove that I might have altogether omitted to convey it to your eye.

JACOB HORNBECK TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Rochester, November 9th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Forasmuch as the town of *Rochester* is in great need for salt, as the season of the year is now for killing their winter provision and pork for next summer, and when they can't get a supply of salt, they will be obliged soon to turn their fat hogs out of the pen, and their fat cattle among their other, to a great loss of several poor families; wherefore your Committee of said town, in behalf of themselves and the inhabitants of *Rochester*, do humbly desire, if your honourable Board have any salt to spare, you will please to grant us a supply; and if you have none to spare, and could direct us where we might get salt, we would, paying to your honourable Board, or any person else, the price for salt, not spare any trouble to fetch the same; and humbly desire you will please to give us your answer to our messenger, the bearer hereof; and you will, gentlemen, greatly oblige your most humble servants.

By order of the Committee and inhabitants of *Rochester*.

JACOB HORNBECK, *Chairman*.

To the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

Four lbs. of salt, 4 ozs. of saltpetre, 2 lbs. of sugar, 4 gallons of water.

GENERAL GATES TO COLONEL HIDE.

Tyonderoga, 9th November, 1776.

SIR: I am to return you, and the officers and men of your regiment, my sincere thanks for the spirit and alertness you have shown in marching to the defence of this important pass, when threatened with an immediate attack from the enemy. I now, gentlemen, dismiss you with honour. I also certify that neither you, nor any of your officers or soldiers, have received any pay from me for your services upon this occasion. That I leave to be settled and adjusted between your State and the General Congress of all the *United States*.

With sentiments of gratitude and respect, I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To Colonel *Caleb Hide*, commanding a Regiment of Militia of the County of *Berks*, State of *Massachusetts*.

[The same to Colonel *B. Robinson*, and Colonel *Moses Robinson*, Colonel *Brownson*, &c.]

GENERAL GATES TO COLONEL ASHLEY.

Tyonderoga, 9th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I return you and the officers and soldiers of the regiments under your command, my sincere thanks for the spirit and expedition both you and they have shown in marching, upon the first alarm, upwards of one hundred and fifty miles, to the support of this important pass, when threatened with an immediate attack from the enemy's Army. I now dismiss you with the honour you have so well deserved. I further certify that neither you, nor any under your command, have received any pay or reward from me for your services upon this occasion; that I leave to be settled by the General Congress with the Convention of your State.

With great respect, I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To Colonel *Ashley* and Colonel *Bellows*, commanding the regiments of Militia from the County of *Cheshire*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*.

GENERAL GATES TO COLONEL CHASE.

Tionderoga, November 9, 1776.

SIR: I am to return you and the officers and men of your regiment my sincere thanks for the spirit and alertness you have shown in marching to the defence of this important pass, when threatened with an immediate attack from the enemy. I now, gentlemen, dismiss you with honour. I also certify that neither you nor any of your officers or soldiers have received any pay from me for your services upon this occasion; that I leave to be settled and adjusted between your State and the General Congress of all the *United States*.

With sentiments of gratitude and respect, I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To Colonel *Jonathan Chase*, commanding a regiment of Militia from the County of *Cheshire*, in the State of *New-Hampshire*.

GENERAL GATES TO COLONEL GANSEVOORT.

Tyonderoga, November 9th, 1776.

SIR: I am astonished at your keeping all the batteaus at the south end of the lake, and not sending forward the flour. By your last return, exclusive of the Militia, you had two hundred and thirty-one, officers included, fit for duty at *Fort George*. I am convinced there is not an enemy within a hundred miles of your post; so you need not have any apprehensions upon that account. It is my positive orders you immediately despatch every boat you have, full of flour, to this landing. Fifty men is more than sufficient for your present garrison. The bearer takes sixty men with him to assist in bringing over the flour; and I have been obliged to carry the boats over this carrying-place to transport him and his party, not having one at this end of *Lake George*. Despatch the large vessels as quick as possible, and continue to keep the batteaus going as long as the navigation is open. I desire you will see the batteaus full freighted; and as it grows late in the season, order seven men into each batteau.

To Lieutenant-Colonel *Gansevoort*.

GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL WARD.

9th November, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: The Deputies from the State of *New-Hampshire* have informed me that there is a Continental regiment raised in that State, under the command of Colonel *Pierce Long*, stationed at *Portsmouth*. As the regiments from that State, now at this post, have suffered exceedingly by defeat, disease, and fatigue, it would most certainly be for the immediate benefit of the service that Colonel *Long's* regiment should be ordered to march directly to this place, and the three regiments commanded by *Stark*, *Poor*, and *Reed*, shall, upon their arrival, march to *Portsmouth*, where they cannot only be recruited, but recovered and refreshed after the almost unspeakable fatigues and distresses they have undergone. I beg you to determine upon this matter without referring it to any one but the General Court of your State, as it would defeat every good intention to delay it longer.

To Major-General *Ward*.

JOHN TRUMBULL TO COLONEL PATTERSON.

SIR: The General is pleased to order that the rendezvous for your regiment on the new establishment be at *Springfield*, in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

To this place you will order your officers and men to repair on the 1st of *January*, and will there wait orders as to the Army which you are to join.

Given at Head-Quarters, *Albany*, this 30th day of *November*, 1776.

By command of the Honourable Major-General *Gates*.

JOHN TRUMBULL, *D. Adj't Gen'l*.

To Colonel *John Patterson*.

COLONEL BLANCHARD TO MESHECH WEARE.

Mount Independence, November 9, 1776.

SIR: We arrived here last *Saturday* evening, in company with the gentlemen appointed by the *Massachusetts* State, who we accidentally fell in with at *Manchester*. The next morning both Committees waited on General *Gates*, who received us with politeness, and laid before him our business, and solicited his assistance and protection. The General

observed that by our raising the wages the other States would be under the necessity of doing the same, and that in fact it was stating the pay of all the soldiery.

The *Massachusetts* Committee are clearly of opinion that the men cannot be raised in their State without the additional encouragement, *i. e.*, twenty shillings per month, and a blanket or eighteen shillings yearly. We have heard that *Connecticut* have added twelve shillings per month; and upon the whole, the General has advised us to proceed, though he seems not pleased with the great wages, as he calls it.

We have, after consulting with the General, Field-Officers, and Captains of our battalions, proceeded to appoint *John Stark*, Esq., Colonel; *Joseph Cilley*, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel; and *George Reed*, Esq., Major: *Enoch Poor*, Esq., Colonel; *Nathan Hale*, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel; and *Winborn Adams*, Esq., Major—Field-Officers for our two battalions; and are preparing beating orders for Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns, to recruit the men. Committees from *Pennsylvania* and the *Jerseys* have been up, and commissioned field and other officers for a number of battalions, and are recruiting.

When the shattered part of our fleet returned in the manner you have doubtless heard, an attack was expected immediately. The General sent expresses to raise the Militia; upon which alarm, about one thousand or fifteen hundred men came in from *New-Hampshire*, *Massachusetts-Bay* and the *Green-Mountains*, and great pains have been taken to fortify this Mount, which is now pretty strong. A party from the enemy, in thirteen boats, about ten days since, appeared in sight of this place and sounded the lake, but they soon retired.

The *Canadians*, *Indians*, and Regulars, have evacuated *Crown-Point*, their numbers not certainly known, but supposed to be about one thousand *Canadians* and *Indians*, and seven thousand Regulars.

A report prevails in camp that General *Burgoyne* is dead.

Two gentlemen taken in *Canada* last year in the regular service, are sent down to *St. John's* in a boat, with a flag, and by this means the General expects to gain intelligence whether the King's troops intend an attack this fall. Our parties are constantly reconnoitring the lake. Their task has been arduous.

The General prays that the battalion stationed at *Portsmouth* would come here. He has wrote by Lieutenant-Colonel *Cilley* to Major-General *Ward*, at *Boston*, for his order for their removal. By this means our men will be discharged and the recruiting greatly facilitated. We fear that we cannot inlist many at present. Provisions are plenty and good. About thirteen or fourteen thousand men, Militia included, draw allowance.

The two mortars that are here are ruined. There is plenty of gunpowder and a great number of cannon. A supply of medicines are arrived and on the way. Those we received at *Exeter* are delivered according to order. We shall endeavour, or some one of us, to attend the General Court at their next sitting. It is expected that two thousand five hundred men, or thereabouts, must garrison these places this winter. Barracks are building with all the despatch possible. We make no doubt but you pay the greatest attention to the article of clothing. We have been as industrious in our business and as attentive to our orders as possible.

We are, with great respect, sir, your most humble servants,

JONA. BLANCHARD, *for the Committee.*

Honourable *Meshech Weare*, Esq., to be communicated.

P. S. The small-pox is not in camp, nor any where this way. The days are short, and in our crowded situation do business slowly.

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JOHN BRADFORD TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Boston, 9th November, 1776.

SIR: I've received a letter from Captain *William Burke*, late commander of the schooner *Warren*, in the service of the Continent, dated *Halifax*, 8th *October*, who was unfortunate in being taken by the *Liverpool* ship of war, Captain *Bellew*, who has treated him with great humanity. *Burke* desires me to acquaint your Excellency that he sailed from thence (in company with the flag of truce which brought away his men who are arrived at this port) for *York*, in order to be exchanged for Captain *Bellew's* Lieutenant, who is a prisoner at *Germantown*, near *Philadelphia*, by the name of *Richard Bowger*. It's probable poor *Burke* is arrived at *York* ere this. He is a worthy, brave man, and deserved a better fate.

I have the honour to be, with the most profound respects, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JN. BRADFORD, *Agent.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

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GENERAL WARD TO JAMES WARREN.

Boston, November 9, 1776.

SIR: Enclosed is a petition I received from the officers of Colonel *Marshall's* regiment. The grievance therein complained of, I think belongs to the honourable Court to redress; therefore I have enclosed the petition, and earnestly request the grievance complained of may speedily be removed, as it is of the utmost importance at this time that the State should fulfill every engagement made to the men; if not all, surely so capital one as their daily allowance. I fear if it is not soon redressed the consequence will be the men will refuse doing their duty; if they do, it will be unreasonable to punish them, when the cause of their refusal was a breach of promise on the part of the State.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD.

Mr. Speaker.

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CAPTAIN EDDY TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Cumberland, November 12th, 1776.

Pursuant to instructions, &c., proceeded from *Boston*, raised a few men, and arrived at *Cumberland* in high spirits, when some of the inhabitants joined us, and we seized a vessel in the harbour, with a great quantity of stores, &c., for the garrison. And besides an officer and twelve men that we sent back from *Shepody*, we have taken above thirty prisoners, and have attempted the garrison, but cannot take it without some cannon and mortars, nor can we get off what we have taken without some help, as there is a man-of-war in the bay. We have therefore to entreat of the Province of the *Massachusetts*, for ourselves and for the inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia*, to send some privateers into the bay, and some troops and military stores, that we may be able to promote the general cause and add another Province to the *United Colonies*.

I must refer you for further intelligence to Mr. *Throop*, the bearer; and subscribe, in the utmost haste, your Honours' obliged, obedient, humble servant,

JONATHAN EDDY.

To the Honourable Council and Assembly of *Boston.*

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PETITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

*To the Honourable Court of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

Whereas Captain *Eddy*, with a small party, has invaded *Cumberland*, and taken a guard of twelve men, also a provision vessel with her guard, and a vessel from *Annapolis*, with produce for this place, and has attempted to storm the garrison, but finds it impracticable with all the assistance he can raise here: And as intelligence is already gone to *Halifax*, we are in the utmost distress, therefore beg, for the preservation of our lives and the lives of our families, for immediate help of five hundred or a regiment of men, if it may be, with two mortars, ammunition, and provision; and we, your humble petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

| | |
|---|---|
| SIMEON CHESTER, | PETER CAMPBELL, |
| ELIJAH AYERS, | JOHN BENT, |
| WM. HON, | WILLIAM MASONALL, |
| EBENEZER GARDNER, | MICHELL BURK, |
| ROBERT FOSTER, | OBADIAH AYERS, |

*Committee of Safety for the County of Cumberland.*

Cumberland, November 13th, 1776.

For particulars we must refer you to Mr. *Throop*, on whom you may depend.

Sheppardy, County of Cumberland, November 3d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We have sent to your care Captain-Lieutenant *John Walker*, and twelve other prisoners taken by us at *Sheppardy*, which please to send to the westward as soon as possible. We would have you take particular care of Captain *Walker*, as he is a countryman of yours, and would be very glad of an opportunity of joining the regulars again.

We are all in high spirits, and our party increases daily. We are in hopes of being strengthened further by Colonel *Shaw*. If possible, beg that you would inform the honourable Council of our proceedings. If you have any news from the westward beg that you would send it to us by the bearers.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JONA. EDDY.

To the Committee for the Township of *Machias*.

—

Sheppardy, November 3d, 1776.

*Captain* STEPHEN SMITH:

SIR: You being in the service of the *United States*, must beg your assistance in conveying the prisoners taken by us to Head-Quarters as soon as possible.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

JONA. EDDY.

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MARYLAND CONVENTION TO THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

[Read 13th November.]

Annapolis, November 10th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In obedience to the order of Convention I am to inform you that they are exceedingly unhappy to find that there should have been any the least difference of opinion between your honourable body and the Convention. That according to your desire they have reconsidered their former resolutions for raising the quota of troops of this State, and have, on a very deliberate and attentive consideration of the subject, come to the resolutions which I am directed and have now the honour to enclose and transmit.

I am further directed to acquaint you that the very important business of this Convention has so closely engaged their attention that the delegation of members to represent this State in Congress has hitherto been almost necessarily delayed, but that they will now be appointed, and will very soon attend.

I am, with the highest respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

MATH. TILGHMAN, *President*.

To the honourable Continental Congress now sitting in *Philadelphia*.

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In Convention, November 9th, 1776.

The Convention resumed the consideration of the Letter from the honourable President of the Congress, and the Resolutions of Congress laid before them yesterday, and thereupon come to the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That if the honourable Congress will specify any Land belonging to the *United States* as a common stock to be divided amongst the soldiery in their service, the Commissioners appointed by this Convention to repair to the camps in *New-York* and the *Jerseys*, immediately on its being made known to them, do proceed to the camps and endeavour to inlist such of the troops and Militia of this State now there as are willing to enter into the Continental service on the terms proposed by Congress; or if the Congress will not make such specification of the lands to be given as aforesaid, and will permit the inlistment of the quota of troops of this State on the terms proposed by this Convention, that then the Commissioners proceed to the camps and endeavour to procure the inlistment of the troops according to the former resolutions of the Convention, paying to each non-commissioned officer and private who shall so inlist the twenty dollars bounty allowed by Congress, and the additional bounty of ten dollars proposed by the said resolutions of Convention to be allowed by this State. But if the honourable Congress will not specify the lands as aforesaid, and should signify a desire that the said additional bounty of ten dollars should not be given, that then the Commissioners, with the permission of Congress, proceed as aforesaid and endeavour to effect the said inlistment on the bounty of twenty dollars allowed by Congress; but they are not to engage the faith of this State to give or make good any bounty of lands, or give any assurances whatsoever that they will have such bounty.

*Resolved*, That Mr. President write to the Congress and inform them that this Convention feel themselves very unhappy that there should have been any the least difference of opinion between them, and as desired, have reconsidered their former resolution for raising the quota of troops of this State, and on a very deliberate and attentive consideration of the subject, have come to the resolutions of this day, which the President is requested to enclose.

That this Convention never apprehended that the Congress intended this State should be obliged, in its individual capacity, to make good the bounty of land to the soldiery, but were of opinion, and remain firmly persuaded, that if the bounty of land should, by authority of this State, be proposed as a motive to induce the individuals of its quota to inlist, this State will be bound in good faith to see that bounty effectually granted; and therefore, as this State has no land belonging solely and exclusively to itself with which to make good the bounty, it is not only prudent but necessary, before they do an act which will engage the faith of the State, to know what land is to be applied, and on what terms, to the designed purpose.

That this Convention are under the strongest impressions that the back lands claimed by the *British* Crown, if secured by the blood and treasure of all, ought, in reason, justice, and policy, to be considered as a common stock, to be parcelled out by Congress into five convenient and independent Governments, as the wisdom of that body shall hereafter direct; but if these (the only lands as this Convention apprehend that can) should be provided by Congress at the expense of the *United States* to make good the proffered bounties, every idea of their being a common stock must be hereby given up; some of the States may, by fixing their own price on the land, pay off what of their quota of the publick debt they please, and have their extensive territory settled by the soldiery of the other States, whilst this State and a few others must be so weakened and impoverished that they can hold their liberties only at the will of their powerful neighbours.

That this State is so far from having an intention to increase unnecessarily the expenses of the *United States*, that it hath uniformly given every evidence to the contrary. But this Convention, impressed with the indispensable necessity of establishing and keeping up a good Army, at the same time that they could not be active in giving up a common right of the *United States*, or in rendering the freedom of their own precarious, determined to exert the only safe means in their power to raise the quota of this State; nor can this Convention yet see any possibility of injury to the common interest, from this State adopting the most effectual means to raise its quota of troops of its own inhabitants, partly or even wholly at its own separate expense.

That this Convention have a strong disinclination to go into any discussion of the powers with which the Congress is invested, being fully sensible that the general interest will not be promoted by either the Congress affirming or this Convention denying the existence of a fullness of power in that honourable body, the best and only proper exercise of which can be in adopting the wisest measures for equally securing the rights and liberties of each of the *United States*, which was the principle of their union.

That this Convention, very sincerely disposed to contribute every thing in their power towards the common cause, will, if the Congress choose neither to specify the lands to be given in bounties nor to permit the State to give the proposed additional bounty of ten dollars, endeavour to inlist its quota of troops on the twenty dollars bounty allowed by Congress; but if the event should prove a disappointment, it cannot be imputed to this State.

That this Convention request the honourable Congress soon to signify their pleasure in this matter to the Commissioners of this State now attending in *Philadelphia*, that the little time left may not be lost.

Extract from the Minutes: G. DUVALL.

### ADDRESS TO THE INHABITANTS OF ESSEX COUNTY, NEW-JERSEY.

Newark, November 10, 1776.

The Committee of the County of *Essex* think it proper to inform the inhabitants of it, that they have received intelligence by a letter from his Excellency General *Washington*, at the *White-Plains*, dated the 7th instant, that General *Howe*, with the Army under his command, had retreated from that place, with an intention, as he supposed, of sending a detachment of his troops into the *Jerseys*. The General therefore advises all those who live near the water, to be ready to move their stock, grain, carriages, and other effects back into the country. He adds, if it is not done, the calamities we must suffer will be beyond all description, and the advantages the enemy will receive immensely great. They have treated all here without discrimination: the distinction of Whig and Tory has been lost in one general scene of ravage and desolation. The article of forage is of great importance to them; not a blade, he says, should be left; what cannot with convenience be removed, must be consumed without the least hesitation. They have further intelligence, by a letter of this day from General *Mercer*, at *Fort Lee*, per express, that General *Greene* had just received advice from General *Washington* that he was now fully convinced the enemy intended to cross the *North River* and make an incursion into this State, desiring we may be prepared in the best manner possible to defeat the design of their coming.

The Committee taking into consideration the present alarming situation of this country, recommend it to all the inhabitants who live near the water, or the great roads leading through the country, to remove as soon as possible their stock, grain, hay, carriages, and other effects, into some place of safety back into the country, that they may not fall into the enemy's hands.

By order of the Committee:

WILLIAM BURNET, *Chairman*.

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### COLONEL MILES TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

New-York, November 10th, 1776.

SIR: *John Foxcraft*, who has been prisoner in *Philadelphia* for some time, is now here on his parole, and from the conversation I have had with him, have reason to believe that General *Howe* will consent to an exchange of Mr. *Foxcraft* and myself, and perhaps Lieutenant-Colonel *Piper* will be given up for Mr. *Dashwood*, who is still a prisoner in *Philadelphia*. I hope, sir, you will not only approve of, but take such steps as may be likely to effect this exchange, so desirable to the persons concerned.

There are also in *Philadelphia*, a Captain *Forist* and two other gentlemen, Mr. *James Shanks* and Mr. *Thomas Byrne*, whom their friends say will be exchanged for officers under the rank of Major. I could wish that Captain *Thomas Herbert*, of the *Pennsylvania* musketry, might be accepted for Captain *Forist*, and Lieutenant *John Davis*, of the *Pennsylvania* Rifle Regiment, for one of the young gentlemen, and perhaps Lieutenant *Edward De Coursey*, of the *Maryland* regiment, will be given up for the other.

I flatter myself that it will be agreeable to you, sir, to release any of your officers upon equitable terms, and that you will take the earliest opportunity of doing it.

I am, sir, with the utmost respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

SAM'L MILES.

To *George Washington*, Esq., Commander-in-Chief of the *American* Forces.

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### GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fort Lee, November 10, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your Excellency's favour by Colonel *Harrison*, of the 8th, came to hand last evening. I am taking every measure in my power to oppose the enemy's landing, if they attempt crossing the river into the *Jerseys*. I have about five hundred men posted at the different passes in the mountains fortifying. About five hundred more are marching from *Amboy*, directly for *Dobbs's Ferry*. General *Mercer* is with me now. I shall send him up to take the command of these immediately. I have directed the General to have every thing removed out of the enemy's way, particularly cattle, carriages, hay, and grain. The flour at *Dobbs's Ferry* is all moved from that place, and I have directed wagons to transport it to *Clarke's* and *Orange* towns. I was at *Dobbs's Ferry* last night; left it at sundown; saw no new movement of the enemy. The enemy landed from on board the ships many bales of goods, supposed to be clothing. I am sure the enemy cannot land at *Dobbs's Ferry;* it will be so hedged up by night. The flats run off a great distance, they can't get near the shore with their ships. If the enemy intends to effect a landing at all, they'll attempt it at *Naiacs*, or *Haverstraw Bay*. I wish these intelligences may not be calculated to deceive us. Methinks if the enemy intended crossing the river, they would not give us several days to prepare to oppose them. They might have taken their measures, lain concealed until they had got every thing in readiness to cross the river, and then effected it at once. It might have been so much easier accomplished that way than it can now, and so many more advantages obtained, in getting possession of the grain, hay, cattle, wagons and horses, that I cannot help suspecting it to be only a feint to lead our attention astray. I wish it may not turn out so. However, I shall exert myself as much to be in readiness as if they had actually landed, and make the same disposition to oppose them as if I was certain they intended to cross.

I shall keep a good intelligent officer at *Bergen*, and another at *Rall's Ferry*, to watch the motions of the ships.

Your Excellency's letter to General *Putnam* this moment came to hand. I have ordered the Quartermaster-General to send off all the superfluous stores, and the Commissaries to hold themselves in readiness to provide for the troops at *Dobbs's Ferry* and *Haverstraw Bay*.

I have wrote to Colonel *Hawkes Hay* to have the road altered at *King's Ferry*. I directed Colonel *Tupper* to send up to that ferry all the spare boats. I had given orders for collecting and scuttling all the boats before your Excellency's letter came to hand on the subject. Our numbers are small for the duty we have to go through, but I hope our exertions may be in some proportion to your Excellency's expectation. Sixty or seventy sail of shipping from *Frogg's Point* and *Morrisania*, have fallen down the *East River* to *New-York*.

In my next I will enclose your Excellency a return of the stores of all kinds at this post, and take your further directions as to the disposition of them.

Believe me, dear General, to be your most obedient and very humble servant,

NATH'L GREENE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, at *White-Plains*.

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### EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM FORT LEE, DATED NOVEMBER 10, 1776.

The enemy have not decamped, as was reported, but are still at *Dobbs's Ferry*. Part of our Army have come this side of the river. General *Washington* will cross to-day. Deserters confirm the suspicions of the enemy's design to pay us a visit in the *Jerseys;* but the attempt is so dangerous, and so long delayed, that I can scarcely believe it is seriously in agitation. Yesterday Colonel *Magaw's* men killed thirteen *Hessians* and an officer, and stripped them. This little enterprise gives spirit to our men, and insensibly reduces the number of the enemy.

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### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

SIR: The late movement of the enemy, and the probability of their having designs upon the *Jerseys*, confirmed by sundry accounts from deserters and prisoners, rendering it necessary to throw a body of troops over the *North River*, I shall immediately follow; and the command of the Army which remains, after General *Heath's* division marches to *Peekskill*, devolving upon you, I have to request,—

That you will be particularly attentive that all the intrenching and other tools, excepting those in immediate use, be got together and delivered to the Quartermaster-General, or Major *Reed*, who heretofore has been intrusted with them.

That you will direct the commanding officer of Artillery to exert himself in having the Army well supplied with musket cartridges; for this purpose, a convenient place at a distance should be fixed on, that the business may go on uninterrupted.

*

That no trps oo who have been furnished with arms, accoutrements, or camp utensils, be suffered to depart the camp before they have delivered them, either to the Commissary of Stores, or the Quartermaster-General, or his Assistant, as the case may be, taking receipts therefore, in exoneration of those which they have passed. In a particular manner, let the tents be taken care of, and committed to the Quartermaster-General's care.

A little time now must manifest the enemy's designs, and point out to you measures proper to be pursued by that part of the Army under your command. I shall give no directions, therefore, on this head, having the most entire confidence in your judgment and military exertions. One thing, however, I will suggest, namely: that as the appearance of embarking troops for the *Jerseys* may be intended as a feint to weaken us, and render the strong post we now hold more vulnerable, or if they find that troops are assembled with more expedition, and in greater numbers than they expected, on the *Jersey* shore to oppose them;—I say, as it is possible, from one or the other of these motives, they may yet pay the Army under your command a visit, it will be unnecessary, I am persuaded, to recommend to you the propriety of putting this post, if you stay at it, into a proper posture of defence, and guarding against surprises. But I would recommend it to your consideration whether, under the suggestion above, your retiring to *Croton Bridge*, and some strong post still more easterly, (covering the passes through the Highlands,) may not be more advisable than to run the hazard of an attack with unequal numbers. At any rate, I think all your baggage and stores, except such as are necessary for immediate use, ought to be to the northward of *Croton* river.

In case of your removal from hence, I submit to the consideration of yourself and the general officers with you, the propriety of destroying the hay, to prevent the enemy from reaping the benefit of it.

You will consider the post at *Croton's* (or *Pine's*) *Bridge* as under your immediate care, as also that lately occupied by General *Parsons*, and the other at *Wright's* Mill. The first I am taught to believe is of consequence; the other two can be of little use while the enemy hover about the *North River*, and upon our right flank.

General *Wooster*, from the State of *Connecticut*, and by order of the Governour, with several regiments of Militia, are now, I presume, in or about *Stamford*. They were to receive orders from me; of course they are to do it from you. There are also some other regiments of *Connecticut* Militia, who came out with General *Saltonstall*, and annexed to General *Parsons's* brigade, and others which you must dispose of as occasion and circumstances shall require; but as by the late returns, many of those regiments are reduced to little more than a large company, I recommend the discharge of all such supernumerary officers, and the others annexed to some brigade.

As the season will soon oblige the enemy to betake themselves to winter-quarters, and will not permit our troops to remain much longer in tents, it may be well to consider in time where magazines of provisions and forage should be laid in for the Army on the east side *Hudson's* river. *Peekskill*, or the neighbourhood, would, I should think, be a very advantageous post for as many as can be supported there. *Croton Bridge* may probably be another good deposite, or some where more easterly, for the rest, as the Commissary, Quartermaster, &c., may assist in pointing out.

It may not be amiss to remind you, for it must (as it ought to) have some influence on your deliberations and measures, that the *Massachusetts* Militia stand released from their contract the 17th this instant, and that the *Connecticut* Militia are not engaged for any fixed period; and by what I can learn, begin to grow very impatient to return, few indeed of whom being left. If the enemy should remove the whole, or the greatest part of their force, to the west side of *Hudson's* river, I have no doubt of your following, with all possible despatch, leaving the Militia and invalids to cover the frontiers of *Connecticut*, &c., in case of need.

Given at Head-Quarters, near the *White-Plains*, this 10th day of *November*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Lee*.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Head-Quarters, November 10th, 1776.

Sir: I was yesterday favoured with a call from the gentlemen appointed Commissioners from your State to arrange your officers, and to adopt some line of conduct for recruiting the quota of men which you are to furnish. In discussing this subject, the gentlemen informed me that your Assembly, to induce their men to inlist more readily into the service, have passed a vote advancing their pay twenty shillings per month over and above that allowed by Congress. It is seldom that I interfere in the determinations of any publick body, or venture to hold forth any opinion contrary to the decisions which they form; but upon this occasion, and being requested by the Commissioners to give my sentiments, I must take the liberty to mention, (especially as the influence of that vote will be general and Continental,) that according to my ideas, and those of every general officer I have consulted with, a more mistaken policy could not have been adopted, or one that would, in its consequences, more effectually prevent the great object Congress have in view, and which the situation of our affairs so loudly calls for, the levying of a new Army. That the advance allowed by your State may be the means of raising your own quota of men sooner than it otherwise would, perhaps may be true; but when it is considered that it will be an effectual bar to the other States raising their quotas—when it is certain that if their quotas could be made up without this advance coming to their knowledge; that the moment they come to act with troops who receive higher pay, that jealousy, impatience, and mutiny, will immediately take place, and occasion desertions, if not a total dissolution of the Army,—it must be viewed in an injurious and fatal point of light. That troops embarked in the same cause and doing the same duties will not long act together with harmony, for different pays, must be obvious to every one. Experience has already proved it in this Army. Whether Congress will take up the matter and make the advance general, is what I cannot undertake to determine; but I conceive there is little probability of it, as the addition of a suit of clothes to the former pay of the privates was long debated before it could be obtained.

I could enumerate many ill consequences which must arise from the measure, which are omitted for want of opportunity. Those I have mentioned, I am persuaded, will appear obvious to you upon reflection, and I trust, as they were dictated by a firm regard to the service, that they will not only have your attention, but your pardon.

I have the honour to be, in haste, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To Governour *Trumbull, Connecticut*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL KNOX.

Sir: As it is more than probable, (unless General *Howe* should throw his whole force into the *Jerseys* and bend his course towards *Philadelphia*,) that there will scarce be a junction of our troops again this season, it may be well for you to consider of a proper partition of the field artillery, artillerists, and stores for each service; and delay no time in the arrangement and despatch of those destined for the western side of *Hudson's* river.

With respect to yourself, I shall leave it to your own choice to go over or stay; if you do not go, Colonel *Mason* must. Such stores as are necessary must be sent; and I entreat that no time may be lost in fixing musket cartridges for the use of the Army on the east side, whilst a sufficient number are sent for the purpose of supplying that on the west.

For other directions and orders in the line of your department, I shall embrace some other opportunity. In the mean time your own judgment will govern you; and I am persuaded, sufficiently stimulate to the discharge of every act by which the publick service can be benefited.

It is unnecessary to add, that if the Army of the enemy should wholly or pretty generally throw themselves across the *North River*, that General *Lee* is to follow.

Given at Head-Quarters, near the *White-Plains*, this 10th day of *November*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Colonel *Henry Knox*, of Artillery.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL MIFFLIN.

SIR: As the period is fast approaching when part of this Army will stand released from their engagements to serve the publick, and little prospect remains of prevailing upon them to stay longer, it becomes highly necessary for you in time to set about a collection of (at least an inquiry after) the tents and other stores which have been delivered from your department, and see that they are carefully deposited in some safe place. The tents (all such, however, as want it) are to be repaired, and put into the best order against another season, as all other articles which may require the like, and will admit of it, also should.

Take, especially, care that all the intrenching tools at the different encampments not in immediate use, be all collected and removed to some place of safety, or where Major-General *Lee* shall direct. I do not conceive that there is occasion to forward any with that part of the Army going to the *Jerseys;* but of this you can be satisfied from inquiry.

The uncertainty of the enemy's designs renders it almost impossible to point out places, with any degree of propriety, for magazines of forage, &c., dependent upon your department. But as *Peekskill*, or the neighbourhood of it, is considered as an important post, you cannot do amiss in laying in plentifully at that place. And I should think another deposit at *Croton* (or *Pine's*) *Bridge*, could not be amiss, as it is represented to me as a post which ought to be held.

Time and circumstances may render further instructions necessary; till which your own judgment, and General *Lee's* orders, must be your government.

Given at Head-Quarters, near *White-Plains*, this 10th *November*, 1776.

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Brigadier-General *Mifflin*, Quartermaster-General, or his Assistant.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL.

SIR: The late movements of, and accounts from, the enemy rendering it indispensably necessary that a body of troops should be thrown into the *Jerseys*, it will be incumbent on you to know how and in what manner they are to be supplied.

This move of a considerable part of our force will of course lessen the consumption of provisions at this side, and enable you to increase your magazines with greater facility. Where to point these out with precision, at this instant, I know not, except at or near *Peekskill*, which, as a post of importance, and contiguous to two garrisons, may well be adopted as one place for a deposit, and I think near *Croton* (or *Pine's*) *Bridge* may be considered as another, as I am taught to believe that this is also an important pass, and necessary to be held.

My present ideas are, that the other places for magazines should be more easterly, at or near the other passes through the Highlands. However, on this subject you will consult General *Lee*, who will remain with the troops at or in the neighbourhood of this camp for a while.

I should think it unadvisable to have more provisions or stores in this camp than what may be necessary to supply the present wants of the troops, as from the scarcity of teams it has been found extremely difficult to have even the tents and the necessary baggage of the Army removed upon any emergency, however urgent.

In case the enemy should make a pretty general remove to the *Jerseys*, that part of the Army under General *Lee* will more than probably follow, notice of which I now give.

Given at Head-Quarters, near the *White-Plains*, this 10th day of *November*, 1776.

GO. WASHINGTON.

To *Joseph Trumbull*, Esq., Comm'y Gen'l Provisions.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO EZEKIEL CHEEVER.

SIR: As the Army (at least part of it) is near the period of its dissolution, you are to exert yourself to the utmost in recovering all the arms and other stores which have been issued by you to the several corps (whether Continental or Militia) in the service of the *United States*. Such of the arms as are unserviceable and cannot be repaired by the armourers of the Army, are to be packed in chests with an inventory thereof, and numbered, in order that they may be sent to the Board of War at *Philadelphia*, or delivered to their order, for the purpose of repair.

All the other stores are to be deposited in careful order in some safe place near the winter-quarters of the troops, on the east side of *Hudson's River*, comprehending the stores taken from them.

You will remain on this side (that is the east side) till further orders, and be particularly attentive to the above directions. I shall appoint some person to do this duty on the west side of the river, whom you are to furnish with a list of such articles as the troops there have drawn from you.

Give particular attention to the makers of cartridges, that there may be no want of this article; and as a part of the Army are removing to the *Jerseys*, under the supposition that the enemy are bending their course that way, consult with Colonel *Knox* on the stores necessary for their use, and see they are forwarded.

It is unnecessary to add that the troops under General *Lee* will also cross *Hudson's River*, if it should be necessary, in consequence of the enemy's throwing their force over.

Given at Head-Quarters, near the *White-Plains*, this 10th day of *November*, 1776.

GO. WASHINGTON.

To *Ezekiel Cheever*, Esq., Comm'y of Military Stores.

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GENERAL MIFFLIN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 12th.]

Peekskill, November 10, 1776, 8 o'clock A. M.

MY DEAR SIR: This morning at four o'clock an express passed this town with despatches from the honourable Convention of *New-York* to his Excellency General *Washington*, at *White-Plains*. The express produced a copy of a letter from the Committee of *Albany* to the Convention, which letter mentioned in most positive terms the evacuation of *Crown-Point* by the enemy, and the retreat of General *Carleton* with his whole force to *Quebeck*. The enemy left *Crown-Point* on *Monday*, the 28th of *October*.

I am, sir, with much friendship, your obedient servant,

THOMAS MIFFLIN.

The Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., *Philadelphia*.

P. S. General Lord *Stirling* passed *King's Ferry* yesterday afternoon to *New-Jersey*, with twelve hundred men. Colonel *Hand* is now embarking for *Jersey* with one thousand; General *Bell* with seventeen hundred is here and preparing to embark; the whole under the command of General *Putnam*. General *Washington* is expected here this morning. The enemy's main body was encamped yesterday between *Dobbs's Ferry* and Colonel *Phillips's* Mills. If they attempt any thing in *New-Jersey* we shall be able to face them, and I trust drub them.

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LORD STIRLING TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Haverstraw, November 10, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I got to the landing-place yesterday afternoon, with *Haslet's*, *Miles's*, and part of *Weedon's*, with our artillery; the remainder arrived in the night, and are now landing. The landing-place is very inconvenient, as at half tide the vessels are obliged to lay at the distance of five or six hundred yards from the shore, which makes tedious work with the few boats that are here; besides it is open to any insult the enemy is pleased to commit. About half a mile further north, and on the north side of *Stony Point*, is a good landing place in deep water, and easily secured, by placing two pieces of cannon on the end of the point. It will require about half a mile of new road, and a short causeway, and a small bridge.

I hope to be able to march this morning. I have ordered a scouting party to advance ahead, and a hundred men to possess a gap in the mountain just above *Kease's Landing*, which it commands. Through this gap the road passes. The next landing is at a place called *Naiak*, below the mountains of *Verdrietiga Hook*, but they will not, I think, risk a landing there, as the roads is commanded by a long chain of mountains.

The great pass through the Highlands lies fourteen miles back from the river, and will best be supported with troops from *Tappan;* and on consulting General *Greene*, a proper body of troops will be sent there; but at present the first object is to prevent their landing, and therefore I shall hasten on to those places where it is most likely they will attempt it.

I find General *Greene* has posted five hundred men with four pieces of cannon and one howitz at *Dobbs's Ferry*, and that I believe will be sufficient to defeat any designs they may have there.

I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

STIRLING.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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ROBERT BOYD, JUN., TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

New-Windsor, 10th November, 1776.

SIR: This will be handed you per Mr. *McClaughry*, who hath in his possession under guard, whom he will also deliver to you or order, two certain felons, named, by their information, *Henry Vank* and *James Briggs*, who were apprehended in this place yesterday by Messrs. *Jackson* and *Holliday*, two of the members of this Committee, for passing false money. It appears that a three-dollar bill of the emission of this State, dated 2d *September*, '75, is altered into a thirty-dollar bill, and as such passed it. It is now in the hands of one of the above gentlemen, who you may call on whenever you shall want full proof of the matter.

I am, sir, with much esteem and due respect, your very humble servant,

ROB'T BOYD, JUN.

To Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President, in Committee of Safety, *Fishkill*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 10, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Yesterday a member of the Convention of this State, immediately from *Fishkill*, informed us that the enemy had retreated to *New-York* Island. This story comes so straight that I have very little doubt of the truth of it. It was even said that they had ordered all the forage which they had collected on *Long-Island* to be embarked, and that these movements were occasioned by some bad news they had received, bad to them, but I hope good to us.

Colonel *Dayton*'s father is dead, and his presence much wanted at home. Will you be so good as to inform him that he may return to *Jersey* whenever he pleases?

Pray order all the storekeepers to make returns to the Paymaster-General, or his deputy, of all clothing and stores that have been delivered to them, that proper stoppages may be made agreeable to the resolutions of Congress.

You will also please to order that all the arms belonging to the *United States*, and in the hands of such corps whose term of inlistment is expired, be lodged in the hands of the conductors. Several of the *Pennsylvania* and *Jersey* troops have drawn arms at this place.

I am, dear General, affectionately yours, &c., &c.,

PH. SCHUYLER.

General *Gates*.

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*A List of sick Officers and Soldiers at* STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, *recommended for discharge as are unfit for any further service for the present campaign, agreeable to instructions from Dr.* J. MORGAN, *Director-General, by* PHILIP TURNER, *Esq., Surgeon of the General Hospital.*

*Of Colonel* TROOP'S *Regiment.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amaziah Spencer, | Daniel Morgan, | Enoz Martin Kellog, |
| Daniel Spencer, | Wm. Skinner, | Gideon Nolton, |
| Caleb Gates, | Isaac Higgins, | Niles Taylor. |
| Thomas Brooks, | | |

*Colonel* STORER'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lieut. John Kingsly, | Joshua Parker, | Edmund Conant, |
| Capt. Wm. Wilson, | Isaac Palmer, | John Thompson, |
| Samuel Fuller, | Stephen Fuller, | Ensign Jo. Palmer, |
| Samuel Turner, | James Spaulden, | Elias Palmer, |
| Jonathan Dunham, | Josiah Collins, | James White. |
| Phineas Turner, | | |

*Colonel* WM. DOUGLASS'S.

Eliphalet Leadington, Elam Luddington.

*Major* ZABDIEL ROGERS'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Christopher Frink, | Ebenezer Jones, | Levi Gager, |
| Elijah Huntington, | John Prior, | John Munsell, |
| Paul Harvey, | Abner Smith, | Jesse Woodworth, |
| Daniel Rosse, | Jo. Hyde, | James Crocker |
| Jedediah Palmer, | | |

*Colonel* BALDWIN'S.

Hail Burbank.

*Colonel* CHESTER'S.

Phinehas Downing, Benjamin Carpenter, Israel Carpenter.

*Colonel* SERGEANT'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Levi Fuller, | Josiah Lee, | Phinehas Cady, |
| John Windship, | John Troy, | Ebnathan Jones, |
| William Briton, | Caleb Lench, | Caleb Bridge, |
| Joseph Blanchard, | Asa Huntley, | Lewis Wood. |
| Thomas Bruce, | | |

*Colonel* PRESCOTT'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Brown, | Ichabod Johnson, | Jesse Jones, |
| Jonathan Conneck, | Jonathan Trask, | Paul Thomas, |
| Joseph Sawyer, | Thomas Camel, | Amos Brooks, |
| John Patten, | Jo. Willson, | Isaac Green, |
| Phinehas Gage, | Josiah Carter, | William Gorse. |
| Peter Davis, | | |

*Colonel* TYLER'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Peter Willey, | Phinehas Smith, | Thomas Lyon, |
| James Swift, | Christopher Foster, | Abijah Morse, |
| Robert Williams, | Malachi Wilkason, | Thomas Croseman, |
| Ephraim Camel, | Daniel Willard, | David Occom, |
| William Miller, | Zoath Tucker, | John Williams, |
| Richard Miner, | Nathan Miller, | Richard Grant, |
| Andrew Palmer, | William Lester, | Elijah Wilcox, |
| Josiah Paugheage, | Timothy Donalds, | Elisha Wright, |
| John Griffen, | Lemuel Lattimer, | Jeduthan Herd. |
| Reuben Wright, | | |

*Colonel* HUNTINGTON'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Robert Clark, | Ebenezer Armstrong, | Solomon Ingham, |
| Stephen Ransom, | Demas Warner, | Elisha Messenger, |
| John Ferrein, | Hezekiah Brunson, | Joseph Lines, |
| Ludwick Hotchkiss, | John Warren, | Aaron Carpenter, |
| Joseph Boardman, | David Manning, | Eliphalet Abbey. |
| Abel Washings, | Samuel Fuller, | |

*Colonel* SMITH'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Capt. Ralph Stoddard, | Charles Randle, | John Bebee, |
| Capt. Hubbard Burrows, | James Mills, | James York, |
| Dennison Avery, | Elijah Phillips, | James Carter, |
| David Baker, | James Morgan, | Daniel Prentice. |
| | John Barber, | |

*Colonel* WARD'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James Burnet, | Richard Woodron, | Nathaniel Washbone, |
| Daniel North, | Joshua Williams, | Edward Goddart, |
| Joseph Keeney, | Benjamin Burrows, | Nash Mitchell, |
| William Hilton, | Elijah Hacket, | David Searle, |
| Alexander Glover, | John Blackman, | Eliphalet Tayler. |
| James Davis, | | |

*Colonel* WYLLYS'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Gideon Cole, | Jonah Riseing, | Ebenezer Demmock, |
| Justice Elynn, | Enos Blakely, | William Ross, |
| Allen Bidwell, | Rossell Webster, | John Tyler, |
| Charles Riley, | Ashbel Fridley, | Noah Owen, |
| Samuel Lucas, | Enos Hull, | Elijah Messenger, |
| Josiah Hubbard, | Ephraim Hurford, | John Steadman, |
| Jonathan Tinker, | Jonathan Clark, | Samuel Killburn, |
| John Hurst, | Comfort Goff, | Amaza Chapman, |
| Edward Foster, | Levi West, | William Nobles, |
| Eleazer Whipple, | Ezra Rowe, | Daniel Warner, |
| Charles Kent, | John Rowe, | Jonah Gates. |

*Captain* DOUGLASS'S.

James Dickson, Comfort Slack, Lieutenant Parks.

*Colonel* HORSFORD'S.

Captain Ephraim Carpenter.

*Colonel* SELDEN'S.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Daniel Hillyard, | Benjamin Main, | Elisha Fitch, |
| Zeb. Dudley, | Joshua Holmes, | Ens. John Williams. |

*Colonel* SAGE'S.

Josiah Wood, Lieut. David Patten.

The above-named, from amongst several hundred persons, already examined under the denomination of sick men, are thought a burden to the service, unfit for duty the present campaign, and recommended for a discharge to me by Dr. *Philip Turner*, Esq., Surgeon of the General Hospital, in whose judgment I can trust, and on whose integrity I can rely. I therefore report them to your Excellency as proper persons for a discharge.

November 10, 1776.

JOHN MORGAN,
*Director-General of the Hospital, &c.*

To His Excellency *George Washington*, Esq.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER RECEIVED IN LONDON, DATED DOVER, ENGLAND, NOVEMBER 11, 1776.

Arrived the *Georgiana*, *Kentish*, from *Bluesfields*, in *Jamaica*, after a passage of thirteen weeks and four days, under convoy of the *Pallas* frigate, the Hon. Captain *Cornwallis*, with a fleet of about one hundred sail of ships. On the 18th of *September*, in latitude 31° 47′, longitude 75°, the *Pallas* made sail, and was out of sight of said ship seventeen days after. On the 5th of *October*, the *Georgiana* was chased, and taken by an *American* brig-of-war, called the *Cabot*, Captain *Hinman*, mounting fourteen six-pounders, as many swivels, and one hundred and fifty men. After being plundered of all their arms, powder, and as much sugar, rum, cotton, &c., as the *Americans* could conveniently get out, they put on board the officers and seamen belonging to the under-mentioned ships, prizes which they had taken, viz: the *Westmoreland*, *Hore*, from *Jamaica* to *London*; the *Lowther*, *Cowman*, from ditto to ditto; on the 27th of *September*, in latitude 41° 30′ N., longitude 45°: the *Esther*, *Harvey*, from ditto to ditto; the brig *Watson*, *Pearson*, from ditto to *Liverpool*; and the *Clarendon*, *Denniston*, from ditto to *Glasgow*; on the 2d of *October*, in latitude 41° N., longitude 45°. They sent on board for the maintenance of the people three barrels of pork, two hundred weight of bread, and two puncheons of water, which were not sufficient, as they have been at very short allowance ever since parting from the *American* pirates, which was the next day. Captain *Kentish* spoke with the *Betsey*, *Angus*, from *Jamaica*, off *Scilly*, who spared him some bread and water, or they must all have perished.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER RECEIVED IN LONDON, DATED SOUTHAMPTON, (ENGLAND,) NOVEMBER 11, 1776.

The brig *Kingston*, Captain *Reveness*, is this day arrived in fourteen days from *Oporto*, and brings advice of the arrival there of the brig *Ceres*, Captain *Squires*, in seven days from *Bilboa*, and that sixteen sail of *American* privateers were there, one of which had taken five sail of *English* ships on her passage thither, among them was the *Susanna*, *Crawford*, from *Oporto* for *London*, lately mentioned. The day Captain *Reveness* sailed from *Oporto*, an express arrived there from his Majesty's Consul at the *Groyne*, setting forth that four *American* privateers were then in the harbour of *Ferrol*, supplying themselves for a cruise. The same day the post from *Lisbon* brought advice that a schooner of eighteen guns, sailing extraordinary fast, had taken several vessels near the Rock, one of them, a brig laden with corn, after having taken the pilot on board. Their colours are a red field with thirteen stripes, where our union is placed, denoting the united rebellious Colonies.

MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WARNER.

Philadelphia, November 11, 1776.

Sir: We have received intelligence that our enemies at *New-York* are about to embark fifteen thousand men on board their transports, but where they are bound remains to be found out. The station assigned you makes it probable that we may best discover their destination by your means, for it will be impossible this fleet of transports can get out of *Sandy Hook* without your seeing them; and we particularly direct you to take such station as will prevent a probability of their passing you unseen. The *Wasp* must act in conjunction with you, and for that purpose you will concert with Lieutenant *Baldwin* what is best to be done, and give him orders accordingly. When you discover this fleet, watch their motions, and the moment they get out to sea and shape their course, send your boat on shore with a letter to be despatched by express, informing us what course they steer, how many sail they consist of, if you can ascertain their numbers, and how many ships-of-war attend them. We expect this letter will be sent off to you by Mr. *James Searle*, who is at *Shrewsbury*, and he will either receive your letters and send them off to us by express or get some proper person to do it. If this fleet steer to the southward, either the *Fly* or *Wasp*, which ever sails fastest, must precede the fleet, keeping in shore and ahead of them; and if you find they are bound into the Capes of *Delaware*, run into some of the inlets on the *Jersey* shore, and send one of your officers or some proper person to us instantly with an account thereof. The dullest sailer of the *Fly* or *Wasp* must follow after this fleet, and watch their motions, and whenever you make discovery of their destination, so as to know it with certainty, put in for the land and send us information by express. Thus you must watch this fleet, one before and the other after them, until you can inform us where they are bound. Should they go for *Chesapeake Bay*, put into some of the inlets on the coast and give advice to the Council of Safety of *Virginia* and *Maryland* by express. If they go for *North-Carolina*, *South-Carolina*, or *Georgia*, observe the same conduct, and if they go to the northward do the like. In short, we think you may, by a spirited execution of these orders, prevent them from coming by surprise upon any part of this Continent, and be assured you cannot recommend yourself more effectually to our friendship. If you could find an opportunity of attacking and taking one of the fleet on their coming out it might be the means of giving us ample intelligence: in such case send all the papers and prisoners here expeditiously.

We are, sir, your humble servants.

Captain *Elisha Warner*.

ROBERT OGDEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Elizabeth-Town, 11th November, 1776.

Sir: As I cannot at present, without the greatest difficulty, have access to Colonel *Trumbull*, Commissary, under whom I act, therefore send my son, the bearer, on purpose to get salt to supply my troops in my department. For particulars refer you to him. The disappointments I have met with in not getting that article, the necessity of an immediate supply, or the troops must suffer, for which reasons I don't doubt but you will give him all the assistance in your power, which will promote the interest of the common cause, and greatly oblige, honourable sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Robert Ogden.

The Honourable *John Hancock*.

GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fort Lee, November 11, 1776.

Dear General: By Justice *Mercereau*, of *Staten-Island*, I am informed that ten thousand troops embarked on board of a number of transports day before yesterday; Lord *Dunmore* was to command, and that they were bound for *South-Carolina*. A large number of transports were getting ready to sail for *England* for stores. *Mercereau* says that he saw a man from *York* yesterday, that informed him he had been employed in constructing a number of gondolas to carry one eighteen-pounder; the gondolas are to be employed in fetching hay from *Newark* Meadows. The Light Horse, he says, are perishing for want of hay.

*Mercereau* further informs me, by the way of General *Williamson*, that our prisoners in the city are perishing for want of sustenance, having only half allowance of bread and water. They are reduced to the necessity to beg, and instead of receiving any charity, are called damned Rebels, and told their fare is good enough, and that they had no business to burn the grain on *Long-Island*.

This moment came to hand a large number of letters from the prisoners of *New-York*, several to your Excellency. They came out by the way of *Mount Washington*; the enemy remains quiet there this afternoon.

I am, dear General, your most obedient and very humble servant,

Nath. Greene.

To His Excellency General *Washington*, at *White-Plains*.

Head-Quarters, *November* 13, 1776.—This letter was opened by General *Lee*. John S. Eustace, *A. D. C.*

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 15th.]

Peekskill, November 11, 1776.

Sir: I have only time to acknowledge the honour of your letter of the 5th instant, and its several enclosures, and to inform you that, agreeable to the resolves of Congress, I shall use every measure in my power that the moving and present confused state of the Army will admit of, for to appoint officers for recruiting. You will have been advised before this of the arrival of Commissioners from the *Massachusetts*;

others have come from *Connecticut;* but from the present appearance of things, we seem but little if any nearer levying an Army.

I had anticipated the resolve respecting the Militia, by writing to the Eastern States and to the *Jersey*, by the advice of my General Officers and from a consciousness of the necessity of getting in a number of men if possible to keep up the appearance of an Army. How my applications will succeed the event must determine. I have little or no reason to expect that the Militia now here will remain a day longer than the time they first engaged for. I have recommended their stay, and requested it in general orders. General *Lincoln* and the *Massachusetts* Commissioners are using their interest with those from that State; but as far as I can judge we cannot rely on their staying.

I left *White-Plains* about eleven o'clock yesterday; all peace there. The enemy appeared to be preparing for their expedition to *Jersey*, according to every information. What their designs are, or whether their present conduct is not a feint, I cannot determine. The *Maryland* and *Virginia* troops under Lord *Stirling* have crossed the river, as have those from the *Jersey;* the remainder are now embarking. The troops judged necessary to secure the several posts through the Highlands have also got up. I am going to examine the passes, and direct such works as may appear necessary; after which, and making the best disposition I can of things in this quarter, I intend to proceed to *Jersey*, which I expect to do to-morrow.

The Assemblies of *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut*, to induce their men more readily to engage in the service, have voted an advance pay of twenty shillings per month in addition to that allowed by Congress to privates. It may perhaps be the means of their levying the quotas exacted from them sooner than they could otherwise be raised, but I am of opinion a more fatal or mistaken policy could not have entered their counsels, or one more detrimental to the general cause. The influence of the vote will become Continental, and materially affect the other States in making up their levies. If they could do it, I am certain when the troops come to act together, that jealousy, impatience, and mutiny, would necessarily arise. A different pay cannot exist in the same Army. The reasons are obvious, and experience has proved their force in the case of the Eastern and Southern troops last spring. Sensible of this, and of the pernicious consequences that would inevitably result from the advance, I have prevented the Commissioners from proceeding or publishing their terms till they could obtain the sense of Congress upon the subject, and remonstrated against it in a letter to Governour *Trumbull*. I am not singular in opinion: I have the concurrence of all the General Officers of its fatal tendency.

I congratulate you and Congress upon the news from *Ticonderoga*, and that General *Carleton* and his Army have been obliged to return to *Canada* without attempting any thing.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

—

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 7th, 1776.

(Parole, *Dedham.*) (Countersign, *Newbury.*)

The Colonels, or commanding officers of regiments, are immediately to parade their men, examine the state of their regiments, and make out their pay abstracts in a careful, correct manner, for the month of *September*.

General *Wadsworth's* brigade to be in readiness to remove in a short notice to the ground on which Lord *Stirling* is posted. Colonel *Silliman* to take charge of the brigade during General *Wadsworth's* illness.

The General Officers, Colonels, and commanding officers of regiments, are again called upon to examine the baggage of the troops under marching orders; to take care that the tents and spare arms of the regiment are first put into the wagons, and then the proper baggage of the regiment. No chairs, tables, heavy chests, or lumber of any kind, to be put in, as it will certainly be thrown off and left.

No officer of any rank is to meddle with a wagon or cart appropriated for any other regiment, or publick use, as they wish to avoid confusion, and injuring the service.

Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 8th, 1776.

(Parole, *Philadelphia.*) (Countersign, *Portsmouth.*)

The Court Martial of which General *McDougall* is President, to sit immediately for the trial of Major *Austin*, in arrest, upon charge of "burning the houses at *White-Plains*, contrary to general orders."

Colonel *Graham* and Captain *Gerrish*, tried by a Court Martial whereof General *McDougall* was President, for misbehaviour upon the approach of the enemy, are acquitted.

Captain *Poole*, of Colonel *Cary's* regiment, and General *Fellows's* brigade, tried by the same Court Martial, and convicted of shamefully abandoning his post, ordered to be cashiered.

The General approves each of the above sentences, orders the former to join their regiments, and the latter to depart the Army immediately.

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Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 9th, 1776.

(Parole, ——.) (Countersign, ——.)

The General desires that all Colonels and commanding officers of regiments, will be particularly attentive that no discharged men, or men whose times have, or are about to expire, be suffered to carry off any arms, camp-kettles, utensils, or any other kind of stores, which belong to the publick; but that the whole be carefully delivered to the Quartermaster-General (or his Assistants) or to the Commissary of Stores, as the case may be, taking receipts therefor, in discharge of those they have passed for the delivery, in behalf of the corps they respectively belong to.

—

Head-Quarters, White-Plains, November 10th, 1776.

(Parole, *North-Castle.*) (Countersign, *Bedford.*)

Such officers as have been commissioned by the different States for the new Army, are immediately to set about recruiting from the troops of such State only, upon the following terms: Twenty dollars bounty, a suit of clothes, one hundred acres of land. The same pay and rations as are now given. The service to continue during the present contest with *Great Britain*.

Such ample encouragement, it is not doubted, will induce every true lover of his country to engage in its defence, to preserve it from the horrours of slavery and the desolation of a cruel and barbarous enemy. No boys (under the idea of waiters or otherwise) or old men to be inlisted; if they are, they will be returned on the hands of the officer, without any allowance for any expense he may be at.

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COLONEL H. B. LIVINGSTON TO THE NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Fishkills, 11th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Should it be thought proper to honour me with the command of a regiment, in order to its being tolerably well officered I must beg leave to recommend to your notice the following officers, who I am of opinion are qualified for the commissions set opposite their names. If you, gentlemen, should be of the same opinion, I should be happy to see them in those stations: Major *Peter Schuyler*, Lieutenant-Colonel; Major , fifth Brigade-Major to General *Scott*, a Major; Captain *Sacket*, a Captain to *Grifin's* company; Captain *Rosekrans* and Captain *Davis* continued; Lieutenant *Jonathan Titus*, an old officer, and Lieutenant *Israel Smith*, Captains in case of vacancies; Lieutenant *George Smith*, to be a First Lieutenant, a worthy officer of approved resolution; *Woolsey*, a volunteer in the excursion to *Long-Island*, a Lieutenant if possible, if not, an Ensign. A Surgeon, an Adjutant, a Quartermaster and Chaplain, will be much wanted, none having been appointed to the regiment I now serve in.

I remain, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY B. LIVINGSTON, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

To the Gentlemen of the Committee of Arrangement.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 18: Referred to Board of War.]

Albany, November 11th, 1776.

SIR: I am just informed by a letter from General *Gates*, that on *Tuesday*, the 4th instant, there was not the least

sign of any enemy forty miles north of *Crown-Point*. That from the information of the inhabitants, who daily resort to *Ticonderoga*, and other circumstances, there is reason to believe that the enemy have in good earnest retired into winter-quarters. General *Gates* has sent a flag, with Lieutenant *Evans*, to *Canada*, by the return of which he will probably learn what is become of the enemy; and I have desired him, as soon as he has full information that they are gone into winter-quarters, to send our Army to theirs. This distribution I have made, Congress will see in a letter of mine to Messrs. *Stockden* and *Clymer*.

General *Gates* presses me much for money. In my last I mentioned to what our chest was reduced, half of which is ordered to *Ticonderoga* and the other half will be expended in a very few days.

I am, sir, with every sentiment of respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Albany, November 11, 1776.

DEAR SIR: On *Tuesday*, the 4th instant, no sign of the enemy was seen forty miles north of *Crown-Point*. General *Gates* has sent a flag, with Lieutenant *Evans*, by the return of which, he will know if the enemy are really gone into winter-quarters; if so we shall do the like. I am in hopes that in three weeks, at farthest, we shall have barracks sufficient for what troops may remain in the service. I propose twenty-five hundred at *Ticonderoga* and *Mount Independence*, one hundred at *Skenesborough*, one hundred at *Fort Ann*, four hundred at *Fort George*, one thousand at *Saratoga*, five hundred in this place, five hundred in *Schenectady*, about one hundred at *Johns-Town*, one hundred at *Fort Dayton*, and four hundred at *Fort Schuyler*. I hope this disposition of the troops will be agreeable to your Excellency.

Congress has referred to me, for approbation or disapprobation, the proceedings of the Court Martial on Colonel *Campbell*. General *Gates* informs me that they are sent to your Excellency. Will you be pleased to order them to be transmitted to me?

I am, dear sir, very affectionately, and with perfect esteem, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

His Excellency General *Washington*, &c., &c.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany, November 11th, 1776.

SIR: We have reason to believe that the enemy will give us no farther trouble, until another campaign takes place, as on *Tuesday*, the 4th instant, not the sign of any was to be seen on *Lake Champlain*, forty miles beyond *Crown-Point*. Measures are taken to know with certainty if they are retired into winter-quarters; and if the intelligence we expect confirms our belief that they are, we shall then immediately do the same, leaving a garrison of twenty-five hundred at *Ticonderoga*, four hundred at *Fort George*, one hundred at *Skenesborough*, one hundred at *Fort Ann*, four hundred at *Fort Edward*, one thousand at *Saratoga*, about four hundred in this place, five hundred at *Schenectady*, two hundred at *Johns-Town*, two hundred at *Fort Dayton*, and four hundred at *Fort Schuyler*. This disposition of the Army, I hope will meet the approbation of Convention. My reason for keeping them in this quarter is that they will be at hand should the enemy attempt a winter expedition, which it is probable they may do, as they can procure a sufficiency of carriage in *Canada* to transport their provisions and baggage.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Honourable President of Convention of *New-York*.

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Hartford, November 11, 1776.

By letters from *Mount Independence* of a late date, we are informed that on the 28th of *October* a large body of the enemy appeared in boats coming down the lake, who soon after landed, to the number of about four thousand, on *Three-Mile Point*, in full view of *Mount Independence*; soon after which two or three boats came down from the main body, to reconnoitre and view the boom which our people have fixed across the lake from the old *French* lines to the eastern shore to prevent their shipping from approaching our fortifications; one of which boats came so near as to be within reach of our cannon, when she was so warmly fired upon from one of our redoubts, that she was obliged to quit her station, with the loss of one man killed and several wounded. In the evening after they landed they retired out of our sight, and by a gentleman from *Albany*, who came to town on *Saturday* last, we are told that the whole Army under General *Burgoyne* have left the above place, as well as *Crown-Point*; but what route they have taken is not known.

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M. LOTBINIERE TO DR. FRANKLIN.

Chatain, au Cap Cod, 11 Novembre, 1776.

MONSIEUR: Me voici enfin au comble de mes souhait, puisque depuis deux jours je suis sur votre continent, et à même de pouvoir parvenir jusqu'à vous sous peu à *Philadelphie*, sans avoir à courir les risques que j'ai couru depuis mon départ de *St. Pierre*, ainsi que vous le pourrez voir en parcourant la lettre cy-jointe pour mon fils. Je vous aurai, monsieur, la plus grande obligation de vouloir bien la lui faire remettre le plûtost possible, dans la supposition toutefois ou il soit encore dans vos provinces, autrement je vous prierois de vous la réserver jusqu'à ce que j'aie l'honneur de vous voir; et dans le cas où il fut encore avec vous, j'espère que vous aurez la bonté de le faire venir à *Philadelphie* pour le tems où je pourrai m'y rendre.

J'ai séjourné à *Paris* et *Versailles* plus de deux mois, avant de me porter à *St. Malo*, d'où j'ai pris mon embarquement pour *St. Pierre de Miquelon*. J'ai eu pendant ce séjour nombre de conférences avec M. *de Vergennes*, Ministre des Affaires Etrangeres, ainsi qu'avec d'autres personnages importans en *France*, que m'ont paru prendre constamment le plus vif intérêt à la réussite de vôtre cause. Je puis même vous assurer que la chose alloit au point, qu'il eut semblé qu'elle les affectoit plus que leur propres affaires; mais c'est ce dont nous nous entretiendrons plus au long, pendant mon séjour à *Philadelphie*.

Je ne vous cache pas, Monsieur, que je désirerois beaucoup le reste de ma famille avec vous à présent, je serois dans le cas d'agir beaucoup plus ouvertement, que je ne le pourrai jusqu'à ce que j'aie tiré Mad^e. de *Lotbiniere* et ma fille du pais où elles sont au moment; et pour y parvenir plus promtement, mon idée seroit de faire passer de suite mon fils en *Canada*, moi tenant sa place tant qu'il seroit absent, qui muni des instructions que nous pourrons lui donner, parviendra peut-être à nous les amener promtement: en attendant vous devez croire, par le zéle que vous m'avez connu pour la cause commune, que je ne m'épargnerai pas sur le conseil, d'après les connoissances que j'ai des lieux sur lesquels il me semble que vous devez diriger toutes vos vues, aussitost que vous aurez reduit l'ennemi que vous avez en face à ne pouvoir plus agir offensivement; et comme il vous reste bien peu de tems pour voir finir la campagne, je croirois que vous n'avez rien de mieux à faire avec cet ennemi, que de le resserer le plus que vous le pourrez, mais de n'engager avec lui aucune affaire generale; qui, perdue, diviseroit toute votre armée sans espérance de la pouvoir rassembler à tems, à fui de prévenir la désunion, que je n'apperçois desza que trop dans la colonie actuelement attaquée, par le peu que l'on m'en a dit depuis que je suis ici, sur laquelle je savois des *Londres* qu'on comptoit pour ne pas dire qu'on en étoit desya certain, et qui je le crois a décidé le projet d'attaque: il vous est necessaire plus que jamais, je le pense, de vous conduire à la *Fabius*, poussant toujours vos vivres derriere vous, et dévastant le pays que vous abandonné; par ce moyen vous êtes certains de consommer votre ennemi, qui ne pouvant se raffraichir ni se recruter dans votre pais, se réduira dans le cours de l'hiver à un nombre bien peu respectable; et vous savez mieux que moi, qu'il est impossible à *l'Angleterre* de fournir une seconde armée, à une dépense aussi exhorbitante que celle-ci.

J'aurois bien souhaitté, monsieur, être muni, avant mon départ de *Boston*, d'ordres assez précis pour voler le plustost possible jusqu'à vous, avec deux domestiques que j'ai, et mes équipages.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, avec l'attachement le plus particulier, et la plus grande consideration, monsieur, votre très humble et très obeissant serviteur,

LOTBINIERE.

To the Hon. *Benjamin Franklin*, Esq., &c., &c., &c., at *Philadelphia*.

P. S. De la Baye de *Boston*, pret à arriver à cette ville ce Mardi, 7 heures du soir, 19 *Novembre*, 1776.

N'ayant pû trouver ni poste ni occasions certaines pour *Boston* à *Harrwich*, où j'ai sejourné malgré moi du Lundi au Samedi de la derniere semaine, non plus qu'à *Plymouth*, où un vent forcé de nord ouest nous a retenu jusqu'à ce matin, j'ai été réduit à porter moi-même la présente lettre jusqu'ici. Si nous arrivons ce soir à *Boston*, comme je l'espere, je la ferai passer de suite à la poste ; autrement ce sera demain des le matin, et on m'assure qu'il sera encore tems à 9 heures. Je ne sai combien j'aurai, monsieur, de jours à attendre votre reponse ; je prévois n'être en état de laisser *Boston* que lorsque je la recevrai, car la goellette qui m'a apporté de *St. Pierre* à *Chatain* en est à peine partie, et ma chaise n'en poura sortir que dans 6 ou sept jours pour le plustost, qui sera le tems on vraisemblablement cette goelette y arrivera, devant passer à *Well-Fleet* (au *Cap Cod*) où elle doit rester 3 ou quatre jours : ainsi je crois ne rien hazarder, vous annonçant que je ne laisserai cette ville qu'après avoir eu de vos nouvelles. Vous savez, monsieur, combien je vous suis attaché et à quel point je vous considere.

C. L.

Je profiterai du tems que je resterai à *Boston* pour voir la suite des ouvrages, tant à la ville et au dehors, que dans la baye, s'il m'est possible de parcourir le tout, et s'il m'est permis de le faire. Je vous en dirai mon sentiment, lorsque j'aurai l'honneur de vous voir.

—

Boston, 20 Novembre, 1776.

J'apprend à l'instant que Monsieur *Franklin* est parti pour se rendre en *France*. J'aurai une obligation infini à Monsieur le Président du Congrès, à qui j'ai l'honneur de présenter mon respect, de faire usage de cette lettre comme si elle lui étoit addressée, et de vouloir bien suppléer au defaut de M. *Franklin* pourtant ce qu'elle contient. J'espere qu'il voudra bien m'honorer d'un mot de résponse.

J'ai l'honneur d'être son très humble serviteur,

L.

—

[TRANSLATION.]

Chatham, Cape Cod, November 11th, 1776.

SIR: I am at last arrived at the completion of my desires, being since two days arrived on your Continent, and on my way to join you at *Philadelphia* soon, without the many dangers I have been exposed to since my departure from *St. Pierre*, which you may see by perusing my letter to my son. I shall be greatly obliged to you, sir, to deliver it to him as soon as possible, if he is yet in your Province, otherwise I beg you will keep it until I have the honour to see you; and if he is yet in your Province, I beg you will be so kind as to send for him and keep him with you, that I may find him at my arrival.

I have resided at *Paris* and *Versailles* above two months before I went to *St. Malo*, where I embarked for *St. Pierre* and *Miquelon*. During my residence at Court, I have had several conferences with Mr. *De Vergennes*, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as with many other important persons in *France*, who have appeared to me greatly concerned in the success of your cause. I can even assure you that they appeared more concerned about it than of their own affairs. We will talk further on this head when I reach *Philadelphia*.

I do not conceal from you, sir, that I really wish the rest of my family were now with you; in that case I would act more openly than I shall be able to do until I can get Mrs. *De Lotbiniere* and my daughter from the country they are now in. And in order to succeed as soon as possible in this, my idea would be to send my son immediately to *Canada;* and I would fill his place during his absence ; and on the instructions we might give him, he might succeed in bringing them with him. In the mean time I shall not be sparing of my advices, as you know my zeal for the common cause, and the knowledge I have of the places where your views ought to be directed, as soon as you can oblige your enemy to act only on the defensive. And as you have now little time to continue this campaign, I think your best way is to close them in as much as you can, and avoid any general action, which, if lost, would divide your Army without hopes of gathering them in time to prevent the disunion which I perceive but too great in the Colony attacked, and which they depended on so much in *London*, not to say that they had a certainty of it, and on which I believe they formed their plan of attack. It is this I think necessary more than ever to act like *Fabius*, keeping your provisions behind, and destroying the country you abandon; by those means you may be sure of destroying your enemy, who, not being able to refresh themselves nor recruit in your country, will be reduced in the course of the winter to a small number; and you know better than I, that *England* cannot for another year support such an exorbitant expense as that of the last.

I could wish, sir, to be furnished, before I leave *Boston*, with precise orders to go to you with the greatest diligence, with two servants and my baggage.

I have the honour to be, with the most particular attachment, and the greatest consideration, yours, &c.,

LOTBINIERE.

P. S. At the Bay of *Boston, November* 19th. Not finding at *Harwich* either post or opportunity for *Boston*, nor at *Plymouth*, I have been obliged to bring this letter myself. I do not know how long I shall be obliged to wait for your answer, but I think I shall not be able to leave *Boston* before I receive it, for the schooner in which I came from *St. Pierre* to *Chatham* is hardly sailed from thence, and my post-chaise will not be here before six or seven days, therefore I can certainly inform you that I shall not leave this until I receive your answer. I shall during my stay at *Boston* view the works of the city and the bay, if I am permitted, and will tell you my opinion of them.

On the back of the packet is wrote:

*Boston, November* 20th, 1776.—This instant I am informed that Mr. *Franklin* is sailed for *France*. I beg the President of the Congress would make use of this letter, as if directed to him, and supply the place of Dr. *Franklin* in regard to its contents. I hope he will honour me with an answer.

I have the honour to be, &c.

—

M. LOTBINIERE TO HIS SON.

Chatham, au Cap Codd, le 10 Novembre, 1776.

Me voici enfin, mon cher fils, à même de vous voir sons peu, non sans avoir couru les risques les plus evidens de ne vous jamais revoir, il y a dix jours, puisque nous avons pensé perir d'un tres gros vent de nord ouest sur la barre de l'est nord est de *l'Isle de Sable*, à plus de 3 lieues et ½ au large de la pointe de cette isle, et hier ayant échappé comme miraculeusement à un vaisseau de guerre qui nous donnoit chasse vers le soleil couchant, qui a passé à 7 heures ½ tout au plus à ¼ de mille de nous sans nous voir, quoique nous l'apperçussions tout entier et gros comme une montagne, converte de voile n'ayant pû double le *Cap Codd* pour nous rendre à *Well-Fleet* qui n'en est qu'à 8 lieues, et delà à *Boston* dans la goelette qui m'a porté de *St. Pierre de Miquelon*, nous avons relaché ici pour nous mettre à l'abri du vent du nord, forcé qu'il fait; et ne voulant plus courir les risques, au moment de rejoindre la partie la plus précieuse de ma famille, de m'en voir éloigné peut-être de l'océan entier si j'etois pris, ou au moins de perdre mes equipages qui sont un objet assez considerable, s'il nous falloit jetter encore, je prends mon parti de me rendre d'ici par terre à *Boston*, avec mes malles, portemanteaux, &c., et mes deux domestiques; il n'y aura pas le moyen que ma chaise de poste, qu'on ne peut dégager de la calle qu'après que la cargaison en sera tiré, qui courra les risques ; et si elle peut échapper, aussitost que la goelette aura joint *Boston*, je la ferai descendre et me mettrai en route pour *New-York* et *Philadelphie* des le lendemain. Je ne vous cache pas mon fils que je serai assez flatté de voir *Boston*, tous les ouvrages qui y ont été faits de part et d'autres pendant que les Royalistes y étoient, et ce que l'on y a fait depuis pour la mettre à l'abri de toute insulte—ainsi que la baye depuis la tour qui est pour guider parson feu les vaisseaux qui s'y presentent.

Vous avez dû recevoir il y a près d'un mois et ½, par une petite goelette de *Nantouket* qui partoit de *St. Pierre*, une lettre de moi qui vous annonçoit mon arrivée prochaine au continent: je vous marquois de faire savoir à votre mère et reste de ma famille mon arrivée à *St. Pierre* depuis le 5 de *Septembre* dernier, et la résolution où j'étois de venir le plustost possible à ce continent pour tacher de vous dégager promtement de vôtre captivité: Jussai-je, mon cher fils, n'obtenir vôtre liberté qu'en me livrant pour vous, si elle ne dépend que de cet offre de ma part au Congrès, vous ne languirez pas long tems à la recouvrer. Si vous eussiez voulu me croire aussi prévoyant que je l'étois, et que vous eussiez voulu suivre le conseil que je vous ai donné dans deux ou trois lettres l'année derniere, etant desya convaincu de tout ce qui devoit avoir lieu, vous vous seriez tenu aussi tranquille sur vos biens que je vous marquois de le faire, et auriez retenu ces saillies d'honneur et d'envie de vous faire connoître par la partie militaire, vous reservant pour une meilleure occasion: vous vous fussiez épargné bien de la peine, bien des pertes, et à moi une inquietude mortelle pour vous et le reste de la famille que j'avois confié à vos soins, et que vous avez abandonné à leur triste sort, sans savoir ce qu'elles deviendroient, vous n'y etant plus. Si au lieu de vous livrer à cette bravour folle pour le moment où vous l'avez mise en action, vous vous fussiez rendu en *Europe* avec votre sœur, comme je vous le marquois, vous vous seriez mis l'un et l'autre bien en sureté, et ne pouviez être exposé à aucuns reproches de certains de nos anciens officiers, qui ont su pousser dans le peril tous nos jeunes gentilshommes, et ont en grand soin de s'en tirer, ou pour mieux dire de ne s'y point exposer: car c'est là j'en suie certain ce qui vous a décidé, et si vous voulez être de bonns foy comme je vous ai toujours vû, vous m'en ferai l'aveu dèz notre premier entrevue sans que j'aie la peine de vous en parler quoiqu'il en soit, après beaucoup d'inquietude, de perils, et de peine, me voici enfin à portée de retrouver sous peu ma famille, et je l'espere dans le même etat où je l'ai laissé. Me voici à même de rendre à ma patrie les services les plus essentiels et les plus grands, si ceux qui l'habitent veulent enfin m'écouter, leur faisant envisager dans ce dernier moment leurs vrais et uniques intérêts, ce que j'ai toujours fait, assurément bien au depens des miens, et malheureusement sans succés jusqu'ici: j'espère cependant cette fois, parceque j'aurai à leur dire de particulier, qu'ils pourront renoncer à un zèle aussi peu raissonné que celui qu'ils ont montré jusqu'ici: ceci je vous prie mon fils pour vous seul ou vous êtes, et qu'aucun de vos amis n'en ait pas le plus petit soupçon, jusqu'à ce que nous ayons dégagé et mis en sureté toute la famille, et c'est ce que je desire que vous fassiez le plustôst que vous le pourrez après m'avoir vû. Mille complimens à vos camarades qui seroient à votre portée, et me croyez, comme certainement vous n'en sauriez douter, votre bon père, et le meilleur de vos amis,

LOTBINIERE.

Je n'ai pas le tems de relire ma lettre, ne sais trop quelle suite elle a, mais vous savez que je suis ici, que je me porte bien, et c'est je le crois de quoi vous contenter.

A Monsieur, Monsieur *Lotbiniere* fils, &c., &c., &c.

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[TRANSLATION.]

Chatham, Cape Cod, November 10th, 1776.

I am, my dear son, in hopes of seeing you soon, not without having been exposed to imminent dangers, &c. [To the 24th line no consequence.] You must have received a letter from me about a month and a half ago, by a *Nantucket* schooner, which sailed from *St. Pierre*, which informed you of my near approach to this Continent. I told you to inform your mother and the rest of my family of my arrival at *St. Pierre*, the 5th of *September* last, and of my resolution of coming to this Continent as soon as possible, to relieve you from your captivity, even in giving myself for you. And if this offer from me to the Congress is admitted of, you will not languish long in recovering your liberty. If you had believed me, and followed the advice I gave you last year in two or three letters, you would have been convinced of what has happened. You would have remained quiet on your estate, and have restrained those sallies of honour and the desire of distinguishing yourself in a military way, reserving yourself for a fitter opportunity. You would have spared yourself many pains and losses, and me a mortal uneasiness for you and the rest of my family, which I had entrusted to your care, and which you have abandoned to their hard fate, without knowing what might become of them in your absence. If instead of giving yourself up to a bravery, foolish in the case in which you have employed it, you had gone to *Europe* with your sister, as I wrote to you, who would have been both secure, and not exposed to any reproaches of certain ancient officers, who have had the talent of exposing our young gentlemen to the danger, and keeping themselves out of it, for this is I am sure what induced you; and if you have that good faith I have always found in you, you will confess it to me on our first interview without my having the trouble to speak to you about it. However that be I am now, after many dangers and troubles, near joining with my family, and hope to find them as I left them, and inclined to render my country the greatest and most essential services, if those who inhabit it will at last listen to me, by showing them in this last moment their true and only interest, which I have always done, and certainly at the expense of my own, though heretofore without success. I hope notwithstanding that, at this time by the particular reasons I have to lay before them that they may renounce to so unreasonable a zeal as that they have heretofore shown. This I write for you alone in the place you are in; and let none of your friends have the least suspicion of it, until we have disengaged all our family, and put them in safety, and this what I desire you may do immediately after our interview. My compliments to your comrade; and believe me to be, &c.,

LOTBINIERE.

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LIST OF FIELD AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND BATTALION RAISED IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE, APPOINTED NOVEMBER 11, 1776.

John Stark, Esq., *Colonel.*
Joseph Cilley, Esq., *Lieutenant-Colonel.* } First.
George Reed, Esq., *Major.* }

Enoch Poor, Esq., *Colonel.*
Nathan Hale, Esq., *Lieutenant-Colonel.* } Second.
Windborn Adams, Esq., *Major.* }

*Captains:*
Benjamin Titcomb,
James Norris,
Fred. Mordent Bell.

*Colonel* POOR'S *Battalion:*
James Carr,
Elijah Cloyce, (*First Lieutenant,*)
John Drew,
Samuel Blodgett, (*Second Lieutenant.*)

*Benjamin Giles* for the Committee.

*Captains:* (*Colonel* STARK'S *Battalion:*)
Amos Morrell,
Joseph Wait,
Ebenezer Frye, *First Lieutenant,*
Isaac Farwell, *Second Lieutenant.*

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CAPTAIN ABBOT'S ORDERS FROM THE COMMITTEE TO TICONDEROGA, 11TH NOVEMBER, 1776.

*To Captain* JOSHUA ABBOT:

You are hereby empowered immediately to inlist a company, to consist of eighty-six able-bodied effective men, including non-commissioned officers and privates, as soldiers in the service and for the defence of the *United States*, upon the establishment fixed by the honourable Congress, with such additional encouragement given by the State of *New-Hampshire:* To continue in that service till the end of the present war, unless sooner discharged by Congress; and that you cause said men when so inlisted to pass muster as soon as may be, the non-commissioned officers to be appointed by the Captain, and subalterns of each company to make return.

JONATHAN BLANCHARD,
STEP'N EVANS,
D. GILMAN,
*Committee from the State of New-Hampshire.*

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The General Assembly of the State of *New-Hampshire* having appointed the subscribers a committee to repair to *Ticonderoga*, to officer and raise two battalions for the Continental service, and by their resolve have empowered

said committee to promise and engage the same encouragement to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers, in addition to the encouragement given by the Continental Congress, as the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* do give, which is as follows:

That each non-commissioned officer and soldier who shall inlist into the Continental service as aforesaid, shall be entitled to receive from the treasury of this State twenty shillings per month, to be paid him or his order every six months during his continuance in the service, in addition to the pay and encouragement already granted by Congress, provided Congress shall not make any addition to their wages on or before the 19th of *September* last; and in case the Congress shall make an increase of wages less than twenty shillings per month, this State will supply the deficiency, and cause the same to be paid them as aforesaid.

JONA. BLANCHARD,
STEPH'N EVANS,
D'D GILMAN,
*Committee from New-Hampshire.*

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*The following are extracts from the Resolves of the Continental Congress.*

That Congress make provision for granting Lands to the Officers and Soldiers who shall engage in service, and continue therein to the close of the war, or until discharged by Congress, and the representatives of such Officers and Soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy, viz:

That twenty Dollars be given as a bounty to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist to serve during the present war, unless sooner discharged by Congress. To each Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier one hundred acres.

That a suit of Clothes be annually given to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier, to consist for the present year of two linen hunting-shirts, two pair of overalls, a leathern or woolen waistcoat with sleeves, one pair of breeches, a hat, a leathern cap, two shirts, two pair of stockings, and two pair of shoes; amounting in the whole to the amount of twenty Dollars, or that to be paid to each Soldier who shall procure those articles for himself.

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M. F. GRAND TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Amsterdam, 12th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have been ordered by Mr. *William Carmichael*, who is gone from hence to *Hamburgh*, to direct a packet of letters for you to Mr. *Van Bibber*, at *St. Eustatia*, and to have the honour of writing to you by the same opportunity, to send you the King's speech to his Parliament, which arrived by the post to-day, but which had been forwarded by express.

Notwithstanding the progress of the King's Army, and the conquest of *New-York*, the *English* funds are low. You may judge of them by the course, herewith sent, of the 8th and 11th. There are only venders, and not one purchaser; from whence it is that there has been no transfers for three days, which is a thing without example in a season critical like the present.

It has been remarked, that the agents who have sold out most from the funds, or taken the lead for the fall, are those who act for persons in place in *England*, who are best acquainted with what passes in the Cabinets.

The sudden and forced armaments which is going forward in *England* of a fleet of observation, is regarded here as a proof of some important discovery; and all sensible men see that the independence of *America* is an interesting stroke for the House of *Bourbon*.

I promised Mr. *Carmichael* to give you all the intelligence which I should think to be deserving of attention, and I shall not neglect any opportunity of doing it. I suppose he gives you accounts of the ideas with which I have furnished him, and at the same time of my earnestness, and that of my house, under the firm of *Monneca, Fizeaux & Co.*, to serve you in every case where you shall honour us with your orders.

I speak and understand *English*; but I do not write it well enough to venture to correspond with you in that language, and I am persuaded you will comprehend me better in *French*.

I shall esteem myself happy if I can give you proofs of my zeal, and merit your confidence. If you do me the honour to write to me particularly, my address is, To Sir *George Grand*, under cover to my house.

I am, with most profound respect, gentlemen, your most humble and most obedient servant,

GRAND.

I send this letter to the owner of a vessel, the *Fair Judith*, Captain *Mathys Hanssen*, who sails to-morrow for *St. Eustatia*, enclosed in a box, to Mr. *Van Bibber*, from whom he has promised to furnish me with a receipt at his arrival.

To the Secret Committee, &c.

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WILLIE JONES TO COLONEL WALKER.

Halifax, N. C., November 12th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I send you herewith some papers from Mr. *Galphin*, relative to *Indian* affairs. It appears from them that he has had much difficulty to keep the *Creeks* quiet hitherto; and it still remains a doubt whether his labours will not prove fruitless at last. Should the *Virginians* meet with success against the *Overhill Cherokees*, it may possibly have a proper effect on the *Creeks*.

Mr. *Galphin* seems to think it necessary to hold another Congress with these last in the spring. This might answer very well if a supply of goods, sufficient for presents, could be obtained. You will be pleased to forward Mr. *Galphin's* letter to Congress, that they may see his sentiments on the subject.

I believe I shall resign as Commissioner for *Indian* affairs, as I have recollected a man who lives two hundred miles nearer to the seat of business than I do, who is very well qualified for that purpose.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

WILLIE JONES.

To Colonel *Walker*.

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GEORGE GALPHIN TO WILLIE JONES.

Silver-Bluff, October 26, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I take this opportunity by Captan *Alston* to acquaint you how our affairs stand here with the *Indians*. I never had an opportunity to write you since you left *Augusta* till now. I have been obliged to go four times to *Ogeechy* since the Congress, to meet *Indians* there, for they durst not come through the settlements. I am just returned from there. The villains that run off from *Georgia* tell the *Indians* so many lies, and our enemies at *Pensacola*, it distracts them. They were, it is said, very near raising an army to go and cut off the *Creeks*. They sent down to me to know if it was true. I told the fellows it was all a lie, and they must pay no regard to what our enemies told them, and keep to the talk they had at *Augusta*.

The people upon the ceded land have killed another *Creek* since you went away, and say they will kill them wherever they meet them.

Enclosed is a petition and a letter of Doctor *Wills*. He got all the people in the ceded land of no property to sign it, but it was taken no notice of. If he could get people enough to have joined him the time of the Congress, I was told by a man that was in the plot to have seized all the ammunition, and to have fell upon the *Indians* and killed them, and declared war with them.

As I could get no white man that would venture himself up to the *Creeks* with a talk, I keep three or four *Indians* at my cowpen over *Ogeechy*, to go up with talks, but I was told some of the people upon the ceded land said they would come down and kill them, for they wanted war. I was obliged to send them home, so you must think I have a hard task to keep the *Creeks* our friends, when both our enemies and the people that should be our friends want us to be at war with them. Our enemies have plenty of ammunition and every thing else to give them, and we have nothing to give them. They have every temptation to break with us, and yet I think I could keep them peaceable, if it was not for the people upon the ceded land. I think I have settled the killing this last *Indian* with them, but if they kill any more I do not know how to settle it, but I have sent them word not to come over the *Ockones* till times is better.

The first talk *Stuart* sent up for the *Creeks* to go down

to *Pensacola*, they would not go, for they said he and his beloved men told them nothing but lies, for they brought fifty horse-loads of ammunition in to the *Creeks*, which they said was to be given to them, and they sent it off to the *Cherokees*. But he sent again and got the trader in his interest and gave some of the headmen presents before they went down. So I suppose there will four or five hundred go, men and women. I have sent a fellow there, that is to come down as soon as he returns, to acquaint me with all that passes there; got down by this time, I suppose. In about three weeks they will be returned home. Their temptations is so great from that quarter few white men would stand out so well as they do, for the Commissary and *Brown* gives every fellow ammunition that asks for it.

When the *Cherokees* broke out with us I knew they would send to the *Creeks* to join them. I went out to *Ogechy*, and sent off a fellow with a talk to the headmen not to join them. I sent a long talk, too tedious to mention; but it had the desired effect, for there had one of the headmen of the *Cherokees* got into the *Creeks* some days before my messenger, and had prevailed upon a hundred and odd of the young fellows to go with him. They were got a day's march from the town, when the fellow I sent up as soon as he delivered the talk I sent by him to the headmen, they sent runners after them and called them all back again. Just as I got home Captain *Williamson*, that commanded our army in the *Cherokees*, wrote me of the *Cherokees* sending to the *Creeks* for assistance, and to send off to the *Creeks* if possible to stop them; but had done that before I received his. He has done every thing in his power in the *Cherokees*. He has destroyed all their corn, and burned their towns, and marched to the Middle Settlements, where he met the *North-Carolina* army. Between them they destroyed all the Middle Settlements. If the *Virginia* army against the *Overhills* has done their part as well, the *Cherokees* has paid dear for their breaking out with us.

When Colonel *Williamson* went to the Middle Settlements he sent word to the *Georgians* to go and destroy a little town, called *Chate*, that was in *Georgia*. About eighty gunmen lived in it. About the same time I had intelligence of *Brown* setting off from the *Creeks* with fifty horse-loads of ammunition for the *Cherokees*. I wrote *McRae* to send an express to Captain *Marberry*, to get a party of men to intercept it; but just about that time they had killed the *Creek* fellow, and *Marberry* could not get one of these people to go with him that wants to declare war against the *Creeks*—I may say *Chickasaws* and *Choctaws*, that is fifteen thousand men, for they have all made peace. Nor would not go to destroy that little town *Chite*. Captain *Williamson* upon his return from the Middle Settlements was obliged to go and destroy it himself. These people that want a *Creek* war so much now, when the people would run away they would get a great deal of plunder, and afterwards they would run off as they always do at every little alarm in the summer. *Brown* and two more white men got about two hundred of the disaffected *Indians* in the Upper towns to come with them against the frontiers. When they came to the Lower towns, they thought to get more there to join them; but the Lower towns' people told them they could not think of going against their friends that had given them such good talk the other day, and desired they might return home again. The young warriors and some others of the headmen told them if they did not, as soon as they raised white people down here they would go to *Pensacola* and raise white people there, and give them war upon every quarter. And they turned them all back again. If we can but keep them peaceable till the spring, and the gentlemen of the Continental Congress enable us to hold another congress with them in *May* or *April* next, I hope we should be able to frustrate the designs of our enemies. We are now just like a parcel of carpenters set to work to build a house without one single tool.

I received a letter the other day from the gentlemen of Congress in *Savannah*, informing me it was the desire of the gentlemen of the Continental Congress for either *McRae* or me to carry some of the principal men of the *Creeks* to *Philadelphia;* but it is not possible to carry any at this time of the year; but in case we could hold a congress with them in the spring we might carry some of them, and perhaps our offers there would be better then they are at present.

Please to forward what intelligence I have sent you to Mr. *Walker*, and remember me kindly to him. I should be glad to see you both here in the spring; but we should have our congress at *Ogechey*. I would be gald to hear from you both if any opportunity offered.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

GEORGE GALPHIN.

This letter imports that the villains who run away from *Georgia* endeavour to persuade the *Creek Indians* that the white people are preparing to make war upon them; that the enemy at the *Floridas* and *British* King's emmissaries are endeavouring to stir them up against us; that the people who are settled upon the ceded lands in *Georgia* are desirous of a war with the *Creeks*, and have killed some *Indians*, and threaten to kill them wherever they meet them; that this makes it dangerous for the *Creeks* to come through the settlements, which occasions a difficulty of communication. The writer gives as a reason the desire the people on the ceded land have for an *Indian* war, that they expect the neighbouring inhabitants would remove in haste and confusion and leave much of their effects behind them, which would fall into the hands of the ceded land settlers. It also imports that the *Indians* have great temptations to commence hostilities against us, because the enemy give them every thing, while we have nothing to give. That they nevertheless remain peaceable, and not only refused aid to the *Cherokees*, but threatened them if they persisted in assisting the enemy against us. That the writer is of opinion a congress of *Indian* commissioners and *Indian* chiefs should be held in *April* or *May*, in order to prevent an *Indian* war. That the numbers are fifteen thousand men, and that the writer has great difficulty in keeping them quiet. It also imports that the Congress at *Savannah* had recommended to bring some *Indian* chiefs to Congress; but that it was impracticable to do it in the winter season.

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*The Information of* GEORGE BARNES *and* JOHN LAMBETH, *upon oath.*

Ogechey, October 21st.

They say that one *Killeresh* came up to the *Creeks*, and told them there was an army coming up to cut off their nation and *Pensacola;* and *William Oats* came up shortly after, and confirmed it, and told them that the white people had wounded an *Indian* and took him into one of their forts and hanged him up and cut him to pieces; that some of the principal men of the *Cussitaws* was going down to *Savannah*, and when *Oats* got as far as the *Buzzard-Roost*, he told the *Indians* the army would be up shortly after him, by the full-moon, to cut them off; they, upon hearing this, sent off to the *Cussitaws*, to the headmen not to go down. Half-breed *Tom Gray* was at the *Cussitaws*, and it was told *Brown*, he brought up a talk from *Savannah*. *Brown* set off with a party of men to take him or kill him. When they came to the *Cussitaws* with their army, the *Indians* told them they did not understand their coming there in arms; they would not deliver *Gray*. He got off in the night, and is gone down. *Brown*, when they came away, could not walk; he had either a boil or an imposthume. It was as big as a man's fist; so it will be some time before he can leave the nation, and we do not believe any of the Lower towns *Indians* will go with him, except some of the *Point* people. No white man can leave the *Indian* country except he runs off. *Brown* has sent a white man called *Savana Jack* to the Upper towns, to see if the *Indians* will come, but we believe there will but few come, except some of the *Savannahs*. There is a great many of the *Indians* gone to *Pensacola* to get presents; and all the traders that is gone down there with their skins is to have twenty-five pounds sterling for every horse back to the nation, to be loaded with presents for the *Indians* that stay at home. *Bailey*, a trader that lived at *Augusta*, said, as soon as he returned from *Pensacola* he would come down upon the frontiers and carry off negroes and horses, and bring down *Indians* with him. When *Tale* and *Brown* was setting the *Indians* on to come to war against the white people in *Georgia*, the handsome fellow of the *Oakfuskays* said, if the *Indians* came here to spill white blood, he and his warriors would go to *Pensacola* and kill white people, and be at war with all the white people. Some made answer that *Tale* was a beloved

man. He said who made him a beloved man? He is nothing but a wood-chopper—meaning he was a carpenter.

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*An Information of* JOSEPH IRONMONGER, *upon oath.*

Ogechey, October 21st, 1776.

This is eleven days since he left the Lower *Creeks*, where he see Captain *Brown*, with about eighteen or twenty men that was with him and ahead of him, and that he heard *Brown* and some of his men say, that there was some of the Upper *Creeks* coming down to meet them on *Augustine* path, below the Lower *Creeks*. He expected to get some of Lower towns to go with him, but this deponent says he came off to alarm the settlements, so he does not know whether any of the Lower *Creeks* went off or not. *Brown* sent after him and catched him at *Flint* river, but that night he got away and laid two days in a swamp, and in six days got in here. He heard *Brown* and some of his people say they were going to meet an army from *Augustine;* and these white men that was with him, was mostly men run away from this Province, and was to pilot the army into the frontiers of *Georgia*, and drive all before them. He thinks it was at the river *St. Mary* they were to meet. He heard *Brown* and three other white men say that was in the battle in the *Cherokees*, one of the white men said he killed two Liberty men; that *Brown* returned before he got to the *Cherokees*, as he found the *Indians* was drove from their towns, and that it was talked in the nation, that there was a petition going about among the white people to sign, to declare war against the *Creeks*, and to cut them all off; and he met an *Indian* fellow and all his family, with his cattle and hogs, at the *Oakmulgays*, going to the nation. He lived several years at the *Oakonies*. He left his potatoes undone, and his corn in the corn-house. He asked the *Indian* what made him leave his place. He told him he had throwed it away. *Brown* was to meet the Army the latter end of next month. He says he heard one of the traders say that Mr. *Stuart* had sent up a talk to the *Creeks* to stay at home, and take care of their wives and children, for the white people from these parts was coming to war against them. He says he heard them three white men that came from the *Cherokees* say that they took two white men prisoners the day of the battle; one of them they delivered up to the *Indians*, and they put him to death, and the other got away from them. He heard in the *Creeks*, that General *Lee* and his Army was gone back to the northward, and that the King's troops had taken two places to the northward, and that he was sent for in a great hurry. He says he heard *Brown* say that the Army would be about two thousand or twenty-five hundred men that was to fall upon the frontiers of *Georgia*, and that *Brown* offered him two pounds sterling per month to go with him. He says he came in company with *Brown* from the Upper towns, and there was no *Indians* with him, and that he brought ten horse-loads of ammunition, which was part of the ammunition he was carrying to the *Cherokees*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GOVERNOUR HENRY.

Philadelphia, November 12, 1776.

SIR: The Secret Committee of Congress having chartered and loaded in the State of *Virginia* the *Aurora*, on account of the Continent, and the voyage on which she is bound being a most important one, I have it in charge from Congress to request you will give all the assistance in your power to expedite her sailing, by issuing such orders as you shall judge proper for manning and despatching her with the greatest expedition.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost esteem, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

His Excellency Governour *Henry, Virginia.*

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON.

Philadelphia, November 12, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by Congress to transmit you the enclosed resolve, and to request your attention to it. The dangerous intercourse between our enemies in *New-York* and *Staten-Island* and the internal enemies of *America* in different parts of *New-Jersey*, calls for the immediate interposition of Government to suppress it. You will therefore be pleased, in conjunction with your Council and Assembly, to take such measures for this end as you shall judge most expedient.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost esteem, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

His Excellency Governour *Livingston.*

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PETITION OF JAMES MCCONNAUGHY TO CONGRESS.

[Read in Congress 12th November, 1776: Referred to the Board of War.]

*To the honourable the Continental Congress of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

*The humble Petition of* JAMES MCCONNAUGHY, *most humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner purchased from Captain *William Keith* a servant man named *John Scollay*, who had three years and six months to serve, but found means afterwards to make his escape, much to your petitioner's loss. Your petitioner having reposed too much confidence in him, (he is an artful fellow, and made himself tolerable well acquainted with the country, and a dangerous person to our present cause,) he inlisted in the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of Regulars, then in *New-Jersey*, was taken prisoner at *St. John's*, in *Canada*, and is now confined as a prisoner of war in the barracks at *Lancaster*. Your petitioner has been already at a considerable expense and loss of time in defence of *American* liberty. Therefore humbly prays your Honours will be pleased to grant him an order to obtain his servant again. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will pray.

JAS. MCCONNAUGHY.

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COLONEL THORNTON TO MESHECH WEARE.

Philadelphia, November 12, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: The 3d instant we arrived safe in this city, and the 8th inoculated for the small-pox. I have attended the Congress every day yet. The ferries over *North River* were so obstructed by the enemy, we were obliged to cross at a place called *Peekskill*, where I saw Colonel *Tash*, who used me exceeding well.

This day the Congress was informed by his Excellency General *Washington* that the enemy decamped from *White-Plains*, and were landing on the *Jersey* shore; and he was taking every precaution to prevent them from penetrating into the country.

By a letter from General *Gates*, dated the 31st of *October*, the enemy a few days before appeared in order of battle, and on his preparing to receive them, returned to their camp.

For better and further information and news, I must refer you to the newspapers, and you won't find more falsehood in them than is passing through this city. Before my arrival the Hon. Colonel *Bartlett* was sent off, and I had not the pleasure to meet him. The Hon. Colonel *Whipple* is well. Please to take the trouble to present my compliments to every member of the honourable Council and House, and accept the same from him who has the honour to be your most obedient, humble servant,

MATHEW THORNTON.

To the Hon. *Meshech Weare*, Esq.

N. B. No danger by this letter.

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GENERAL GREENE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Fort Lee, November 12th, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 4th and 5th of this instant came duly to hand. You may depend upon my transmitting to Congress every piece of intelligence that comes to hand that is worthy their notice.

By one Justice *Mercereau*, a gentleman that fled from *Staten-Island*, I am informed that there are ten thousand troops embarked for *South-Carolina*, to be commanded by Lord *Dunmore*. This intelligence he obtained by a gentleman yesterday from the the city of *New-York*, a man of credit and truth. *Mercereau* is a very good friend to the

cause, and a sensible man; and he says from several ways this account is confirmed. Perhaps the numbers are not so great as reported. *Mercereau* further informs that a large fleet are at the watering-place, on *Long* or *Staten-Island*, all ready to sail for *England*. It is reported the fleet consists of one hundred sail.

By several accounts of different people from the city, it appears our prisoners are in a very suffering situation. Humanity requires that something should be done for them. They have only half allowance of bread and water, but this I suppose is exaggerated.

The enemy at *Dobbs's Ferry*, where they have lain for several days past, decamped this morning, at nine o'clock, and took the road towards *King's Bridge*. They made an appearance at the ferry as if they intended to cross the river. I believe they are disappointed in their expectations, and at a loss what measures to pursue.

We have had several skirmishes with the *Hessians* on *York-Island*, within a few days; killed and wounded, between thirty and forty privates and one officer. Day before yesterday our people had an interview with the *Hessians*; they acknowledged they were greatly imposed upon by their Prince, and promised to desert that night, but none came over.

A considerable part of the troops on the other side are coming over into the *Jerseys*, and his Excellency General *Washington* with them. I expect General *Howe* will attempt to possess himself of *Mount Washington*, but very much doubt whether he will succeed in the attempt. Our troops are much fatigued with the amazing duty, but are generally in good spirits. The *Hessians* say they are on half allowance. The Light-Horse are said to be perishing for want of provender.

I have the honour to be your most obedient and very humble servant,

NATHANAEL GREENE.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Continental Congress, at *Philadelphia*.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Camp at Phillipsburg, November ye 12th, nine o'clock, P. M.

DEAR GENERAL: This instant came express from Colonel *Tupper*, (stationed opposite to *Dobbs's Ferry*,) one *David Keech*. The substance of his intelligence is as follows: That the enemy began their march at nine this morning, down the river, with their baggage, artillery, &c., &c.; that the man-of-war and two store-ships had just set sail, and were making down—I mean those which came up last. The three ships still lie off *Tarrytown* and *Sing-Sing*—two at the former, one at the latter. *Keech* says the whole Army have quitted *Dobbs's Ferry*, and imagines the rear have by this time reached *King's Bridge*.

I am far from being satisfied with the conduct of our scouts. I do not think they venture far enough, for they in general bring back very lame, imperfect accounts. But I have projected a plan for breaking in, at least, upon *Rogers's* party, and believe I shall succeed.

The sentence on *Austin* is, that he should be reprimanded; but I have ordered a new Court-Martial, with a charge of wanton, barbarous conduct, unbecoming not only an officer, but a human creature.

General *Lincoln* and the *Massachusetts* Committee are using their efforts to detain the Militia. Whether they succeed, Heaven only knows. *Hitchcock* and *Varnum* do not recollect the recommendation of General *Greene*; but I have ordered 'em to give me a list of those whom they think ought to be recommended; for it is now too late to refer to *Greene*, as the Commissioners are expected every hour.

I wish to God you were here, as I am, in a manner, a stranger to their respective merits. When the list is made out, I shall inform myself, (as well as I can,) if their recommendation is impartial, and proceed accordingly.

I am, dear General, yours, most sincerely,

CHARLES LEE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL HASLET TO GENERAL RODNEY.

November 12, 1776.

I received his Excellency's orders to take possession of the hill [*Chatterton's Hill*] beyond our lines, and the command of the Militia regiments there posted; which was done. We had not been many minutes on the ground, when the cannonade began, and the second shot wounded a militia-man in the thigh, upon which the whole regiment broke and fled immediately, and were not rallied without much difficulty. Soon after General *McDougall's* brigade took post behind us. Some of our officers expressed much apprehension from the fire of our friends so posted. On my application to the General, he ordered us to the right, formed his own brigade on the left, and ordered *Brooks's Massachusetts* Militia still farther to the right, behind a stone fence.

The troops being thus disposed, I went up to the top of the hill, in front of our troops, accompanied by Major *McDonough*, to reconnoitre the enemy. I plainly perceived them marching to the *White-Plain*, in eight columns, and stop in the wheat-fields a considerable time. I saw their General Officers on horseback assemble in council, and soon their whole body face about, and in one continued column, march to the hill opposite to our right. I then applied to General *McDougall* again to vary his disposition, and advised him to order my regiment farther onward, and replace it with Colonel *Smallwood's*, or order the Colonel forward, for there was no dependence to be placed on the Militia. The latter measure was adopted. On my seeing the enemy's march to the creek begin in a column of their main body, and urging the necessity of bringing our field-pieces immediately forward to bear upon them, the General ordered one, and that so poorly appointed, that myself was forced to assist in dragging it along the rear of the regiment. While so employed, a cannon-ball struck the carriage, and scattered the shot about, a wad of tow blazing in the middle. The artillerymen fled. One alone was prevailed upon to tread out the blaze and collect the shot. The few that returned made not more than two discharges, when they retreated with the field-piece. At this time the *Maryland* battalion was warmly engaged, and the enemy ascending the hill. The cannonade from twelve or fifteen pieces, well served, kept up a continual peal of reiterated thunder. The Militia regiment behind the fence fled in confusion, without more than a random, scattering fire. Colonel *Smallwood* in a quarter of an hour afterwards, gave way also. The rest of General *McDougall's* brigade never came up to the scene of action. Part of the first three *Delaware* companies also retreated in disorder, but not till after several were wounded and killed. The left of the regiment took post behind a fence on the top of the hill with most of the officers, and twice repulsed the Light Troops and Horse of the enemy; but seeing ourselves deserted on all hands, and the continued column of the enemy advancing, we also retired. Covering the retreat of our party, and forming at the foot of the hill, we marched into camp in the rear of the body sent to reinforce us.

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GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

At a General Court-Martial held by order of Major-General *Lee*, for the trial of Major *Austin, Philipsburg, November* 12, 1776, Colonel *Hitchcock*, President.

Members:

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| Colonel *Read*, | Captain *Ledyard*, |
| Colonel *Webb*, | Captain *Olney*, |
| Lieut. Colonel *Nixon*, | Captain *Ball*, |
| Lieut. Colonel *Wesson*, | Captain *Bond*, |
| Major *Angel*, | Captain *Pelton*, |
| Major *Brooks*, | Captain *Jones*. |

Captain *Andrew Peters*, Judge Advocate *pro tem.*

The Court proceeded to the trial of Major *Austin*, who was ordered in arrest by the General, charged with wanton, cruel, barbarous treatment of helpless women and children, not only unworthy the character of an officer, but of a human creature.

The prisoner being arraigned before the Court, and demanded whether he was guilty or not guilty of the charge alleged against him, he pleads, Not guilty.

Mrs. *Adams* being sworn, says, that on the night of the 5th instant, there came a party of men into her house on *White-Plains*, and immediately set the house on fire. When she went out of the house, some of the men began to carry things out of the house, when she asked them why they

took those things. Then Major *Austin* spake, and told her he should carry them to the General's, and alleged General *Sullivan's* orders for it. That her sister took Major *Austin* by the arm crying, and he said to her, What the devil do you take me by the arm for? Because, said she, you are an officer, and can prevent such treatment. Then her mother told Major *Austin* she hoped he would not burn her house too; on which he told her there was another house above that she might go into; after which Major *Austin* told his men to go and set the other houses on fire as quick as they could. Mrs. *Adams* further says, that when they first came to the house, they told her to get her things out of the house as quick as possible; that she attempted to take some things out of a bed-room, when some of the men told her to be gone or they would blow her through; that the party would not suffer her to dress her children, but drove them out of doors naked; that she asked Major *Austin* why he could not save her house, and burn the others; he replied, Because you are all damned Tories, and there was a damned Tory taken out of your house this night. That after some of her things were carried out of doors, some of the men insulted her with ill language, (in the presence of Major *Austin*,) such as damned Tories, &c., threatening to blow her through.

*Elisha Dunham* being sworn, says that on the night of the 5th instant he was on guard, and stood as sentinel at the time the houses were burning, which was at about one hundred rods distance from him; that he heard the crying of women and children as he thought.

*William Harrop* being sworn, agrees with *Elisha Dunham*.

The Court then adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

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November 13th.

The Court met according to adjournment.

Sergeant *Churchill* being sworn, says, on the night of the 5th instant, that he had been on a scouting party with Major *Austin*, and on their return the Major ordered him back with five men to the houses which they burnt, and told him to take good care of whatever things he got; to keep them safe, and bring them off to his markee; that when he came to the house, he asked Mrs. *Adams* what time of night it was; he then asked her for a candle, &c., and told her he must burn the house, and they must get their things and children out of the house, but told them not to be frighted, for he should not hurt them; and before the house was set on fire, he and his party did carry some of the things out of the house, such as bedding, wheat, &c.; that Major *Austin* told the women they might go to a red house near by, and if they would, his men should carry their things for them; that he heard no ill language towards the women from any of the party, neither in the house or out of doors, during the whole time they were there; that the women cried and seemed to be in great distress, but he told them they should not be hurt.

*Tilley How* being sworn, says, when they came to Mrs. *Adams's* house, they asked the people what time of night it was, and asked them for a candle, and told them they must burn the house; that he immediately went to carrying things out of the house; that he waited for the aged woman to get up and dress herself; he then took both feather bed and straw bed on which she lay, and carried them out of doors; that he laid down the straw bed and the feather bed upon it, and told her to lie down on it; that he assisted in carrying things out for about half an hour, as near as he could judge, before the house was set on fire, and then a straw bed was set on fire in the house by some of the men; that during the whole affair he heard no abusive language from any of the party towards the women or children; that a girl seized Major *Austin* by the arm crying, and held him fast; the Major asked her what the devil she held him by the arm for; she replied, you are an officer and can prevent the house being burnt; the Major then replied he could do nothing as long as she held him by the arm, but if she would let him go, he would set his men to carry her things to another house and make a fire for them. Further says, that what things were tied up in two blankets were carried to the Major's markee, and all the rest were left with the women; that the house the aged woman desired her things might be carried to was on fire when the Major first came to Mrs. *Adams's* house.

*James Linzer* being sworn, agrees with the two last witnesses.

Captain *Keith* being sworn, says he was present with Major *Austin* through the whole of the time the houses were burning on the night of the 5th instant, and agrees with Sergeant *Churchill* and *Tilley How*.

The question being asked Major *Austin*, whether he had any orders for burning said houses, he confessed he had no orders for it, but alleged as an excuse his being in company with some of the General Officers just before the houses were burnt on the *Plains*, and heard General *Putnam* say he thought it would be best to burn all the houses, &c., and finding there was houses burnt on the *Plains* soon after, he thought it his duty to burn the said houses as he did.

The Court having considered the case of the prisoner, Major *Austin*, are of opinion that he is guilty of a breach of the twenty-first article in the fourteenth section of the rules for the government of the Forces of the *United States of America*, and therefore sentence him to be discharged from the service.

Attest: DAN. HITCHCOCK, *President*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Peekskill, November 12th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed you will receive a copy of sundry resolutions of Congress, which came to hand since I left the *Plains*. They will discover to you their opinion as to the necessity of taking the most early measures to levy the new Army. The resolves cannot have any operation but in the instance of the *Rhode-Island* regiments, Commissioners having come from the States of *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut*, and being on the way from *Maryland*. They will be superseded, too, if any have arrived from *Rhode-Island*; therefore the resolutions are under that condition.

As it is of the last importance that the recruiting service should be begun, I must request, if the Commissioners are not arrived from *Rhode-Island*, that you will call upon Colonel *Hitchcock*, who will inform you of the officers recommended to that State by General *Greene*, &c., and give orders to them to begin their inlistments immediately, on the terms and conditions allowed by Congress. Such of them as agree to stay, and will undertake the business, will be commissioned according to the rank assigned 'em in that recommendation. I have not got it by me, having sent it away with my papers before I came from *Harlem*.

In respect to the Militia, you will try your influence to get them to remain; perhaps the requisition from Congress for that purpose may have some effect, though I have but little expectation that it will.

The enclosed letter for Colonel *Darby* you will please to send in by the first flag.

I cannot conclude without reminding you of the military and other stores about your encampment and at *North-Castle*, and to press the removal of them above *Croton Bridge*, or such other places of security as you may judge proper. General *Howe* having sent no part of his force to *Jersey* yet, makes the measure more necessary, as he may perhaps turn his views another way, and attempt their destruction.

I have directed Colonel *Putnam* to examine the passes in the Highlands eastward of this place, and to lay out such works as may be necessary to secure 'em. When you remove your present encampment, you will assign such a number of men to the several posts as you shall deem sufficient for their defence.

I hope the trial of Major *Austin* for burning the houses will not be forgot; publick justice requires that it should be brought on as soon as it can.

I am, &c.,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

—

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

SIR: The uncertainty with respect to the designs of the enemy renders any disposition of our Army at this time a little unsettled; but, for the present, your division, with such troops as are now at Forts *Constitution*, *Montgomery*, and *Independence*, are to be under your command, and remain in this quarter for the security of the above posts and the passes through the Highlands from this place, and the one

on the west side of *Hudson's* river. Colonel *Tash's* regiment is meant to be included in this command.

Unnecessary it is for me to say any thing to evince the importance of securing the land and water communication through these passes, or to prove the indispensable necessity of using every exertion in your power to have such works erected for the defence of them as your own judgment, assisted by that of your Brigadiers and the Engineers, may show the expediency of.

To form an accurate judgment of the proper places to fortify, in order effectually to secure the two land passes above-mentioned through the Highlands, requires a considerable degree of attention and knowledge of the roads and ways leading through the hills. These you must get from information and observation, as my stay here will not allow me to give any direction on this head with precision. You will not only keep in view the importance of securing these passes, but the necessity of doing it without delay, not only from the probability of the enemy's attempting to seize them, but from the advanced season, which will not admit of any spade-work after the frost (which may be daily expected) sets in. Lose not a moment's time therefore, in choosing the grounds on the east and west side of the river, on which your intended works are to be erected. Let your men designed for each post be speedily allotted, and by your presence and otherwise do every thing to stimulate the officers (respectively commanding at each) to exert themselves in forwarding them.

The cheapest kind of barracks must be erected, contiguous to these places, where no covering now is for the men. These may, I should think, be built of logs, and made warm at very little cost. In apportioning your men to the different posts (those to be established as well as those already fixed on the river) I advise your keeping the corps as much as possible together, and also desire that in this allotment you will consult your officers and such gentlemen as have it in their power (from their superiour knowledge of the country) to afford you good advice.

Independent of the barracks which may be found necessary for the men at the posts before-mentioned, I should think others ought to be built at such places in this neighbourhood as the Quartermaster-General and Engineer shall point out, as this must, from the nature of it, be considered in an important point of view, and as well adapted for winter quarters for part of the Army as any other place can be. If, contrary to the generally-received opinion, General *Howe's* remove to *Dobbs's Ferry* was only intended as a feint, to draw off part of our force from the place which we last occupied, and should make an attempt upon General *Lee*, you are to give him all the aid you can, taking care at the same time to keep guards in the posts and passes you occupy.

For the speedy and regular punishment of offences, you are hereby authorized and empowered, whilst you remain in a separate camp, to hold General Court-Martials, and carry the judgments of them into execution, in all cases whatsoever.

Be particularly careful of all intrenching tools, tents, (seeing that the bottoms of them are not covered with dirt,) and, above all, take care that no discharged soldiers are suffered to carry away any of the publick arms or accoutrements. Apply to the Commissary of stores for a list of those things furnished to the respective Colonels of Regiments, and see that they account for them before the men are dismissed. In like manner should every thing had of the Quartermaster-General be delivered up.

Keep persons employed in making of cartridges, and be particularly attentive that the stores are taken care of, and the powder kept from receiving damage; also prevent the soldiery from committing any kind of waste and injuries to private or publick property.

The men who composed the detachment under Colonel *Lasher* are all to join their respective corps.

Given at Head-Quarters, at *Peekskill*, this 12th day of *November*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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ORANGE COUNTY COMMITTEE TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Orange County, November 12th, 1776.

The Supervisors of the County of *Orange*, at their meeting, do find it necessary that something should be done in order to have the contingent charges of said County settled; and as some difficulties might arise from the former mode, have concluded to submit it to the opinion of the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*, for numbers of poor people depend on it for the support of their families. The Supervisors beg the opinion on the same from the honourable House, for which they shall be ever in duty bound.

Tho's Outwater, *Clerk*.

To the Honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York* at the *Fishkills*.

---

TENCH TILGHMAN TO ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

Peekskill, 12th November, 1776.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 9th did not get to hand till this day. Your remarks I think very judicious. I shall communicate them to Mr. *Duer*, who has a full opportunity of talking the matter over with the General.

I shall refer you to him for our various opinions of the intended operations of the enemy. You will hear them with more satisfaction through him than from, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

Tench Tilghman.

*Robert R. Livingston*, Esq.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 12, 1776.

Dear General: Our affairs below are in a perplexing situation. The enemy have collected their force at *Dobbs's Ferry*; brought up more ships above *Fort Washington*, and all their boats. It is imagined they either will attempt to penetrate into *New-Jersey*, or to make a push to get up *Hudson's River*: the latter is believed to be their intention. We have not batteaus or any craft to convey our troops from one side of the river to the other. A demand has been made on me, and I shall this day send all I have here. You will not want for flour, for I shall immediately build others.

From the accounts just received from *Tryon* County, it is probable we shall be attacked in that quarter also. You will, therefore, without any delay, send down such of the *Jersey* and *Pennsylvania* battalions whose term of inlistment is expired. These to be sent down the country to assist in opposing the enemy.

I have the fullest confidence that on this alarming occasion the soldiers will most cheerfully continue in the service a few weeks longer, and save their country. Let them come by the way of *Fort George;* I shall have sloops in readiness here to convey them down to the Highlands. You will also detach one regiment at least (more if they can prudently be spared) to meet the enemy in *Tryon* County.

Colonel *Lewis* goes off this instant to convey fifty batteaus out of *Lake George* into *Hudson's* river. You will therefore cause more batteaus to be brought into that lake. General *St. Clair* or General *Maxwell* to march with the regiments destined for the southward.

I am, dear General, your most obedient, humble servant,

Ph. Schuyler.

General *Gates*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER'S ORDERS TO COLONEL DEROUSSIE.

Head-Quarters, Albany, November 12th, 1776.

Sir: You will immediately man as many batteaus as are at this post, with such of the *Canadian* corps as are now in town, and proceed with them without a moment's delay to *Fishkill*. Upon your arrival at that place you will instantly wait on the President of the Convention of this State and conform to his directions as to your further procedure.

By order of the General:

John Lansing, Jun., *A. Sec'y*.

To Lieutenant-Colonel *Deroussie*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN WHIPPLE.

Newport, November 12th, 1776.

Sir: Captain *Bowden* has waited on me here, and says that he is innocent of seducing the people to retake the ship, and I think it would be hard to censure a man for a

few dirty fellows that we know to be villains. You therefore have my consent that you give him an order on Mr. *Langdon* for so much of his adventure as you shall think proper, and I will ratify the same as though I had done it myself.

I am, sir, your humble servant, ESEK HOPKINS.

To *Abraham Whipple*, Esq., Commander of the ship *Providence*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD.

Newport, November 12th, 1776.

SIR: Captain *John Plants*, who was a passenger in the *Royal Exchange*, has two hogsheads of rum on board this brig, *Lord Lifford*, under your care, and as he will want a sufficiency to bear his charges while here, should be glad you will deliver him the two hogsheads of rum, and it will be agreeable to the officers and men belonging to the fleet, and I make no doubt but it will be agreeable to the Congress.

I am, sir, your humble servant, ESEK HOPKINS.

To *John Bradford*, Esq., Agent for the Continental Fleet in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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CAPTAIN J. PAUL JONES TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

Alfred, 12th November, 1776,
Off the Coast of Cape Breton.

GENTLEMEN: I had the honour of writing to you from *Rhode-Island* 30th ultimo, with an account of my late cruise, and copies of my letters down to the 30th of *September*. I sailed from thence first current, and have met with contrary winds and strong weather for some time past. I have not, however, met with any material disaster. I took the brigantine *Active* last night, from *Liverpool* for *Halifax*, with an assorted cargo on private account, and this morning I fell in with and took the ship *Mellish*, of three hundred and fifty tons, from *London* for *Quebeck*, with a cargo consisting entirely of clothing. This prize is, I believe, the most valuable ship that hath been taken by the *American* arms. She made some defence, but it was trifling. The *Active*, by the best accounts I can learn, was worth six thousand pounds sterling when she left *England*. I found sixty men, women and children on board the *Mellish*, several of whom are persons of distinction. I have taken them all on board here, and shall now endeavour all I possibly can to effect the principal part of my duty and relieve our ill-treated fellow-citizens at *Cape Breton*. The loss of the *Mellish* will distress the enemy more than can be easily imagined, as the clothing on board of her is the last intended to be sent out for *Canada* this season, and all that hath preceded it is already taken. The situation of *Burgoyne's* army must soon become insupportable. I will not lose sight of a prize of such importance, but will sink her rather than suffer her to fall again into their hands. I send the *Active* into port, and she conveys this. There are among the prisoners forty seamen and soldiers, with their officers.

I am, with much esteem and respect, gentlemen, your much obliged, very obedient, and most humble servant,

J. P. JONES.

The Honourable Marine Committee, *Philadelphia*.

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CAPTAIN JONES TO LIEUTENANT SPOONER.

Alfred, 12th November, 1776,
Off the Coast of Cape Breton.

SIR: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the brigantine *Active*, from *Liverpool* for *Halifax*. You are directed to proceed with all possible despatch for the State of *North-Carolina*, and to deliver your charge (the brigantine *Active* with my letters) unto *Robert Smith*, Esq., the agent at *Edenton*. I request you to be very careful to keep a good look-out to prevent your being surprised or retaken; and you must by no means break bulk, or destroy any part of the cargo or stores except what may be absolutely necessary for your subsistence during the passage. If you find it impossible to reach and get into *North-Carolina*, you are at liberty to go into any other of the *United States of North America*. I wish you a safe and speedy passage, and am, sir, your most obedient, very humble servant,

JOHN PAUL JONES.

To Mr. *Walter Spooner*, Lieutenant of the ship-of-war the *Alfred*, and Commander of the *Alfred's* prize the brigantine *Active*.

N. B. When off the bar of *Ockricock* you are to hoist a jack or ensign on the under part of your jib-boom as a signal for a pilot, and hoist your ensign union down.

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CAPTAIN JONES TO ROBERT SMITH.

Alfred, off the Coast of Cape Breton,
12th November, 1776.

SIR: I am happy in this opportunity of acknowledging the great obligation I owe to Mr. *Hewes*, by addressing my prize, the brigantine *Active*, to you. I have seen and do esteem yourself; but I knew your brother *James* well, when I was myself a son of fortune. You will perhaps hear from me again in a short time. Meanwhile you may promulgate that I have taken the last transport with clothing for *Canada*; no other will come out this season, and all that have been sent before her are taken. This will make *Burgoyne* "shake a cloth in the wind," and check his progress on the lakes. I have taken a private adventure of Captain *Foxe's* (in slops) for the use of my seamen, and should he be allowed his private trade, you will please to give him any credit he may occasionally want under fifty pounds sterling, till I write you more particularly on the subject.

I have the honour to be, with much esteem, sir, your most obedient, very humble servant,

JOHN PAUL JONES.

To *Robert Smith*, Esq., agent for the State of *North-Carolina*.

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VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

St. Eustatia, 13th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We have this day drawn on you in favour of Mr. *John Parrott*, for four hundred dollars, for which draft we received specie from him, and flatter ourselves it will be duly honoured. We can assure you Mr. *Parrott's* cash came very opportunely to our assistance, having more engagements on account of the publick now due than we can conveniently pay.

We are, with much esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis*.

P. S. No mention was made by either of us whether hard specie was to be paid in *Maryland* or not, but hope you will satisfy the bearer of the bill. V. B. & H.

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THOMAS SMYTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Annapolis, November 13th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your not getting here this morning before I leave town prevents me from having the pleasure of seeing you.

The sooner you send the salt for curing the one hundred barrels of beef, which you have empowered me to purchase, the better, or the best beef will all be sold; and at the same time it will be necessary to send me about £250.

Permit me to remind your Honours of the application of Mr. *Alexander Murray*, for the command of the Province schooner now at Mr. *Steuart's* yard. Should you favour him with the appointment, his brother, Doctor *Murray*, will immediately inform him thereof; and

I am, with much respect, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS SMYTH.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.

Philadelphia, 13th November, 1776.

SIR: Congress have this day given an answer to the resolutions of our State, which being an entire new one, we

have despatched to the proper place to be considered. They resolve that the troops may be inlisted for three years, and a bounty of twenty dollars only to be given; or during the war, and one hundred acres of land be added to the bounty. They will not specify where the land lies belonging to the *United States*.

Our instructions run that they are to be inlisted during the war; of course when our State accedes to it we can proceed. Congress has got rid of the difficulty with respect to the land, and has not closed in with either of the propositions made by our State, nor receded entirely from their own resolution. But if they have escaped, they embarrass us. What can we do with our Regulars? They are inlisted during the war. Must we inlist them again in the service of the State for three years? I imagine our State will not incline to do so; if they do, we ought to have instructions on that head.

*King* brought only one of the bundles of commissions up; there are not more than enough for four battalions. There are five of the Flying-Camp and two of the Regulars. The *German* and Rifle companies will make the eighth. Surely, then, you have not sent commissions enough.

I should be obliged to you to send up a copy also of the resolves of Congress relative to the raising the eighty-eight battalions, as we have not got it, and would be as little troublesome as possible to the Congress.

Four thousand of our troops, under General *Putnam*, have crossed the *North River* to reinforce General *Greene*, who has six thousand under his command, to prevent the enemy plundering the *Jerseys* or penetrating to this place, and I suppose they will be followed by a more considerable number if the enemy pass that river.

Very little of the transactions of Convention have transpired here. You are exceedingly concise on that head. You tell me they are still engaged about the Constitution. I should naturally have concluded they were so. But pray what sort of a Constitution have they framed? How far monarchical, aristocratick, or democratick? how far a mixture? how balanced each power? It is a matter of great importance to a subject of a State that power should be well and equally balanced.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

BENJAMIN RUMSEY.

The Honourable *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esq., *Annapolis*.

If we stay here much longer the Flying-Camp will come near us, or to us.

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### BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 13th, 1776.

SIR: A man who has contracted to furnish Mr. *Green*, on account of our State, with forty reams of paper, called on me the other day and informed me that they were ready; that Mr. *Green* had directed him to send them down by water; but reflecting on the orders given by the members of Congress from our State not to hazard a former quantity by water, he was apprehensive that he should do wrong to risk them now, a thought which did not strike him till after the departure of Mr. *Green*, and that he would on notice send them by wagon. I forgot in my two former despatches to mention it, but informed him he would receive a line from our State relative to it.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

BENJAMIN RUMSEY.

To the Honourable *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esq., *Annapolis*.

One hundred sail of transports, under sufficient convoy, have sailed from *New-York* to the southward.

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### PETITION OF THOMAS LOWRY.

*To the Honourable the Continental Congress:*

Mr. *Wharton* and myself being appointed by Colonel *Joseph Trumbull*, Commissary-General, to purchase and cure beef and pork in the States of *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Maryland*, in consequence of which we have purchased a large number of cattle, which are now on hand and must be killed immediately, as there is no pasture for them. Having applied to the Council of Safety of this State for salt for curing the same, they have referred us to Congress for orders to them what proportion of salt, that is already imported, or may be imported, be delivered us for that purpose. As this is the most suitable time for procuring and salting both beef and pork, which, if now neglected, the Army must suffer, therefore request an answer as soon as convenient.

I am, in behalf of Mr. *Carpenter Wharton* and self, your Honours' most obedient, humble servant,

THOS. LOWRY.

Philadelphia, November 13, 1776.

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### ADDRESS OF THE GRAND JURY OF BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW-JERSEY.

*To the Honourable* SAMUEL TUCKER, *Esq., one of the Judges of the Supreme Court for the State of* NEW-JERSEY:

*The Address of the Grand Jury of the County of* BURLINGTON, *in the said State:*

Having for some time past witnessed an interruption of the free enjoyment of our civil liberties by the hand of *British* tyranny and usurpation, the Grand Jury for the County of *Burlington* cannot forbear expressing their unfeigned satisfaction at the opening of the Supreme Court of the State of *New-Jersey*. The Constitution, as lately formed by the honourable Convention of this State, gives us the utmost satisfaction, and, as we believe, the County we represent. We flatter ourselves that, in due season, under the Divine protection, we shall be enabled to baffle the designs of our cruel enemy, and reap the benefits thereof. Conscious, however, of the goodness of our cause, and the rectitude of our intentions, the Grand Jury for the County of *Burlington* are determined to do their part for the support and relief of their much-injured country.

We congratulate you, sir, on your appointment as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of this State. We have no doubt of your integrity and assiduity, and can only wish your country had called you to so important an office in times less perilous and dangerous. But, sir, let the peril and difficulty of the times be a criterion to distinguish who are real friends to their country and who are not.

Signed by order of the Grand Jury:

W. POTTS, *Foreman*.

November 13, 1776.

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### ANSWER OF JUDGE TUCKER.

GENTLEMEN: I most cordially thank you for your address. Your firmness in the cause of freedom is very agreeable to me, and am happy to find the Grand Jury for the opulent County of *Burlington* are determined to support their rights as freemen under our new and happy Constitution, in which they may rely on every assistance in my power.

Your good opinion of me affords me sensible pleasure, and hope my future conduct will be such as will meet with the approbation of every freeman in the State of *New-Jersey*.

SAMUEL TUCKER.

November 13, 1776.

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### RICHARD DALLAM TO RICHARD PETERS.

[Read 15th, 1776.]

New-Brunswick, November 13th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have just received your favour by return of my express, and in answer inform you that this morning received a letter from *Fort Lee* by express, to send up there forty thousand dollars immediately, and informing me that a large body of troops were sent over on this side the *North River*, who would be under the necessity of applying to me for their pay, which I shall not hesitate to do, though not properly under my department, unless forbid by Congress. The Flying-Camp men are for the most part on this side, and a brigade of *Virginians*, who inform me are in want of pay. Under these circumstances you will know the sum of fifty thousand dollars will be of but little use, and you will therefore order a much larger as soon as possible.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

RICHARD DALLAM, *D. Q. M. Gen'l.*

To *R. Peters*, Esq., Sec'y to the War Office.

*Return of the Forces encamped on the* Jersey *Shore, commanded by Major-General* Greene, *November* 13, 1776.

| REGIMENTS. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieut.Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieut'nts. | Sec'd Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Q'rtermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Commis'd. Sergeants. | Drums & Fifes. | Rank and File. Fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums & Fifes. | Privates. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hutchinson | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 23 | 12 | 235 | 72 | 19 | 179 | - | 505 | 1 | 1 | 134 | - | - | - | - |
| Durkee | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 14 | 327 | 102 | - | 63 | 2 | 494 | - | 2 | 146 | - | - | 8 | 1 |
| Rawlins | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 20 | 7 | 245 | 48 | 23 | 4 | 1 | 321 | 8 | 7 | 181 | 3 | 2 | - | 4 |
| Bradley | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 15 | 371 | 102 | 3 | 84 | 4 | 564 | 1 | 1 | 76 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Swope | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 13 | 248 | 40 | 8 | 62 | - | 496 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Watt | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 7 | 186 | 73 | 14 | 212 | 2 | 566 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Montgomery | - | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 26 | 7 | 211 | 22 | 11 | 31 | - | 339 | 2 | 7 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Moore | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 8 | 96 | 15 | 8 | 62 | 3 | 184 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| McCalister | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 24 | 4 | 238 | 30 | 20 | - | 5 | 293 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Clottz | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 26 | 4 | 259 | 14 | 14 | 25 | - | 312 | 2 | 3 | 164 | - | - | - | - |
| Baxter | 1 | - | - | 5 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 29 | 9 | 66 | 37 | 43 | 129 | 10 | 292 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Williams | - | - | 1 | 8 | 8 | - | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 139 | 69 | 30 | 19 | - | 256 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Clapsaddle | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 2 | 55 | 5 | - | - | - | 60 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 9 | 9 | 11 | 80 | 81 | 77 | 74 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 337 | 111 | 2667 | 619 | 193 | 870 | 27 | 4682 | 14 | 21 | 701 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 5 |

Nath. Greene, *Major-General.*

*Return of Detachments and Out Guards, furnished from* Fort Lee, *November* 14*th*, 1776.

| | Colonels. | Lieut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieut'nts. | Sec'd Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Drums & Fifes. | Privates. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colonel Durkee, to Dobbs's Ferry | - | - | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 31 | 14 | 327 |
| Major Clarke, do | - | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 181 |
| Colonel Swope to New-York Island | 1 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 22 | 10 | 580 |
| Lieut. Colonel Stephenson, do | - | 1 | - | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 170 |
| Lieut. Colonel Holden, do | - | 1 | - | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 120 |
| Lieut. Colonel Rawlings, do | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 7 | 245 |
| Lieut. Colonel Hobby, do | - | 1 | - | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 200 |
| Colonel Baxter, do | 1 | - | - | 5 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 29 | 9 | 195 |
| Out-Guards, Bergen, Hoebuck, Bull's Ferry, Hackensack, and opposite Spiten Devil | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 145 |
| Whole strength of Detachment | 2 | 6 | 4 | 41 | 41 | 38 | 43 | 134 | 63 | 2158 |
| The whole strength | 9 | 9 | 11 | 80 | 81 | 77 | 74 | 337 | 111 | 2667 |
| Remains at this post | 7 | 3 | 7 | 49 | 40 | 39 | 31 | 203 | 48 | 509 |
| Exclusive of the above return, on command to Pennsylvania, after deserters from Colonel Moor's Battalion | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 46 |
| To Orange-Town to press wagons | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 25 |

Nath. Greene, *Major-General.*

### HUGH HUGHES TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

[November 13, 1776.]

Sir: By order of General *Lee*, I am to acquaint you that the enclosed return contains an account of stock brought from below the lines, which the General thought it his indispensable duty to have driven off, lest the enemy might avail themselves of so desirable an opportunity. He desires that you would please to communicate the affair to the Convention of this State in order that proper care may be taken of them.

I have sent this by the Lieutenant, who was a party to driving the cattle, that he might inform more particularly the situation, &c., of them.

I am, with the greatest respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

Hugh Hughes, *Ass't Q. M. G.*

To the Hon. President of Convention.

### COUNCIL OF WAR, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1776.

At a Council of War held at *Peekskill*, *November* 13th, 1776, in order to consider the nature and situation of the grounds and different posts in the Highlands, and a proper disposition of the troops to each of them, present: Major-General *Heath*, Brigadier-Generals *James Clinton*, *George Clinton*, *John M. Scott*, *Morriss*, Colonel *Putnam*, Colonel *Duer*.

What number of troops will be necessary to secure the post on the west side of *Hudson* river?

The unanimous opinion that four hundred men be posted at or near *Sidnum's Bridge*, across the *Ramerpough*.

What number of troops are necessary for the post above *Peekskill* Landing?

The unanimous opinion that one brigade is necessary for the last-mentioned post.

What number of troops are necessary for the post to the northward of *Peekskill* Bridge? This post, and the post at the gorge of the mountains, are to be considered as involved in each other.

The unanimous opinion that the remaining troops of the division be posted at the last-mentioned post and their dependencies.

The unanimous opinion of Council that the troops for the west side of the river be taken from General *Parsons's* division, and that Colonel *Huntington* and Colonel *Tyler's* regiments be assigned accordingly.

The unanimous opinion of Council that General *Clinton's* brigade be posted on the height above *Peekskill* Landing, and that the three regiments of General *Parsons's* brigade, viz: *Prescott's*, *Ward's*, and *Wyllys's*, together with General *Scott's* brigade, take post at the gorge at the south entrance of the mountains.

That a quantity of drugs and medicines which are at the house of Doctor *Hickford*, be immediately secured.

### GENERAL HEATH'S ORDERS TO COLONEL HUNTINGTON.

Sir: You will as soon as possible embark your own regiment and Colonel *Tyler's*, with their tents and baggage, (and also Captain *Bryant's* company of artillery,) on board the boats at *Peekskill* Landing, and proceed to *Haverstraw*, on the west side of *Hudson's* river. You are there to procure teams for your tents, baggage, &c., and march the regiments to the entrance of the Highlands, near *Sidnum's* Bridge, at *Rampaaugh* river, where you will encamp your men, and with all possible despatch, endeavour to get the troops covered, in the cheapest and best way that you can. I think that log-houses, if timber is plenty, will be best. You are also to turn your attention to the fortifying of the pass. Mr. *Kechin*, an engineer, will be sent to your assistance for that purpose. Your own good judgment and knowledge of discipline renders it needless for me to say any thing on that head, being confident that you will see that good order is kept. You will take particular care that as soon as the men get covering, the tents are collected and stored.

Given under my hand, at *Peekskill*, *November* 13th, 1776.

W. Heath.

To Colonel *Huntington*.

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO ROBERT H. HARRISON.

Albany, November 13th, 1776, nine o'clock at night.

SIR: I am this moment favoured with yours of the 9th by Mr. *Bennet*. It gives me great pleasure to learn that General *Howe* encounters so many difficulties. I have great hopes that the sanguine expectations of our enemies will meet with disappointment.

I have sent ten or eleven batteaus to *Fishkills*, to be forwarded to the Army, which have probably arrived there this day. Six more of a larger size go to-morrow, and yesterday I despatched Colonel *Lewis* to *Lake George* to bring fifty from thence, and I leave this at four to-morrow morning to go and expedite them. As the enemy are certainly retired into *Canada*, I have ordered such of the *Pennsylvania* and *Jersey* regiments whose terms of inlistment are expired, from *Tyonderoga*. They will probably leave it to-morrow; and I make no doubt but that they will cheerfully continue to serve with his Excellency for some time. It is what I have requested of them. I hope these measures will meet with his Excellency's approbation. You will please to convey my best respects to him.

I am, sir, with esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To *Robert H. Harrison*, Esq., Secretary, &c.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 13, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Congress have resolved that Colonel *Ogden* should complete his regiment. He goes to *Ticonderoga* to try what men he can recruit there. I think every engine should be set at work in order to engage an Army. The money is daily expected here, and a supply will be sent you as soon as it arrives.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Hon. General *Gates*.

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ISAAC PARIS TO THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE CONVENTION.

Tryon County Committee-Chamber, November 13th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: It is lamentable that we have occasion to inform you that Captain *John Winn* stands charged with killing one of his men by a push with the muzzle of his gun into his belly. Having examined several witnesses, it seems to appear that he is guilty; in consequence whereof, we have thought proper to commit him to *Johnstown* jail, to the care of the commanding officer of that post. We therefore pray that you in your wisdom may, as soon as possible, give such directions in the premises as you think proper.

We are, gentlemen, with esteem and respect, your obedient, humble servant,

By order of the Committee: ISAAC PARIS, *Ch'n.*

To the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut*, *November* 13, 1776:

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *Samuel Huntington*, *Jedediah Elderkin*, and *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., Esquires.

Advised on sundry matters, and adjourned to the 14th instant.

*November* 14th.—Met according to adjournment.

Present the same as yesterday, and with addition of *Benjamin Huntington* and *William Hillhouse*, Esquires.

*Voted*, That an order be drawn on the Committee of the Pay-Table for £24 10*s.*, in favour of *William Wheeler*, for his service and expense as Commissary of the north end of *Lake George*, Anno, 1775.

His Account is as follows:

Dr. The State of *Connecticut* to *William Wheeler*, in capacity of Commissary at the north end of *Lake George* by order of Colonel *Benjamin Hinman*, by warrant dated 3d *July*, 1775.

| | |
|---|---|
| To five months and two-thirds in that service, at £6 per month, - - - - - - - - - | £34 0 0 |
| Supra is credit. | |
| By pay as a soldier, received from Captain *Nathaniel* , on his pay-roll four and two-thirds months, - - - - - - - - - - | 9 10 0 |
| | £24 10 0 |

Order drawn *November* 14th, 1776, delivered Mr. *William Wheeler*.

The above order is to be charged in account against the *United States of America*, for the regiment commanded by Colonel *Hinman* for said service.

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table for £15 6*s.* 5*d.*, in favour of Lieutenant *John Beadle*, for expense of the guard under his command in bringing a number of Tories from *Stamford* to this place, and time. (Order drawn 14th *November*, and delivered to Lieutenant *Beadle*.)

*Thomas Mumford*, Esq., exhibited an account of some Small-Arms and three bolts of Duck, to amount of £38 14*s.*, which is allowed, and voted to draw on the Pay-Table for the same, it being £20 14*s.* for the Guns and Bayonets, and £18 for the Duck. (Order delivered *Thomas Mumford*, Esq., *November* 14th, 1776.)

Memorandum: To rectify the mistake about fourteen six-pound Cannon, for Mr. *Thomas Mumford*, which ought to have been thought of some time past.

*Voted and Resolved*, The Committee of Inspection of the Town of *Lebanon* be, and they are hereby directed and authorized to take the care and custody of the Prisoners sent here under guard from *Stamford*, as being persons dangerous to the State, and to dispose of and govern them in the best manner they can, as their prudence shall direct, until further orders from the General Assembly, or the Governour and his Council aforesaid.

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NOTIFICATION FOR MEETING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CONNECTICUT.

*State of* CONNECTICUT—*By the Governour.*

To the Honourable the Deputy Governour, Assistants, Representatives, and Secretary of this State:

Business of importance requiring your speedy attention and consideration, you are hereby noticed to attend and meet in General Assembly, at the Court-House in *Hartford*, in said State, on *Tuesday*, the nineteenth day of *November* instant, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to advise and consult on such matters and business as shall be laid before you.

Given under my hand in *Lebanon*, the 13th day of *November*, 1776. JON'TH TRUMBULL.

*Windham*—Captain Jabez Huntington, Captain Ebenezer Mosely.

*Mansfield*—Mr. Const. Southworth, Mr. Edmund Freeman.

*Coventry*—Captain Ebenezer Kingsbury, Mr. Abraham Burnap.

*Ashford*—Captain Benjamin Clark, Captain Elisha Wales.

*Stamford*—Captain Isaac Pinney, Captain Samuel Davice.

*Wellington*—Captain Timothy Pearl, Mr. Moses Holms.

Seventy-two miles travel, 1776, November 14th and 15th. Notified these Representatives p. *Elisha White*.
1776, November 16th. Order given for 24 shillings for service.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Lebanon, November 13th, 1776.

SIR: Your favours of the 6th, 7th, and 10th instant, are received, and am much obliged to your Excellency for the early notice given me in that of the 9th, of the supposed embarkation of about three thousand of the enemy, and of their destination.

Yours of the 7th, advising of the approaching dissolution of a large part of our Army is truly alarming, and that season drawing near am sensible will be most critical, and that every method possible ought to be taken in order in some good measure to supply the deficiency which must happen by their dismission: for which purpose, as well as for a reconsideration of the matters referred to in yours of the 10th, has induced me to call the Assembly of this State, to

meet at *Hartford* on *Tuesday* next. The reasons you have therein given of the great inconvenience which may happen by adding to the wages of the soldiery to be raised in this State beyond the encouragements given by Congress are indeed obvious, and which effectually operated to prevent our Assembly taking such a step until the Committee of the *Massachusetts* passed *New-Haven* for the Army, and there gave out to sundry of our members that that State had given the additional encouragement of twenty shillings per month, and that *New-Hampshire* undoubtedly had done the same. That being the case, we were induced to resume the subject and make the addition, being sensible it would be impossible to raise our quota on terms inferiour to those given by our neighbouring States. Tho' we are apprehensive that it will be attended with much greater difficulty to recede from the additional encouragements than if they had never been given.

The earliest notice shall be given you of the resolutions of our Assembly.

Hope our Army may be established on a firm and united footing.

I am, with great esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH TRUMBULL.

General *Washington.*

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THOMAS SWORDS TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Preston, 13 November, 1776.

SIR: As I have not heard from *Albany* since I had the pleasure of seeing you, must acquaint you that my mind is much distressed not only on account of my present disagreeable situation, but also on account of my tender and numerous family, which I have not seen for near eight months, nor do I know what situation they are in. Duty and love calls me to them. If I can be permitted to go and see them shall return, upon the faith of a man of honour, according to the rules that may be prescribed, if not further enlarged by the *Albany* Committee. If this request can be granted, which I hope in God it will, shall most punctually adhere thereto. I am short of clothing for the ensuing season and several other necessaries, not to mention the distresses my family must labour under.

Doctor *Downer* has paid me the amount of your order, and now in want of a further supply, for which shall give an order on the Paymaster-General of his *Britannick* Majesty's forces at *New-York*, or any merchant in the city of *Albany*. I hope you will take it into consideration and make my case your own.

I am, sir, your most respectful, humble servant,

THOMAS SWORDS.

To the Honourable *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN HINMAN.

Newport, November 13th, 1776.

SIR: You are to make all the despatch you can to get to *Boston*, and get the *Cabot* fitted for sailing as soon as possible, and get such provisions on board as will last three or four months, if to be had, and join me here as soon as possible. If I should be sailed before you get here, I shall leave directions here for you to follow, and where to join the fleet.

I am your friend and humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To *Elisha Hinman*, Esq., Commander of the *Cabot*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD.

Newport, November 13th, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by the Marine Committee to prosecute an expedition in which the *Cabot* is to be joined. These are therefore to desire you to assist Captain *Hinman* with a sufficient quantity of provisions, and money sufficient to enable him to get his vessel fit to come round here with all the expedition possible, as the season requires despatch.

I am, with great esteem, sir, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To *John Bradford*, Esq., Agent for the Continental Fleet in the State of *Massachusetts*, at *Boston*.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER ON BOARD THE ALFRED, OFF THE COAST OF CAPE BRETON, TO A GENTLEMAN OF DISTINCTION IN THE STATE OF RHODE-ISLAND, DATED NOVEMBER 13, 1776.

We have met with contrary winds and stormy weather for this week past, ever since we passed *Halifax*. We have, however, taken the brigantine *Active*, from *Liverpool*, on a private account for *Halifax*, a prize worth six thousand pounds sterling prime cost; but we have besides been remarkably successful in taking the ship *Mellish*, a transport from *London* for *Quebeck*, laden entirely with clothing, the last to be sent out this fall. And as all that hath formerly been sent to *Canada* are taken, this last blow will make *Burgoyne* shake a cloth in the wind, and check his progress on the lakes. This transport sails very fast; she was lately called the *Thunder-Bomb*, and is now rebuilt, mounted with guns, and made some little defence. As we think her of too much importance to be lost sight of, we propose to man her well, and keep her with us till our return, which we hope will be very soon. We will sink the *Mellish* rather than suffer her to fall again into their hands. We have taken in her between sixty and seventy prisoners, several of whom are officers, and people of condition.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 14th, 1776.

SIRS: I sent you by a vessel yesterday one hundred barrels of bread and eighteen casks of powder, for Colonel *Hooe*, and a guard with the boat to carry your salt. But she went to the point to take in the salt, as I thought, but went off without taking it, and I fear much to your prejudice. But you may depend it shall come with the next boat. We are going on as well as we can. I hope the *Resolution* will be with you *Sunday* next, and the schooner *Friendship* by the middle of next week. The brig is here done, and ready for flour. The butchers are salting the beef. The sails are making for such as want small sails, and things are going tolerable. But the consumption of cash is great, with so many sundry things doing. Please send a sum of money by the bearer Captain *Stone*. I will do all I can for you, and remain your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

The Honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

I thought you had staves, but can find none to dunnage the vessels with; am forced to buy them.

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HUGH LYON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The Committee of Observation for *Prince George's* County having your letter of the 29th *October* before them, requesting the exchange of *Bristol* shot for the like quantity of lead, the Committee at present cannot inform you what quantity they have on hand, as part of said shot have already been exchanged for lead. However, an inquiry shall be made, and information given you as soon as may be, if the quantity they have on hand should be worth while sending; and am, for and on behalf of the Committee, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

HUGH LYON.

The right honourable the Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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ISAAC VAN BIBBER TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: There is arrived by Captain *Hill*, whose vessel comes to the address of *Usher* and myself, also in Captain *Booker*, whose vessel comes to my address, two large parcels of powder for the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, of which parcels I apprehend you are advised by the shippers; part of which powder we have delivered to Mr. *Hopkins*, your magazine-keeper, and part the country people took out as soon as the vessel came to the wharf, and put in a warehouse at *Fell's Point*, in order to come at the salt, which powder we want your instructions about. There is ten per cent. on freight due. I have been selling powder consigned to me, for seven shillings and seven shillings six pence.

Please to give me your instructions, and direct where I must apply for the freight, and you will much oblige your humble servant,

ISAAC VAN BIBBER.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO MARYLAND CONVENTION.

Philadelphia, November 14, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The enclosed letter from Mr. *Searle*, a gentleman of honour and a friend to the cause of *America*, containing the most important intelligence, I am commanded by Congress to forward to you with the utmost expedition. The uncertain destination of the fleet therein mentioned, makes it absolutely necessary that you should be informed of their sailing, that you may make every preparation in your power to defend yourselves in case of an attack.

I most ardently entreat your attention and exertion on the present occasion, and have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

To the honourable the Convention of the State of *Maryland*, at *Annapolis*.

By an express just received, General *Carleton* with all his forces has retreated to *Quebeck*. You will please to forward by a fresh express the despatches for the Southern States.

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Long-Branch, New-Jersey, Wednesday Morning. }
Twelve o'clock. }

DEAR SIR: About ten o'clock this morning appeared round the point of *Sandy-Hook* a number of vessels outward-bound. They are still coming out in great numbers. As I unfortunately have no glass, I cannot as yet distinguish their motions.

I shall detain the express, however, one hour longer, that I may endeavour to form some judgment of their numbers and course.

*One o'clock.*—I do not think it prudent to detain the bearer any longer. The ships come out but slowly at present. About one hundred sail appear round the *Hook*, and appear to be standing to the southward, wind at northwest. I observe one or two that appear to be very large. Do me the favour to send word to Mrs. *Searle*, that I set out for *Philadelphia* this afternoon, and shall be there on *Friday* at noon.

I am, sir, your affectionate and obliged friend and servant,

JAMES SEARLE.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 14th, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed letter from Mr. *Searle*, a gentleman of honour and a friend to the cause of *America*, I am commanded by Congress to forward to you with the utmost expedition. The uncertain destination of the fleet therein mentioned makes it absolutely necessary that you should be informed of the intelligence as soon as possible, that you may make such dispositions of the troops under your command as you shall judge proper.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

To His Excellency General *Washington*, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the *United States*, &c., at *White-Plains*, or elsewhere.

[The same to the Commanding Officer in *New-Jersey*, and to his Excellency Governour *Livingston*.]

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Long-Branch, Wednesday morning, 12 o'clock.

DEAR SIR: Your letter to me by the express was delivered about an hour ago. I have despatched Lieutenant *Cook*, of the Militia quartered here, with two letters enclosed for *Tom's* river. The commanding officer here immediately upon my application gave direction to Mr. *Cooke* to proceed down with the letter. Mr. *Cook* is a very careful young man, and has a brother at *Tom's* river, (hearty in the cause of freedom,) who will give any assistance that may be necessary. I gave Mr. *Cook* full direction how to proceed, in order to get the letter conveyed, or rather delivered by himself to the Captains, and have also desired him to get any assistance to the Captains if they should want to forward accounts to *Philadelphia*.

About ten o'clock this morning appeared round the point of *Sandy-Hook* a number of vessels outward-bound. They are still coming out in great numbers. As I have unfortunately no glass I cannot as yet distinguish their motions. I shall detain the express one hour longer, that I may endeavour to form some judgment of their number and course.

*One o'clock.*—I do not think it prudent to detain the bearer any longer. The ships come out but slowly; at present about one hundred sail appear round the *Hook*, and appear to be standing to the southward, wind at northwest. I observe one or two that appear to be very large. Do me the favour to send word to Mrs. *Searle* that I set out for *Philadelphia* this afternoon, and shall be there on *Friday* noon.

I am, dear sir, your affectionate and obliged friend and servant,

JAMES SEARLE.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE SOUTHERN STATES.

Philadelphia, November 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The enclosed letter from Mr. *Searle*, a gentleman of honour and a friend to the cause of *America*, containing the most important intelligence, I am commanded by Congress to forward to you with the utmost expedition. The uncertain destination of the fleet therein mentioned makes it absolutely necessary that you should be informed of their sailing, that you may make every preparation in your power to defend yourselves in case of an attack. I most ardently entreat your attention and exertion on the present occasion; and have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *Pres't*.

Assembly of *Delaware*.

[Same to Convention of *Maryland*, Assembly of *Virginia*, Convention of *North-Carolina*, Assembly of *South-Carolina*.]

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BOARD OF WAR TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

War-Office, November 14th, 1776.

SIR: The Congress having received information that a considerable part of the enemy's fleet had sailed from *Sandy-Hook* to the southward, and judging that immediate steps were necessary to be taken for the preservation and defence of this city, were pleased to vest us with all their powers to effect this important business. As General *Mifflin* has a considerable influence in this place, the Board judge it for the interest of the service that he be immediately ordered to this city, where his exertions we doubt not will turn out to the advantage of our cause.

Your Excellency will therefore be pleased to give him directions upon the subject as soon as possible, provided you shall be of opinion that he cannot be more usefully employed in any other place, which we beg leave to submit to you. If the enemy should bend their way to this part of the Continent, we doubt not that your Excellency will yield us every possible assistance.

With every sentiment of esteem, we have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servants,

BENJ. HARRISON,
JAMES WILSON,
E. RUTLEDGE,
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE.

His Excellency General *Washington*, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the *United States*.

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BOARD OF WAR TO THE ASSOCIATORS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

War-Office, November 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Congress have received intelligence that a fleet of the enemy, consisting of several hundred sail, were yesterday discovered near *Sandy-Hook*, steering to the southward. It is highly probable that their destination is for *Delaware* and the city of *Philadelphia*. It is needless

to observe that the utmost vigour and despatch are necessary to counteract the designs of the enemy and defend this city, the preservation of which is of very great importance to the general cause. Congress have directed us to cooperate with the Council of Safety of this State in concerting measures proper on the present emergency, and have invested us with their full power to carry such measures into execution. In discharge of the trust committed to us, we think it our duty to recommend it to you, in the warmest and most earnest manner, immediately to put yourselves in array and march by companies and parts of companies, as you can be ready, with the utmost expedition to this city. Its safety and the interest of the *United States* point out the necessity of your strongest exertions.

General *Washington*, at the head of a considerable part of his Army, is advancing southward, but notwithstanding all the despatch he can possibly make, the enemy may arrive before him. If they shall be opposed with proper spirit and sufficient numbers at their first approach, there is the greatest reason to expect that their views will finally be defeated, and they will experience, to their cost and disgrace, that on no part of the Continent they can make an impression. They have been already obliged to abandon *Crown-Point* and retire into *Canada*.

It is vain to hope for lenity from your inveterate foes. Their tender mercies are cruelty. The property of those who have acted as their friends is not safer than that of those whom they consider as their enemies. Devastation of every kind marks their footsteps.

Congress will do every thing in their power to strengthen you. Expresses for this purpose are already sent off to the neighbouring States.

Every thing dear to freemen is now at stake. The freemen of *Pennsylvania* will undoubtedly discover the spirit and zeal which their country expect and their critical situation demands.

Benjamin Harrison,
James Wilson,
Edw'd Rutledge,
Francis Lightfoot Lee.

Attest: Rich'd Peters, *Sec'ry.*

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO JOHN WEREAT.

November 14, 1776.

Sir: By the recommendation of *George Walton*, Esq., one of your Delegates in Congress, we have appointed you Continental Agent in the State of *Georgia*. In that station it will fall to your share to supply all Continental cruisers or other vessels in the Continental service with provisions, stores, and necessaries; to assist the Captains and officers in whatever may be needful; to advance them moneys, give them advice, and in all things take care of the interests of the *United States*. If any prizes are sent into *Georgia* by the Continental cruisers, you are to receive them, libel and prosecute to condemnation; then make publick sale of vessels, cargoes, and all effects that are condemned; and for your guidance we send you a pamphlet containing the rules and regulations in these respects; and we shall also send you at a future day copies of our official letters to all our agents along the Continent.

You will receive this by an advice boat belonging to the Continent, called the *Georgia Packet*, intended to be an advice boat between your State and the Congress. She has been loaden this voyage by your Delegates with stores for your State, and we expect you will credit us a handsome freight for the same. We desire you may receive these goods with despatch, and as the Secret Committee of Congress order a cargo back, we hope you will use equal despatch in shipping it. Lieutenant *Buck*, who commands this schooner, is ordered to put all the letters he carries into the post office; and we desire you will inform the postmaster he is to charge the same postage as if they had come by land, for we expect in this way to raise something towards defraying the expense of these packets in future, although at present the letters will be very few. You will please to advertise for letters back by this packet, and, as soon as you can, despatch this schooner back for this port. You will keep a regular account of your disbursements for this schooner, and if any balance arises in your favour we will pay your drafts on us for the amount.

We hope you will not suffer Captain *Buck* to lose any time nor stand in need of any assistance that you can afford him.

We are, sir, your humble servants.

*John Wereat*, Esq., *Georgia*.

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO LIEUTENANT BUCK.

November 14, 1776.

Sir: The Continental schooner *Georgia Packet*, under your command, being now fitted, manned, and ready for sea, you are to proceed with said schooner and cargo for *Savannah*, in *Georgia*, and on your arrival there, deliver the cargo put on board said schooner by the *Georgia* Delegates to such person or persons as they may have directed it to. Any letters you carry are to be put into the post-office. This you must particularly attend to, and deliver none of them to any person but the Postmaster there. You are to apply to *John Wereat*, Esq., Continental Agent at *Savannah*, who will load the schooner back with such goods as may be ordered by the Secret Committee of Congress, and you are to receive on board a full loading from him. You are to advertise for letters to be sent back in the schooner, and receive all that shall offer, which are to be put into the post-office here. When the schooner is reloaden at *Georgia*, and you have received your despatches from Mr. *Wereat*, you are then to make the best of your way back for this port. We expect diligence and despatch from you, both at sea and in port. You are to be careful of the schooner, her stores, and materials, kind to your officers and men, but attentive to strict discipline and duty. If you have the good fortune to make any prizes, send them into any safe port in the *United States*, addressed to the Continental Agent, and use your prisoners well. Should you find it impracticable or dangerous to get into *Savannah*, you may put into any other safe port in the State, and do your business there; and if on your return you find this port shut up by the enemy, you may put into any of the inlets of *New-Jersey*, and give us notice, that we may direct what is to be done.

Wishing you success, we are, sir, your very humble servants.

To Lieutenant *Isaac Buck*.

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COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF PENNSYLVANIA TO BOARD OF WAR.

November 14, 1776.

The Council of Safety present their compliments to the honourable the Board of War, and request them to order Captain *Strahbogh*, and his company of artillery, sent to *Fort Montgomery* by request of Congress, to return immediately, as we shall be in great need of artillerymen, and they are the most expert belonging to this State.

To the honourable Board of War.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LANCASTER COMMITTEE.

In Council of Safety, November 14, 1776.

Sir: We have taken the liberty to enclose a number of letters for the Colonels of the several battalions in your County. As they contain intelligence of the utmost importance, we rely on your publick spirit and activity in the common cause to forward them with the greatest despatch per express as directed. We have enclosed you a copy of the letter for your perusal.

By order of Council, I have the honour to be, with respect, sir, your very humble servant,

Thos. Wharton, Jun., *President.*

To *William Atlee*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Lancaster* County, at *Lancaster*.

First Battalion, *G. Ross.* Letter delivered to Lieutenant Colonel *Reigart.*
Second Battalion, *C. Grubb.* Letter sent by Colonel *Greenwalt*, who engages to deliver it.
Third Battalion, *T. Porter.* Letter sent by Mr. *James Marshall*, who engages to deliver it.
Fourth Battalion, *J. Burd.*
Fifth Battalion, *J. Crawford.* Letter sent by *John S. Gaymaker*, who engages to deliver it.
Sixth Battalion, *B. Galbreath.* Letter sent by *Jacob Erisman*, who will deliver it to Captain *Peden.*
Seventh Battalion, *M. Slough.* Letter delivered to Colonel *Slough.*

Eighth Battalion, *P. Grubb*. Letter sent by *William Campbell*, Quartermaster of Colonel *Grubb's* Battalion, who engages to deliver it today.
Ninth Battalion, *P. Greenwalt*. Letter delivered to Colonel *Greenwalt*.
Tenth Battalion, *J. Derree*. Letter sent by *Isaac Irwin*, (member of Committee,) who engages to deliver it.
Eleventh Battalion, *T. Green*. Letter sent by Colonel *Greenwalt*, who engages to send it to Lieutenant-Colonel *Hedrick*.

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In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 14, 1776, Twelve o'clock, Thursday.

SIR: We have certain intelligence that the enemy has actually sailed from *New-York* three hundred ships for this city, and that great numbers had got out of the Hook at twelve o'clock yesterday, and were steering towards our Capes. As you value the safety of your country, and all that is dear and valuable to men, we most earnestly solicit your immediate assistance, and that you will march all your battalion to this city without the least delay.

As nothing but the most hasty marching of the Militia will enable us to make a stand, it is hoped that your battalion will manifest their usual spirit, and come forth on this trying occasion with the alacrity that will do them honour. If you can collect any shovels, spades, grubbing-hoes, and pitching-axes, beg you will bring them forward, and the people shall be paid for them a full price. Three or four good wagons to each company will be of service.

By order of Council:

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

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MARYLAND COMMISSIONERS TO MARYLAND CONVENTION.

Philadelphia, November 14th, 1776.

SIR: On receipt of yours of the 10th instant, we waited on the honourable Congress. This morning received a letter and resolutions of Congress—the enclosed are copies. To us new difficulties arise—among others a grand one: Whether our regular troops (who are already engaged during the war) should now be inlisted for three years. As we conceive the subject-matter of these resolves to be new, we wait for further directions from the honourable Convention of our State.

As time grows short, we have sent off the express with the utmost despatch.

We are, honourable sir, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servants,

JAS. LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE,
THOS. CONTEE,
BENJAMIN RUMSAY,
JOHN HANSON, JR.

The Hon. *Matthew Tilghman*, Esq., President of the Convention, *Maryland*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE COMMISSIONERS FROM MARYLAND.

Philadelphia, November 13, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In consequence of a letter to Congress this day received from the honourable Convention of *Maryland*, enclosing sundry resolutions of that body relative to the raising their quota of the new levies, I have it in charge to furnish you with the resolutions of Congress, passed yesterday, admitting the new levies to inlist for three years, and at the same time to inform you that if the inhabitants of the State of *Maryland* will inlist to serve during the continuance of the present war they already have the faith of the *United States of America* pledged for the land to be granted to such soldiers.

The resolutions referred to you have enclosed, and contain the sense of Congress as to the mode of the new inlistments.

I am, with esteem, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

Honourable Commissioners from *Maryland* for appointing officers and promoting inlistment in the Army at Camp.

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IN CONGRESS, *November* 12th, 1776.

*Resolved*, as the opinion of this Congress, That if the Soldiers to be raised by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be inlisted on the terms offered to them, which are more advantageous than what are offered to other Soldiers serving in the same Army, it would much retard, if not totally impede, the inlistment of the latter, and produce discontent and murmur, unless Congress should equally increase the pay of these, which it is the opinion of this Congress would universally be reprobated as an immoderate expense, and complained of as a grievous burthen by those who must bear it, and therefore that the Committee from the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be desired not to inlist their men on the additional pay offered by the Assembly of that State.

Upon reconsideration, the Resolution of the 16th *September* last, for raising eighty-eight Battalions to serve during the present war with *Great Britain*, Congress being of opinion that the readiness of the inhabitants of these States to enter into the service for limited times in defence of their invaluable privileges, on all former occasions, gives good grounds to hope the same zeal for the publick good will appear in future, when necessity calls for their assistance; and, lest the uncertain length of time which forces raised during the continuance of the present war may be compelled to serve, may prevent men from inlisting who would otherwise readily manifest their attachment to the common cause, by engaging for a limited time:

Therefore, *Resolved*, That all Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers who do not incline to engage their service during the continuance of the present war, and shall inlist to serve three years unless sooner discharged by Congress, shall be entitled to, and receive all such Bounty and Pay as are allowed to those who inlist during the continuance of the present war, except the one hundred acres of land, which land is to be granted to those only who inlist without limitation of time; and each recruiting officer is required to provide two distinct inlisting-rolls, one for such to sign as inlist during the continuance of the war, and the other for such as inlist for three years, if their service shall be so long required.

By order of Congress:

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

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GENERAL DE LANCEY'S ORDERS.

Whereas many of the drivers of wagons of the different Counties on *Long-Island*, who were impressed from time to time into his Majesty's service, are deserted and run away, which occasions many of the horses being lost and neglected, this is, therefore, to inform all masters of such wagons and teams, and their drivers, that if they do not immediately return to take care of their wagons and teams, and do their duty as drivers, that the Quartermaster-General will not be answerable for the loss of any of the wagons or teams.

Dated at General *De Lancey's* Head-Quarters, at *Oyster-Bay*, *November* 14, 1776.

OLIVER DE LANCEY, *Brig. Gen.*

WILLIAM SHERIFF,
*Deputy Quartermaster-General.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

General Greene's Quarters, November 14, 1776.

SIR: I have the honour to inform you of my arrival here yesterday, and that the whole of the troops belonging to the States, which lay south of *Hudson's* river, and which were in *New-York* Government, have passed over to this side, except the regiment lately Colonel *Smallwood's*, which I expect is now on their march. That they may be ready to check any incursions the enemy may attempt in this neighbourhood, I intend to quarter them at *Brunswick*, *Amboy*, *Elizabethtown*, *New-Ark*, and about this place, unless Congress should conceive it necessary for any of them to be stationed at or more contiguous to *Philadelphia*. In such case they will be pleased to signify their pleasure. There will be very few of them after the departure of those who were engaged for the Flying-Camp, and which is fast approaching. The disposition I have mentioned seems to me well calculated for the end proposed, and also for their accommodation.

The movements and designs of the enemy are not yet understood. Various are the opinions and reports on this head. From every information, the whole have removed from *Dobbs's Ferry* towards *King's Bridge*, and it seems to be generally believed on all hands that the investing of *Fort*

*Washington* is one object they have in view. But that can employ but a small part of their force. Whether they intend a southern expedition must be determined by time; to me there appears a probability of it, and which seems to be favoured by the advice we have, that many transports are wooding and watering. General *Greene's* letter would give you the substance of the intelligence brought by Mr. *Mersereau* from *Staten-Island*, in this instance, which he returned before it came to me.

Enclosed you have copies of two letters from General *Howe*, and of my answer to the first of them. The letter alluded to and returned in his last, was one from myself to Mrs. *Washington*, of the 25th ultimo, from whence I conclude that all the letters which went by the *Boston* express have come to his possession. You will also perceive that General *Howe* has requested the return of *Peter Jack*, a servant to Major *Stewart*, to which I have consented, as he was not in the military line, and the requisition agreeable to the custom of war. This servant having been sent to *Philadelphia* with the *Waldeckers* and other prisoners, I must request the favour of you to have him conveyed to General *Greene* by the earliest opportunity, in order that he may be returned to his master.

Before I conclude, I beg leave not only to suggest, but to urge the necessity of increasing our field artillery very considerably. Experience has convinced me, as it has every gentleman of discernment in this Army, that while we remain so much inferiour to the enemy in this instance, we must carry on the war under infinite disadvantages, and without the smallest probability of success. It has been peculiarly owing to the situation of the country where their operations have been conducted, and to the rough and strong grounds we possessed ourselves of, and over which they had to pass, that they have not carried their arms, by means of their artillery, to a much greater extent. When these difficulties cease by exchanging the scene of action to a level, champaign country, the worst of consequences are justly to be apprehended. I would, therefore, with the concurrence of all the officers whom I have spoke to upon the subject, submit to the consideration of Congress whether immediate measures ought not to be taken for procuring a respectable train. It is agreed on all hands that each battalion should be furnished at least with two pieces, and that a smaller number than one hundred of three pounds, fifty of six pounds, and fifty of twelve pounds, should not be provided in addition to those we now have. Besides these, if some eighteen and twenty-four pounders are ordered, the train will be more serviceable and complete. The whole should be of brass, for the most obvious reasons: they will be much more portable, not half so liable to burst, and when they do, no damage is occasioned by it, and they may be cast over again. The sizes before described should be particularly attended to; if they are not, there will be great reason to expect mistakes and confusion in the charges in time of action, as it has frequently happened in the best regulated armies. The disparity between those I have mentioned, and such as are of an intermediate size, is difficult to discover. It is also agreed that a regiment of artillerists, with approved and experienced officers, should be obtained if possible, and some engineers of known reputation and abilities. I am sorry to say, too ready an indulgence has been had to several appointments in the latter instance, and that men have been promoted who seem to me to know but little, if any thing, of the business. Perhaps this train, &c., may be looked upon by some as large and expensive. True, it will be so; but when it is considered that the enemy having effected but little in the course of the present campaign, will use their utmost efforts to subjugate us in the next, every consideration of that sort should be disregarded, and every possible preparation made to frustrate their unjust and wicked attempts. How they are to be procured, is to be inquired into. That we cannot provide them among ourselves, or more than a very small proportion, so trifling as not to deserve our notice, is evident; therefore I would advise, with all imaginable deference, that without any abatement of our own internal exertions, application should be immediately made to such persons as can and may be willing to supply them. They cannot be obtained too early, if soon enough, and I am told they may be easily had from *France* and *Holland*.

Mr. *Trumbull*, the Commissary-General, has frequently mentioned to me of late the inadequacy of his pay to his trouble, and the great risk he is subject to on account of the large sums of money which pass through his hands. He has stated his case with a view of laying it before Congress, and obtaining a more adequate compensation. My sentiments upon the subject are already known; but yet I shall take the liberty to add, that I think his complaint to be well founded, and that his pay, considering the important duties and risks of his office, by no means sufficient, and that the footing he seems to think it should be upon himself, appears just and reasonable.

A proposition having been made long since to General *Howe*, and agreed to by him, for an exchange of prisoners, in consequence of the resolutions of Congress to that effect, I shall be extremely happy if you will give directions to the Committees, and those having the charge of prisoners in the several States south of *Jersey*, to transmit me proper lists of the names of all the commissioned officers, and of their non-commissioned and privates, and their respective regiments. You will see by his letter, he supposes me to have effected some delay, or to have been unmindful of the proposition I had made.

I propose to stay in this neighbourhood a few days, in which time I expect the designs of the enemy will be more disclosed, and their incursions be made in this quarter, or their investiture of *Fort Washington*, if they are intended.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

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Head-Quarters, 8th November, 1776.

Sir: A servant lately attending upon Major *Stuart*, of the Forty-Third Regiment of Foot, named *Peter Jack*, is supposed to have fallen a few days ago into the hands of some of your parties. This man not being in the capacity of a soldier, I hope if found among your prisoners that you will permit him to be returned to his master, as is customary in like cases.

I beg leave to take this opportunity of remonstrating against the delay on your part in the exchange of prisoners, after what has passed on that subject, for the execution of which I must own myself the more anxious, as I understand many officers in your power are still exposed to the confinement of common jails. I am also informed that a few straggling soldiers lately fallen into your hands have been sent into *Jersey*, instead of being immediately exchanged, which, after your agreement to this measure and the custom of war, I had every reason to expect.

I am, with due regard, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. Howe.

General *Washington*, &c., &c.

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Head-Quarters, November 9th, 1776.

Sir: Yesterday evening I received the favour of your letter of the 8th instant. Major *Stewart's* servant having never represented himself as a person not inlisted in your Army, he was considered as a prisoner of war, and sent as such to *Jersey*. But upon your information that he was not in the capacity of a soldier, I will give immediate directions for him to be brought back, that he may return to his master.

This servant was charged with a letter of a private and delicate nature; but Major *Stewart* may be assured the contents neither were nor shall be permitted to transpire.

I regret that it has not been in my power to effect the proposed exchange of prisoners before this time. As soon as the proposition was agreed to, I wrote to the Governours and Conventions of the different States where the prisoners were, to have them collected and sent to the most convenient places in the neighbourhood of the two armies. Their dispersed situation for their better accommodation has been the reason of the delay; at least I cannot ascribe it to any other cause. It has not arisen, sir, from any design on my part, and I am persuaded the difficulty of drawing them together must be evident to you, especially as it was early suggested in some of my former letters.

As to the charge of your officers being confined in common jails, I had hoped that you were satisfied by my assurances on this head before. It is not my wish that severity should be exercised towards any whom the fortune

of war has thrown or shall throw into our hands. On the contrary, it is my desire that the utmost humanity should be shown them. I am convinced that the latter has been the prevailing line of conduct to prisoners. There have been instances in which some have met with less indulgence than could have been wished, owing to a refractory conduct and a disregard of paroles. If there are other instances in which a strict regard to propriety has not been observed, they have not come to my knowledge, and if you will be pleased to point them out, and to particularize the names of the officers, the earliest inquiry shall be made into the complaint, and the cause removed, if any exists.

With respect to the stragglers who have lately fallen into our hands, I cannot, upon the best consideration, discern how the agreement subsisting between us can be affected by sending them to places from whence they may be easily collected upon a general exchange.

That the custom of war requires, or that the interest of our Army would admit of a daily exchange of prisoners, are points on which we are so unhappy as to differ in sentiment. The opportunities of conveying intelligence, and many other consequences flowing from such an intercourse, seem so very obvious, that, upon further reflection, I flatter myself you will think with me on this subject. But if otherwise, it might have been exemplified on your part, in the immediate return of such stragglers from our Army as have fallen into your hands, which would have justified an expectation of a similar conduct from us.

I am, sir, with great respect, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Lieutenant-General *Howe*.

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Head-Quarters, 11th November, 1776.

Sir: The enclosed letter having been intercepted and brought to me, I am happy to return it, without the least attempt being made to discover any part of the contents.

I was yesterday favoured with your answer to my letter of the 8th, and am perfectly satisfied from your assertion that the delay in the exchange of prisoners has not arose from any disregard to the agreement on your part, but from the neglect of those to whose care the arrangement of them has been entrusted. Give me leave at the same time to observe, that this measure, naturally so desirable to the parties concerned, must be in a great degree interrupted if a general exchange should remain an object to the prejudice of prisoners near at hand, who, upon the shortest notice of their ranks or numbers, might be relieved by an equality of those in my possession; and as I cannot foresee any objection to an exchange taking place immediately, so far as may be conveniently effected, and as often afterwards as the prisoners more remote shall arrive, I am willing to hope for your concurrence in promoting the same.

You are pleased to say the usage of war does not allow of an immediate exchange of prisoners; which I can by no means agree to, the contrary being ever the custom of armies, between which an exchange of prisoners has been determined as far as the nature of business may permit. And in respect to stragglers from your Army, since you have been pleased to say I might have set you the example of returning them, I am to inform you that no persons under that description have fallen into my hands. Such men as have lately been taken in arms, as well as those who have been longer in confinement, are safely detained for the arrival of your prisoners, in consequence of assurances received from you on that subject.

I most undoubtedly could point out several instances wherein the King's officers have not been treated with the lenity and humanity they had a right to expect; but I am unwilling to dwell upon a subject of complaint, which I am fully satisfied will, as far as it lays in your power, be removed.

I send, at the request of Major *Stuart*, the enclosed letter; and am, with due regard, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. Howe.

To General *Washington*, &c., &c.

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### MAJOR STEWART TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Sir: I this morning received a note from his Excellency the General, acquainting me that, in consequence of his application, you had ordered my servant to return, and politely promised that the contents of a letter found upon him should not transpire. Give me leave, sir, to return you my most sincere thanks for this favour, which interests and personally obliges your obedient and humble servant,

Charles Stewart.

11 November.

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### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

General Greene's Quarters, November 14th, 1776.

Dear Sir: As an exchange of prisoners is likely to take effect as soon as the nature of the case will admit, and as in the course of the transaction it may possibly happen that an attempt may be made by the enemy to redeem their prisoners by men who were never engaged in our service, I must request you immediately to direct the Colonels or commanders of regiments in your division, to make out an exact list of the particular officers and privates who have been killed, taken prisoners, or are missing, in the respective regiments and companies to which they belong, specifying the names of the whole, and the time when each officer or private was killed, taken prisoner, or missing. This list, as soon as it is completed, you will transmit to Head-Quarters.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

Major-General *Lee*.

P. S. I now enclose you a copy of the recommendation of the officers for the State of *Rhode-Island*, which was furnished by General *Greene*, and transmitted by me to Governour *Cooke* some time since. If the Commissioners have not yet arrived from thence, you will be pleased to direct the officers therein nominated, who choose to serve, to recruit as fast as possible out of their own regiments, and agreeable to the general orders isued at the *White-Plains*, before my departure.

[The same to Major-General Heath, except the P. S.]

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### GENERAL NIXON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Phillips's Manor, 14th November, 1776.

Honoured Sir: The Committee from our State of the *Massachusetts-Bay* are now waiting for that arrangement of officers which you and I began and got partly through with.

They want an arrangement only to complete seven battalions from this department. And as there is another Committee gone to the Northern department, those officers belonging to the regiments who are included in our arrangement must be struck out; and without your assistance it cannot be done, as I don't know who they be. I mentioned it to General *Lee* this morning, and he desired me to send off immediately to your Honour to come down as soon as possibly.

Dear sir, I should be extremely glad you would come, the sooner the better, for I look upon it to be a matter of the uttermost importance. If the service would admit of it, I would have waited upon your Honour.

I am, dear sir, with the greatest esteem, your Honour's most humble servant,

Jno. Nixon.

To the Hon. Major-General *Heath*.

P. S. Mr. *Blaney*, from *Roxbury*, I understand, has got a letter for you from your lady. He arrived yesterday.

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### COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Haverstraw, 14th November, 7 o'clock, P. M., 1776.

May it please your Honour: I arrived with the two regiments under my command in two hours after I left *Peekskills*. Teams were engaged that evening by Colonel *Hay*, but did not come to us till two o'clock this afternoon, and then only as many as to carry the tents and part of the other baggage. The remainder will go on to-morrow morning. The detachment, including the artificers and rangers, are on their way four miles from the ferry, and will reach the place of our destination to-morrow night. I was told at first I had fifteen miles to march from the *Kills*; after sailing seven miles down the river, they tell me it is twenty miles. Colonel *Hay*, who is two miles on the road, says it is twenty. In short it appears like a Jack-with-a-lanthorn, that removes

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from your approaches. It is with difficulty I can satisfy the people on the road that I have not lost my way, as they perceive me out of the current of the late marching troops. If I must depart from the *British* enemy, it is some consolation to me that I may come as a barrier to the frontiers against the *Indians;* but to be serious, (you forgive the digression,) I will do the best to answer your expectations. The Engineer, *Machin,* was with me this day, and will meet me on the day after to-morrow at the place. Colonel *Hay* can supply me with beef, but cannot say as to flour. He is going with me as a guide, and thinks he shall be able to procure flour near our post. The men are in good spirits, and I am, with esteem, your Honour's most obedient servant,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

Major-General *Heath.*

Colonel *Hay* has been very kind and obliging, and is a hearty friend to our cause.

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*A Return of the Men in Garrison at the Forts* MONTGOMERY *and* CONSTITUTION, *November* 14, 1776.

| REGIMENTS. | *Commissioned Officers.* Colonels. | Lieutenant Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | *Staff Officers.* Adjutants. | Paymasters. | Quartermasters. | Q'rmaster Sergeants. | Chaplains. | Surgeons. | Mates. | *Privates.* Sergeant Majors. | Sergeants present. | Corporals present. | Fifes and Drums. | Present fit for duty. | Sick in quarters. | On command. | On furlough. | Deserted. | Dead and Discharged. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *At Fort Montgomery.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Second New-York Regiment | - | - | - | 3 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 12 | 12 | 6 | 159 | 24 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 232 |
| Colonel Humphrey's Dutchess County Militia | 1 | - | - | 4 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 171 | 32 | - | 3 | 2 | 5 | 257 |
| Colonel Snyder's | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 9 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 16 | 15 | 8 | 175 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 2 | - | 254 |
| Total | 2 | - | 1 | 12 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 40 | 39 | 22 | 505 | 72 | 5 | 7 | 5 | - | 743 |
| | - | 1 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 22 | 21 | 10 | 272 | 24 | 2 | 6 | - | - | 388 |
| | 2 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 32 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 62 | 60 | 32 | 777 | 96 | 7 | 13 | 5 | - | 1131 |
| *At Fort Constitution.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Second New-York Regiment | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 9 | 8 | 4 | 112 | 12 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 161 |
| Colonel Humphrey's | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 2 | 47 | 8 | - | 3 | - | - | 69 |
| Colonel Snyder's | - | 1 | - | 3 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 10 | 4 | 113 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 150 |
| Total | - | 1 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 22 | 21 | 10 | 272 | 24 | 2 | 6 | - | - | 388 |

Major *Proctor's* train of Artillery from *Philadelphia:* 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Sergeants, 2 Corporals, and 48 Privates.
Colonel *Knox's* train of Artillery: one Captain-Lieutenant and nine men.

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General.*

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*A Return of the Artillery Stores and Ordnance at* FORT MONTGOMERY, *November* 14, 1776.

| No. of Cannon. | Weight of metal. | On garrison carriages. | Sponges and Rammers. | Worms and Ladles. | Beds and Quoines. | Leaden Aprons. | Powder-horns filled. | Priming Wires and Bitts. | Lint Stocks. | Handspikes. | Cartridge cases. | Budge barrels. | Paper Cartridges filled. | Round Shot. | Double-headed Shot. | Wads. | Portfires. | Fathoms of Slow-match. | No. of casks of Powder. | Weight of Powder. | Cartridge paper. | Empty Cartridges. | Measures for filling. | Sod Cutter. | Hammers and Pinchers. | Shears. | Weight of Powder in each number of Cartridges. | Small-arm Cartridges in store. | Lanterns. | Flints. | Gun Fell and Blocks. | No. of Sheepskins. | Tacks for covering sponges. | Thread and Twine. | Sets of Men's Harness. | Weight of Lead balls | Langrage Shot. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *lbs.* | *qrs.* | | | | | | | *lbs.* | | | | | | | *lbs.* | | | | |
| No. 6 | 32 | 32 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 1 | - | 160 | 120 | 58 | 230 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1760 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No. 10 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 24 | - | - | 201 | 700 | - | 200 | - | - | - | - | - | 50 | - | - | - | - | 1101½ | 870 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| No. 8 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 18 | 6 | 3 | 328 | 260 | 92 | 250 | 12 | 25 | 75 | 9630 | 15 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 820 | 29000 | 3 | 500 | 1 | 10 | 150 | 10 | 10 | 540 | 4150 |
| No. 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | - | - | 48 | 50 | - | 100 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 120 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

The last five guns with their appurtenances are at *Fort Independent,* &c. N. B. 295 of 9-lb. Shot.

*The number of Musket Cartridges and Flints delivered to different detachments at different times, &c.*

| | Cartridges. | Flints. |
|---|---|---|
| To Brigadier-General James Clinton, Second New-York Regiment, from 10th July to the 7th of November | 4960 | 536 |
| To Colonel Humphrey's Regiment | 5319 | 255 |
| To Colonel Woodhull's Regiment | 3415 | 256 |
| To Colonel Pawling's Regiment | 4000 | - |
| To Colonel Thompson's Regiment | 4128 | 165 |
| To Colonel Snyder's Regiment | 3000 | 180 |
| Delivered by order to Delavain, Captain of the Rangers | 800 | - |
| Delivered Major Dobbs, by order, &c. | 100 | - |

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General.*

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MEMORIAL OF EBENEZER HAZARD.

[Read November 18: Referred to the Board of War.]

*To the honourable the Representatives of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *in General Congress assembled:*

*The Memorial of* EBENEZER HAZARD, *Postmaster for the District of* NEW-YORK, *respectfully showeth:*

That your memorialist was appointed Postmaster for the district aforesaid, by the Postmaster-General of the *United States,* on the 5th *October,* 1775, since which time he has sedulously, and, he has reason to think, satisfactorily discharged the duties of the said office.

That by a resolution of Congress an allowance was made the Postmasters for commissions and incidents, of twenty per cent. upon the first one thousand dollars, and of ten per cent. upon the remainder of the sums of money annually received by them for postage.

That in consequence of the want of a foreign trade the

allowance upon the money received at your memorialist's office during the year past amounts to no more than £107 19*s.* 3½*d.*, *New-York* currency.

That as the sum above-mentioned would not admit of your memorialist's employing an assistant, he devoted his whole time to it, and thus was prevented from engaging in some more lucrative employment which required less confinement.

That being obliged to leave the City of *New-York*, and under a necessity of keeping his office near Head-Quarters, he has been subjected, by the late frequent removals of the Continental Army, to extraordinary expense, difficulties, and fatigues, having paid an exorbitant price for every necessary of life and been obliged for want of a horse, which could not be procured, to follow the Army from place to place on foot.

That your memorialist flatters himself that should your Honours attend to the representation made, it will immediately appear that the sum of £107 19*s.* 3½*d.*, *New-York* currency, is by no means a compensation for his services; but that, on the contrary, he must be a considerable loser.

That he apprehends it to have been the design of Congress that the Postmaster of so important and capital a district as that of *New-York*, should not diminish his private property by his assiduity in serving the publick, but that he should receive a decent maintenance from his office.

Your memorialist therefore is induced to state his case to Congress, fully relying upon their justice for such further allowance as to them shall appear to be a compensation for past services, and during the present exigency, as will render the office an object worthy of the same strict attention which has hitherto been paid to it.

And your memorialist, &c.

North-Castle, November 14, 1776.

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EBENEZER HAZARD TO REV. JOHN WITHERSPOON.

North-Castle, November 14, 1776.

Reverend and dear Sir: Confiding in your friendship, I make no apology for troubling you with the enclosed; but beg a little of your attention to it, and that you will be kind enough to favour me with your influence in support of an application which appears to me to be reasonable, and which, I doubt not, you will view in the same point of light.

It is difficult to be sufficiently explicit in a memorial without justly incurring the charge of tediousness; I shall therefore be a little more particular now, with respect to such articles as may appear to stand in need of it. An application to Mr. *Bache*, the Comptroller of the Post-Office, may satisfy Congress respecting the first. He may, perhaps, mention my removal from *New-York* to *Dobbs's Ferry*, which I know he disapproved of; but my conduct in this I imagine will be fully vindicated by the following resolutions, viz:

"In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, August 30th, 1776.

"*Resolved unanimously*, That it is the opinion of the Committee of Safety, that Mr. *Hazard*, Postmaster for the district of *New-York*, should immediately remove his office to some convenient place near *Dobbs's Ferry*, till further orders from the Postmaster-General.

"Signed by order:

"Abm. Yates, Jun., *President*."

Upon the second article I shall only observe, that the word "incidents" used in our quarterly accounts (I forget whether it is in the resolve of Congress) certainly can mean nothing more than those incidents which are usual in time of peace; such as office rent, firewood, sealing-wax, &c., and cannot justly be construed to include the extraordinary expenses occasioned by the present war, which could not have been foreseen at the time of the institution of a Post-Office by Congress.

My quarterly accounts in the hands of Mr. *Bache* will prove the third article. The fourth is self-evident; and the Congress will easily see the truth of the fifth. The necessity of keeping the office near Head-Quarters arose from the importance of the General's despatches, and his being near the centre of the Army, who are almost the only persons for whom letters now come per post. The General has doubtless informed Congress of his different removals. In each of these I have followed him; and I am sorry I have reason to say, that so little attention has been paid to me as a gentleman, or respect shown to the Congress's commission with which I am honoured, that I have been obliged to follow him on foot. I do not mean even to hint a reflection upon the General, whom I esteem and respect. Furnishing me with a horse did not belong to his department; but those whose business it was have not treated me genteelly. However, lest it should be said that I was unfaithful in my office, and to convince his Excellency of my readiness to oblige him, and serve the publick, I submitted to this indignity, and the fatigue consequent upon it, although it was not my business, as a Postmaster, to follow the Army like a sutler.

Wherever an Army goes the demand for every article of life is greatly increased and the prices of them rise in proportion. So extravagant is the charge here that I am now at nine shillings expense per diem for my own and my servant's victuals only. Clothes, washing, &c., are distinct charges and proportionably expensive; so that what I have asserted in the sixth article must appear very clear. Indeed those who know the expense of living in a city, will need no more than the bare mention of the sum I have received for the year past to convince them that it would not maintain me even in peaceable times, (the "incidents" then amounted to £11 6*s.*, each quarter, or £45 4*s.*, per annum;) and yet this I must depend upon for a maintenance in these days of terrible extortion, as my whole time is so taken up by the office that I can attend to nothing else. However, I am confident that Congress will not injure the publick service by an ill-judged parsimony, but will support the dignity of their own officers, and by a suitable liberality enable them to attend diligently to their respective offices. This encourages me to lay the matter before them, and to hope for such an allowance as will prevent my being a loser by serving the publick, and at the same time will afford me some compensation for my time and trouble. Should the memorial be referred to a committee of which you are not a member, perhaps it may be proper to furnish them with this letter. However, this I leave to you, and shall be glad to be favoured with a line, informing me what is done or like to be done respecting this matter.

The enemy are retreating towards *New-York*. Those who were at *Crown-Point* have gone back, it is said, to *Quebeck*. We can account for the extraordinary manœuvres only by supposing them to be made in consequence of news from *England*; but what this is we cannot learn. *Britain* will derive no great honour from the exploits of her heroes this campaign.

I am, reverend and dear sir, yours affectionately,

Eben. Hazard.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

Peekskill, November 14th, 1776.

Dear Sir: Being informed that the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York* have appointed a committee to receive the recommendations of such officers (now in the Army) as the General Officers of their own State may think best qualified to serve in the Army of the free *United States of America* in their next Army, from our intimacy for some time, and my constant observation of the conduct of the officers of my division, I flatter myself that you will not take it amiss if I should hint a wish that you would take notice of an officer who, I think, has done great honour to himself, to you, sir, and the State to which he belongs, and great service to the publick—I mean your Brigade-Major *Pawling*. His modesty, integrity, assiduity in duty, and spirit, so often discovered in my own presence, compel me (from a real regard to a good and faithful officer and the publick cause which stands in need of such gentlemen) to wish his promotion, and it will give me singular pleasure should it happen. You will excuse this, sir, when I assure you that nothing but a desire that merit may be distinguished and the publick cause promoted, that has led me to mention this to you.

I am, dear sir, with esteem, your most humble servant,

W. Heath.

To General *George Clinton*.

### GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO WILLIAM DUER.

Peekskill, 14th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Agreeable to promise, I now enclose you a list of the officers of Colonel *Dubois's* regiment who served under my brother last campaign before *Quebeck*, and most of the summer in my brigade. Those marked thus * have actually served under me, and I can with great justice recommend them to the Convention as active, brave officers. I imagine should Colonel *Dubois's* regiment be continued, it would be most agreeable to them to retain their present appointments; if not, it will be a publick loss to leave them out of the service, and, in my opinion, it would be great injustice to such of them as wish to continue in it.

You have also a list of such of Colonel *Dubois's* officers who were not in the service to the northward last campaign, but have for some time past served under me with propriety and been useful officers. I can't with justice omit recommending my Brigade-Major *Pawline*, in a special manner, as a most useful, active, brave officer, well deserving the rank he now sustains in the Army. The character you have heard of him from some of our General Officers, particularly from the Major-General of the division in which I have served during the whole campaign, and whose certificate in his favour I now enclose you, will lead you to agree with me that if he can conveniently, he ought to be provided for in such manner as will induce him to continue in the service.

I have many other brave officers in my brigade, who have much merit, and I doubt not but they would be willing to continue in the service of their country in the military line; but as they have not been in the Continental service, I have omitted mentioning their names, as I have been informed Convention means first to provide for such as have; in which case there will not be room left for them in the four regiments to be raised in this State.

I am, yours sincerely, GEORGE CLINTON.

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*Return of Regiment of Foot, in service of* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *under command of Colonel* GRAHAM.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonel. | Lieutenant-Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Staff. Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Non-Com'd. Sergeant-Major. | Sergeants. | Fifes and Drums. | Rank and File. Corporals. | Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Fifes and Drums. | Privates. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Paine | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | 28 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 41 | - | - | 12 |
| Captain Stoughtonburgh | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 2 | 22 | - | 4 | 5 | 1 | 34 | - | - | 19 |
| Captain Platt | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 3 | 11 | - | 3 | 5 | - | 22 | - | 1 | 31 |
| Captain Barlow | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 37 | - | - | 16 |
| Captain Hearmanel | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 14 | 2 | 9 | - | 33 | - | - | 20 |
| Captain Stewart | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 9 | - | 30 | - | - | 23 |
| Captain B. Steenbergh | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 8 | - | 30 | - | 1 | 23 |
| Captain Teller | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 10 | 2 | - | 28 | - | - | 25 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 14 | 20 | 134 | 25 | 29 | 5 | 255 | - | 2 | 167 |

N. B.—Captain *Paine* sick, absent; Captain *Stoughtonburgh* sick, absent; Lieutenant *Hardenbergh*, of Captain *Stewart's* Company, sick, absent; two Sergeants of Captain *Teller's* Company sick, one absent, one present; Captain *Graham* on furlough; Captain *Stewart's* Sergeant, sick, in camp, and Drummer.

PEEKSKILL, *November* 14, 1776.

MORRIS GRAHAM, *Colonel.*

*Silas Adsit*, *William Harris*, carpenters in Captain *Paine's* Company.
Lieutenant *Ebenezer Mott*, Sergeant *Philip Cooper*, *Philip Platt*, *David Jennis*, carpenters in Captain *Stoughtonburgh's* Company.
*Asa Palmer*, *Sam'l Goodrich*, carpenters in Captain *Barlow's* Company.
*Samuel Maffett*, *Elijah Canfield*, carpenters in Captain *Platt's* Company.
*John Gaze*, *Zachariah Hear*, *Eliphalet Owen*, carpenters in Captain *Hearmanel's* Company.
Sergeant *Joseph Rogers*, *Peter P. V. Atten*, *Joest Weather*, carpenters in Captain *V. Steenbergh's* Company.
Lieutenant *Betts*, in Captain *Teller's* Company, carpenter.
Sergeant *Benjamin Cutberth*, Corporal *Ebenezer Davis*, *David Robins*, of Captain *Stewart's* Company, carpenters.
Lieutenant *Knickerbacker*, of Captain *Hearmanel's* Company, mason.
*John Hennion*, of do., mason, sick, in camp.
*Andrew Weekes*, of do., mason, with Colonel *Brewer's* men, at *Fishkill.*
Sergeant *Kimble Prince*, of do., mason.

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### JACOB GARRIGUE TO COLONEL BRASHER.

Peekskill, November 14, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Agreeable to request I have inquired for the sheet-iron to make pipes for stoves, agreeable to General *Schuyler's* orders, and find there is none to be had here, but understand there is a quantity (say half a ton) at *North-Castle*, under the care of Mr. *Bowen*, at *North-Castle*, where, if you send after, make no doubt you may get it.

I am, sir, your humble servant, JACOB GARRIGUE.

To Colonel *Brasher*, member of the Convention for the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill.*

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November 29, 1776.

By a late letter from the Honourable General *Schuyler*, he earnestly requests that at least as much of the abovementioned sheet-iron may be forwarded with all possible despatch to *Fort Montgomery*, and from thence to the Forrest of *Deane*, as will make the doors for the said stoves, that they may be fixed. He by other means hopes to supply pipes, which is humbly mentioned, for the advancement of the publick service. JOHN MCKESSON.

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### JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JUN., DEPUTY PAYMASTER-GENERAL, TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Albany, 14th November, 1776.

SIR: Several sums of money presenting, I have taken the liberty, in the present low state of the military chest, to receive them, drawing bills on the Treasury for the same.

Having no instructions therefor, I have presumed on the measure, and beg to know whether the practice in future will be agreeable, that I may not counteract the pleasure of Congress.

I am, with great esteem and sincerity, sir, your most obedient humble servant, JONA. TRUMBULL.

Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Continental Congress.

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### BRIGADIER PALMER TO JOHN AVERY.

Boston, November 14th, 1776.

SIR: My most respectful compliments attend the honourable Council and House of Representatives for the honour done me in an appointment in the Board of War; but as the honourable House have declined making an establishment for the members of that Board, and as I have spent all my time for several years past, and most of my estate, in support of the cause of liberty, my family now calls for my more particular attention, and therefore I flatter myself that I shall be excused serving in the Committee of War, without the charge of want of patriotism.

I am, sir, your most humble servant, J. PALMER.

Mr. *John Avery*, Deputy Secretary, *Boston.*

Boston, November 14, 1776.

*Thursday* afternoon last came to town, and the same evening was committed to jail, *John Dean Whitworth*, eldest son of Doctor *Miles Whitworth*, now at *Waltham*. He, with a number of others, Tories, under the command of the well-known Major *Rogers*, were taken prisoners in the late skirmish at *White-Plains*.

*Saturday* last arrived here, a prize brig, laden with fish, taken by the Captains *Skimmer* and *Tucker*; and *Friday* last arrived at *Marblehead* a large prize-ship, having on board forty-eight hundred quintals of fish. She was sent in by Captain *Hathorne*.

On *Sunday* arrived here a prize, taken by Captain *Daniel Waters*, laden with staves, bound from *Nova-Scotia* for the *West-Indies*.

We hear that Captain *John Lee*, of *Salem*, has taken another ship from *London*, a very valuable prize, and sent her into a neighbouring State.

Yesterday the Captains *Skimmer* and *Tucker* returned here from a cruise, and brought in a brigantine from *Erse*, in *Scotland*, bound to *New-York*, ladened with a valuable cargo of woolens, shoes, &c., &c., said to be worth fifteen thousand sterling.

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### A SOLDIER TO THE INDEPENDENT SONS OF AMERICA.

Our losses this year are small when compared with the advantages we have gained, and it would be extreme folly, even in the weakest *American*, to suppose our cause did not continue to rise. The complete triumph of liberty undoubtedly draws nearer every hour. When we review the state of *America*, and that of our enemy, we behold eminent and growing advantages on the part of our country. The valour and discipline of our troops are constantly improving, as every late action with the enemy testifies; this circumstance, considered with that of our superiour numbers, affords a bright prospect of success. It was always supposed that the enemy would have the greatest advantage in the beginning of the war, and it must be acknowledged, (with gratitude to Heaven,) they have done much less, and our success has been much greater than might have been expected. At this period we have so many experienced men of tried valour, such magazines of warlike stores, such a military system formed, such a disciplined Militia (as no other nation can produce,) and such a union and fervour of spirit in support of the righteous cause of our country, as must damp the murderous spirit of our enemies, and give vigour to every virtuous mind. When we survey our naval departments, such are our preparations, such our amazing progress in fitting out armed vessels, and so wonderful our success in taking the ships, the persons, and the riches of the tyrants, that even our infidel enemies are almost ready to exclaim, "God is on our side!"

Another happy circumstance in our favour is the fruitful season and plentiful harvest with which Heaven hath blessed our country. In truth, so numerous are the favours of Providence, and so encouraging our prospect of success, that we have much greater cause for thanksgiving than for petitioning; and it is unmanly, unchristian, and unworthy of any free mind, to discover the least degree of timidity. Our difficulties and sufferings in supporting the great cause of liberty have been little if compared with what other nations have suffered in defence of their freedom. The *Switzers* fought sixty battles in defending their liberties, and finally drove all the murdering tyrants out of their country, set up independent States, and have flourished in freedom to this day, in spite of all the tyrants in *Europe*. They are a striking proof of the superiour virtue and strength of a free people, for their whole country is not larger than the *Massachusetts* State, nor half so fruitful, nor any ways comparable for happiness of situation and commercial advantages. What, then, may not the *United States of America* accomplish? We may rationally suppose, upon a survey of the present state of all nations, that these *United States* will make swifter progress in arts and arms, and in all that adorns and dignifies human society, than any people or nation ever yet have done.

The tyrants of *Britain*, and the villainous slaves whom they can hire, are all the enemies we have to encounter; the rest of the world will be our friends. As we wish to injure no people, other nations will naturally be our friends, some from interest, and others (whose interest is no ways concerned) from motives of humanity. As *America* is so very extensive, capable of supporting so many millions of inhabitants more than she has at present, and as the virtuous part of mankind love freedom, they will transplant themselves from the slavish dominions of *Europe* to this land of liberty, whereby the industry, the virtue, and the wisdom of the world will centre in these free and independent States. Such being our field of hope, such our prospect of happiness, not only for ourselves but for millions of others, by what name shall we call that folly which would abate your ardour and discourage your efforts to maintain the entire independence of *America*?

A SOLDIER.

Boston, November 14, 1776.

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### COLONEL HURD TO MESHECH WEARE.

Haverhill, 14 November, 1776.

SIR: Since the receipt of a letter from your Committee to the Committee here who have the direction of the Ranging companies, they have ordered most of the men out upon the publick roads to work on such places as 'twas thought most needed repair, and they are yet so employed, except those who are kept out upon scouts. We had thoughts of sending a number over to *Ticonderoga*, but by the latest intelligence, it is said the Army there have been so strongly reinforced by the Militia of all the neighbouring Counties, that our men could not be wanted. If they had been, General *Gates*, who knows of Major *Hoisington* having two hundred and fifty men under command on *New-York* side, would certainly have ordered him to march them over, especially as they are inlisted to serve during the war. Whereas the time our men was engaged for is so nearly expired, we thought 'twould answer little purpose to send them; nor did they much incline to go, unless we could assure them of a larger bounty.

The last reports from the lake are, that the regular Army has decamped from *Crown-Point*, and retreated (supposed) towards *St. John's*; some imagine they may take a circuit round by the river *St. Lawrence* to *Lake Ontario* and *Oswego*, with intention to come towards *Albany* by the *Mohawk* river; yet one would think the season of the year will hardly admit of so long a march. We would rather hope that they have been discouraged from making any attempt upon *Ticonderoga*, finding it so well fortified, and gone back into *Canada* to take up their winter quarters. But as General *Gates* has sent off a large detachment to watch their motions, we may soon know the certainty of this matter. I wish they may not out-general us, as it seems they do at *New-York* in spite of all our numbers. By a person direct from thence, we hear that they have drove our troops from *King's Bridge*, got possession of the heights and all the lines with little opposition—all but *Fort Washington*, which is much in danger. How to account for this we know not, unless it be that General *Washington* may have instructions from Congress not to hazard a general engagement, lest the event might be fatal to the *American* cause. In this view 'tis prudent to retreat.

If your Committee should think proper, by the advices you have, to continue any part of the companies here through the winter, 'tis proper the officers should know their minds soon, as the time is nearly expired. For my own part, I think one company may be sufficient, unless we should have any thing alarming from the northward more than at present appears. I hope for the pleasure of seeing you at the ensuing sessions. Pray my respects to the gentlemen of the Committee; and am, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. HURD.

Hon. *Meshech Weare*, Esq.

P. S. We have no kind of difficulty among the Tory gentry here since the removal of Colonel *Porter*. Not one of them dare to make any stir.

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### POWER GIVEN TO MICHAEL HODGE, OF NEWBURY.

In Committee of Safety, November 14, 1776.

*Michael Hodge*, of *Newburyport*, in the County of *Essex*, in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, Esquire, is hereby appointed and constituted an agent or attorney, for and in behalf of the State of *New-Hampshire*, to sell any cannon

at *Newburyport* belonging to said *New-Hampshire*, or to prosecute any person who has unjustly taken, or wrongfully detains, any cannon belonging to the aforesaid State of *New-Hampshire*, and to prosecute the same unto final judgment and determination in any court of judicature in the name and behalf of the said State of *New-Hampshire*, with full power of substitution.

Signed, sealed, and delivered the day and year above written, in behalf and by order of the Committee,

M. Weare, *Chairman*.

In presence of
S. Brook,
S. Brook, Jun.

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ORDER TO DISPOSE OF THE NEW-YORK TORIES.

State of New-Hampshire, in Committee of Safety, } November 14, 1776. }

The Committee, taking into consideration what is necessary to be done with a number of persons sent into this State by order of the State of *New-York*, and after inquiring of the officers who conducted them, and receiving such information as they could give relating to the crimes charged against them, (the Convention of *New-York* not having as yet transmitted any thing relative thereto,) have determined that at present, and until some information arrives from the State of *New-York*, that *Silvester Stone*, *Daniel Doughty*, *George Doughty*, *Adam Weaver*, *Daniel Hoffman*, *James Parker*, *Thomas Bullis*, *George Blanchard*, and *Timothy Daughty*, be committed to the prison in *Exeter*, having the liberties of the yard in the day time only; and that all the other persons may provide their own lodgings any where within six miles of the State-House in the town of *Exeter*, except in the town of *New-Market*, at no time going beyond those limits; and that they strictly observe their conduct relative to political affairs, and by no means endeavour to use words or arguments to people they may converse with tending to hurt the interest of the States of *America*, or in opposition to the present contest with *Great Britain*, on pain of immediate imprisonment.

Any of the above persons being of the Society called *Quakers*, (not of the number ordered to prison,) observing the above caution, may go to the towns of *Dover*, *Hampton-Falls*, *Seabrook*, and *Kensington*, if they think fit, and take quarters with the people there of said Society. Every person, when he has provided himself with lodgings, is to take care to return his name and the name of his landlord, and in what town he resides, to General *Folsom*, at *Exeter*.

M. Weare, *Chairman*.

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State of New-Hampshire, in Committee of Safety, } November 23, 1776. }

*Ordered*, That *Silvester Stone*, *Daniel Doughty*, *George Doughty*, and *Adam Weaver*, persons sent to this State from *New-York* Convention as enemies to the rights of *America*, be sent to the town of *Nottingham*, and *David Hoffman*, *James Parker*, *Timothy Doughty*, and *George Blanchard*, be sent to the parish of *Deerfield*, to be put out in such families by the respective Selectmen as will take them to board, or hire them to labour; said persons observing, on pain of imprisonment, not to use words or arguments to people they converse with tending against the measures carrying on by the *American* States.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE CONTEST WITH AMERICA.

London, November 15, 1776.

When I see friends and foes veering about with every momentary event in publick dangers, I am sure that fixed principles of judgment are wanting. The union of a foreign with a civil war, where the success of each separately would be doubtful, is a period so portentous that I assume that liberty of sentiment which every wise State ought to cultivate. I shall speak, therefore, of our prospects, appealing to history for those events and situations in civil wars in which private experience may seem wanting to us.

I. The probability and issue of the civil war (which I shall first notice) must be first estimated from various considerations.

1. The degree of determination in the insurgents is the first of them. It has appeared, then, to a people, free and wise as ourselves, that without hope of relaxation, we have attempted discretional taxes, standing armies, the subversion of their governments at will, the corruption of justice, and the creation of novel and harassing offices. It has appeared to them that to support these purposes we lay waste their country, destroy their trade and shipping, call in mercenaries, invite the revenge of slaves, and authorize allies who massacre even women and children. It has appeared to them that we now govern by the formidable principle of our fears; checking population, denying privileges, and preparing an enemy of hostile politicks and religion, through contiguous countries, too rich and extensive for the free. Such are the grievances and apprehensions for which we are to calculate the resentments; and since, compared with the people, (I speak advisedly,) the motives fall short of none that ever animated a revolt, in the same measure will be their determination. Though contempt were not shown for their manners and courage, nor threats to their religion, personal passions necessarily complicate with the publick, and the spirit of a people reaches far greater extremities than are ever seen in private strifes.

2. Their courage is the next point. Because a people have been in circumstances too comfortable to feel the inducements which usually fill armies; because a few militia (crowded with *European* substitutes and used to woods) has seemed at times bashful upon regular service; because farmers and tradesmen have shunned the folly of duels; and their mobs, like other mobs, have dared less than they threatened, the *Americans* have been called cowards. It is often, that upon high authority, a free nation has been held wanting in spirit, but never have they been proved so. I will believe in history rather than in courtiers, particularly when the mistakes of courtiers have made a part of that history.

3. What, then, is their discipline and skill? I answer, that the business of a soldier is, in general, simple. Idle, even to a proverb, he rarely takes it as a science; and in practice, unless in sieges or in parties, (whatever preparation he may have undergone,) few have been engaged in more than two or three actions. For proof, how quickly does an army renovate itself? How many and how long are the intervals of peace, wounds, sickness, keeping garrison and quarters? And in this profession, experience is got only in proportion to the chance of not surviving it. While the *Americans* have the same system of war and are free, intelligent, and capable of fatigue, though no revolution could at once make them polite or learned, they may at once be made military. Many are the examples. In fact, never had successful revolt more time to ripen. They have waited eighteen months for their enemy in the field; subordination fast settling itself, and every recruit found a ready-made soldier. They will not advance the less, because they think themselves ignorant; and as no lessons are better taught than those of adversity, the errours (errours not fatal on their side and on their plan) of one campaign will be corrected in the next. Action purging away their bad officers and conduct, and "every nation profiting in that it most intendeth;" like the *Dutch*, they may at last give new improvements to war. Those who are wise, know that "affairs make men;" and that in times of danger, and in Republicks, merit is always pressed forwards, in preference of alliance or of wealth.

4. Their numbers (admitting apostacy) are still sufficient for their cause. They count a people equal to one fourth of our own, and defend with the whole force in their country; while we attack with only that force which we can support out of it. The miseries of invasive war rest chiefly upon commercial nations. *Hercules* prevailed not over *Antæus*, till he kept him aloof from his parent soil. They are near their wives, and we know have increased even in war.

5. But to consider their possible means. The half of any society may provide food enough for the whole; that other half (amounting to at least a million) may supply recruits, arms, clothing, and other necessaries. Their zeal has already made rapid efforts towards this distribution, and every new distress will accelerate it. Nothing is easier than for a people (like the world, or like *China*) to live from within itself. Making arms is the work of a clumsy *Russian* or *Swede*, manufacturing powder the business of an hour's teaching; and if they cannot weave wool enough, they will find warmth enough in the skin. Those who thought that a maritime people, with five hundred leagues

of stormy coast, could want these supplies, had never read the history of smuggling or despair. *Furor arma ministrat.* Giving up their trade and luxuries was a measure of peace; or, in other words, (and to show how little the history of quiet times can assist us,) they began the war with distresses which would have forced any common war to a conclusion. But setting aside the profits drawn from our expenses and solid coin, their privateering brings a clear balance of that gain, which formed the naval power of the *Dutch*. It is now their only trade; and

6. Their situation commands the richest source of our revenue—our commerce with the *West-Indies*. Their other advantages of situation are, their being placed three thousand miles distant, across an ocean, with coasts boisterous, foggy, and at times inaccessible; so that a despatch cannot be received from thence under four weeks, nor a fleet returned under ten; making together three months and a half in favourable seasons. Their country is, moreover, fifteen hundred miles long, and of indefinite breadth, filled with woods and passes, having few roads and only one river navigable to the sea* up the richer country. Or in other words, we are doomed to infinite delays, difficult carriage, immense magazines, (with entrepôts, garrisons, and convoys,) perpetual ambuscades, the distant division of our forces, and only a partial application of the regular conduct of war. And all this, without mention of the devouring expense, and the novelty of the climate to the north and to the south!

7. But it is here time to think whether a reconciliation is hopeless. Let me ask, then, shall we resign our supremacy,† our standing army by which to preserve it, or our attempts to make them weaker? If we do not, either of these causes singly is sufficient to confirm a revolt or to renew it. But further, shall we change our Ministers or Parliament, court favourites or counsels? Is it as easy to satisfy them, as formerly; now, when their suspicions are alive and wounds sore; now, *Britons* have become strangers in the land, and their younger men, instead of affection, are educated in hatred and horrour? Have not too many tasted the sweets of power, and does not its rotation promise it to more? Was there ever a contest that had more pride to animate it? All *Europe* for spectators, and nations more numerous than those of *Europe* to take their fate from it; in fine, when in the midst of awful dangers, I see deliberations to encounter greater; when the turns not of war only, but of negotiations were foreseen; and when individuals have effected the necessary revolutions in their families and manners, and deserted their professions for arms; I am sure, that as independence was not lightly taken up, so neither will it be lightly laid down. But our terms; what are they? After tricks and disappointments, and the sword of strife drawn for death, they looked for terms affectionate and specifick. But the ultimatum (its reserve for supremacy excepted) concealed at home; declarations issued with niggardliness abroad; and at last a revisal proffered, which may carry duplicity and exaggeration, as well as relief, have proved that we wish to give nothing; and defer surrender, only that accidents may relieve us. Rumours of peace, like those of war, will be frequent, and the most sincere negotiations may become fruitless; but can such terms amuse them? Yet by the help of them they may chance to amuse us.

8. Well, then, we must conquer them! A whole campaign nearly spent in sending a force from *Europe* to their frontiers; and two such successful movements of the *Howes*, producing only a few mixed deserters, are not encouraging circumstances. Two victories, and the war not ended, or rather, not begun! When *Hannibal* had slain almost half the citizens of *Rome*, he saw the walls of their city without possessing it. But *America* has found her *Fabius*, before she fought her *Cannæ*. Delay and defence are proved her system. Yet must all our chances be prosperous, because the first drawn are prizes? The Prince of *Orange's* first Army was first dispersed in the first campaign, and *Alva* erected a trophy for the rebellion he had quieted. The State's first coin bore a ship without oars or sails, buffeting amidst waves, with the inscription, "Where the Fates will drive us, is unknown." *Maurice's* first successes in the open field (though full of youth, enterprise, and talents) were not till thirteen years after assuming his first command. Yet, in spite of intermediate jealousies and divisions, in spite of defeat and despair, of murmurs and refused contingents; after subjecting themselves to various foreigners, twice submitting to *Philip*, and almost annual negotiations; the poorest and least populous provinces sat down in independence and peace, the first nation in the world for their size. If I am told that they had support, I answer that they gave as well as received it; and perhaps, on the whole, (as some have thought,) rather suffered than benefited from allies. And is *America* (though less needing it) without hope? *America*, to whom a diversion in *Europe* becomes relief—cheap, unequivocal, and safe? *America* is never conquered till she desponds; and when she most desponds, the mere failing of advantage on our side may reanimate her to resistance and hope.

9. But grant them conquered: how shall we maintain them? Setting aside the danger at home, of turning from trade to dominion, and changing the poises of the State; the fatal properties also of mercenaries,* and the risk of distant Generals forming systems for themselves, (I think in one of them we already see a spirit that may warn us,) do we consider the extent of the country we are attempting? An extent, which as it unfits it for general conquest, so it does likewise for general possession. But further: "Who gives the power of blood, gives blood." A rape, an insult, (I carry history along with me,) begets revenge; revenge punished begets fresh revenge; and at length somewhere some successful avenger stands forth the beginner of his country's liberty. And this will not happen the later, because the conquerors are encouraged to hatred and contempt, and feel no obligation to observe the laws either of honour or of war. Yet, again: The country must feed these conquerors; but those who bear taxes for themselves, will not bear from those who, by means of them, are able daily, and in the eyes of all, to exult in their oppression. Here, then, is a new motive to enrage; and were all other pretexts wanting, liberty, says *Machiavel*, liberty to a nation once free, is always a pretext to revolt. But there is yet a deeper alarm than all behind. At present, on this side the *Mississippi*, they have one hundred and seventy acres of land per head, where we, in *England*, have only seven; and marriages amidst plenty becoming general, early and productive, they must soon outgrow our force. Oppression may retard their progress, while it increases their hatred; but grow they must, though a *Pharaoh* were their despot. Can we destroy (for who can watch a wilderness) their axes and spades, or make the womb barren? Or can we attempt *Spartan* cruelty in that country, where they may fly from or subdue it? Massacres and extirpations often succeed against victors; but unless partially, gradually, or in small districts, never against a settled people. To transplant the natives, would be taking the lioness from her den. Our faith in the proposed influence of corruption is so natural, that we forget we are to apply it to a community of separate independent individuals, under no general influence, but of their own feelings and opinions. They are neither led by powerful families, nor great officers in church or in State; the governments to be corrupted are not one, but many; and luxury, besides its late proscription, is of slow progress among solitary farmers. And if military Colonies (hitherto tried only on limited countries, or against an inferiour people) are trusted to; I answer, from the changes in *Canada*, that they keep pace with settlers, only in proportion as they are not military. Should they succeed according to hope, (and retain their courage in that climate, for generations!) how long would soldiers fear the power of *Great Britain?* But if computed at only an eighth part of the conquered, how immense must be their numbers? And where can such who are worthy of confidence, be collected as suddenly, as they will suddenly be

* *Hudson's* river. The rest are obstructed by falls or rapids.—See *The Topographical Description of America.*

† See the King's later speeches, and his answer to the last *London* petition.

* "As for mercenary forces, all examples show, that whatsoever estate or prince doth rest upon them, he may spread his feathers for a time, but he will mew them soon after."—*Bacon's Essay on Empire. Machiavel* has said many good things on this subject in the 12th and 13th chapter of his Prince. Hitherto we have used mercenaries under particular circumstances, with safety, but not without inconvenience. We now employ them in their worst form, and must look to the consequence.

wanted?* To know from history the difficulties of their situation, call the natives only *Picts*, *Indians*, *Tartars*, or Banditti; or rather call them *Irish*; and recollect that *Ireland*, a compact limited country at our very gates, with a colony six hundred years old, requires twelve thousand land forces chiefly to preserve its internal police. And were all done that is impossible, how should we more benefit the manufactures of *England*, than by a peaceable trade?

But I return to a subject more popular and better understood.

II. What, then, are the prospects of a foreign war?

1. When I find that *France* and *England* have been settled enemies for seven centuries; that each has in turn subdued the other's country; each encouraged the others rebellions and divisions; and that parity of strength and difference of manners have made their jealousy, aversion, and contempt, hereditary; I have events enough before me to mark the general temper of *France*. And whatever of those national irritations *Spain* wants towards *England*,† are made up by the personal resentments of its King. These dispositions are now particularly exasperated by defeats in late wars, and concessions in late treaties; by the recollection of the petty States we have protected from them; and the youth or folly (so liable to that first errour of Princes, the use of power) now seated upon these thrones. What, therefore, will be—

2. The supposed interest and aim of these kingdoms in the present situation of our affairs? Apparently to seize the moment of our weakness, for recovering their losses and their pride. New conquests and new commerce rise to tempt them, together with the destruction of our navy in its sources; and since *Britain* and *America* when united, threatened to overwhelm them, they may weaken each by expense, and by the loss of the other's alliance. The anxiety of *France* for ages back to possess *America*, shows her sense of its connection with *Europe*, and with power. If *America*, a peaceful Republic, is so formidable separately, how dreadful must it be when in continual connection with *England!*

3. It will now help us if we consider what has been the late conduct of our enemies. Did they not first cajole *Britain* on one hand by reprobating rebels and professing peace; and on the other hand, supply *America* with arms and intelligence, encouragement and trade? And now when we seem irrecoverably separated from our Colonies, and cover no longer necessary, we find large armaments every where on foot. They had no other line of policy to pursue, supposing their intentions hostile. An earlier part might have alarmed *Britain* into concessions, a later part might have disheartened *America*.

4. If it be objected that our late successes will disconcert their schemes, I reply, that they want those misconceptions which are to magnify them into more than the common fate of war, and seem able enough to distinguish between the primary events there and their consequence. It is enough, perhaps, for the common enemy that the civil war has paired off more than one hundred thousand men from our force, and a still larger proportion of our revenue; and that the privateers and frigates, which distressed their trade in former wars, are now employed in the mutual destruction of our own. At all events, this objection will last no longer than the fact does on which it is founded.

But they are too poor for a war we say. And were not we too poor to lose our Colonies? Was not *Philip* too poor for *England's* invasion; *Philip*, with debts whose interest exceeded the capital, troops mutinying for want of pay, and a civil war in the Low Countries raging beyond his power to suppress? Our enemies are not too poor to do us mischief, however it may distress themselves; and who rests his safety on the chance of wisdom prevailing over passion! Of the same rank is the argument arising from the bad example their interference may have to their own colonies. It ought to prove (contrary to all fact and all rule) that discords are never fomented in rival States; rebels never supported, never countenanced from without. As to *France*, she possesses none but sugar colonies, whose slaves unfit them for independence. And *Spain* does not quarrel with *England*: her rupture is with *Portugal*, and she pretends old grounds for it. But who ever heard of a war being stopped for want of a reason different from the true one? Well, but *Portugal* is to be given up. And does *France* then arm to assist *Spain* only, or herself? (for *Portugal* cannot be meaned for *France*.) What are the *East* and *West-Indies*, *Hanover*, and *Holland*, *Minorca* and *Gibraltar*,* but marks for the ambitious? A war invited by weakness is not put off because cessions increase that weakness. When the *Saxons* made threatening profitable to the *Danes*, they encouraged its repetition, and still became the victims of invasion. That we shall have peace, because the Minister protests it, is no proof till Ministers feel themselves obliged to use sincerity with the publick. There is a thousand reasons for the Minister's silence. But armaments are beyond assurances, and ought to make us doubt at home, as he doubts abroad.

5. The events of a foreign war, should it take place, are found in the history of past times; the publick stocks, so insensible to an *American* war, have learned to anticipate and feel them. A funded debt increasing even in peace; the whole regular force in *England* inferiour to a garrison, (the garrison General *Washington* dislodged from *Boston*;) the *Irish* troops some thousands below their peace complement; the navy not manned; our militia not imbodied; our distresses in trade now begun; and no compromise with our Colonies. May God protect us! for our danger will be most imminent.

Such, then, is the opinion I have of our country's prospects. When I see how lightly such ideas prevail with others, I am at times inclined to think myself misled; but if this be not prophecy, I mistake if it is not history.

Some readers may suppose me insane; others will recollect me only till the next *Gazette* victory; but I trust there is here and there a prudent man scattered through the crowd, who will feel himself touched with these arguments amidst the shouts of phrensy, and say with me, *Nemo felix dici potest ante obitum.*

A By-Stander.

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ARTHUR LEE TO C. W. F. DUMAS.

London, November 15th, 1776.

Dear Sir: The indispensable business of my profession has hitherto prevented me from complying, as I wished, with the desire of your very obliging favours.

You will have seen, by the proceedings of Parliament, how decided the King is in prosecuting the *American* war. For, in truth, he alone is Minister, and his will governs with absolute sway. At the same time the powers which he has given to Lord *Howe* appear, from his declaration in *America*, to be most ample. That, however, I rather attribute to what is deemed the art of government, than to any pacifick or redressing intention. We can never forget the perfidy of making Lord *Botetourt* declare to the Assembly, that the revenue acts should be repealed, when in fact no such thing was intended or done; and the Secretary of State being ordered to tell the agents of Congress that his Majesty had received their petition very graciously, and from the importance of it would lay it before his two Houses of Parliament, when, at the same time, the same Secretary wrote, by his Majesty's commands, to all the Governours of *America*, denominating that very Congress an illegal meeting, their grievances pretended, and ordering them to prevent their meeting again. These facts are too decisive to leave a doubt of the credit that is due to the promises of this Court, and, at this very time, they are abusing the *Howes* for negotiating; the language of Court being, "We sent them to use their hands, and they are employing their heads."

The *Rockingham* part of the Opposition are determined upon seceding from Parliament, in which Lord *Shelburne*, Lord *Camden*, and the Duke of *Grafton* refuse to accompany them for two reasons: 1st, Because the feelings of the publick are not high enough for so decisive a measure; and,

*New-England alone would require one hundred thousand people. The proportion I have stated is certainly not too great, as we find from the numbers necessary to awe the spiritless and ignorant *African* in the *West-Indies*.

†Towards *Portugal* (*England's* Province, as it has been called) all of them subsist.

*O si angulus ille—qui nunc denormat agellum.

2dly, Because the others will not agree to make the great fundamental abuse of the Constitution, as well as the temporary misconduct of Government, the groundwork of that secession. In a word, because they will not declare that the object of the measure is to obtain the abolition of corruption, and not merely the change of those who minister it. This schism will, however, reduce opposition so as to leave the Court at perfect ease from that quarter.

I thank you for the magnanimity of your sentiments towards our friends, on the supposition that the late occurrences are events of consequence. I am by no means of that opinion. After the affair of *Long-Island*, the loss of *New-York* was inevitable; but is not the successful army still orced and kept at bay, by that over which it is supposed to have obtained these decisive advantages? Could any one expect more from a new-raised army than that it should force the disciplined invaders, almost equal in numbers, and much superiour in equipments, to win its way by inches? Where, then, is the ground for despair, when our friends are looking the enemy in the face, and he does not dare to attack them? Of two things, sir, you may be satisfied, that the advantage on *Long-Island* was obtained neither by the superiority of the troops nor of the General, but by his having bribed the officer who commanded the first pass, who giving up his post, without suffering a gun to be fired, enabled *Clinton* to march in the night and take the left wing of the *Americans*, so as to put them between two fires, from much superiour numbers, with an immense train of artillery. The other fact is, that the officer who brought the last despatches declares that the *American* lines upon *New-York* Island cannot be forced, but with a certainty of so much loss as cannot be hazarded. General *Howe* will therefore try his former art of treachery and corruption, from which alone I am satisfied we have any thing to fear.

The talk of the Congress having sent Deputies to *Staten-Island* to negotiate with Lord *Howe*, is not, that I know of, authenticated. Adieu,

ARTHUR LEE.

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SILAS DEANE TO C. W. F. DUMAS.

DEAR SIR: I am still indebted to you for your favours of the 29th ultimo and the 15th instant, to which I should earlier have replied, but for a slight indisposition, and much chagrin at some unfavourable news. However, I am recovering in health, with which my spirits return, and I keep ever in my mind the motto *de Republicâ nil desperandum*. I counted the cost when I entered the lists, and balanced private fortune, ease, leisure, the sweets of domestick society, and life itself in vain, against the liberties of my country; the latter instantly predominated, and I have nothing to complain of, though much to grieve at, occasioned by the miscarriage or delay of my full powers for open and publick application. I sent you a memoir on *American* commerce, and wish to know your sentiments on that subject. The vessel detained at *Bilboa* has been dismissed, and the Commissary reprimanded for her detention, and ordered to lend the captain every assistance he needed. This is a great point gained. I must suspend saying any thing on the proposals of officers for entering the service of the *American* States, as also any thing further on the other artists I wrote about, until I receive intelligence, which I hourly have long expected, and which I think cannot possibly be far off, as I despatched a vessel early in *September*, express, with an account of my situation, and that of affairs here; besides, a war is evidently at hand here in *Europe*.

Mr. *Carmichael* warmly described the kind reception you gave him, and your zeal for the interest of the *United States*, and friendship for me, which he might have spared, as every one of your letters demonstrates the sincerity and disinterestedness of your friendship, as well for my country as for myself; and as you value your being the first plenipotentiary of the *American* States, I equally value myself on your friendship and correspondence in the part I have the honour of acting with you in this important scene, and am happy to think, that to the present or coming actors in, or spectators of, the foundation and rise of this State in a new world, our correspondence will show that our sentiments ever coincided. Be not discouraged, my dear friend, *America* must come off in the end triumphant, and under new and unprecedented laws, liberty, and commerce, be the happy asylum for the sons of men in future ages. Whatsoever disappointments I may meet with, I never will despair of my country, for which I shall count it my glory to suffer all things, if it receive any advantage therefrom, and if not, I shall at least enjoy the pleasure, the unalienable pleasure, resulting from a consciousness of having done all in my power for its happiness, and connectedly for the happiness of mankind in general.

The temper of the times is in favour of *America*, and it is now as fresh and striking an object to *Europe* as when first discovered and called the New World. It is among my principal mortifications, that I cannot have a few days at least personal conversation with you; but the situation of affairs here will not allow of a moment's absence, which Mr. *Carmichael*, I doubt not, explained to you. With persons in publick or private, who are friendly, yet equally apprehensive of consequences, willing to aid, yet timid, and at the same time not well acquainted and informed, the task you are sensible is as laborious as delicate, and at a time when events bear down arguments, one cannot be released a moment from the closest attention to every thing rising real or imaginary. Your lady's kind preparations for me, Mr. *Carmichael* most affectionately mentioned, and I will, life permitting, the moment I can quit *Paris*, in person acknowledge, as far as words are capable of expressing, how sensible I am of this more than hospitable kindness, since to provide for and receive the stranger on arrival is the duty of hospitality, but here is a work of supererogation, and though no *Roman Catholick* myself, yet so catholick as not the less to love and esteem generous actions on all occasions. My most respectful and affectionate regards, with my ardent wishes for your mutual felicity, attend you.

I am, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

P. S. Pray, for what sum per annum can a young man be educated at *Leyden*, adhering to the strictest economy?

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GENERAL LEWIS TO BENJAMIN HARRISON.

Williamsburg, November 15, 1776.

SIR: I take the liberty of enclosing you a copy of a few lines I send to the War Office relative to forage. If it should be denied to the officers which you see listed, it will greatly distress them, or even lay some of them under the necessity of disposing of their horses; and how they are to do their duty on foot, is more than I can devise. I beg you to take the trouble of having the matter put out of doubt and making me acquainted with the determination on that head.

We have no news in this quarter, but what I believe to be forged and propagated by Tories. Yesterday they had General *Washington* mortally wounded, and twelve thousand of his Army killed.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

AND'W LEWIS, *Brig. General.*

To Colonel *Harrison*, Esq., Member of Congress.

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GENERAL LEWIS TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Williamsburg, November 15th, 1776.

SIR:

| | |
|---|---|
| Deputy Adjutant-General, | Director-General to the General Hospital, |
| Major, | Aid-de-camp, |
| Brigade-Major, | Paymaster-General, |
| Adjutant, | Deputy Quartermaster-General. |
| Mustermaster, | |

Colonel *William Finnie*, Deputy Quartermaster-General, tells me that the Quartermaster-General informed him, that forage is not to be issued to any, except General Officers. The duty necessary to be performed by the officers abovementioned, lays them under the necessity of using horses, and keeping them constantly in readiness; therefore it's absolutely necessary they be allowed forage.

I wish for the determination of the honourable Congress on this head as soon as possible.

I am, &c., ANDREW LEWIS, *Brig. General.*

To *Richard Peters*, Esq.

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Williamsburg, 15th November, 1776.

The following gentlemen are appointed Field-Officers to the six new battalions to be raised in this State on the Con-

ntal establishment, viz: Colonels: *Edward Stevens*, *iniel Morgan*, *James Wood*, *Samuel Meredith*, *Charles uis*, and *David Mason*, Esquires. Lieutenant-Colonels: *Christian Febiger*, *John Gibson*, *Lewis Willis*, *John Neaville*, *Richard K. Meade*, and *James Innis*, Esquires. Majors: *William Heath*, *Abraham Buford*, *Charles Simms*, *George Lyne*, *George Nicholas*, and *Holt Richeson*, Esquires.

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MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO RICHARD PETERS.

Annapolis, 15 November, 1776.

SIR: We are honoured by your favour of the 8th instant, and upon the strictest inquiry cannot find that any *Indians* of the *Six Nations* are detained in *Maryland* contrary to their inclinations. Two or three strangers came and joined the *Nanticoke Indians* some time ago, who still remain with them, satisfied and well treated. Therefore the idea cannot be founded in truth, and we are sorry it should create any uneasiness among the *Indians*.

In compliance with the request of the Board of War, we enclose you a list of the officers of Continental troops raised in this State, with the ranks, dates of commissions, and number of privates, which we hope upon examination will be found right.

We send you enclosed a bill of lading for some powder arrived in Captain *Hill*, at *Baltimore-Town*, which we have requested Mr. *Isaac Vanbibber* to have care taken of till you give orders about it. The bill of lading and letter to *Thomas Mumford*, Esq., came under cover to us. Please to forward the letter.

We are, your most obedient servants.

To the Board of War, *Philadelphia*.

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DORCHESTER COUNTY (MARYLAND) COMMITTEE TO THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

In Committee of Observation, Dorchester County, November 15th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In obedience to an order received from the late Convention, we had several evidences before us, whom we examined concerning certain depredations and outrages committed by Captain *Richard Andrew*, of *Caroline* County, and a number of people whom he headed, part of them inhabitants of that County, and others inhabitants of this County; and on evidence it appeared that they searched the dwelling-house and out-houses of Mr. *James Sulivane* for salt; that finding only five or six bushels there, they took none of that, but proceeded to Colonel *James Murray's*, on *Hunting-Creek*, which is also in this County, and there got from Mr. *Murray* the key of a house in which some salt was, and took from thence, by their account, fourteen and a half bushels of salt, for which they offered to pay Mrs. *Murray* fourteen and one-half dollars; that she refused to take the money, on which they left that sum in the house, and went off with the salt.

On receiving this information we ordered the evidence to appear again on a certain day, to which day we summoned those of the aforesaid company who reside in this County, and appeared to have been the most active in the outrage, to appear to answer. Some of them appeared agreeably to summons, and behaved orderly, and offered some excuses for the non-attendance of the others; under these circumstances, and as some of the most material witnesses did not attend, we postponed the hearing of the matter till *Wednesday* next, when we ordered the parties charged and witnesses to attend us, which they promised to do. The parties charged came on *Wednesday*, but, contrary to our expectation, they came headed by Captain *Andrew*, and upwards of one hundred armed men to support them; and the company behaved so riotous and disorderly that it was out of our power to proceed in the business, and their coming so unexpectedly it was impossible for us to collect a force sufficient to stop them before they returned in the evening. Many of the men swear they will support what they have done at the hazard of their lives, as it seems they have associated to do, and by their declarations against the present measures of the country, and in favour of the King, show themselves entirely disaffected to our cause.

If these men were all we had to contend with, it is probable our Militia might be sufficient, but from the best information we can obtain, we are of opinion they have a very formidable number to protect them from *Caroline*, *Worcester*, and *Sussex* in *Delaware*; and as (since these outrages) several companies in this County have taken salt nearly in the same way, which will of course stop them from opposing them, if they do not join them, we are unanimously of the opinion that it is very improbable there can be in General *Hooper's* brigade a sufficient number of the Militia raised, who would on the present occasion take up arms to suppress and stop the progress of these rioters and their adherents, and bring the offenders to justice; and we therefore think it most prudent to decline making the attempt, as a failure would be very detrimental to our cause, and give strength and spirits to their party and friends. And have sent this by our express hired for the purpose, to inform your Honours of what we have done, and what we apprehend is our real situation; and we would beg leave to submit to your judgment whether it would not be proper, under our present circumstances, to send men to bring these offenders to justice; who, having neither connexions or acquaintance with them, may be relied on, and will probably much better go through the business. It is becoming a matter of great importance, and we are apprehensive if it is not soon checked, will probably go a great way towards destroying the peace and good order of the greatest part of this Shore.

We cannot omit the opportunity (in behalf of those people of our County who have yet remained quiet under their great distress for salt) to inform your Honours that the want of that absolute necessary of life is so great in this County that many families for months past have not had a spoonful of salt. Others have got a quart or a few handfuls by begging from those who could badly spare any.

The people hearing of quantities of salt going to *Baltimore*, have some of them applied there for relief, but have very few of them got any, it being generally taken for the inhabitants of the Western Shore, before those this way can get there to apply. Under these circumstances they are much distressed, and if these unhappy people find they have no chance of being supplied equally with those on the other Shore, we know not what may be the consequence; perhaps they may at length grow desperate rather than perish. We therefore are moved in pity towards our distressed County men to apply to your Honours for such relief as may be in your power to grant them; and as we hear there has lately arrived vessels at *Baltimore* with quantities of salt, if your Honours would be pleased to order that a part of that or any other salt that may arrive be bought and sent to us for the relief of the inhabitants of this County, we will engage to be answerable for the price set on it, and will undertake to have it delivered at the same price as far as it will go in small quantities to the distressed people; this being done we are persuaded it will not only be of great advantage to the people, but that they, seeing measures are taken to relieve their wants, will have their minds made easy and will go on much more spirited and cheerful in doing their duty in their respective stations than they now do.

We shall be obliged to your Honours for an answer by the return of our express, and are, with great esteem, gentlemen, your very obedient servants.

Signed by order of the Committee:

JOHN DICKINSON, *Chairman*.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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JAMES MURRAY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 15th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. *Thomas Sparrow* was applying to me about taking a sum of money to deliver out occasionally for such recruits as he should procure. It did not suit me, as I should be out of town most of this fall and winter probably. I applied to Major *Thomas Muse*, of *Cambridge*, who said he would take charge of it, and deliver it out agreeable to such directions as your Board should give or send him.

The Major, if a stranger to your Board, is a gentleman of fortune.

I am your very humble servant,

JAMES MURRAY.

Honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis*.

GENERAL HOOPER TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Cambridge, 15th November, 1776.

SIR: Some disorders having been committed in this town on *Wednesday* last, by a number of people assembled together for the purpose of protecting those lately concerned in robbing the inhabitants of this County of their salt, I have judged it necessary, with the advice of the Field Officers of the two battalions in this County, to order out a part of the Militia, of one hundred men, to guard the magazine of ammunition lodged here; out of whom I mean to have fifty of them, most to be depended on, selected for the purpose of guarding the magazine while the present emergency requires it, and I shall continue them on guard, if the necessity should still exist, unless otherwise ordered by your Board.

And as it will he necessary to get some provisions to subsist the guard while stationed here, I must request you will send by the bearer fifty pounds for that purpose, for the expenditure of which I shall account with your Board.

I am, with respect, sir, your most humble servant,

HENRY HOOPER.

To the honourable the President of the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, at *Annapolis*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE SOUTHERN STATES.

Philadelphia, November 15th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Since despatching the express yesterday, with intelligence that a fleet of above one hundred vessels had left *New-York*, the Congress have received a letter from General *Greene* containing further accounts, a copy of which, in obedience to their commands, I now enclose. It appears from this information that Lord *Dunmore* is to take the command of a fleet bound for the southward, said to be for *South-Carolina;* but as it is by no means certain against which of the Southern States the expedition is designed, it is highly necessary you should be on your guard. I shall not detain the express only to add that you will make such use of this intelligence as the importance of it requires.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Convention of *Maryland.*

P. S. Since the foregoing Congress have passed a resolve respecting the disposition of the troops in *North-Carolina*, which I enclose, and to which I beg leave to refer you, as also to the resolve respecting the inlistment.

[Same to Assembly of *Virginia*, Convention of *North-Carolina*, Assembly of *South-Carolina.*]

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE EASTERN STATES.

Philadelphia, November 15th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In consequence of sundry votes of the Assembly of *Massachusetts-Bay* being laid before Congress, they have come to the enclosed resolves, wherein you will perceive they have disapproved of the measure of increasing in any one State the bounty given by Congress, on the reinlistment of the troops, as having a manifest tendency to lay the foundation of discontent in the Army. They have, however, upon revising the resolution of the 16th *September*, agreed to engage for three years such of the soldiers as may decline inlisting during the continuance of the war.

In the present exigency of our affairs every measure should be adopted that will assist in filling up the Army, the completing of which is an object of the utmost importance. The Congress have therefore determined that those troops who will engage for three years shall be entitled to receive the same bounty and pay with those who inlist during the war, except the one hundred acres of land, which are to be given only to those who will inlist without limitation of time.

As the resolves of Congress for raising eighty-eight battalions for the defence of the *American States* was positive that they should be engaged during the war, General *Washington*, in a conference with Mr. *Partridge*, did not think himself at liberty to consent to the troops being inlisted on any other terms until the sense of Congress could be obtained in the matter.

[N. B. The foregoing paragraph was inserted only in the letter to the *Massachusetts-Bay.*]

It being a matter of the highest importance that you should be informed of the resolves herewith transmitted, as soon as possible, in order that the service may not be injured by any of the soldiers declining to engage during the war who would otherwise be willing to inlist for a limited time, I have forwarded the enclosed by express; and have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Assembly of *New-Hampshire.*

[The same to Assembly of *Massachusetts-Bay*, Assembly *Rhode-Island*, Assembly *Connecticut.*]

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BOARD OF WAR TO LANCASTER (PENN.) COMMITTEE.

War Office, November 15, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The Board of War have directed me to let you know they have received information that many of the *British* prisoners of war residing in different parts of the *United States* are not only extremely insolent, but are guilty of practices of a very dangerous tendency. They are not satisfied with procuring and conveying intelligence secretly, but are constantly spreading false rumours with the design of damping the spirit of the friends to their country. This is not only contrary to their parole, but may be attended with consequences fatal to our cause. You will therefore please strictly to inquire into the matter, and confine any *British* prisoner who is found speaking on any political subject relative to the dispute between *Great Britain* and the *United States*, spreading false news, speaking in derogation or otherwise injuring the credit of the Continental currency, or conveying any intelligence whatsoever. Many of the gentlemen have behaved unexceptionably, yet too many hold themselves but slightly bound by any engagements they have entered into.

I am, your very obedient servant,

RICHARD PETERS, *Secretary.*

Committee of *Lancaster.*

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PETITION OF JOSEPH COWPERTHWAITE.

*To the Honourable Continental Congress:*

Messrs. *Lowry* and *Wharton*, Commissaries, having appointed me as agent to take care of all the salt that 's allotted them from the Council of Safety of this State for the use of the Army only, and to cure beef and pork for that use, and all that I have received of them is eight hundred bushels, which has been sent to their different agents in the country for curing provisions for that purpose. I have now on hand between four and five hundred cattle, that they have bought and paid for, and no grass for them. I beg to know from your honourable body what I must do.

From your humble servant,

JOS. COWPERTHWAITE.

Philadelphia, November 15th, 1776.

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COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF PENNSYLVANIA TO BOARD OF WAR.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, 15th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The Generals, on viewing the ground between this city and *Chester*, judge it highly necessary to have a number of light cannon, mounted on traveling carriages, provided immediately. If the Board of War shall think proper to give an order for the eight six-pounders belonging to the sloop *Hornet*, to be delivered to Colonel *Mifflin* for that purpose, this Board will order them to be mounted as soon as possible.

By order of Council:

THOS. WHARTON, JUN., *President.*

To the honourable Board of War.

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PHILADELPHIA COUNTY COMMITTEE.

Philadelphia, November 15, 1776.

The members of the Committee of the County of *Philadelphia* are requested to meet at ten o'clock on *Friday*, the 29th instant, at the *Conestogoe* Wagon, in *Market* Street, in order to receive the salt allotted for the said County by the Council of Safety, and to proportion it to the several townships. Those townships where no Committee-men have been chosen, are desired to appoint proper persons to attend at the same time. The townships also that have

neglected to apply for their proportions of *Fisher* and *Shewell's* salt, are to take notice that unless they make application on the above-mentioned day, they will be excluded from said proportions.

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JOHN JAMISON TO LANCASTER (PENNSYLVANIA) COMMITTEE.

November 15th, 1776.

SIR: Please to send by the bearer, *John Black*, the quota of salt coming to the township of *Mountjoy*, with such directions for the division of it as you think necessary. The said *John Black* will pay for the salt.

We are, sir, your very humble servants,

JOHN JAMISON,
ABRM. SCOTT.

To *William Atlee*, Chairman of the Standing Committee for the County of *Lancaster*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

General Greene's Quarters, November 15, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: On *Wednesday* evening I received the favour of your letter of the 8th instant, in consequence of which I stopped the flag that was going in with the ladies you mention, pointing out to them the necessity [of the measure, and recommending them to write to their husbands and connexions, to obtain General *Howe's* assurances for the release of Mrs. *Lewis* and Mrs. *Robinson* and her children, with their baggage, as the condition on which they will be permitted to go in themselves. These terms I can only extend to Mrs. *Barrow* and Mrs. *Kempe*, who had never obtained my leave. Mrs. *Watts* had, and my promise that she should go in. The whole, however, were prepared to go, when the letter reached *Newark*. The mode I have adopted seems most likely, and the only proper one, to procure the enlargement of our ladies, which I wish for much.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To the honourable Board of War.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Hackinsack, November 15th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Having given my promise to General *Howe*, on his application, that *Peter Jack*, a servant of Major *Stewart*, who was sent to *Philadelphia* with the *Waldeckers* and other prisoners, and who has nothing to do in the military line, should be returned to his master, agreeable to the usage of war in such cases, I must take the liberty to request the favour of you to have him conveyed to General *Greene* by the earliest opportunity, that he may be forwarded to his master in compliance with my promise.

I also wish that you would have all the *British* prisoners collected that you conveniently can, and sent to me as soon as possible, with the *Hessian* prisoners, that I may exchange them. The return of the latter will, I think, be attended with many salutary consequences; but should it be made without that of a large proportion of other troops, it will carry the marks of design and occasion precautions to be taken to prevent the ends we have in view.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fort Lee, four o'clock.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed you have a letter from Colonel *Magaw;* the contents will require your Excellency's attention.

I have directed Colonel *Magaw* to defend the place until he hears from me.

I have ordered General *Heard's* brigade to hasten on. I shall go to the Island soon.

I am, dear sir, your Excellency's obedient servant,

N. GREENE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, Head-Quarters.

Mount Washington, 15th November, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: A flag of truce came out just now from *King's Bridge*. The Adjutant-General was at the head of it. I sent down Colonel *Swoope*. The Adjutant-General would hardly give two hours for an alternative between surrendering at discretion, or every man being put to the sword. He waits for an answer. I shall send a proper one. You'll, I dare say, do what is best. We are determined to defend the post or die.

ROB'T MAGAW, *Colonel Com'g.*

To General *Greene*.

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15th November, 1776.

SIR: If I rightly understood the purport of your message from General *Howe*, communicated to Colonel *Swoope*, this post is to be immediately surrendered or the garrison put to the sword. I rather think it a mistake than a settled resolution in General *Howe* to act a part so unworthy of himself and the *British* nation.

But give me leave to assure his Excellency that, actuated by the most glorious cause that mankind ever fought in, I am determined to defend this post to the very last extremity.

ROB'T MAGAW.

To the Adjutant-General of the *British* Army.

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GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

At a General Court-Martial held near *Peekskill* by order of Major-General *Heath*, on the fifteenth day of *November*, Anno Domini 1776. Colonel *Pawling*, President.

*William Hitchcock*, Judge Advocate.

Members:

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. Colonel *Moulton*, | Captain *Hyet*, |
| Major *Van Rensselaer*, | Captain *Folkner*, |
| Captain *Moor*, | Captain *Hermans*, |
| Captain *Allen*, | Captain *Wood*, |
| Captain *Scott*, | Captain *Delavan*, |
| Captain *Wool*, | Captain *Swartwout*. |

Lieutenant *Benjamin Adams*, of Captain *Pettibone's* company, Colonel *Willis's* regiment, charged by Major *Holdridge* with having deserted his regiment on the 26th *October* last, when at *Fort Independence:* The prisoner on his arraignment pleads Not guilty.

Captain *Mills*, of said regiment, being duly sworn, deposeth: That the day before they left the fort, at the request of the prisoner, he applied to the Major to obtain liberty for him to go home; that it was refused; that he saw no more of the prisoner after that till he saw him with the regiment in this place; that the prisoner when he asked permission was very unwell, and then upon the sick returns; that General *Parsons* a few days before had ordered all the sick to go, or be conveyed away; that he informed the prisoner of this order, who said he would not go just then; that he does not know whether the prisoner did or did not go afterwards in consequence of said order, or whether he did or did not obtain leave of absence after the first request; that he has not the least reason to suppose the Lieutenant meant to desert, but that he went to recruit his health, and that he returned voluntarily to the regiment; and lastly, that the said Lieutenant has always maintained the character of a very good soldier, and that he has been the main support of the company.

The Court, after the most mature and full consideration of the evidence, are of opinion that the prisoner is not guilty of the charge alleged against him, and that he be acquitted accordingly. LEVI PAWLING.

Approved: Per W. HEATH, *Major-General.*

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EBENEZER HAZARD TO JOHN MCKESSON.

North-Castle, November 15, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The enemy have got below *Dobbs's Ferry;* it is said ten thousand have embarked at *New-York*, and it is supposed they are bound to the *West-Indies*. A few days ago a few regulars landed a little to the east of *Stamford*, and stole two cows. A Tory conducted them to his house.

No other news. Your rider never calls upon me now. Enclosed is a paper and *Massachusetts* Address for Convention. Adieu, EBEN. HAZARD.

To *John McKesson*, Esq., *Fishkill.*

*General Return of the Forces of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *serving in the Northern Department, under command of the Honourable Major-General* GATES.

| | CORPS. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Com'ed. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | EFFECTIVE RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | Alterations since last Return. Enlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| First Brigade. | Greaton | - | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 11 | 131 | 52 | 3 | 97 | - | 283 | 4 | - | 356 | - | - | 10 | 8 |
| | Bond (late) | - | - | - | - | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 18 | 6 | 65 | 133 | 24 | 57 | - | 279 | 2 | 8 | 361 | - | 3 | 2 | - |
| | Burrell | - | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 24 | 7 | 81 | 66 | 36 | 51 | 28 | 262 | 3 | 8 | 368 | - | - | 4 | - |
| | Porter | - | - | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 16 | 3 | 89 | 68 | 28 | 66 | 19 | 270 | 6 | 7 | 290 | - | 1 | 11 | - |
| Second. | Swift | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 12 | 135 | 130 | 89 | 30 | 2 | 386 | 1 | 4 | 278 | - | 2 | 51 | 2 |
| | Mott | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 10 | 214 | 91 | 152 | 64 | - | 521 | - | 4 | 137 | - | 2 | 34 | 2 |
| | Reed (late) | - | - | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 22 | 11 | 133 | 59 | 18 | 32 | 9 | 251 | 1 | 4 | 389 | - | 3 | 21 | - |
| | Paterson | - | 1 | - | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 23 | 9 | 168 | 64 | 46 | 20 | 33 | 331 | 1 | 4 | 309 | - | - | - | - |
| | Phinney | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 14 | 184 | 110 | 17 | 44 | 1 | 356 | - | 1 | 284 | - | 2 | 30 | 2 |
| | Bedel (late) | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 28 | 4 | 152 | 33 | 25 | 37 | 78 | 325 | 1 | 6 | 315 | - | 1 | 49 | 4 |
| Third. | Wyman | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | 5 | 8 | 6 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 32 | 10 | 250 | 121 | 7 | 111 | - | 489 | 3 | 6 | 267 | - | 2 | 19 | - |
| | Stark | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 29 | 9 | 144 | 80 | 26 | 44 | 1 | 295 | 1 | 6 | 343 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| | Poor | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 29 | 12 | 133 | 157 | 43 | 72 | 2 | 407 | 1 | 4 | 233 | - | 1 | 4 | - |
| | Wingate | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 30 | 12 | 237 | 175 | 4 | 116 | - | 531 | - | 9 | 225 | - | 1 | 15 | - |
| | DeHaas | 1 | 1 | - | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 6 | 286 | 2 | 148 | 36 | - | 472 | 5 | 10 | 242 | 2 | - | - | - |
| | Wood | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 10 | 179 | 136 | 53 | 19 | 1 | 388 | 1 | 5 | 252 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | Wayne | 1 | - | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 12 | 261 | 144 | 22 | 53 | - | 480 | - | 4 | 160 | - | 3 | 1 | - |
| Fourth. | Irvine | - | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 13 | 199 | 182 | 62 | 26 | 1 | 470 | 2 | - | 170 | - | - | - | - |
| | Wynds | - | - | 1 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 10 | 6 | 107 | 17 | 145 | 16 | - | 285 | 2 | 3 | 355 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Maxwell | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 29 | 8 | 126 | 91 | 97 | 36 | - | 350 | 3 | 8 | 290 | - | - | - | - |
| | Whitcomb | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 16 | 445 | 24 | 49 | 11 | 2 | 531 | - | - | 105 | - | - | - | - |
| | Whitcomb | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 10 | 178 | 83 | 54 | 70 | - | 385 | - | 3 | 255 | - | 3 | 14 | 1 |
| | Wigglesworth | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 12 | 161 | 103 | 4 | 141 | 1 | 410 | - | - | 230 | - | 3 | 12 | 1 |
| Fifth. | Woodbridge | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 16 | 336 | 115 | 2 | 88 | 1 | 542 | - | - | 98 | - | 2 | 15 | - |
| | J. Reed | 1 | - | 1 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 32 | 14 | 222 | 156 | 22 | 131 | - | 531 | - | - | 109 | - | - | 19 | - |
| | Wheelock | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 8 | 180 | 130 | 25 | 217 | - | 552 | - | - | 88 | - | 1 | 50 | - |
| | Brewer | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 37 | 20 | 404 | 67 | 32 | 64 | 1 | 568 | - | - | 232 | - | 2 | 36 | - |
| | Willard | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 39 | 16 | 345 | 108 | 31 | 92 | - | 576 | - | - | 224 | - | 1 | 4 | - |
| | Total | 20 | 16 | 23 | 176 | 174 | 174 | 170 | 12 | 26 | 25 | 22 | 20 | 719 | 294 | 5545 | 3697 | 1264 | 1840 | 180 | 11526 | 37 | 104 | 6959 | 2 | 44 | 404 | 22 |
| | *Corps on command.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Van Schaick ..... (Fort George) | - | 1 | - | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 14 | 7 | 132 | 48 | 1 | 60 | 4 | 244 | 2 | 4 | 212 | - | - | 1 | - |
| | Van Dyke ..... ( Do. ) | - | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 11 | 2 | 39 | 10 | 15 | 87 | 1 | 166 | 1 | 4 | 117 | - | - | 4 | - |
| | Wynkoop ..... (Skeensboro') | 1 | - | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 7 | 5 | 52 | 52 | 16 | 38 | 6 | 164 | 2 | 2 | 140 | - | - | 2 | - |
| | | 1 | 2 | - | 8 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 32 | 14 | 223 | 110 | 32 | 185 | 11 | 561 | 5 | 10 | 469 | - | - | 7 | - |

*Corps of Artillery.*

| | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Captains. | Capt. Lieut'nts. | First Lieut'nts. | Second Lieuts. | Staff. Chaplain. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Conductor. | Non-Commissioned. Sergeants. | Corporals. | Bombardiers. | Gunners. | Drums & Fifes. | Matrosses. Fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 10 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 40 | 16 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 67 |

HORATIO GATES.

TICONDEROGA, *9th November*, 1776.

N. B. All *Nicholson's* and *Elmore's* Regiments, with part of *Van Schaick's*, *Van Dyck's*, and *Wynkoop's* Regiments, are at the *Mohawk* and *Hudson's* Rivers, and make their Returns to General *Schuyler*.

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*General Return of those Corps of Militia which joined the Northern Army in consequence of the defeat of the Fleet on* LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

| | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieuten'ts. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Com'd. Sergeants. | Fifes and Drums. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Fifes and Drums. | Privates. | Alterations since last Return. Enlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. | Not joined. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robinson | - | 1 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 25 | 3 | 93 | 1 | 3 | 9 | - | 106 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Brownson | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 10 | - | 59 | - | - | 8 | - | 67 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hale | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 8 | - | 24 | - | - | - | - | 24 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ashley | 1 | - | - | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 10 | 2 | 100 | 3 | 1 | 3 | - | 107 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Bellows | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 12 | - | 64 | - | - | - | - | 64 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Chase | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | 1 | 54 | - | - | - | - | 54 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Robinson | 1 | - | 2 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 15 | 3 | 93 | 6 | 2 | 30 | - | 131 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hyde | 1 | - | 1 | 13 | 17 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 43 | 8 | 267 | - | 7 | - | - | 274 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 6 | 3 | 7 | 52 | 38 | 31 | 11 | - | 6 | 5 | 4 | - | 141 | 17 | 754 | 10 | 13 | 50 | - | 827 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |

HORATIO GATES.

TICONDEROGA, *9th November*, 1776.

RECOMMENDATION OF LIEUTENANT DOTY.

Mount Independence, November 15, 1776.

Whereas Lieutenant *David Doty*, of Colonel *Burrell's* regiment, has obtained leave of Major-General *Gates* to join the State of *New-York*, and is desirous of continuing in the service of the *United States of America*, and has the General's liberty to leave the regiment which he last served in, would therefore recommend said Lieutenant *Doty* to said State, as a worthy officer, and one that has performed his duty to universal satisfaction in the offices of both an Adjutant as well as that of a Lieutenant; and that so good an officer may be continued in the service, is both the earnest wish and desire of your humble servants,

NATHA'L BUELL, *Lieut. Colonel.*
JOHN SEDGWICK, *Major.*

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO COLONEL DEROUSIE.

Fishkill, November 15th, 1776.

SIR: You will proceed with the fifteen batteaus under your charge, to *Peekskills*, and there deliver them to the order of Major-General *Heath*.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

By order:

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice President.*

To Lieutenant-Colonel *Derousie*.

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JOHN TRUMBULL, DEPUTY ADJUTANT-GENERAL, TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Head-Quarters, Ticonderoga, 15th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By the General's command I send you a general return of the Army in the Northern Department, and of the Militia who joined the Army on the defeat of the fleet. And likewise, the particular return of the corps which compose the Army. Those of the Militia I omit sending on account of their imperfections.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient, humble servant,

JOHN TRUMBULL.

Honourable Board of Ordnance and War.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut*, *November* 15th, 1776:

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jed'h Elderkin*, *William Hillhouse*, *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., and *Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table, in favour of Captain *William Coit*, for the sum of one thousand Pounds, for the use of the Ship *Oliver Cromwell*, and to be in account. (Order delivered *William Coit*, *November* 15th, 1776.)

On application of the Committee of Inspection of the Town of *Preston*, in behalf of sundry Prisoners from the State of *New-York*, committed to their charge, representing those Prisoners are destitute of Clothing and other necessaries for the approaching season:

*Voted and Resolved*, That *Alexander Campbell*, *William Pemberton*, and *Thomas Swords*, be permitted to pass from *Preston* to their respective homes, under the care and inspection of any of said Committee who shall be agreed upon to attend them on their journey and back again, at the expense of said *Campbell*, *Pemberton*, and *Swords*, they giving their parole faithfully to return again with said attendants to *Preston*, unless released from their confinement by order of the same authority that sent them here, and also not to do or say any thing against the *United States of America*.

And it is further *Resolved*, That *Walter Scott*, *Samuel Gardner*, *Henry Westenhausen*, *John Duzenbury*, *Owen Conner*, *Benjamin Greenman*, and *Jacob Zimmerman*, also have liberty at their own expense to return to their families for the purpose of gaining some sustenance, they first giving their parole to wait on the authority that sent them here for further orders concerning them, and faithfully to return back to *Preston* within six weeks from this time, unless released by the same authority that ordered their confinement; and also not to do or say any thing against the *United States of America* during the present war. Not to proceed till the 25th of *November* instant; to attend on the Governour in their journey; that if any thing happen in the mean time, these orders may be revoked and they returned again to *Preston*. (Copy given to *Benjamin Coit*, Esq.)

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table, in favour of Doctor *Joshua Elderkin*, for one thousand Pounds, to enable him to purchase Clothing, &c., for this State, and render his account. (Order drawn *November* 15th, 1776, delivered to Mr. *Wales*.)

*Voted*, An approbation of an order drawn by his Honour the Governour, *November* 9th, 1776, in favour of Captain *John Deshon*, on the Pay-Table, for two thousand Pounds, and to render his account.

*Voted*, An approbation of an order drawn by his Honour the Governour, *November* 9th, 1776, for two thousand Pounds, in favour of Mr. *Nathaniel Shaw*, Jun., for publick use, and to render his account. (Said order was on the Pay-Table.)

*Voted*, To approve an order drawn by his Honour the Governour, *November* 11th, 1776, on Messrs. *Elderkin* and *Wales*, in favour of Mr. *Nathan Pendleton*, for fifty pounds of Powder, at five shillings four pence per pound.

It being represented to this Board, that Mr. *John Rapalje*, in confinement at *Norwich*, is destitute of Clothing and necessaries for his support for the approaching season, and that he is desirous of returning to his family to gain the same; and also that he has it in his power to furnish some *Connecticut* soldiers, imprisoned at *New-York*, with cash, upon their drawing in his favour on their friends, &c., there, provided he could be suffered to visit his family and estate on *Long-Island*, which he wishes to do:

*Voted and Resolved*, That the said *Rapalje* hath liberty to return to his family on *Long-Island*, for the purpose above-mentioned, and to remove from thence such of his family as he desires to the town of *Norwich*, to reside with him, he giving his parole of honour for his faithful return to the Committee of Inspection as soon as he can, within six weeks from the time he goes from *Norwich*, and that he will not do or say any thing against the *United States of America*, or give intelligence or advice concerning the affairs or matters of said States, during his absence from *Norwich*; and he is desired to supply Colonel *Samuel Selden*, Captain *Jonathan Brewster*, Lieutenant *Nathaniel Gove*, Sergeant *Roger Coit*, Lieutenant *Jabez Fitch*, and such other prisoners from this State as he can, with cash, &c., upon their friends or some other persons undertaking to answer their bills for the same; he hath also liberty to procure and bring to Judge *Jones* and others with him in *Norwich*, such supplies of Clothing and sustenance as they want.

*Voted*, To give liberty to the Committee of Inspection in *Norwich* to suffer two Prisoners, residing at Captain *Elijah Backus's*, to go on their own expense to their respective homes, in the State of *New-York*, to obtain supplies for their support for the ensuing winter, upon their giving their parole to said Committee not to do or say any thing against the *United States of America* during the present war, and that they will not give the enemy any intelligence or advice concerning the affairs of said States, or any of them, and that they will return again to the care of the Committee of *Norwich* within six weeks from this time, unless suffered to remain at home by the same authority who first sent them here.

*Voted*, To give orders to Colonel *Jedediah Elderkin* and *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., Esq., to go to *New-London*, and to do every thing in their power to send out the Ship *Oliver Cromwell* on a cruise, and make report, &c. (Order given *November* 15th, 1776.)

*Voted and Resolved*, To appoint *Jedediah Elderkin* and *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., Esquires, to examine into the truth of a representation that Captain *Kenedy*, of a ship loaded out from *New-York* with Wheat, bound to *France*, is manned with captives and prisoners, taken by privateers, and that said Captain *Kenedy* is of a suspected character, and it is supposed that the said ship and cargo will in all probability fall into the hands of the enemy, said *Elderkin* and *Wales* to take such affidavits and other evidence as they think proper and material, and make report to the Governour and Council of Safety, with all convenient speed. (Order given for the above purpose, *November* 15th, 1776.)

*Voted*, To give orders to Mr. *Brown*, of *Providence*, to deliver to Messrs. *Elderkin* and *Wales* what Sulphur they

shall want, now in his care, belonging to the Continent, agreeable to the resolve of Congress of the 15th of *October* in that behalf.

*Voted*, To give order for a quantity of Cheese, &c., in the hands of *Nathan Stedman*, said to be engrossed, and to be held, to be proceeded with according to law, against engrossing. (Warrant given *November* 15th, 1776, directed to the Sheriff of *New-London* County.)

Doctor *Samuel Lee*, of *Windham*, is appointed Surgeon of the Ship *Oliver Cromwell*, and his two apprentices are appointed second and third Mates under him, in the order of their standing as apprentices, at the wages of three Pounds per month each.

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CERTIFICATE GIVEN CAPTAIN FONDA.

State of New-Hampshire, in Committee of Safety, November 15, 1776.

This certifies that Captain *A. Fonda*, of the State of *New-York*, has guarded by order of said State (as he says) seventy-four persons, and delivered them into the custody of this Committee, under the character of being unfriendly to the States of *America;* which persons are for the present disposed of, until some information concerning them may be transmitted to us from the Convention of *New-York*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 16th, 1776.

Sir: Since my last nothing material has occurred here; nor have I any thing in charge from Congress, except to request that you will negotiate an exchange of the *Hessian* prisoners at *Elizabeth-Town* under the care of Mr. *Ludwick*, as soon as possible. They have been treated in such a manner during their stay in this city, that it is apprehended their going back among their countrymen will be attended with some good consequences.

Your favour of the 11th *November* came duly to hand, and was laid before Congress.

I have the honour to be, with the most perfect esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

John Hancock, *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON, DATED PHILADELPHIA, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1776.

You have here enclosed the late resolutions of Congress so far as they have gone respecting the Navy. I hope for some further alterations, but you know things of this sort must be done by degrees. The encouragement now given to officers and men in the Navy are, in my opinion, as great as they can possibly expect, and I hope will be to their entire satisfaction. It is impossible to give you an idea of the situation of the armies, they being in perpetual motion. Our people always have the advantage in skirmishes. That being the case, it is undoubtedly for our interest not to come to a general battle, which, in my opinion, will be avoided. A considerable fleet, about one hundred sail, left *Sandy-Hook* last *Wednesday:* it's supposed they are empty transports for *Europe*. A ship arrived from *France* a few days since with arms and ammunition only; several others were to sail in a few days after her with other articles. God send them safe! Give me leave to congratulate on *Carleton's* retreat from *Crown-Point*. What a glorious campaign those boasters have made! I think it will make a grand figure in the annals of *Britain*.

This goes by an express, who sets off to-morrow morning. I shall keep it open, that if any thing should turn up worth communicating, will give it to you; in the mean time be assured that I am your sincere friend and humble servant.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LANCASTER COMMITTEE.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 16, 1776.

Gentlemen: Enclosed are a number of letters to the commanding officers of the Militia in your County, which we request you to forward to them immediately after the receipt by express. We need not point out to you the necessity of using expedition in that matter, as the perusal of one of the letters left open for you, we have no doubt, will induce you to pay the utmost attention to it.

By order of Council:

Tho. Wharton, Jun., *President*.

To the Committee of Inspection of *Lancaster* County.

1st. Colonel *G. Ross*. Letter delivered to Lieutenant-Colonel *Reigart*.
2d. Colonel *C. Grubb*. Sent by *Anthony Welty*, express.
3d. Colonel *B. Galbreath*. Sent by *Anthony Welty*, express.
4th. Colonel *James Burd*. Sent by *Anthony Welty*, express.
5th. Colonel *James Crawford*. Sent by Major *Boyd*, who engages to deliver it to Captain *Mercer*, of *Crawford's* battalion.
6th. Colonel *Thomas Porter*. Sent by *William Gill*, of his battalion, who engages to deliver it.
7th. Colonel *Slough*. Letter delivered to Colonel *Slough*.
8th. Letter sent to Colonel *Peter Grubb*, by Captain *Morgan*, of his battalion.
9th. Colonel *Greenwalt*. Letter sent by *Anthony Welty*, express.
10th. Colonel *John Ferree*. Sent by Major *Boyd*, who engages to deliver it to Captain *Whitehill*, of *Ferree's* battalion.
11th. Colonel *Green*. Sent by *Anthony Welty*, express.

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Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 16th, 1776.

Sir: The fleet which sailed from *New-York*, and took its course to the southward with the appearance of a design to enter this river, after keeping that course for some time, suddenly altered it, and are gone to the eastward, so that every reason to apprehend their intending to attack this city is entirely removed, and it is therefore unnecessary for the Associators to march for the present. The Council request you will give this notice to your battalion, and return the thanks of this Board to the officers and men who have exerted themselves on this alarming occasion, by preparing for a march to this city or its neighbourhood, and given such unquestionable proof of their virtue and firm patriotism. The expenses which have occurred in consequence of this alarm will be most cheerfully and readily paid; and you may be assured that the earliest intelligence will be given you of every danger of an attack upon this State, as it is the virtue and firmness of the Associators alone which can preserve us free and independent.

By order of Council:

Thomas Wharton, Jun., *President*.

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GENERAL STEPHEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 18th.]

Amboy, 16th November, 1776.

Sir: I received the honour of your letter directed to Brigadier-General *Mercer*, who had left this place before my arrival.

By several different channels I am informed that the fleet which sailed from *New-York* harbour on *Wednesday* consists of transports, discharged or sent to *Ireland* for provisions.

One hundred sail of *Dutch*, *Danish*, and *English* transports have laid at the watering place for upwards of ten days, waiting a convoy. Three ships of war have taken them under their care. It appeared to us here, and to my detached parties in *South-Amboy*, that the fleet steered no farther to the southward than was necessary to avoid the shoals projecting from *Long-Island*. We at last observed them to steer east northerly, and are certain that the fleet consisted of upwards of one hundred and forty-three sail.

I acquainted General *Greene* of their sailing, and had I suspected any danger from them, would have marked with greater attention my advice of it to Mr. Secretary *Peters*.

The few troops under my command shall be always ready to act occasionally.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Adam Stephen.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read November 19.]

General Greene's Quarters, 16th November, 1776.

Sir: Since I had the honour of addressing you last, an important event has taken place, of which I wish to give you the earliest intelligence. The preservation of the passage of the *North River* was an object of so much consequence, that I thought no pains or expense too great for that purpose, and therefore, after sending off all the valuable stores, except such as were necessary for its defence, I determined,

agreeable to the advice of most of the General Officers, to risk something to defend the post on the east side, called *Mount Washington*. When the Army moved up in consequence of General *Howe's* landing at *Frog-Point*, Colonel *Magaw* was left on that command, with about twelve hundred men, and orders given to defend it to the last. Afterwards, reflecting upon the smallness of the garrison, and the difficulty of their holding it, if General *Howe* should fall down upon it with his whole force, I wrote to General *Greene*, who had the command on the *Jersey* shore, directing him to govern himself by circumstances, and to retain or evacuate the post as he should think best, and revoking the absolute order to Colonel *Magaw*, to defend the post to the last extremity. General *Greene*, struck with the importance of the post, and the discouragement which our evacuation of posts must necessarily have given, reinforced Colonel *Magaw* with detachments from several regiments of the Flying-Camp, but chiefly of *Pennsylvania*, so as to make up the number about two thousand.

In this situation things were yesterday, when General *Howe* demanded the surrender of the garrison, to which Colonel *Magaw* returned a spirited refusal.* Immediately upon receiving an account of this transaction, I came from *Hackensack* to this place, and had partly crossed the *North-River*, when I met General *Putnam* and General *Greene*, who were just returning from thence, and informed me that the troops were in high spirits, and would make a good defence; and, it being late at night, I returned. Early this morning Colonel *Magaw* posted his troops partly in the lines thrown up by our Army on our first coming thither from *New-York*, and partly on a commanding hill laying north of *Mount Washington*, the lines being all to the southward. In this position the attack began about ten o'clock, which our troops stood, and returned the fire in such a manner as gave me great hopes the enemy was entirely repulsed. But at this time a body of troops crossed *Harlem* river in boats, and landed inside of the second lines, our troops being then engaged in the first. Colonel *Cadwalader*, who commanded in the lines, sent off a detachment to oppose them; but they, being overpowered by numbers, gave way; upon which Colonel *Cadwalader* ordered his troops to retreat, in order to gain the fort. It was done with much confusion; and the enemy crossing over came in upon them in such a manner that a number of them surrendered. At this time the *Hessians* advanced on the north side of the fort in very large bodies. They were received by the troops posted there with proper spirit, and kept back a considerable time. But at length they were also obliged to submit to a superiority of numbers, and retire under the cannon of the fort. The enemy, having advanced thus far, halted, and immediately a flag went in with a repetition of the demand of the fortress, as I suppose. At this time I sent a billet to Colonel *Magaw*, directing him to hold out, and I would endeavour this evening to bring off the garrison, if the fortress could not be maintained, as I did not expect it could, the enemy being possessed of the adjacent grounds. But before this reached him, he had entered too far into a treaty to retract. After which, Colonel *Cadwalader* told another messenger who went over, that they had been able to obtain no other terms than to surrender as prisoners of war. In this situation matters now stand. I have stopped General *Beall's* and General *Heard's* brigades, to preserve the post and stores here, which, with the other troops, I hope we shall be able to effect. I don't yet know the numbers killed or wounded on either side, but from the heaviness and continuance of fire in some places, I imagine there must have been considerable execution. The loss of such a number of officers and men, many of whom have been trained with more than common attention, will, I fear, be severely felt; but when that of the arms and accoutrements is added, much more so, and must be a further incentive to procure as considerable a supply as possible for the new troops as soon as it can be done.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant.

Go. Washington.

*On the 16th the *British* made their attack on *Fort Washington*. General *Knyphausen*, with a heavy column of *Hessians*, advanced by *King's Bridge*. They were discovered by the *Americans* from the lofty grounds, north of *Fort Washington*, as the day broke, and cannonaded from the field-pieces placed at this advanced post. The *Hessian* column divided in two; the right ascending the strong broken ground towards *Spitten-Devil Creek*; the left nearer to the road, towards the *Gorge*. The first obtained the ground without much difficulty; but the *Americans* made a most noble opposition against the latter, and, for a considerable time, kept them from ascending the hill, making a terrible slaughter among them; but the great superiority of the assailants, with an unabating firmness, finally prevailed; their loss was greater here than at any other place. Meanwhile the *British* crossed *Haarlem Creek* in two different places, charged and finally routed the *Americans* on that side, and possessed themselves of the strong post of *Laurel Hill*, on the other side of the road from *Fort Washington*, and not very distant from it; Lord *Percy* at the same time advancing with the troops under his command on the island towards the fort on that side. The *Americans*, now generally driven from their out-works, retired to the fort, which was crowded full. A single shell now dropping among them must have made dreadful havock.

General *Washington* was now a spectator of this distressing scene, from the high bank at *Fort Lee*, on the opposite side of the *Hudson*; and having a wish to communicate something to Colonel *Magaw*, the commanding officer at *Fort Washington*, Captain *Gooch*, of *Boston*, a brave and daring man, offered to be the bearer of it. He ran down to the river, jumped into a small boat, pushed over the river, landed under the bank, ran up to the fort, and delivered the message; came out, ran and jumped over the broken ground, dodging the *Hessians*, some of whom struck at him with their pieces, and others attempted to thrust him with their bayonets; escaping through them, he got to his boat, and returned to *Fort Lee*. The *British* had summoned Colonel *Magaw* to surrender, and were preparing their batteries to play on the fort, when Colonel *Magaw* thought it best to surrender the post, which he did accordingly, between two and three thousand men becoming prisoners. The loss in killed and wounded on the *American* side was inconsiderable; but the loss in prisoners was a serious blow indeed. The prisoners were marched to *New-York*, where, being crowded in sugar-houses, (many of them being militia from the *Jersey* Flying-Camp, who had been sent over to reinforce the garrison, and were unused to a soldier's life, much less to the poisonous stagnant air of a crowded prison,) they fell sick, and daily died in a most shocking manner. It was common, on a morning, for the car-men to come and take away the bodies for burial, by loads'—*Heath*.

### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

General Greene's Quarters, November 16th, 1776.

Dear Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed resolves that Congress have entered into some new regulations respecting the inlistment of the new Army, and reprobating the measures adopted by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* for raising their quota of men.

As every possible exertion should be used for recruiting the Army as speedily as may be, I request that you immediately publish, in orders, that an allowance of a dollar and one-third of a dollar will be paid to the officers for every soldier they shall inlist, whether in or out of camp; also, that it will be optional in the soldiers to inlist during the continuance of the war, or for three years, unless sooner discharged by Congress. In the former case, they are to receive all such bounty and pay as have been heretofore mentioned in orders. Those who engage for the latter time, (that of three years,) are not to receive the bounty in land. That no mistakes may be made, you will direct the recruiting officers from your division to provide two distinct inlisting rolls, one for those to sign who engage during the war, the other for those who inlist for three years, if their service shall be so long requested.

I am sorry to inform you that this day, about twelve o'clock, the enemy made a general attack upon our lines about *Fort Washington*, which, having carried, the garrison retired within the fort. Colonel *Magaw*, finding there was no prospect of retreating across the river, surrendered the post. We do not know the loss of killed and wounded on either side; but I imagine it must have been pretty considerable, as the engagement at some parts of the lines was of long continuance and heavy; neither do I know the terms of capitulation. The force of the garrison, before the attack, was almost two thousand men.

Before I left *Peekskill*, I urged to General *Heath* the necessity of securing the pass through the Highlands next to the river, as well on that as this side, and to the forts above. But as the preserving of those and others which lay more easterly, and which are equally essential, is a matter of the last importance, I must beg you to turn your attention that way, and to have such measures adopted for their defence as your judgment shall suggest to be necessary. I do not mean to advise the abandoning your present post contrary to your own opinion, but only to mention my ideas of the importance of those passes, and that you cannot give too much attention to their security by having works erected in the most advantageous places for that purpose.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c., Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *Lee*.

P. S. The enclosed letter, for Governour *Trumbull*, you will please to transmit by the first opportunity.

[The same to Major-General *Heath*.]

In Congress, *November* 7th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That the Resolution, passed the 14th of *October* last, that the allowance to officers of one and one-third of a dollar for inlisting soldiers be not extended or given on the reinlistment of soldiers in camp, be repealed.

*November* 12, 1776.—*Resolved*, (as the opinion of this Congress.) That if the soldiers to be raised by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be inlisted on the terms offered to them, (which are more advantageous than what are offered to other soldiers serving in the same Army,) it would much retard if not totally impede the inlistment of the latter, and produce discontent and murmur, unless Congress should equally increase the pay of these; which, it is the opinion of this Congress, would universally be reprobated as an immoderate expense, and complained of as a grievous burden by those who must bear it; and therefore, that the Committee from the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be desired not to inlist their men on the additional pay offered by the Assembly of that State.

Upon reconsidering the resolution of the 16th of *September* last, for raising eighty-eight Battalions to serve during the present war with *Great Britain*, Congress being of opinion that the readiness of the inhabitants of the States to enter into the service for limited times, in defence of their invaluable privileges, on all former occasions, gives good ground to hope the same zeal for the publick good will appear in future when necessity calls for their assistance; and the uncertain length of time which forces raised during the continuance of the war may be compelled to serve, may prevent many from inlisting who would otherwise readily manifest their attachment to the common cause by engaging for a limited time; Therefore,

*Resolved*. That all non-commission officers and soldiers, who do not incline to engage their services during the continuance of the present war, and shall inlist to serve three years, unless sooner discharged by Congress, shall be entitled to and receive all such bounty and pay as are allowed to those who inlist during the continuance of the present war, except the one hundred acres of land, which is to be granted to those only who inlist without limitation of time.

And each recruiting officer is required to provide two distinct inlisting rolls; one for such to sign who inlist during the continuance of the war, and the other for such as inlist for three years, if their service shall be so long required.

By order of the Congress:

John Hancock.

Copy: Robert Harrison.

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*Return of the Continental Troops under the command of General* Lee.

| | DISTRIBUTION. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieutenant Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Staff. Engines. | Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Paymasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Comm'd. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | Inlisted. | Alterations since last Return. Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Lee's Division. | *Nixon's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Colonel Nixon | - | 1 | - | 2 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 18 | 11 | 163 | 68 | 17 | 137 | - | 385 | - | 1 | 255 | - | 1 | - | - |
| | Colonel Varnum | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 159 | 23 | 93 | 86 | - | 362 | - | - | 278 | - | 2 | 3 | - |
| | Colonel Hitchcock | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 10 | 7 | 123 | 24 | 105 | 84 | - | 337 | 1 | - | 303 | - | 4 | 2 | - |
| | Colonel Little | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 24 | 9 | 165 | 21 | 92 | 154 | 1 | 433 | - | - | 297 | - | 4 | 1 | - |
| | Colonel Lippett | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 9 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 40 | 13 | 206 | 45 | 82 | 23 | - | 436 | - | 6 | 180 | - | 1 | - | - |
| | Total | 3 | 3 | 4 | 25 | 30 | 21 | 20 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 111 | 46 | 917 | 181 | 390 | 484 | 1 | 1973 | 1 | 7 | 1223 | - | 12 | 6 | - |
| | *McDougall's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Late McDougall's | - | - | - | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 10 | 5 | 110 | 59 | 67 | 71 | 1 | 308 | 11 | 5 | 332 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Colonel Ritzema | 1 | - | - | 5 | 3 | 7 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 13 | 9 | 235 | 21 | 66 | 26 | 6 | 344 | 4 | 3 | 296 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| | Colonel Reed | - | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 22 | 12 | 233 | 124 | 8 | 116 | 1 | 482 | 2 | 1 | 158 | - | - | - | 2 |
| | Total | 1 | - | 1 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 20 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 45 | 26 | 568 | 204 | 141 | 213 | 8 | 1134 | 17 | 9 | 786 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| | *Colonel Glover's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Colonel Glover | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 24 | 14 | 159 | 33 | 10 | 145 | - | 349 | - | 2 | 291 | - | - | - | - |
| | Colonel Shepherd | - | - | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 17 | 10 | 223 | 87 | 2 | 186 | 1 | 497 | - | 2 | 143 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| | Colonel Webb | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 8 | 221 | 45 | 54 | 170 | 22 | 520 | - | 4 | 120 | - | 2 | - | - |
| | Colonel Bailey | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 17 | 11 | 167 | 172 | 2 | 136 | - | 477 | - | 1 | 163 | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| | Colonel Baldwin | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 247 | 126 | 9 | 86 | - | 458 | - | 1 | 182 | - | 1 | - | - |
| | Brigade total | 4 | 2 | 5 | 22 | 27 | 26 | 29 | 2 | 5 | 5 | - | 3 | 4 | 95 | 54 | 1013 | 463 | 77 | 723 | 23 | 2301 | - | 10 | 899 | - | 4 | 3 | - |
| | Division total | 8 | 5 | 10 | 59 | 72 | 63 | 69 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 251 | 126 | 2448 | 848 | 698 | 1420 | 32 | 5468 | 18 | 26 | 2908 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 12 |
| General Spencer's Division. | *Fellows's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Colonel Holman | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 21 | 11 | 372 | 87 | 41 | 61 | - | 564 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| | Colonel Cary | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 19 | 18 | 375 | 82 | 20 | 61 | - | 558 | 7 | 2 | 193 | - | 5 | 8 | - |
| | Colonel Smith | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 21 | 14 | 361 | 50 | 45 | 41 | - | 497 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 27 | - |
| | Brigade total | 2 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 21 | 17 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | 3 | 81 | 43 | 1108 | 219 | 109 | 163 | - | 1619 | 7 | 2 | 193 | - | 7 | 36 | - |
| | *Wadsworth's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Colonel Silliman | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 20 | 14 | 162 | 29 | 137 | 44 | - | 372 | 1 | 1 | 292 | - | - | 5 | - |
| | Colonel Gay | - | - | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 192 | 29 | 97 | 69 | 2 | 389 | 2 | 3 | 275 | - | 1 | 20 | - |
| | Colonel Sage | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 3 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 21 | 11 | 205 | 52 | 155 | 51 | 1 | 464 | - | 1 | 300 | - | - | 7 | - |
| | Lieutenant-Colonel Latimore | - | 1 | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 21 | 10 | 189 | 34 | 145 | 103 | - | 460 | 4 | 3 | 294 | - | - | 12 | 1 |
| | Lieutenant-Colonel Douglass | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 27 | 11 | 224 | 9 | 122 | 68 | 3 | 426 | - | 2 | 238 | - | - | 14 | - |
| | Brigade total | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 21 | 18 | 25 | 1 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 3 | 106 | 60 | 963 | 153 | 654 | 335 | 6 | 2111 | 7 | 10 | 1399 | - | 1 | 58 | 1 |
| | Division total | 5 | 4 | 6 | 29 | 42 | 35 | 41 | 3 | 8 | 6 | - | 3 | 6 | 194 | 103 | 2071 | 372 | 763 | 498 | 6 | 3730 | 14 | 12 | 1402 | - | 8 | 94 | 1 |
| Gen. Sullivan's. | *Sergeant's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Colonel Sergeant | 1 | - | - | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | 10 | 7 | 140 | 65 | 110 | 173 | - | 488 | - | 1 | 152 | 1 | - | 2 | - |
| | Colonel Chester | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | - | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 13 | 11 | 235 | 59 | 61 | 151 | 3 | 439 | 2 | 2 | 165 | 1 | - | 9 | - |
| | Colonel Ward | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 16 | 9 | 159 | 39 | 114 | 126 | - | 458 | - | - | 202 | - | - | 4 | - |
| | Colonel Storrs | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 11 | 7 | 63 | 18 | 94 | 24 | - | 205 | - | - | - | - | - | 24 | - |
| | Brigade total | 3 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 8 | - | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 50 | 34 | 593 | 181 | 379 | 474 | 3 | 1630 | 2 | 3 | 419 | 2 | - | 39 | - |
| | General Lee's Division | 8 | 5 | 10 | 59 | 72 | 63 | 69 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 251 | 126 | 2448 | 848 | 698 | 1420 | 32 | 5468 | 18 | 26 | 2908 | 4 | 18 | 11 | 12 |
| | General Spencer's | 5 | 4 | 6 | 29 | 42 | 35 | 41 | 3 | 8 | 6 | - | 3 | 6 | 194 | 103 | 2071 | 372 | 763 | 498 | 6 | 3730 | 14 | 12 | 1402 | - | 8 | 94 | 1 |
| | Total | 15 | 11 | 19 | 104 | 119 | 108 | 118 | 7 | 22 | 20 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 505 | 263 | 5162 | 1401 | 1750 | 2392 | 41 | 10768 | 34 | 41 | 4729 | 6 | 18 | 144 | 13 |

North-Castle, *November* 16, 1776.

*

*A Return of Artillery Stores and Ordnance at* Fort Constitution, *November* 16, 1776.

| Calibres. | Numbers. | |
|---|---|---|
| 9 | 5 | Mounted on Garrison Carriages. |
| 6 | 21 | Mounted on do.; |
| 4 | 4 | Mounted on do. |
| Total, | 30 | Mounted. |
| 9 | 258 | Round Shot. |
| 6 | 333 | Round do. |
| 6 | 73 | 1-oz. Balls in canisters. |
| 6 | 52 | Grape Shot in wooden bottoms. |
| 6 | 40 | Bar Shot. |
| 9 | 20 | Chain Shot. |
| 6 | 14 | Star Shot. |
| 9 | 262 | Filled Cartridges. |
| 6 | 438 | Filled do. |
| 4 | 200 | Filled do. |
| 4 | 162 | Round Shot. |
| - | 1,000 | Wads. |
| 9 | 12 | Cartridge Cases. |
| 6 | 10 | Cartridge Cases. |
| 4 | 9 | Do. do. |
| - | 20,000 | Musket Cartridges. |
| - | 2,600 | Musket Balls. |
| - | 36 | Lint Stocks. |
| - | 3 | Budge Barrels. |
| - | 20 | Powder Horns. |

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COMMISSARY HUGHES TO GENERAL WOOSTER.

North-Castle, the 16th of November, 1776.

Dear General: By order of General *Lee* I send forty-five ox-teams to forage at *Marroneski*, &c., especially at Mr. *Jay's*, who has requested that it might be taken.

Wherever there is any booty belonging to Tories that have gone to the enemy, they are to take all, but from our friends they are to take but a part. The General desires your Honour would furnish a guard and fatigue party to assist them, as they are to return as soon as possible.

I am, dear General, with great regard, sir, your most obedient,

Hugh Hughes, *Assistant Quartermaster-General.*

P. S. Please to excuse this hasty scrawl.

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TIMOTHY DANIELSON TO TRISTRAM DALTON.

North-Castle, November 16th, 1776.

Sir: Some time since we wrote the Speaker of the House of Representatives respecting the embarrassment we met with from General *Washington* at our first arrival in camp. That caused our sending Mr. *Partridge* immediately to Congress. This evening he returned with the enclosed resolves and letter from the President.

The Army, before our coming, were notified of the terms proposed by our Assembly for the inlistment of our quota of troops, and should we now endeavour to inlist them on the Continental plan, appears to us (were it contained in our commission) entirely fruitless. In this unhappy dilemma, we shall wait the determination of the General Assembly, only appointing the officers of seven battalions as soon as we can obtain a recommendation from the General; which, though daily applied for, through his multiplicity of business has not been completed, but expect it to-morrow.

With all the rhetorick we are masters of have earnestly invited the Militia to tarry till the first of *March*, but could not prevail upon them. They are so determined to return that the General could not obtain the express consent of one half of them to tarry even four days. Yet it is likely the greater part will continue that short time. On the whole, what is best to be done, the wisdom of the General Assembly cannot determine. Had the *Massachusetts* put this encouragement to their soldiers on some other footing than in addition to monthly pay, it would not have been so exceptionable to the General or Congress.

After we shall have agreed to the recommendation for appointing officers for seven battalions, the Assembly may think proper to call us, (to save a considerable expense, as *Connecticut* has done,) and intrust the receiving the returns and filling up the commission with the General Officers now in the Army belonging to *Massachusetts-Bay*.

Colonel *Sartell* is the bearer of this, and time will pass heavily till we receive the determination of the General Assembly, as we can do but little. Your orders, therefore, will be readily and cheerfully complied with, sirs, by your most obedient very humble servants.

By order of the Committee appointed to inlist men at *New-York* belonging to this State:

Timo. Danielson, *Chairman.*

The Hon. *Tristram Dalton*, Esq., Speaker of the House of Representatives of *Massachusetts-Bay.*

---

*To* ,

You are hereby empowered immediately to inlist a Company, to consist of eighty-six able-bodied and effective men, including non-commissioned officers and privates, as soldiers in the service of and for the defence of the *United American States*, upon the establishment fixed by the honourable Congress, to continue in that service till the end of the present war, or the term of three years; and that you cause said men, when so inlisted, to pass muster as soon as may be; the non-commissioned officers to be appointed by the captain and subalterns of each respective company.

day of , 1776.

} *Committee of*
} *Massachusetts-Bay.*

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State of Massachusetts-Bay, October 19, 1776.

The following are extracts from the Resolves of Congress, transmitted to the General Assembly of this State, viz: That twenty Dollars be given as a bounty to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier who shall inlist to serve during the present war, or three years, unless sooner discharged by Congress.

That Congress make provision for granting Lands to the Officers and Soldiers who shall engage in the service, and continue therein to the close of the war, or until discharged by Congress; and to the representatives of such Officers and Soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy, viz: To each Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier, one hundred acres.

That a suit of Clothes be annually given to each Non-Commissioned Officer and Private Soldier; to consist for the present year of two linen hunting-shirts, two pair of overalls, a leathern or woolen waistcoat with sleeves, one pair of breeches, a hat or leathern cap, two shirts, two pair of hose, and two pair of shoes, amounting in the whole to the value of twenty dollars; or that sum to be paid to each soldier who shall procure those articles for himself.

A true extract from the Resolves of Congress:

Attest: John Avery, *Dep. Secretary.*

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Philadelphia, 13th November, 1776.

Gentlemen: Agreeable to my promise to Mr. *Partridge*, I now enclose you the resolutions of Congress in consequence of your application, whereby you will perceive it is their desire that you would not inlist the men on the additional pay offered by the Assembly of *Massachusetts;* they have, however, agreed that the men be inlisted for three years under the former encouragement, except the one hundred acres of land, which is not to be given to any but those who inlist during the war. I beg leave to refer you to the resolutions enclosed, and hope you will not find much difficulty in obtaining the men. I know your best exertions will not be wanting. I am so exceedingly engaged that I can't add, but that I am, with great esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

John Hancock.

Honourable Commissioners from *Massachusetts-Bay.*

I shall be exceeding glad to hear of your success in inlisting; and when your leisure will admit, shall be obliged for a line.

I shall be much obliged to you to forward the enclosed letter to General *Ward.*

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A LIST OF FIELD-OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE.

*William Shepard*, Colonel, *Ebenezer Sprout*, Lieutenant-Colonel, *Warham Parks*, Major.

*John Bailey*, Colonel, *Benjamin Tupper*, Lieutenant-Colonel, *Andrew Peters*, Major.

*Thomas Nixon*, Colonel, *Calvin Smith*, Lieutenant-Colonel, *Joseph Thompson*, Major.

*James Wesson*, Colonel, *James Millin*, Lieutenant-Colonel, *Ezra Badlam*, Major.

*Meshech Jackson*, Colonel, *John Brooks*, Lieutenant-Colonel, *Joseph Swasey*, Major.

*Rufus Putnam*, Colonel, *David Henley*, Lieutenant-Colonel.

Attest: TIMO. DANIELSON, *Ch. of the Com.*

—

The Committee of the General Assembly of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, appointed to repair to the Army at or near *New-York*, to officer and inlist seven battalions out of the Continental Army there, have attended that service, and report as follows:

That on the 30th day of *October* last, we arrived at Head-Quarters, near *White-Plains*. We applied to General *Washington* to recommend the officers of the State. He referred us to the General Officers of our State. After laying before the Commander-in-Chief our beating orders, he much disapproved of the measure, which caused our sending Mr. *Partridge* to Congress, as we early informed the Assembly. Immediately applied to Generals *Heath* and *Nixon* for the recommendation referred to above. But the Army were so engaged, near three weeks expired before we obtained it, even with every day's application. Our commissions being condemned as ill concerted, by his Excellency and Congress, caused us to doubt of the propriety of proceeding; but considering the necessity of endeavouring to inlist men on the encouragement of Congress, in order to examine that august assembly that the *Massachusetts-Bay* were fond of raising their quota on Continental terms, caused us to advise with the gentlemen then present (who were members of the General Assembly) what mode to pursue; with whose advice we thought proper to attempt the inlisting soldiers on the terms of Congress, upon which we presumed to dispense with our commission and make the alterations that appear by the enclosed curtailed and interlined beating orders, which made it necessary to make the delineation as in the enclosed inlistment. As the soldiers upon the above terms would be little able to provide his own arms, we soon were persuaded, by conversing with officers of all ranks, that it would by no means answer to form the inlisted men into companies, till the officers that received the beating orders had full opportunity to complete their respective companies, by sending subalterns into the country, or otherwise, for that purpose; therefore concluded to neglect it.

A small number are inlisted on the plan of Congress, but the troops hastening across the *North River* to reinforce there, the Colonels could not make a return of the numbers. After our return from *Peekskill*, on the *North River*, to *Quaker Ridge*, we sent the remains of the beating orders, inlistments, and some of the commissions, to General *Heath*, with letters, the copies of which are herewith enclosed. We thought proper, as we proceeded on different encouragement than was expected by the Assembly, to officer but six battalions; the regiment then being small, more cannot be expected to fill up. A list of said six battalions of field-officers is herewith enclosed. We have given the officers and soldiers assurance, that if the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* made any additions to the soldiers' pay or bounty, those that inlisted on the Continental establishment before that took place, should be allowed the same. We have done all in our power to answer the expectation of the General Assembly respecting us, and have in no case deviated from the tenour of the commission, but when we imagined it absolutely necessary for the general good. We are on our return, supposing we could be no longer serviceable to the State by continuing to rove after the Army; which we hope will meet with the approbation of the General Assembly. All which is humbly submitted.

By the order of the Committee:

TIMO. DANIELSON, *Chairman.*

Wallingsford, in Connecticut, December 7, 1776.

—

In the House of Representatives, December 25, 1776.

Read, with the papers accompanying it, and ordered that the same be committed to Major *Goodman*, Judge *Cushing*, and Colonel *Metcalf*, with such as the honourable Board shall join, to consider and report what is proper to be done relating this matter.

Sent up for concurrence:

SAM'L FREEMAN, *Speaker p. t.*

In Council, December 25, 1776.

Read and concurred, and *Artemas Ward* and *John Whitcomb*, Esquires, are joined.

JNO. AVERY, *Dep. Secretary.*

—

Hartford, December 9, 1776.

SIR: In this place we met Major *Goodman*, with his dispatches. After holding a consultation on what we had done, and the matter of his embassy, thought proper to advise him to return with his paper to the General Assembly, as a short delay would not be attended with ill consequences.

The enclosed papers contain our report, and we are, with great respect, your Honour's most obedient, very humble servants.

By order of the Committee:

TIMO. DANIELSON, *Chairman.*

—

JOHN McDONALD TO COMMITTEE OF NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Nine Partners' Mine, 16th November, 1776.

SIRS: In compliance with the contract from under your hands, dated *October* last, respecting the sinking into the lead mine here, twelve feet in depth, and extend the same thirty feet in length and three in breadth, with such directions as I thought best to pursue the veins, &c. When at my entry Mr. *Ezra Thompson* here measured twenty-four feet in length from the west to the east, which course being and are the inclination of the veins, and perfectly appeared the most promising prospect to work. There wrought and blasted the rocks with the men I employed, until the veins became mixed with different kinds of ugly rocks, which brought to disappear, yielding any quantity worthy of pursuing to advantage, and I therefore prosecuted into several veins going to the southward, cross from the said dimension, and therein digged out about seventy-six weight of ore during the driving, about three feet in length, ten and a half feet in depth, and twelve feet in breadth, and at conclusion of the same, the ore almost disappeared. At my pursuit in the said thirty-four feet length from the west to the east, raised about twenty-six weight of ore, after which spent the half of the time. The nearest estimation of the lead ore, is nine hundred weight.

Gentlemen, I am on the motion to continue working further into, sinking eighteen inches in depth, and drive the same about eighteen feet in length, which may instruct any person having skill in minery to learn the sufficiency and deficiency of the same, and before the performance thereof, I expect an answer of this report from your Honours, letting me know whether or not to proceed any further into the present opening, twenty-four feet in length, above-mentioned. As for my own part, I am already very thoroughly convinced that it will not be so advantageous as to clear the tenth part expense of working. Therefore, with all possible expedition write to me and Mr. *Thompson*, if you intend that I should make trials elsewhere here or return to the *Fishkills*. The main trials is driving a level, together with sinking, cross-cutting, raising, &c., which will cost any company of adventurers about six thousand pounds before they could make the complete and proper trials. Money will be very acceptable to pay my workmen's wages and other articles which I stand indebted for. Your orders will be most punctually obeyed.

Ten days hence there will be finished about the half of the bargain.

Sirs, your most obedient and humble servant,

JOHN McDONALD, *Miner.*

To *William Harper*, *Henry Wisner*, *Jonth. Landon*, *Matthew Cantine*, and *Matthew Adgate*, and members of Convention.

P. S. If the trial does not turn out better from the present state it now is, within the 28th of this month, I shall possibly be desired by your Honours to give up the prosecuting into any further trials, without the aforesaid diminution.

The bearer is one Mr. *Herrick* from this place, who is an honest man, to bring back the return of this. I don't choose that your Honours should sink great sums in improper trials. I adieu,

JOHN McDONALD.

RETURNS OF KILLED, WOUNDED, AND MISSING, IN SEVERAL ACTIONS.

*List of Officers and Men killed, taken prisoners, or missing from the Seventeenth Regiment, in the action on* LONG-ISLAND, *27th August*, 1776.

| Names. | Rank. | Killed. | Taken. | Missing. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Captain Tyler's Company.* | | | | |
| Joel Clark | Lieutenant-Colonel | do | | - |
| Solomon Orcut | First Lieutenant | do | | - |
| Cornelius Higgins | Ensign | do | | - |
| Elisha Hopkins | Adjutant | do | | - |
| Silas Holmes | Surgeon's Mate | do | | - |
| Bartlet Lewis | Sergeant | | - | do |
| Elisha Benton | do | | - | do |
| Reuben Bates | Corporal | | - | do |
| Olive Jennings | do | | - | do |
| Joseph White | do | | - | do |
| Jesse Swaddle | do | | - | do |
| Joseph Arnold | Private | | - | do |
| Joel Ballard | do | | - | do |
| Azariah Benton | do | | - | do |
| Lemuel Lewis | do | | - | do |
| Seth Rider | do | | - | do |
| John Smith | do | | - | do |
| Jeremiah Sparks | do | | - | do |
| Jonathan Witherd | do | | - | do |
| Josiah Benton | do | | - | do |
| Luke Kimball | do | | - | do |
| Jonathan Barnard | do | | - | do |
| James Lindsey | do | | - | do |
| | | | | 18 |
| *Captain Jewett's Company.* | | | | |
| Joseph Jewett | Captain | do | | - |
| Jabez Fitch, Jun | First Lieutenant | do | | - |
| John Kinsman | Ensign | do | | - |
| Stephen Otis | Sergeant | | - | do |
| Rufus Tracy | do | | - | do |
| Roswel Graves | do | | - | do |
| Nathan Raymond | Corporal | | - | do |
| Peleg Edwards | do | | - | do |
| Joshua Blake | Private | | - | do |
| Billa Dyer | do | | - | do |
| Theophilus Emerson | do | | - | do |
| Jaspar Griffin | do | | - | do |
| Elisha Miller | do | | - | do |
| Adam Mitchel | do | | - | do |
| Charles Phelphs | do | | - | do |
| Silas Phelps | do | | - | do |
| Oliver Rude | do | | - | do |
| Ebenezer Smith | do | | - | do |
| Jacob Sterling | do | | - | do |
| Timothy Tiffany | do | | - | do |
| Peter Way | do | | - | do |
| Lebbeus Wheeler | do | | - | do |
| Nathan Wood | do | | - | do |
| David Yarrington | do | | - | do |
| Duron Whittlesey | do | | - | do |
| William Eluther | do | | - | do |
| Zadock Pratt | do | | - | do |
| Elijhalet Reynolds | do | | - | do |
| Rufus Cone | do | | - | do |
| | | | | 26 |
| *Captain Trowbridge's Company.* | | | | |
| Caleb Trowbridge | Captain | | | |
| Thomas Fanning | 2d Lt. & Quarterm'r. | do | | - |
| Anthony Bradford | Ensign | do | | - |
| Daniel Ingalls | Sergeant | | - | do |
| Daniel Farnham | do | | - | do |
| Moses Smith | do | | - | do |
| George Gordon | Corporal | | - | do |
| Levi Farnham | do | | - | do |
| Silas Bottom | Drum Major | | - | do |
| William Bedlock | Private | | - | do |
| Alexander Brine | do | | - | do |
| Joseph Clarke | do | | - | do |
| Jonh Colegrove | do | | - | do |
| Luke Durfee | do | | - | do |
| George Forster | do | | - | do |
| Caleb Green | do | | - | do |
| John Gardner | do | | - | do |
| Ebenezer Keyes | do | | - | do |
| John Kingsbury | do | | - | do |
| Robert Lithgow | do | | - | do |
| Benjamin Lounsbury | do | | - | do |
| Ishmael Moffit | do | | - | do |
| Joseph Mansur | do | | - | do |
| Daniel Malone | do | | - | do |
| Solomon Mears | do | | - | do |
| John Pollard | do | | - | do |
| Stephen Potter | do | | - | do |
| Joseph Russell | do | | - | do |
| Allen Richards | do | | - | do |
| Monday Smith | do | | - | do |
| David Saunders | do | | - | do |
| John Talmage | do | | - | do |
| William Turner | do | | - | do |
| John Thomas | do | | - | do |
| Samuel White | do | | - | do |
| John Winter | do | | - | do |
| | | | | 33 |
| *Captain Ozias Bissell's.* | | | | |
| Ozias Bissell | Captain | | do | - |
| Solomon Makepeace | Second Lieutenant | | do | - |

| Names. | Rank. | Killed. | Taken. | Missing. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Captain Bissell's*—Continued. | | | | |
| Joseph Chapman | Ensign | | do | - |
| Ebenezer Wright | Sergeant | | - | do |
| Howard Moulton | do | | - | do |
| Freegrace Billings | Private | | - | do |
| Nathan Barney | do | | - | do |
| Abner Belding | do | | - | do |
| Seth Belding | do | | - | do |
| Daniel Church | do | | - | do |
| Lemuel Deming | do | | - | do |
| George Edwards | do | | - | do |
| Thomas Green | do | | - | do |
| Jesse Judson | do | | - | do |
| David Lindsey | do | | - | do |
| Michael Mitchel | do | | - | do |
| Samuel Moulton | do | | - | do |
| Joseph A. Minot | do | | - | do |
| Giles Nott | do | | - | do |
| James Price | do | | - | do |
| Jonathan Pettit | do | | - | do |
| Benjamin Rimor | do | | - | do |
| Timothy Risley | do | | - | do |
| Joel Skinner | do | | - | do |
| Daniel Thomas | do | | - | do |
| Robert Wallas | do | | - | do |
| | | | | 26 |
| *Captain Brewster's.* | | | | |
| Jona. Brewster | Captain | | do | - |
| Theophilus Huntington | Sergeant | | - | do |
| Jabez Avery | Corporal | | - | do |
| William Button | do | | - | do |
| Simon Armstrong | Private | | - | do |
| Jesse Barnet | do | | - | do |
| Joseph Ellis | do | | - | do |
| Asa Fox | do | | - | do |
| Samuel Fuller | do | | - | do |
| Elijah Hammond | do | | - | do |
| Solomon Huntley | do | | - | do |
| Sanford Herrick | do | | - | do |
| Luther Talbman | do | | - | do |
| John Lewis | do | | - | do |
| Thomas Matterson | do | | - | do |
| Rufus Parke | do | | - | do |
| Amasa Pride | do | | - | do |
| Jehiel Pettis | do | | - | do |
| Roger Packard | do | | - | do |
| Samuel Talbman | do | | - | do |
| John Vandeusen | do | | - | do |
| Calvin Waterman | do | | - | do |
| John Williams | do | | - | do |
| | | | | 22 |
| *Captain Percival's Company.* | | | | |
| Timo. Percival | Captain | | do | - |
| Nathaniel Gove | First Lieutenant | | do | - |
| Joel Gillet | Ensign | | do | - |
| Roger Colt | Sergeant | | - | do |
| Uriah Hungerford | do | | - | do |
| Rous Bly | do | do | | - |
| Samuel Agard | Private | | - | do |
| Daniel Bartholomew | do | | - | do |
| Silas Bates | do | | - | do |
| John Bray | do | | - | do |
| David Brown | do | | - | do |
| Solomon Carrington | do | | - | do |
| John Curtis | do | | - | do |
| John Dutton | do | | - | do |
| Daniel Freeman | do | | - | do |
| Gad Fuller | do | | - | do |
| Abel Hart | do | | - | do |
| Jason Hart | do | | - | do |
| Timothy Isham | do | | - | do |
| Azariah Lothrop | do | | - | do |
| John Moody | do | | - | do |
| Timothy Percival | do | | - | do |
| Isaac Potter | do | | - | do |
| Elijah Rose | do | | - | do |
| Elijah Stanton | do | | - | do |
| Benjamin Tubbs | do | | - | do |
| Abraham Yarrington | do | | - | do |
| Jesse Roberts | do | | - | do |
| | | | | 24 |
| *Captain Fitch Bissell's.* | | | | |
| Eben. F. Bissell | Captain | | do | - |
| Cornelius Russell | Sergeant | | - | do |
| Eleazer House | do | | - | do |
| Hezekiah Haydon | do | | - | do |
| Samuel Bardman | Corporal | | - | do |
| Aaron Porter | do | | - | do |
| Elisha Boardman | do | | - | do |
| Robert Newcomb | Drum | | - | do |
| John Atwood | Private | | - | do |
| Ozias Atwood | do | | - | do |
| William Craddock | do | | - | do |
| Ira Clark | do | | - | do |
| Roderick Clark | do | | - | do |
| Lemuel Fuller | do | | - | do |
| Abner Fuller | do | | - | do |
| Roger Tyler | do | | - | do |

*List of Officers and Men killed, taken prisoners, or missing, from Seventeenth Regiment*—Continued.

| Names. | Rank. | Killed. | Taken. | Missing. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Capt. F. Bissell's*—Continued. | | | | |
| Carmi Higley | Private | - | - | do |
| Erastus Humphry | do | - | - | do |
| Jonathan Halladay | do | - | - | do |
| John Willson | do | - | - | do |
| John White | do | - | - | do |
| John Fletcher | do | - | - | do |
| | | | | 21 |
| *Captain Hubbard's.* | | | | |
| Jonathan Gillet | First Lieutenant | do | - | |
| Elihu Lyman | Ensign | do | - | |
| William Talmage | Sergeant | - | - | do |
| Samuel Skinner | do | - | - | do |
| William Parsons | do | - | - | do |
| Ebenezer Coe | do | - | - | do |

| Names. | Rank. | Killed. | Taken. | Missing. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Capt. Hubbard's*—Continued. | | | | |
| Eleazer Brooks | Private | - | - | do |
| Samuel Buck, Jun. | do | - | - | do |
| Cornelius Coverling | do | - | - | do |
| Aaron Drake | do | - | - | do |
| Benjamin Hills | do | - | - | do |
| Alexander Ingham | do | - | - | do |
| Elias Leet | do | - | - | do |
| Levi Loveland | do | - | - | do |
| Elijah Roberts | do | - | - | do |
| Reuben Shipman | do | - | - | do |
| Samuel Strictland | do | - | - | do |
| Seth Turner | do | - | - | do |
| Nathan Whiting | do | - | - | do |
| Job Wetmore | do | - | - | do |
| | | | | 18 |

*List of Men taken at* Montressor's Island, *23d September*, 1776.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David Spencer | Tyler's Company | Missing. |
| Matthias Button | Brewster's | do. |
| Ralph Lines | Percival's | do. |

| | Killed. | Taken. | Missing. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lieutenant-Colonel | - | 1 | - |
| Captains | - | 6 | - |
| First Lieutenants | - | 4 | - |
| Second Lieutenant | - | 1 | - |
| Ensigns | - | 6 | - |
| Adjutant | - | 1 | - |
| Surgeon's Mate | - | 1 | - |
| Non-Commissioned and Privates | 1 | - | 188 |

*Ralph Lines*, put into a former Return as missing, is since found in Hospital, which makes the total of this one less than the other.

Jed. Huntington, *Colonel Seventeenth Regiment.*

Camp, Sidman's Bridge, Ramapaugh River, *November* 17, 1776.

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*A Return of the killed, taken prisoners, and missing, of the Third Regiment of* New-York *Forces, commanded by Colonel* Rudolphus Ritzema.

| Companies. | Men's names. | Killed. | Taken prisoners. | Missing. | Time when killed, taken, or missing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Denton's | Reynolds Cumpton | 1 | - | - | October 28, 1776. |
| Captain Riker's | Peter Clime | - | 2 | - | September 15, 1776. |
| | Thomas Steward | | | | |
| | Philip Gentleman | 1 | - | - | October 28, 1776. |
| Captain Hardenbergh's | Thomas Cropper | - | - | 1 | September 15, 1776. |
| | Henry Darren, Corporal | 1 | - | - | October 28, 1776. |
| Captain Horton's | Peter Burges | 1 | - | - | October 28, 1776. |
| | Stephen Shilley | - | - | 1 | October 28, 1776. |
| | Andrew Hoit | - | - | 1 | October 28, 1776. |
| Captain Hutching's | John Ryder | 4 | - | - | October 28, 1776. |
| | John Parker | | | | |
| | Noah Mott | | | | |
| | Stephen Bends | | | | |
| | Henry Jehues | - | - | 1 | September 15, 1776. |
| Captain Pelton's | Abraham Underdunk | 1 | - | - | October 28, 1776. |
| Late Pearce's | Eliphalet Holmes | 1 | - | - | October 28, 1776. |
| Captain Hobby | None. | - | - | - | |
| Total | | 10 | 2 | 4 | |

In Camp, near White-Plains, *October 17th*, 1776.

Rud. Ritzema, *Colonel.*

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*A Return of the killed, missing, &c., in the Thirteenth Regiment, commanded by* J. Read, *Esquire.*

| Men's names. | Company belonging to. | Killed. | Taken. | Discharged. | Missing. | Time when. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Samuel Cole | Captain Pond | 1 | - | - | - | October 18th, 1776. |
| Daniel Deland | Captain Warren | 1 | - | - | - | October 18th, 1776. |
| Ezekiel Fuller | Captain Peters | 1 | - | - | - | October 18th, 1776. |
| Foster Cobb | Captain Payson | 1 | - | - | - | March 9th, 1776. |

Joseph Read, *Colonel.*

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*A Return of the missing in Colonel* Silliman's *Regiment in the retreat from* New-York, *on the 15th of September*, 1776.

Captain Benjamin's Company—John Brown, Joseph Beers, John Megraw.
Captain Reed's Company—Daniel Gorham, Daniel Smith, Reuben Salmon.
Captain Hubbell's Company—Caleb Pitts.
Captain Mead's Company—William Morrison, Timothy Knapp.
Captain Brown's Company—George Mills, John Waters, John McKusey, Charles Powers.
Captain Northrup's Company—Joseph Trobridge.
Captain Hurd's Company—Asa Atwood.

*Missing and killed in the action below* White-Plains, *October 28th*, 1776.

Captain Benjamin's Company—Corporal Hezekiah Ward.
Captain Reed's Company—David Sherwood.
Captain Hubbell's Company—Sergeant David Hendrick.
Captain Northrup's Company—Jered Hine.
Captain Bostwick's Company—Richard Johnson, John Farrind, killed.

Certified per G. S. Silliman, *Colonel.*

*A Return of the men killed, missing, and taken prisoners, belonging to the First* NEW-YORK *Regiment.*

| Companies. | Men killed. | Men missing. | Men taken prisoners. | When. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Johnston's | | John Malone | | 28th October, 1776. |
| | | | Edward Kimmons<br>Samuel Knott<br>Edward Fowler | 17th September, 1776. |
| Captain Ledyard's | | Joseph McCarroll<br>Simon Van Winkle<br>George Daniel<br>Andrew Sailly<br>Michael O'Farrell | | 19th September, 1776.<br>26th September, 1776. |
| Captain Wiley's | | | William Smith, (Sergeant)<br>George King, (Drummer) | 15th September, 1766 |
| | | Robert Stymeson<br>William McAlpine | | 28th October, 1776. |
| Captain Hayatt's | | | Thomas Sill<br>Hugh McIntosh<br>Henry Brasher, (Drummer,)<br>McKenny, (Corporal) | 15th September, 1776. |
| Captain Steenrod's | | | Jacob Jones, (Private)<br>Michael Warner | 15th September, 1776. |
| Captain Forbes's | | John Causton<br>Hugh Kelly<br>Thomas Gardner<br>Jedediah Beckwith<br>James Hitchcock<br>Peter Quain, (Corporal)<br>John Fife<br>John Harway<br>David Jenkins | | 16th September, 1776. |
| Cornet Bleeker's | | | John Devanport | 28th October, 1776. |

*A Return of both Officers and Privates killed, taken, and missing, in General* SAMUEL HOLDEN PARSONS'S *Brigade.*

| Names. | Rank. | Of what Regiment. | Company. | Casualties. | Time when. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Stephens | Private | Colonel Prescot | Captain Darby | Missing | September 15, 1776. |
| William Murphy | do | do | Captain Newell | do | October 21, 1776. |
| Moses Lord | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Jonas Warren | Sergeant | do | Captain Nuting | do | September 15, 1776. |
| Richard Jayelds | Private | do | do | do | do. |
| Moses Whitney | do | Colonel Ward | Captain King | do | August 27, 1776. |
| James Barker | do | do | do | do | do. |
| James Johnston | do | do | do | do | September 15, 1776. |
| Simeon Elwell | do | do | Captain Barnes | do | do. |
| Joseph Evans | do | do | Captain Allyn | Killed | September 14, 1776. |
| Cornelius Warren | do | do | Captain Bartlet | Missing | August 27, 1776. |
| Aaron Rood | do | do | do | Killed | September 23, 1776. |
| Joel Smith | Sergeant | do | Captain Barr | Taken | September 15, 1776. |
| Joshua Chamberlin | do | do | do | do | do. |
| David Wells | Private | do | do | do | February 14, 1776. |
| John Byrns | do | do | do | Missing | September 15, 1776. |
| William Belcher | do | do | do | do | do. |
| John Hamilton | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Lemuel Collens | do | do | Lieutenant Cleveland | do | do. |
| Jonathan Bradley | do | do | Lieutenant Ward's | do | do. |
| Ebenezer Tombs | do | do | do | do | September 23, 1776. |
| William Gaylord | do | Colonel Wylly's | Captain Pettibone | do | August 27, 1776. |
| Ahirah Hills | do | do | do | do | September 15, 1776. |
| John Adams | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Daniel Johnson | do | do | do | do | do. |
| William Leslie | do | do | do | do | do. |
| William McGuyer | do | do | do | do | do. |
| John Taylor | do | do | do | do | September 23, 1776. |
| Charles Wilson | do | do | Captain Huntington | do | September 15, 1776. |
| Ehezur Loveland | do | do | Captain Scott | do | August 27, 1776. |
| William Tryon | Drummer | do | Captain Sumner | do | September 15, 1776. |
| George Cotton | Corporal | do | do | do | do. |
| John Luces | Private | do | do | Killed | September 23, 1776. |
| Joel Taylor | do | do | Captain Wright | Missing | August 27, 1776. |
| Frederick Buckley | do | do | do | do | September 15, 1776. |
| Samuel Irickey | do | do | Major Holdrige | Killed | August 3, 1776. |
| Abner Rider | do | do | do | Missing | August 27, 1776. |
| Sherman Shadduck | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Elijah Smith | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Joseph Watrous | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Daniel Moss | do | do | do | do | September 15, 1776. |
| John Allen Clay | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Elias Stillwell, Jun | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Lott Joy | do | do | do | do | September 23, 1776. |
| Joseph Byington | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Robert Lusk | do | do | Captain Mills | do | August 27, 1776. |
| Jonathan Ingham | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Theodore Siedman | do | do | do | do | September 23, 1776. |
| Abner Clark | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Thomas Wright | do | do | do | do | do. |
| Levi Wells | Major | do | | Taken | August 27, 1776. |

I do hereby certify the above and foregoing is a true Return agreeable to the Returns made me by the Colonels of the different Regiments above mentioned.

PEEKSKILL, *November* 17, 1776. JEDEDIAH HYDE, *Major of Brigade pro tem.*

*Return of the Officers and Privates killed, missing, and taken, in the Fourteenth Regiment, commanded by* JONATHAN GLOVER, *Esq.*

| Companies. | Names. | Rank. | When killed. | When taken. | When missing. | At what place. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Glover | Wornsted Trefry | Private | | | September 16, 1776 | York Island. |
| do | Benjamin Bowden | do | | | do | do. |

CAMP, NORTH-CASTLE, *November* 19, 1776. JOHN GLOVER, *Colonel Fourteenth Regiment.*

*A Return of the killed, taken prisoners, and missing, in the Brigade of Foot in the service of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *commanded by Brigadier-General* NIXON.

| Names. | Company belonging to. | Why absent. | Place where. | Time when. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Fourth Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel* NIXON. | | | | |
| Captain Micajah Gleason | Captain Gleason | Killed | Harlem | September 16, 1776. |
| Sergeant Josiah Wright | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| Corporal John Manny | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| James Townshend, Private | Captain Barnes | do. | do. | do. |
| Thomas Ryne | do. | Taken prisoner | do. | do. |
| James Thompson | Captain Thompson | Missing | Mile Square | October 24, 1776. |
| Peter Piller | Captain Wheeler | Taken prisoner | Harlem | September 15, 1776. |
| Daniel Shirley | do. | Missing | Mile Square | October 25, 1776. |
| *Ninth Regiment, commanded by Colonel* VARNUM. | | | | |
| Lieutenant Noell Allen | Captain Flagg | Killed | Harlem | September 16, 1776. |
| Dennis Lines, Private | Captain Lane | do. | do. | do. |
| John McCoy | Captain Cole | do. | do. | do. |
| Samuel Britton | Captain Gooch | do. | do. | do. |
| *Twelfth Regiment, commanded by Colonel* LITTLE. | | | | |
| Sergeant John McLarty | Captain Lunt | Taken prisoner | Harlem | September 16, 1776. |
| Corporal Ezekiel Woodward | Captain Warner | do. | Mile Square | October 25, 1776. |
| John McDarmitt, Private | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| James Phipps | Captain Parker | do. | Long Island | August 30, 1776. |
| Peter Barbick | do. | Killed | do. | August 27, 1776. |
| Archelaus Puleifer | Captain Wade | Taken prisoner | do. | do. |
| Francis Cogswell | do. | do. | Mile Square | October 25, 1776. |
| Elijah Lewis | Captain Dodge | Missing | Long Island | August 27, 1776. |
| *Eleventh Regiment, commanded by Colonel* HITCHCOCK. | | | | |
| Sergeant John Porter | Captain J. Olney | Killed | Harlem | September 16, 1776. |
| James White, Private | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| Joseph West | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| Jona. Barritt | do. | Taken prisoner | Mile Square | October 26, 1776. |
| Thomas Tellum | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| Lieutenant Blunt | Captain Few | do. | Long Island | August 27, 1776. |
| Thomas Jones, Private | do. | Killed | Harlem | September 16, 1776. |
| John Cain | do. | Missing | do. | do. |
| John Chadwick | do. | Taken prisoner | Mile Square | October 26, 1776. |
| Thomas Willey | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| Samuel Leeman | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| James Blanchard | Captain Kimball | Killed | | September 1, 1776. |
| David Wilson | do. | do. | Harlem | September 16, 1776. |
| Richard Wallen | do. | Missing | Long Island | August 27, 1776. |
| John Elliott | Captain Symond | Killed | do. | do. |
| Nath. Ramson | do. | Taken prisoner | do. | do. |
| John Patten | do. | Missing | do. | do. |
| Ensign Thomas | Captain Talbot | Lost in a fire-ship | | |
| Philip Hogan, Private | do. | Missing | Harlem | September 15, 1776. |
| Joseph Lewis | do. | Taken prisoner | Mile Square | October 26, 1776. |
| Benjamin Bird | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| John Willis | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| Caleb Herenden | Captain C. Olney | Missing | Long Island | August 27, 1776. |
| Benjamin Foster | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| Daniel Williams | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| London Citizen, a negro | do. | do. | do. | do. |
| William Deputrin | Captain Bowen | Taken prisoner | do. | do. |

Total: Killed, 16; taken prisoners, 19; missing, 11—46.

JNO. NIXON, *Brigadier-General.*

CAMP PHILLIPS'S MANOR, *November* 18th, 1776.

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*Return of both Officers and Privates killed, taken, and missing, of General* GEORGE CLINTON'S *Brigade, dated* PEEKSKILL, 17*th November*, 1776.

| Names. | Of what Regiment. | Company. | Time when. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Van Wyck, killed | Colonel Swartswout | | 31st October, 1776. |
| Thomas McKutcheon, killed | do. | Captain Schenck | 27th October, 1776. |
| Robert Killpatrick, taken | Colonel Graham | Captain Barlow | 22d October, 1776. |
| Hendrichus Oosterhoudt, killed | Colonel Pawling | Captain Hardenbugh | 23d September, 1776. |
| William Phenix, killed | do. | Captain Canlmes' | 1st November, 1776. |
| Jared Erwin, killed by accident | do. | Captain Conklin | 5th November, 1776. |

I do hereby certify the above is a true Return agreeable to the Returns made me by the Colonels of the different Regiments.

ALBERT PAWLING, *Major of Brigade.*

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*Return of the killed, wounded, prisoners, and missing, in the Brigade commanded by* GURDON SALTONSTALL, *Esquire, Brigadier-General.*

| Men's names. | Regiments. | Companies. | Killed. | Wounded. | Prisoners. | Missing. | Time. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacob Meech | Lieut. Col. Ely's | Captain Coit | - | 1 | - | - | 28th October, 1776. |
| Elisha Burrows | do. | do. | - | - | 1 | - | 30th October, 1776. |
| Amos Thompson | Colonel Baldwin | Captain House | - | - | 1 | - | 30th October, 1776. |
| James Dickey, Sergeant | do. | Captain McConnel | - | - | - | 1 | 30th October, 1776. |
| Andrew Burling | do. | do. | 1 | - | - | - | 29th October, 1776. |
| Abijah Sterns | do. | Captain Houghton | - | - | - | 1 | 28th October, 1776. |
| Total | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |

N. B. *Andrew Burling* killed by our own sentries at *White-Plains.*

J. DOUGLAS, *Commandant.*

NORTH-CASTLE, *November* 19th, 1776.

*A Catalogue of prisoners and persons killed and missing belonging to General* SCOTT's *Brigade, November 17th,* 1776.

| Persons' names. | Rank. | Company to which belonging. | Regiment to which belonging. | Casualties. | Time when happened. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moses Hatfield | Major | | Colonel Drake | Prisoner | In attack upon M. Island. |
| Abraham Van Dyck | Captain | | Colonel Lasher | do. | In retreat from New-York. |
| Robert Troup | Lieutenant | Captain Dickson | do. | do. | On Long-Island. |
| Edward Dunscomb | do. | Captain Willcox | do. | do. | do. |
| Jers. Hoogland | do & Adjt. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Brevoort | do. | Captain Van Dyck | do. | do. | In retreat from New-York. |
| William Neaven | Ensign | Captain Stewart | Colonel Malcom | do. | do. |
| Abraham Wandall | Sergeant | | do. | do. | do. |
| Nich's Pitt | Drummer | | do. | do. | do. |
| William Deguee | Drum-Major | | do. | do. | do. |
| Peter Ackerman | Fifer | | do. | do. | do. |
| Ephraim Soppir | Corporal | | Colonel Drake | do. | September 15th. |
| John Patchen | Private | | Colonel Malcom | do. | Retreat from New-York. |
| James McEndor | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Hays Reynolds | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Henry Wessells | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Jacob Haywin | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Jacob Shupe | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Frederick Regan | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| John Ricketts | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| William Montgomery | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Thomas Sullivan | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Benjamin Bulson | do. | | do. | do. | On Long-Island. |
| John Langdon | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Isaac Doty | Fifer | | do. | do. | Retreat from New-York. |
| Abraham Blank | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| George Knox | Adjutant | | Colonel Harden | do. | do. |
| Joseph Hocks | Private | | Colonel Drake | Missing | 15th September. |
| Stephen Jessup | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| George Glading | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Nathaniel Lobdell | do. | Captain Slassan | do. | do. | do. |
| Peter Orsmon | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Isaac Conclin | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Jarvis Tucker | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| James Rosell | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Robert Long | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Stephen Haight | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Thaddeus Weed | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Richard Whight | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Thomas Williams | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| Cornelius Malone | do. | | do. | do. | do. |
| William Davis | do. | | do. | do. | do. |

Colonel *Lasher* having made no Return, there are no privates belonging to his Regiment mentioned in the aforegoing catalogue.

NICHOLAS FISH, *Brigade-Major.*

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*Return of the Officers and Private men killed, taken, and missing, in the Brigade commanded by Colonel* SARGENT, *since January* 1, 1776.

| Regiments. | Company. | Men's names. | Rank. | When killed. | When taken | When missing. | At what place. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sergeant's | Pope's | Hooper | Sergeant | | | October 27th | |
| | Farrington's | Thelancey | Private | | September 14 | | Long-Island. |
| | | Pauh | do. | | September 14 | | do. |
| | | Burton | do. | | September 14 | | do. |
| | | Herbert | do. | | September 16 | | York-Island. |
| | | O'Brian | do. | | September 16 | | do. |
| | | Alexander | do. | | September 16 | | do. |
| | | Andrews | do. | | November 5 | | White-Plains. |
| | Wylly's | Barnes | do. | | August 30 | | Long-Island. |
| | | C. Barnes | do. | | September 15 | | do. |
| | | Brown | do. | | do. | | do. |
| | Keith's | Fowles | do. | September 13 | | | Horn's Hook. |
| | | Hackett | do. | September 16 | | | York-Island. |
| | Pery's | Hathway | Corporal | September 16 | | | Horn's Hook. |
| | | Kimbal | Private | September 16 | | | do. |
| Chester's | | Maygot | do. | | | | |
| | | Cheney | do. | | | | |
| | | Marret | do. | | | | |
| | | Upham | do. | | | | |
| | | Fling | do. | | | | |
| | | Alderman | do. | | | August 27th | Long-Island. |
| | | Humphry | do. | | | | |
| | | Gillet | do. | | | | |
| | | Martin | do. | | | | |
| | | Shawn | do. | | | | |
| | | Sasanan | do. | | | | |
| | | Tassett | do. | | | | |
| | | Sanger | Corporal | | | | |
| | | Tucker | Private | October 28 | | | White-Plains. |
| | | Beckwith | do. | | | | |
| | | Herman | do. | | | | |
| Stone's | | How | Adjutant | October 19 | | | Frog's Point. |

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*A Return of the late Colonel* SELDEN's *Regiment, now commanded by Colonel* LATTIMORE, *November* 17, 1776.

1 chief Colonel, 2 First Lieutenants, 2 Second Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 19 Rank and File.

September 15th, A. D. 1776.—Dead and missing on that day:

*Samuel Selden,* Colonel.

First Lieutenants: *Benjamin Brewsten, John Comstock.*

Second Lieutenants, *Charles Williams, John Wheetely.*

Sergeants killed or taken on that day: *John Steadman, Edward Parker, Timothy Tyffeny.* One Sergeant wounded on the guard at *Tuckho hill* in their retreat—Sergeant *Stephen Gates.*

Corporals missing on that day: *Luther Geer, James Stair, Zebish Winship.*

*Privates killed or taken on that day:*

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jonathan Wood, killed or taken, | | Edward Church, dead, | | Peter Duke, killed or taken, | |
| Caleb Chestor, | do. | Thomas Copor, prisoner, | | Ebenezer Packet, | do. |
| Nathan Beeby, | do. | John Nonsuch, | do. | Fortain Quamono, dead, | 16 Sept. |
| Daniel Osgood, | do. | Byal Lord, killed or taken, | | Jacob Tuomiwos, killed or taken, | |
| Reuben Chapman, | do. | Liger Lord, | do. | Jediah Richards, | do. |
| Able Moses, killed or taken, | | | | | |
| Asher Raide, | do. | | | | |
| Zebiun Benneat, | do. | | | | |
| John Foog, | do. | | | | |

RANSFORD ROSE, *Ad. G'l, in behalf of Lieutenant-Colonel* LATTIMORE.

*A Return of the killed, taken, and missing, of General* FELLOWS's *Brigade, from the time of their entering service to the 23d of November, A. D.* 1776.

| | Killed. | Taken. | Missing. |
|---|---|---|---|
| *In Colonel* HOLMAN's *Regiment.* | | | |
| Samuel Palmer | September 15th | | |
| William Hayward | October 28th | | |
| Elijah Grigory | | September 15th | |
| George Dunn | October 28th | | |
| Zebeus Washburn | do | | |
| Joseph Chamberlain | September 15th | | |
| John Wheton | do | | |
| Daniel Gilbert | October 28th | | |
| Perley Brown | do | | |
| Reuben Morey | | | September 15th. |
| Eleazer Wheelock | | | do. |
| Thomas Rawson | | | do. |
| Stephen Jones | | | do. |
| Abijah Metalph | October 28th | | |
| James Crista | September 16th | | |
| Sergeant Benjaman Warren | October 28th | | |
| Daniel Hobart | do | | |
| Samuel Willington | do | | |
| *In Colonel* CARY's *Regiment.* | | | |
| Jedediah Dean, Fifer | September 15th | | |
| Elijah Wilber | | | September 15th. |
| Isaiah Fuller | | | do. |
| Richard Drake | | | do. |
| Benjamin Seekins | September 13th | | |
| Ezra Smith | do | | |
| *In Colonel* SMITH's *Regiment.* | | | |
| Jacob Piper | | | September 15th. |
| David Houghton | | | do. |
| Stanton Brown | | | do. |
| Ephraim Rugg | | | do. |
| Jonathan Stone | | September 15th | |
| David Cutting | | do. | |
| Francis Manwell | | October 8th | |
| Joseph Church | October 28th | | |

Total, 34.

JOHN FELLOWS, *Brigadier-General.*

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*A Return of the killed and wounded in General* WADSWORTH's *Brigade in the skirmish on the 28th of October last.*

| | Killed. | | Wounded. | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sergeants. | Privates. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Corporals. | Privates. |
| Colonel Silliman | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Colonel Sage | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Colonel Selden | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Colonel Douglass | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9 |
| Total | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 16 |

Test:

BENJAMIN TALLMADGE, *Brigade-Major.*

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*A Return of the killed and missing of the Nineteenth Regiment. Camp at* PHILLIPS's MANOR, *November 23d,* 1776.

| Names. | Rank. | When killed. | When missing. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nathan Hale | Captain | 22d September. | |
| Amasa Garrett | Sergeant | 28th October. | |
| Seth Sturdivant | Private | | 15th September. |
| Davison Willimas | do | 16th September. | |
| David McFall | do | | 15th September. |
| John Barsh | do | | 15th September. |
| William Jones | do | | 15th September. |
| James Hay | do | | 15th September. |
| Ai Turner | do | | 15th September. |
| Stephen Upson | do | 16th September. | |
| Nathaniel Smith | do | 28th October. | |
| Daniel Downs | do | 28th October. | |
| Elisha Nichols | do | 28th October. | |
| Joel Taylor | do | 28th October. | |

CHARLES WEBB, *Colonel.*

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*Return of Officers and Soldiers killed, taken prisoners, and missing, in the Twenty-Third Regiment, November 18th,* 1776.

| Companies. | Men's names. | Rank. | Killed. | Taken prisoners. | Missing. | When killed, taken, or missing. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Wadsworth | Job Churchell | Private | 1 | | | September 16th. |
| | David Hoskins | do | 1 | | | do. |
| Captain Bridgham | Zebedial Sampson | do | 1 | | | do. |
| | Able Tharasher | do | 1 | | | do. |
| Captain Bradford | Asa Hunt | do | 1 | | | do. |
| | Elisha Samson | wounded 16th September, died October 16, 1776. | | | | |
| Captain Hamlin's | William Weathers | wounded 16th September, died September 24th, 1776. | | | | |

JOHN JACOBS, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

*

*A Return of the killed, taken prisoners, or missing, in the Regiment of Foot commanded by* WM. DOUGLAS, *Esq., Colonel.*

Commissioned officers: *Phineas Porter*, Major, taken prisoner, September 15th, 1776.
Non-commissioned: *John Beach*, Sergeant in Captain *Lewis's* Company, missing, September 16th, 1776.

| Companies. | Men's names. | Killed, taken, or missing. | Time when. | Extraordinaries. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Johnson | Gideon Tomlinson | Missing | September 15th. | |
| | Elias Perkins | do. | September 15th. | |
| | Elnathan Norton | do. | September 15th. | |
| Captain Russell | Thomas Gould | Wounded | September 16th | Since dead of his wounds. |
| | Stephen Johnson | Killed | October 28th. | |
| Captain Peck | Benjamin Paine | Missing | September 15th. | |
| | Jonathan Atwater | Killed | October 28th. | |
| | Thomas Turner | do. | October 28th. | |
| | Peter Gabrielle | Taken | September 15th | Since made his escape. |
| Captain Lewis | Titus Mix | Killed | September 16th. | |
| Captain Prentice | Nathaniel Yale | Taken | August 29th. | |
| Captain Brocket | None | | | |
| Captain Bunnell | William Meriams | Killed | September 16th. | |
| Captain Higgins | None | | | |

WM. DOUGLAS, *Colonel.*

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*A Return of the killed, taken, and missing, of the Third Regiment, commanded by Colonel* SHEPARD, *their names, companies, dates, and casualties.*

| Rank. | Names. | Companies. | Dates. | Casualties. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Private | James Cannon | Captain Curtiss | September 14th | Missing in the retreat from New-York. |
| Do | Henry Fisher | do. | do. | do. |
| Sergeant | James Scott | Bolster | October 18th | Killed at East Chester. |
| Do | Charles Adams | do. | do. | do. |
| Private | Thadius Kemp | do. | do. | do. |
| Do | John Higgens | Balls | October 16 | Missing. |
| Do | Amasa Tilleson | do. | November 5 | do. |
| Do | Henry Chace | Harwood | November 6 | Killed in the whale-boat. |

Killed 4, missing 4—total 8. N. B. No Field-Officers in Camp.

NORTH-CASTLE, *November* 19th, 1776.

SETH BANISTER, *Adjutant.*

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*A Return of the killed, missing, and taken prisoners, of General* MCDOUGALL'S *Brigade on the 28th.*

| | Killed. | | | | | Missing. | | | | | Taken Prisoners. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Rank and File. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Rank and File. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Rank and File. |
| Late McDougall's | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17 | - | - | - | 1 | 11 |
| Colonel Ritzema | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Colonel Reid's | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | - | - | - | - | 14 | - | - | - | - | 19 | - | - | - | - | 15 |

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*Return of the killed, taken prisoners, and missing, in the Twenty-Sixth Regiment.*

| Companies. | Men's names being privates. | Time when missing. | The place where. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Captain R. Dodge | John Shepard | September 15th, 1776 | New-York. |
| Captain Pettengill | John Merry | do. | do. |

JAMES WESSAN, *Lieut. Colonel Twenty-Sixth Regiment.*

NORTH-CASTLE, *November* 20th, 1776.

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*A Return of those killed, missing, or taken, in the late Colonel* GAY'S *Regiment, since they joined the Continental Army at* NEW-YORK *on the 7th of July last, specifying their names and the office they sustained.*

Lieutenant-Colonel *Selah Heart*, taken the 15th September; Captain *Samuel Wells*, taken 15th do.; Lieutenant *Timothy Gaford*, killed or taken 15th do.; Lieutenant *Thomas Cutting*, taken 15th do.
Captain *Jonah Gillett's* Company: *Israel Warner*, 30th of August; *Luther Center*, 15th of September; *Reuben King*, 15th do.
Captain *Rogers's* Company: *David Douglas*, 15th September; *James Daley*, 17th September.
Captain *Goodwin's* Company: Sergeant *Robert Read*, 15th September; Corporal *Jacob Dowd*, 15th do.; *Martin Beach*, 15th do.; *Abraham Beach*, 15th do.; *John Carr*, 15th do.; *Clement Maxfield*, 27th August; *Martin Nash*, 27th do.
Captain *Bradley's* Company: *Daniel Brewster Curtiss*, 15th September; *Eli Taylor*, 15th do.
Captain *Wolcott's* company: *Hakaliah Foster*, 15th September.
Captain *Wells's* Company: *Joseph Bidwell*, 27th August; *Simeon Owan*, 15th September.
Captain *Wilson's* company: Corporal *Hackaliah Preston*, 15th September; *Hezekiah Lee*, 15th do.; *Elisha Lewis*, 15th do.; *James Tyler*, 15th do.; *Prosper Johnson*, 15th do.; *Stephen Russell*, 15th do.; *Daniel Bacon*, 15th do.; *Benjamin Frisby*, 27th August.

The within-named persons are all taken or killed in said Regiment.

PHILLIPSBOROUGH, *November* 17th, 1776. Certified per me: JOHN ALLYN, *Adjutant.*

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*A Return of the names of Officers and Soldiers who have been killed, taken prisoners, or are missing, belonging to Colonel* SAGE'S *Regiment.*

In Captain *Parsons's* Company: *John Berrey*, taken 15th September.
In Captain *Dixon's* Company: *John Henry Green*, taken 15th September.
In Captain *Birge's* Company: Captain *Jonathan Birge*, wounded 28th October, and since dead; *Abel Hopkins*, wounded 30th August, and since dead; Sergeant *Heyman Baker*, missing 15th September.
In Captain *Crosby's* Company: Captain *Stephen Crosby*, dead, 15th September; Lieutenant *Jonathan Buck*, missing, 15th September; *Ebenezer Brooks*, missing, 15th September; *Simeon Stephens*, missing, 15th September; *Amasa Grover*, missing, 15th September.
In Captain *Parker's* Company: *George White*, missing, 15th September.
In Captain *Churchell's* Company: *Moses Pelton*, killed, 15th September; *George Dean*, taken, 15th September.

COMFORT SAGE, *Colonel.*

*A Return of men killed, missing, and taken, in Colonel* TYLER's *Regiment.*

| Men's names. | Killed. | Missing. | Taken. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Corporal John Smith | 1 | - | - | September 22d. |
| Jonathan Huntley | 1 | - | - | September 29th. |
| Solomon Avery | 1 | - | - | September 17th. |
| Antony Wolf | 1 | - | - | August 27th. |
| Guy McIntosh | 1 | - | - | September 24th. |
| Charles Charles | - | 1 | - | September 22d. |
| John Fanoy | - | 1 | - | September 15th. |
| Thomas Lawrance | - | 1 | - | do. |
| Daniel Cole | - | 1 | - | do. |
| Samuel Everett | - | 1 | - | August 27th. |
| Stephen Jones | - | 1 | - | September 22d. |
| Robert Ashbo | 1 | - | - | September 16th. |
| Amasa Pebody | - | 1 | - | August 27th. |
| Total | 6 | 7 | - | |

N. B. Major *Chapman* killed September 15th; Lieutenant *Cleveland*, taken September 15th.

JOHN TYLER, *Colonel.*

*A Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, of General* McDOUGALL's *Brigade, on the 28th October last, at* WHITE-PLAINS, WESTCHESTER *County.*

| | Killed. | | | | | | Wounded. | | | | | | Missing. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Colonels. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Rank and File. | Colonels. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Rank and File. | Colonels. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Rank and File. |
| Colonel Webb's | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Late McDougall's | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Ritzema's | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Colonel Smallwood's | - | 2 | - | - | 3 | 7 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 25 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| Totals | - | 2 | - | - | 4 | 15 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 43 | - | - | - | - | - | 19 |

*Return of killed and missing in General* CLINTON's *Brigade.*

| Regiments. | Killed. | | | | | | | Taken. | | | | | | | Missing. | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Captains. | First Lieut'nts. | Sec'd Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Drum and Fife. | Rank and File. | Captains. | First Lieut'nts. | Sec'd Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | Sergeants. | Drum and Fife. | Rank and File. | Captains. | First Lieut'nt. | Sec'd Lieut'nt. | Ensigns. | Sergeant. | Drum and fife. | Rank and file. |
| Shepard | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Glover | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Webb | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| Bayley | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Balding | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Total | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | - | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14 |

CAMP AT NORTH-CASTLE, *November* 23d, 1776.

JOHN GLOVER, *Commandant.*

*The following is a list of the* PENNSYLVANIA *Officers who were upon* YORK-ISLAND *when the engagement began near* MOUNT WASHINGTON.

MAGAW'S BATTALION.

Colonel Robert Magaw. Major Batey. Captains Miller, Decker, Vansant, Richardson, Steward. Lieutenants Crawford, Dever, Lawrence, Young, Phile, Rudolph, Helm, Jenny, Wilkey, Finley, Morgan, Standley. Ensigns Vanhorn, Hovington, Beaty, Gibbins. Doctor McHenry.

CADWALADER'S BATTALION.

Captains West, Graydon, Lennox, Biles, Tuder, Edwards. Lieutenants Westcoat, Forrest, Davison, Betting, Tilton, Bicker, Broadhead, Knox, Woodside, Durand. Ensigns Stideford, Old, McIntire, Chickley, Weaver. Doctor Hodge.

ATLEE'S BATTALION.

Captain Dehuff. Lieutenants Caldwell, Ward, Weidman. Ensign Whitehead.

SWOOP'S BATTALION.

Colonel Swoop. Captains Smycer, Trett, McDonald, Stake. Lieutenants Shugart, Robeson, Patton, Clayton, Holsinger, Davis, Welsh. Ensigns Barnet, Myers, How. Doctor Fullerton.

WATTS'S BATTALION.

Major Galbreath. Captains McElhatten, McFarland, Camble, Snider. Lieutenants McClure, Halliday, Blackney, Darlington, Crawford, Hunter, Reecee, McFarland, Johnson. Ensign McElhatten.

MONTGOMERY'S BATTALION.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Bull. Captains Wallace, McCleur, Hetherling, Culbertson. Lieutenants McClellan, Smith, Anderson, Thames, Davis, W. Wynn, T. Wynn, Lindsay, Cloud, White. Adjutant Woodbridge. Ensigns Paul, Vaughan, Hopkins.

*List of the Officers killed and wounded at* FORT WASHINGTON.

KILLED.

Colonel *Baxter*, of *Bucks* County, *Pennsylvania*.
Colonel *Miller*, of the Fifth *Pennsylvania* Battalion.
Lieutenants *Harrison* and *Nin Tannihill*, of Colonel *Rawlings's* Battalion, *Maryland*.

WOUNDED.

Colonel *Rawlings*, slightly in the small of the leg.
Major *Williams*, slightly in the upper part of the thigh.
Lieutenant *Hanson*, of Colonel *Rawlings's* battalion, in the shoulder; the ball cut out and like to do well.
Some few other officers, whose names could not be recollected, very slightly wounded.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, JUN., TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Albany, 16th November, 1776.

SIR: I am just informed by the Secretary of the War Office that there is a resolution of Congress directing me to transmit to them, as soon as possible, an account of all moneys passed through my hands, &c.

Agreeable to this information I send an abstract of moneys received and issued by me, so far as I have been able to complete it. This abstract was preparing for settlement with Commissioners of Accounts. Want of returns from *Ticonderoga* prevent its being complete to this day. I am advised the chest at that post is empty.

Had I been acquainted that it was the expectation of Congress that returns should be made to them, I should readily complied before this. My instructions, so far as I have ever been favoured with any, have only referred me to Major-General *Schuyler*. In this line I have hitherto conducted myself.

I fear it will be difficult to make complete returns so often as weekly, from this department; it being so scattered, and having no direct mode of conveyance between the posts, we are obliged to make use of such opportunities as present, and are worthy of confidence. This sometimes occasions considerable intermission. In these circumstances perhaps Congress may judge it sufficient to have returns as often as every two or three weeks.

I should be extremely glad to be informed from time to time of the expectations of Congress respecting my duty, that I may in all things conform to their pleasure.

I am, with much esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JONA. TRUMBULL.

Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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GENERAL MAXWELL TO GENERAL GATES.

Ticonderoga, 16th November, 1776.

SIR: The promotion I have been honoured with, has at present abstracted me in some measure from my regiment, with which I thought to go home.

The situation of my private affairs at home, and my health being much impaired for some time, would have justified me asking leave to go down the country some time ago, had not our enemy been hovering about us till lately. I had entered into trade some better than two years before I engaged in the present service. I then threw down every thing I was concerned in, in the most confused manner, and stepped to the relief of my country; I therefore hope the situation of our affairs here now will enable you to give me leave to go down the country to settle them, and you will much oblige, sir, your very humble servant,

WM. MAXWELL.

To the Honourable Major-General *Gates*.

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ENGLISH PRISONERS ESCAPED FROM PRISON.

*Fifty Dollars Reward.*—Whereas Major *Christopher French*, Ensign *Joseph Moyland*, and *John Bickle*, belonging to the *British* Army, *Peter Herron*, a Tory, and Captain *Jacob Smith*, who was taken lately on *Long-Island*, in arms, all escaped from Jail last night to join the *British* Army: (Said *French* is little in stature; said *Moyland* and *Herron* are tall and slim; said *Bickle* is middling sized and of a ruddy countenance:) All persons, and especially all officers, civil and military, are requested to assist in pursuing and taking said prisoners. Whoever shall take up and return either of said prisoners to *Hartford* Jail, shall be entitled to a premium of ten dollars and necessary charges, paid by

EZEKIEL WILLIAMS, *Sheriff*.

Hartford, November 16, 1776.

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STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

*A Proclamation for a Day of publick Thanksgiving and Prayer.*

As it is the duty of individuals who believe their concerns to be under the supreme direction of the greatest and best of Beings, to make due acknowledgments thereof unto Him both by prayer and praise: so it is the duty of such believers, and of Christians more especially, to unite in a publick and solemn manner both in praying to the same Sovereign Disposer of all things to save them from evil, and to bestow on them such things as unerring wisdom sees best and most conducive to their happiness; and also to offer their praises and thanksgiving to Him for the salvations and blessings whereof we are joint partakers:

The paying that acknowledgment to that God whose kingdom ruleth over all, hath been practised by religious societies in all ages, and in particular by the people of this land: In conformity to such laudable examples, and from a deep and grateful sense of the many favours conferred upon this degenerate people, amidst the judgments of war, which are sent in the earth, that the inhabitants thereof may learn righteousness:

We have thought fit, with the advice of the Council, and at the desire of the House of Representatives, to appoint, and hereby do appoint *Thursday*, the twelfth day of *December* next, to be kept as a day of publick Thanksgiving and Prayer throughout this State; calling ministers and people of every denomination then to convene, and with grateful devotion to offer solemn praises to the all-gracious Author of every good, for the various invaluable benefits conferred on, and continued to this State in particular, and to the *United States of America* in general; especially, that whilst *British* avarice openly claims, and *British* tyranny vigorously endeavours to wrest from us the free exercise of those rights which Heaven alike bestowed upon all mankind, without which human life is less a favour than the grave, he has given these States a just sense of their worth, and of the impossibility of resigning those rights to man without the guilt of rebellion against God; treason to the present, and treachery to all future generations: That he has united these States in a resolved vindication of those rights, even to the last extremity; has given them a general council of patriots wise to direct; raised Generals, faithful to execute the measures necessary for their defence; and animated so many of the sons of *America* to grasp the sword, and with a manly cheerfulness endure the fatigues of war, in support of that freedom which is the birthright of all: He led them by the hand from step to step, until we have seen these States compelled through oppression to assert their active right to freedom and independence in an united declaration which the impartial world must justify: Has preserved the Commander-in-Chief of our forces and so many of our officers and soldiers amidst so many and such imminent dangers—has mercifully restored health to our camp—has enabled our armies to make such a stand as has hitherto baffled the effort of our inveterate foes, and, as yet, defeated their main design; hath protected our frontiers from the sword of the wilderness, and our sea-coasts from the depredations of an hostile fleet—and even from the sea, where our visible strength was least, has wafted to our shores most valuable cargoes of warlike and other stores, necessary for our defence and support at the very time when most needed—has returned adventurers on that element generally enriched and victorious—and has detected very dangerous conspiracies when at the crisis of their execution—that he hath compelled the enemy, after having been for many months in possession of our capital, precipitately to evacuate it—that he hath also freed the capital from the contagious and mortal distemper with which it hath been visited; and that there hath been so great a measure of health enjoyed through the land—that he hath caused the earth to yield its increase so plentifully, that we are supplied with the necessaries and comforts of life; and above all, that he hath continued to us the enjoyments of the Gospel, and the religious liberties and privileges we are blessed with, notwithstanding our misimprovement of them. And with these thanksgivings we exhort all ranks to mingle deep humiliation under the calamities we are yet suffering—and genuine repentance for those sins that have brought them upon us. And to add their fervent prayers for the continuance of the mercies we enjoy, and the gift of those we need; especially, that all our publick councils, and the General Congress in particular, may be inspired with the wisdom, unanimity, and firmness necessary for their important departments—that the life and health of our General, his officers and soldiers, may be precious in God's sight—that our brethren every where may be spirited to take the field, when called in so great a cause—that all the movements of our armies may be ordered in Divine mercy—that they may be victorious in every engagement—

that our foes may be defeated in all their hostile designs, and driven from our land; and permitted no more, either by bribery or corruption, to sap our civil and religious rights, or by fire and sword to waste and destroy us—that peace may be restored on a just and permanent basis, and the rights and liberties of *America* secured to the latest generations. That this people may be placed under the wisest and best form of Government: That the Union of the *American* States may be established by a confederation never to be dissolved—that the spirit of God may be plentifully poured out, and an universal reformation of heart and life may speedily ensue—that the Gospel may be propagated through all nations—and *America* may ever be peculiarly entitled to the name of *Emanuel's Land*.

And all servile labour is forbidden on said day.

Given at the Council Chamber in *Boston*, this sixteenth day of *November*, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.

| | |
|---|---|
| James Bowdoin, | Moses Gill, |
| Jeremiah Powell, | William Phillips, |
| Artemas Ward, | Benjamin Austin, |
| Caleb Cushing, | Henry Gardner, |
| John Winthrop, | Daniel Davis, |
| Thomas Cushing, | Daniel Sewell, |
| Eldad Taylor, | Daniel Hopkins, |
| Samuel Holten, | Francis Dana. |
| Jabez Fisher, | |

By their Honours' command,

John Avery, Jun., *Deputy Secretary.*

God save the *United States of America!*

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CHARLES CUSHING TO SAMUEL FREEMAN.

Pownalborough, November 16th, 1776.

Sir: I here enclose you copies of the records of the Committee of Correspondence, &c., of this town, relating to the Rev. *Jacob Bailey*, the Episcopal itinerant Missionary here, who is declared an enemy to the rights of *America* by said Committee, in order that the General Court may take the matter into consideration, and take such effectual measures thereon as the Court in their wisdom shall think proper for discountenancing such dangerous principles and practices as he has been adjudged guilty of by said Committee.

The reason he gave why he would not read the Declaration was, because that he had taken the oath of allegiance in the year 1760 to King *George* the Second; and he said that the same oath was still binding upon him to pay the same allegiance to *George* the Third; and he further said that if the King should break his oath, by which he was bound to govern his subjects agreeable to law, yet his subjects who were under the oath of allegiance were still bound by the same, to pay him the same allegiance as though the King had governed his subjects strictly agreeable to law and his oath, and nothing could absolve the subject from their allegiance, let the King's conduct be as bad as possible.

If this doctrine be just, what becomes of all the old officers in the *United States* that have taken the oaths of allegiance? Have they all incurred the guilt of perjury? If they have, it would have been better to have worn fetters and chains, and endured the greatest tyranny that *George* the Third, his Ministers, and the devil could impose. But those sentiments are erroneous and false, and have no foundation in truth and righteousness. And I dare say that the General Court will take care that such divinity should not prevail. If they are connived at, the States sapped in their foundation.

Amongst the enclosed are a copy of his reasons which he signed, for not reading the Declaration. But he was not so particular as to say that the oath he was under was made to King *George* the Second, for which reason I thought proper to observe the same to you as aforesaid, (the oath of allegiance is not to the King and his successor,) together with what he said upon his examination. You will see by the resolves that he was charged with praying for the King. The evidence in support of that was his own confession. Further, he did not duly observe the days of fasting. He had a proclamation last *May*, two Sabbaths before the fast, but never read it to his people. He met with his people on the day, but what they fasted for, they could not tell, and he did not inform them; and it is certain he did not observe the contents of the proclamation. He never prayed for the success of our arms as therein directed. It was on account of those clauses in the proclamation in favour of our land, that he did not read it, I conclude. He never failed of reading proclamations from the Governour, when they came in season, and proclamations before that from the Congress he treated with contempt. He would not even observe the day. He gave bond agreeable to the third resolve, which bond I here enclose you. Should be glad you would deliver it to the Treasurer, and in case he should not appear agreeable to the last resolve, that then he may be cited to appear agreeable to the conditions of the bond, if the Court should think proper to send for him. Also you have enclosed an account of the Committee leasing out an estate.

The part that Colonel *Lithgow* and you and I were to take care of, some of them want to be pilled up anew. Should be glad you would consult Colonel *Lithgow*, and write down orders to *Luke Lombard*, who lives near to them, to do it.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

Charles Cushing.

To *Samuel Freeman*, Esq.

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At a meeting of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, of the Town of *Pownalborough*, *May* 24th, 1776:

Upon the complaint against the Rev. *Jacob Bailey*, for being unfriendly to the cause of liberty:

*Resolved*, 1. That the said *Jacob Bailey* has in divers instances since the year 1774, discovered an undue attachment to the authority claimed by *Great Britain* over the *United Colonies*, and thereby has given great reason to believe that he does not wish success to our struggles for freedom.

2. That he has been guilty of a criminal neglect in not reading Proclamations issued by the Continental and Provincial Congresses, for days of publick fasting and prayer, and thereby throwing contempt upon said Congresses, and virtually denying their authority.

3. Therefore, *Resolved*, That the said *Jacob Bailey* give bond to the Treasurer of the Colony, in the penal sum of forty pounds, with one or more sureties, conditioned that the said Mr. *Bailey* appear before the General Court of this Colony, when called thereto by said Court, to answer for said conduct, and in the mean time that he should not aid the despotick measures of our unnatural enemies, or by any ways or means directly or indirectly assist them in their designs of enslaving the said Colonies, or in any measure whatever counteract the good designs of the said Colonies in obtaining their liberty and freedom from the tyrannick measures of *Great Britain;* and that the said Mr. *Bailey* shall observe and obey all the orders, resolves, and laws of the said Court, and of the Continental Congress, and in all things behave himself peaceably towards the people and government of this Colony.

A true copy. Attest:

Charles Cushing, *Chairman.*

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At a meeting of the Committee of Correspondence, &c., for the Town of *Pownalborough*, *October* 28th, 1776:

The Committee having received information that the Rev. *Jacob Bailey* had refused to read the Declaration of the right honourable the Continental Congress for independency, and also that the said *Jacob* still continues upon every Lord's day to pray in publick for *George* the Third, King of *Great Britain*, as our King and Governour, according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England*, they accordingly summoned the said Mr. *Bailey* to appear before them, and after a full hearing and consideration of the evidence, as also of the defence of the said *Bailey*, they

*Resolved*, 1. That the said *Jacob Bailey* did refuse to read the said Declaration, in contempt of an order of Council for this State requiring him to read the same.

2. *Resolved*, That the reasons assigned by the said *Jacob Bailey* for not reading the said Declaration, and which he has filed with the Committee, have a direct tendency to undermine the foundation of the *United States of America*.

3. *Resolved*, That it appears to this Committee that the said *Jacob Bailey* still persists in praying for the King of *Great Britain*, on every Lord's day, in publick, as the King and Governour of these *United States;* thereby approving

of his tyrannical measures against these States and the bloodshed in which they are involved.

4. *Resolved*, That the said *Jacob Bailey* is, in principle and practice, a most inveterate and dangerous enemy to the rights and liberties of these *United States*.

5. *Resolved*, That the said *Jacob Bailey* appear before the General Court of this State, on or before the second *Tuesday* of the next session of the said Court, to answer for this conduct relating to the crimes afore-mentioned, and to any other matters that may then and there appear against him.

CHARLES CUSHING, *Chairman*.

A true copy. Attest: CHARLES CUSHING, *Chairman*.

—

Know all men by these presents, That we, *Jacob Bailey*, of *Pownalborough*, in the County of *Lincoln*, clerk, and *David Bailey*, of *Pownalborough*, aforesaid, yeoman, are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto the Honourable *Henry Gardner*, of *Stow*, in the County of *Middlesex*, Esq., Treasurer of the Colony of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, in the sum of forty pounds, to be paid unto the said *Henry*, Treasurer as aforesaid, or his successors in said office; to the true payment whereof, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, dated the twenty-eighth day of *May*, A. D. 1776.

The condition of this present obligation is such, that whereas, on the 24th day of *May*, A. D. 1776, the Committee of Correspondence, Safety and Inspection, of the town of *Pownalborough*, aforesaid, did pass three Resolves in the words following, viz:

"1. That the said *Jacob Bailey* has, in divers instances since the year 1774, discovered an undue attachment to the authority claimed by *Great Britain* over the *United Colonies*, and thereby has given great reason to believe that he does not wish success to our struggles for freedom.

"2. That he has been guilty of a criminal neglect in not reading Proclamations issued by the Continental and Provincial Congresses for days of publick fasting and prayer, and thereby throwing contempt upon said Congresses, and virtually denying their authority.

"3. Therefore, *Resolved*, That the said Mr. *Jacob Bailey* give bond to the Treasurer of this Colony in the penal sum of forty pounds, with one or more sureties, conditioned that the said Mr. *Bailey* appear before the General Court of this Colony when called thereto by said Court to answer for said conduct, and in the mean time that he shall not aid the despotick measures of our unnatural enemies, or by any ways or means directly or indirectly assist them in their designs of enslaving the said Colonies, or in any measure whatever counteract the good designs of the said Colonies in obtaining their liberty and freedom from the tyrannick measures of *Great Britain*; and that the said Mr. *Bailey* shall observe and obey all the orders, resolves and laws of the said Court and of the Continental Congress, and in all things behave himself peaceably towards the people and Government of this Colony."

Now, if the said *Jacob Bailey* shall appear before the said General Court of this Colony when called thereto by said Court to answer for said conduct, and in the mean time shall not aid the despotick measures of our unnatural enemies, or by any ways or means directly or indirectly assist them in their designs of enslaving the said Colonies, or in any measure whatever counteract the good designs of the said Colonies in obtaining their liberty and freedom from the tyrannick measures of *Great Britain*; and further, if he, said *Jacob Bailey*, shall observe and obey all the orders, resolves and laws of the said Court and of the Continental Congress, and in all things behave himself peaceably towards the people and Government of this Colony, then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

JACOB BAILEY,
DAVID BAILEY.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of
OBADIAH CALL, Jun.,
CALEB BARKER.

—

GENTLEMEN: I was very unwilling to give any offence by refusing to read the Declaration for Independency, neither was I desirous of bringing myself into any further trouble. But when I came seriously to examine the solemn oaths I had taken and the nature of my subscriptions, I found I could not comply without offering great violence to my conscience, and incurring, as I apprehend, the guilt of perjury. I concluded that nothing more could be expected in the affair than passive obedience and non-resistance; and if an active compliance was required, I must persist in my neglect and patiently submit to the penalty, resolving, with the Apostle, that it is my duty to obey God rather than man. I would further observe, that my conduct has been agreeable to that of my brother clergymen of the Church, who have all (except Mr. *Parker*) neglected to read the paper for Independency, and I may add, if rightly informed, several Congregational Ministers have done the same, notwithstanding they were under the like obligations. I have consulted the most eminent writers, and find that both divines and civilians agree with the Psalmist, that an oath ought to be observed as sacred (except the matter of it is unlawful) though a man swear to his hurt, and that rather than break it he should abide by any consequences which may attend his steadfast observance to it. I had the oaths administered to me in the time of divine service on a *Sunday*, at the church at *St. James*, in the presence of a multitude of spectators, where I was required to repeat every word, laying my hand at the same time on the Holy Gospels; after which I signed a declaration to the same purpose *ex animo*, and then was ordered to *St. Martin's*, the King's Parish Church, where I took the sacrament as a confirmation of my oath.

Gentlemen, a church or place of religious worship ought to be sacred to truth, and no minister ought to publish any thing but what he really believes agreeable to the truth. And if he declares any thing against the conviction of his own mind, let who will be the author or director, he must, I think, be highly dishonest, and disregard any dictate of honour, conscience, and integrity. Now if I firmly believe, as I have solemnly sworn, that no authority has power to absolve me from my oath, and I find the Declaration contains such an absolution, I cannot read it without the grossest dissimulation. I both act directly against my oath and deal deceitfully with the present Government. If after swearing expressly, as I have done, that the Pope, for instance, has no authority to absolve me from my oaths, I should in a place of sacred worship, against my belief, in obedience to any other authority declare that the Pope has absolved me from my oath of allegiance, would not everybody conclude that I had broken my oath? Again: supposing I had taken an oath of fidelity to the Congress and had solemnly renounced all other power that should attempt to subvert their authority, and afterwards the Army, for instance, was to set up in opposition to the Congress and to proclaim their General King of *America*, and should order me to publish such a proclamation in a place of publick worship, could I honestly comply?

Gentlemen, I have lived a considerable time in the world, and have passed through a variety of scenes without being considered heretofore as a seditious, injurious, revengeful, or malicious person. There are several people in this neighbourhood and this very town, who knew my life and conversation when very young, and I presume if called to give testimony would declare that my general conduct was sober, peaceable, and inoffensive.

At college I was known to two of the gentlemen present, and defy them to charge me with any crime, and I appeal to the college records, from which it will appear I was never punished during my residence there in the space of four years. I afterwards kept a publick school in several places, from each of which I carried ample testimonials of my good behaviour to *England*, when I went there for an ordination, and besides was fully recommended by a large number of principal gentlemen and near thirty clergymen of different denominations; and since my residence in the eastern country I think none can justly charge me with being treacherous, turbulent, designing, or factious. Who have I knowingly defrauded? Have I studied to injure any one in his lawful business? Have I endeavoured to foment or encourage private quarrels, or officiously intermeddled with the religious, civil, or domestick relations of my neighbours? Have I laboured to create discord in families, or contended with any one in the law, even to recover a just

debt? Have I taken any thing from the poor and necessitous, or sought to enrich myself at the expense of others? I can lay my hand upon my heart and declare I never attempted to render a human being miserable, or took pleasure in afflicting an unfortunate fellow-creature.

And pray, gentlemen, what have I done to injure the *American* cause? Have I taken up arms in favour of *Britain*? Have I gone into any publick meetings to defend or establish the pretensions of either the King or Parliament? Have I prevented any one from inlisting in the service? Have I by word or writing conveyed any intelligence to the enemy? Have I ever attempted to escape out of the country, even when I had an opportunity, or have I aided, abetted, or assisted the invaders of *America*? Why, then, am I charged with being an enemy to my country? What is my crime? Is it those connections I cannot dissolve? I am criminal only for acting as every honest man ought to act in the same circumstances, in rather choosing to suffer the penalty (if any such is annexed) to an order of Council, than to feel the eternal reproaches of a guilty conscience. I would observe further, that supposing I was really in my heart unfriendly to the country, (which I absolutely deny,) it is not in my power to injure it. Can any person without money, without influence, without authority, without opportunity, in such a remote corner, do any thing to obstruct the wheels of Government, or to determine the operations of the war? Is it not therefore ungenerous and a little inhuman to render any one uneasy, who has neither power nor inclination to hurt you?

Gentlemen, I sincerely wish to see the prosperity of my country, and am willing to submit to the authority of the present Government in all lawful and indifferent matters; but to declare myself absolved from my former oath of allegiance, I am convinced is neither lawful nor indifferent. I acknowledge that I have not complied with the order of Council, and have neglected to read the paper for Independency; but I assure that refusal proceeded not from any contempt of their authority, but from a principle of conscience, and I am willing to throw myself upon the mercy of those honourable gentlemen, and to submit to whatever punishment they shall be pleased to inflict.

*October* 28th, 1776.—The aforegoing are submitted to the Committee of Correspondence for the town of *Pownalborough*, as my reasons for not reading the Declaration for Independency.

JACOB BAILEY.

A true copy.

Attest: CHARLES CUSHING, *Chairman.*

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SIMEON DWIGHT TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Western, November 16th, 1776.

I send you enclosed a letter I received by express from the Committee of Correspondence, &c., &c., of the town of *Mendon*, wherein your Honours may observe that they inform me that your Honours have informed them by a letter, that you had ordered me to remove the prisoners in *Mendon*, &c.

I beg leave to inform your Honours that I have received no such order, but shall be ready to obey when I shall receive it.

I am your Honours' obedient and most humble servant,

SIMEON DWIGHT.

To the honourable Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay.*

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Mendon, 13th November, 1776.

SIR: The Committee of Correspondence, &c., of the town of *Mendon*, have received a letter from the honourable Council of this State, informing us that they had ordered your Honour to remove all the prisoners in *Mendon* to the town of *Grafton*; and the Committee have been waiting impatiently for their removal for the following reason: that is, that they have got acquainted with all parts of the town, or the people in all parts of it, and some persons in said town seem to favour their cause; and further, persons from different neighbouring towns come lurking round them, for what reason we are not able at this time to assign, but we believe for no good intent. And we think it best for the good and safety of this State that they be removed from this town immediately, to some other town, where they may not be so much acquainted. In so doing you will oblige yours, &c.,

JOHN TYLER, GIDEON ABREE,
JOSEPH GIBBS, HENRY BENSON.
JOHN ALBREE,

*Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, for the town of Mendon.*

To *Simeon Dwight*, Esq.

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CAPTAIN J. PAUL JONES TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

Alfred, off the coast of Cape Breton,
16th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed you have a copy of my last letter from this coast. We have manned the *Mellish* and mounted her with ten guns. I have given the command to Lieutenant *Brown*.

We this morning took the snow *Kitty*, of *London*, bound from *Gaspee* for *Barbadoes*, with oil and fish, &c. By her I understand that the harbours in that district had been frozen up for some time before she sailed. This is by no means an encouraging account to me, as it lays me under the greatest apprehension that the port of my destination may be in the same condition; besides the stormy and contrary winds still prevail, and the *Providence* and *Alfred* keep each a pump going. I will, however, pursue the expedition while there is a possibility of success. I have hopes of being in one of our ports by the 10th *December;* meanwhile I have the honour to be, with much esteem and respect, gentlemen, your very obliged, very obedient, and most humble servant,

J. PAUL JONES.

To the honourable the Marine Committee, *Philadelphia.*

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CONDITION OF THE SLOOP PROVIDENCE.

*To* HOYSTEED HACKER, *Esq., Commander of Sloop* PROVIDENCE:

We, the subscribers, take this method to acquaint you of the present situation of our vessel and crew. Since the afternoon of our chasing the brig which we made prize of, we have leaked in such a manner as to oblige us to keep one pump constantly going, owing to our being obliged to carry sail hard, and the wind blowing very fresh, which strained her very much, the last night being obliged to lay to, by reason we could not carry sail, as we kept both pumps constantly going. Should we meet with a severe gale of wind, it is our opinions both pumps would not keep her free unless we scudded. We have a quarter part of our hands sick, and the prizes we have will still reduce our numbers, as they are of great value. Should you think proper to continue us farther to the northward, we are ready and willing to do every thing in our power for the good of the expedition, but we are of opinion it will too much endanger the vessel.

ADAM W. THAXTON, *Second Lieutenant,*
WILLIAM EARL, *Master,*
JOSEPH ALLEN, *Acting Lieutenant,*
WILLIAM WEAVER, *Chief Mate,*
JEREMIAH INGRAHAM, *Second Mate,*
WILLIAM ALLEIN, *Midshipman,*
WILLIAM WARDWELL, do.
STEPHEN RUST, do.
DANIEL LORRANCE, do.

On board Sloop Providence, lat. 45°, long. 58° 45'.
November 14, 1776.

N. B. The First Lieutenant being on board the prize ship.

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By *J. Paul Jones*, Captain of the *American* ship of war the *Alfred*, senior officer in the original fleet, and commander of the present squadron off the coast of *Newfoundland:*

SIR: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the ship *Mellish;* and as she is now manned, equipped, and armed for war, you are to endeavour to keep company with me and observe and obey all signals made on board here. You receive herewith a copy of signals for your government. Should we fall in with any of the enemy's ships of war, you are directed to give us all possible assistance, and you are to follow all future directions which you may

receive from me. Should you unfortunately be separated from the squadron you are to proceed with all possible despatch for the most convenient port within the *United States of America*. I would advise you to proceed through *Nantucket Shoals* to *Rhode-Island*. Your careful attention to these things will secure my regard.

Given on board the ship *Alfred*, *November* 15th, 1776.

By order of the senior officer:

JAMES HOGAN, *Secretary*.

To *Philip Brown*, Esq., Commander of the ship *Mellish*.

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By *J. Paul Jones*, Captain of the *American* ship of war the *Alfred*, senior officer in the original fleet, and commander of the present squadron off the coast of *Newfoundland*:

SIR: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the snow *Kitty*, late from *Gaspee* for *Barbadoes*, with a cargo of fish and oil, &c. You are directed to navigate her with all possible expedition into the most convenient port within the *United States of America*. I would advise you, if it can be done without much risk, to make *Rhode-Island* your port. Be very careful with her cargo and stores, and keep a good look-out to prevent her being surprised or retaken.

Given on board the ship *Alfred*, *November* 15th, 1776.

J. PAUL JONES.

To *Joseph Allen*, Commander of snow *Kitty*.

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J. PELLETIER TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 17th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As I have been obliged to take four hogsheads of tobacco for the sale of my drugs, you'd infinitely oblige me to let me put it on board of Captain *John Martin*, of the brig *Friendship*, as I cannot get payment in any other way. If you, gentlemen, should not approve of my putting it on board the said brig, it will be of great loss to me. Should there be any thing that I can be of service to you in, shall do it with great pleasure.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient, humble servant,

J. PELLETIER.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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JOHN MARTIN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 17th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: This my second opportunity of informing you of my situation. I am much distressed for sailors. The merchants in this place give from twelve to fifteen pounds per month, and if I don't give as much, I can get no sailors. I am told Captain *Stone* is going to take the brig. It is a thing that I am unacquainted with, and would be glad of an answer to this letter.

The brig wants an anchor one hundred weight, cable ten inches. She never had any but the old anchors and cables from Captain *Stone's* sloop. I want two hundred four-pound shot, three hundred three-pound shot, and some swivel balls; some cordage for back stays, &c. I shall advise this morning with Captain *Nicholson*, and ask him if I must keep the brig till I get an answer from your honourable Board.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JOHN MARTIN.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO LIVINUS CLARKSON AND JOHN DORSIUS.

November 17, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Upon the recommendation of your friends here, we have appointed you Continental Agents in the State of *South-Carolina*. As such you are to supply any of the ships or cruisers with whatever provisions, stores, or necessaries they may be in want of, when they put into, or arrive in any of your ports. If repairs are necessary, we depend on you to employ the best tradesmen, and see that the business is done with despatch. You will, in short, do all things in this department that you think will serve the continent and promote the service of the Navy, and you must send us proper certificates, signed by the Captain or principal officer of each ship or vessel, of your expenditure, and your drafts on this Board for the amount will be duly honoured. It is a standing order to all our men-of-war and cruisers, to send their prizes addressed to the Continental Agents at the ports where they arrive. If any such come into *South-Carolina*, you must receive the same into your charge, prosecute them in the Admiralty to condemnation, make the sale of them at publick vendue, pay all charges justly attending each prize, and credit us for such part as appertains to the continent, agreeable to the rules and regulations, a book of which shall be sent you. The shares belonging to the officers and crews of the captors, you must divide amongst them agreeable to the said rules and regulations; and to this justly and equitably the commanders must furnish you with complete and certified list of the officers and men entitled to a share of each prize, and the share or shares they are respectively entitled to; and you are to pay all persons concerned their shares as soon after sale is made as you possibly can, and return to this Board duplicates of all your accounts and proceedings.

We are, gentlemen, your very humble servants.

Messrs. *Livinus Clarkson* and *John Dorsius*.

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CLEMENT BIDDLE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read November 19, 1776.]

Brunswick, 17th November, 1776, eight o'clock, p. m.

SIR: The annexed letter, containing the disagreeable intelligence of the reduction of *Fort Washington*, arrived this hour. I have it in command from my Lord *Stirling*, who is now here, to assure you that there are at this place and within a few miles, eight regiments, (exclusive of General *Stephens's* brigade at *Amboy*,) who are ready to march where the service may require, or to cover the country from any attempt of the enemy to land on this coast. His Lordship has good information that the fleet which sailed out of the *Hook* did not exceed one hundred and fifty sail, and that they were empty and bound for *England*. He will write to Congress fully to-morrow. The four regiments quartered here amount to nineteen hundred, and Colonel *Hands's* brigade, between *Elizabeth-Town* and *Woodbridge*, about twelve hundred.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

CLEMENT BIDDLE.

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TENCH TILGHMAN TO ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

Head-Quarters, Hackensack, November 17, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 13th found me this day in the neighbourhood of this place, where we are fixed for the present. I wish I had better news to communicate, but we suffered a heavy stroke yesterday in the loss of *Fort Washington* and its garrison, consisting of about two thousand men, who chiefly were made prisoners of war; what were not, fell in the action. The lines were bravely defended; but what could two thousand men do against General *Howe's* whole Army, who poured in upon them from every quarter? The loss of the post is nothing compared to the loss of men and arms, and the damp it will strike upon the minds of many. We were in a fair way of finishing the campaign with credit to ourselves, and I think to the disgrace of Mr. *Howe*, and had the General followed his own opinion, the garrison would have been withdrawn immediately upon the enemy's falling down from *Dobbs's Ferry*. But General *Greene* was positive that our forces might at any time be drawn off under the guns of *Fort Lee*. Fatal experience has evinced the contrary. Whether the enemy will make any other move this season, is matter of speculation. We are posting the Army on this side the river, along from *Newark* to *Amboy*, as places easy of communication with each other, and through which the enemy must pass, if *Philadelphia* or any place southward is their aim. Troops will be left at the passes leading from the *North River* into *Jersey* and *New-York*, to prevent supplies from going to the enemy. We left Mr. *Duer* at *Peekskill*. I shall continue to write to you as I find opportunity. I imagine we shall make *Brunswick* our head-quarters.

I am, dear sir, yours,

TENCH TILGHMAN.

To *Robert R. Livingston*, Esq., of the Committee of Correspondence.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

General Greene's Quarters, November 17th, 1776.

SIR: With much concern I beg leave to inform you of an unfortunate event that has taken place. Yesterday, about twelve o'clock, the enemy made a general attack upon our lines on *Harlem* Heights, which having carried, the garrison retired within the fort. Colonel *Magaw*, who commanded, finding the works invested on every side by a large part of their Army, and that there was but little or no prospect of effecting a retreat across the *North River*, surrendered the post. We do not know the loss of killed and wounded on either side, but I imagine it is pretty considerable, as the engagement at some parts of the lines was of long continuance and heavy; neither do I know the terms of capitulation. The force of the garrison before the attack was about two thousand men. The importance of the *North River*, and the sanguine wishes of all to prevent the enemy from possessing it, have been the causes of this unhappy catastrophe.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

P. S. You will be pleased to transmit this intelligence to Governour *Cooke*, with a requisition to him to send it to the *Massachusetts* State.

As an exchange of prisoners must be naturally desired by both parties, I shall be glad to know if those in your State are ready, and of your sentiments, by the earliest opportunity, as to the mode, whether it will be best by water or by land. G. W.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM FORT LEE, NOV. 17, 1776.

The true reason of our loss of *Fort Washington*, I believe, was the extensiveness of our lines. We had too few men to oppose the different attacks, and yet, when collected together, too many to garrison the fort. Captain *Gouge*, who was the messenger from General *Washington*, says *Fort Washington* was so crowded that it was difficult to pass through it, and as the enemy were in possession of the little redoubts around it, they could have poured in such a shower of shells and richochet-balls, as would have destroyed hundreds in a little time. And the flag arriving at this moment with the promise of the preservation of their baggage, and safety to their persons, in case of a surrender, prudence dictated that it should be given up. The fault lay in retiring so soon to the fort, not in surrendering it. I have been computing the number, and can make no more than twenty-two hundred rank and file, besides officers.

The enemy have been busy all day in removing the stores at *Fort Washington*, and have burnt several houses, for what reason we cannot conjecture. As this post, which was intended to keep the communication open, has now become useless, it will probably be abandoned as soon as the stores can be removed. Whether the Army will move higher up the river or westward into the country I imagine is not yet agreed on.

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GENERAL NIXON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Philipsborough, 17th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I received your favour of this day, together with Colonel *Sargeant's* return, and shall endeavour to make the alteration in the returns, agreeable to your desire in your letter.

I have, dear sir, the mortification to inform you of the reduction of *Fort Washington* by the Ministerial troops yesterday, the particulars of which I have not as yet got.

I wish you health and prosperity, and am, with the greatest esteem, your very humble servant,

JNO. NIXON.

Major-General *Heath*.

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CAPTAIN JOHNSON TO ABRAHAM P. LOTT.

Heights at White-Plains, November 17, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I expect in a little time to return to a private life. I should be wanting to my country if I did not recommend objects worthy of your notice, viz: Lieutenant *John Johnson* as capable of being Captain of marines in one of your ships, being an excellent officer. I will warrant my reputation on his conduct. He will not stay in the regiment if he does not get his rank, being now a first Third Lieutenant, and several officers we expect to be promoted before him. I was an eye-witness to his behaviour in the late action; and to *James Barret*, our Sergeant-Major, a man worthy of a commission. I would freely give my commission up to have all commissioned officers as good men as he is. It is the first time I have asked a favour of the Congress, except when I offered to serve my country, which I once thought the greatest honour, in their distress, but now have no more than to wish you harmony and success.

Believe me to be, gentlemen, your friend and servant,

JOHN JOHNSON.

To *Abraham P. Lott*, Esq.

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WILLIAM PALFREY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, 17 November, 1776.

SIR: I would beg leave to acquaint you that, agreeable to your orders, I have fixed my office at this place, and should be extremely glad to be informed whether I am to pay any warrants but what I receive from your Excellency.

General *Lee* has sent me several, which I have paid, but am afraid the business is not conducted with the regularity it used to be under the inspection of your Secretary.

Major *Lee*, of *Glover's* regiment, has drawn pay as Major of brigade, as well as Major of the regiment. This, I think, cannot be right; but as a warrant came from General *Lee*, I could not refuse the payment. I am told by General *Heath's* Aid-de-Camp, that as he acts in a separate department, he also has a right to draw warrants. As I would wish to conduct properly, I beg your Excellency's directions on the subject.

When you write again to the Congress, be pleased to inform them that I have now only the last remittance of five hundred thousand dollars on hand. The demand will soon be great, when the troops are dismissed; and Colonel *Trumbull* informs me that between this and the last of *December*, he shall want a million of dollars.

I have no directions from your Excellency with respect to the payment of the Militia. You'll be pleased to inform me whether I am to pay them or not.

I am, most respectfully, your Excellency's obedient and humble servant,

WM. PALFREY, *P. M. G.*

To his Excellency General *Washington*, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the *United States of America*, at *New-Jersey*.

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ORDERS TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DE ROUSSI.

SIR: You will repair with your detachment and boats to *King's Ferry*, where you will remain until further orders. You will order your boatmen to ferry over the *Hudson* river all such officers and soldiers belonging to the Army of the *United States of America*, as may from time to time have orders or permission to pass the river, and also all horses, wagons, and baggage, belonging to the Army. You are not to permit any soldier belonging to the Army to pass unless he can produce a pass, signed by a proper officer. You will also observe such directions as have been given in charge to the officer whom you relieve.

Given under my hand, at *Peekskill*, this 17th day of *November*, 1776.

W. HEATH, *M. G.*

To Lieutenant-Colonel *Regnier De Roussi*.

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*An account of Ammunition delivered to Colonel* DE ROUSSI, CANADIAN *Detachment*.

Peekskill, November 17th, 1776.

Received of Major-General *Heath* four hundred and eighty musket cartridges, for the use of my regiment.

REGNIE DE ROUSSI, *Lieut. Colonel.*

*November* 28th, gave Colonel *De Roussi* an order for six pounds of loose powder.

### H. GLEN TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Schenectady, 17th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have sent off all the batteaus I had to *Albany*, according to your request, except a few that was gone to *Fort Schuyler* with beef, soap, and candles. The barracks goes on finely now; since the Militia has come home, I have plenty of hands.

Since your departure from *Albany*, it seems Mr. *Abraham C. Cuyler*, my brother-in-law, is come home from *Hartford*, when I was sent for in order to acquaint the County Committee therewith, which I accordingly did, with a petition from Mr. *Cuyler* to the Committee for leave to remain with his family by giving security for his behaviour. But it was rejected by the Committee, and was ordered to go back to the Governour of *Connecticut*. Mr. *Cuyler*, being informed of his going back, it seems there is a conclusion for my sister and four small children to go with him; and by a second consideration of the Committee, their resolve is, that *Abraham C. Cuyler* will be brought down by an officer and a party of men to the *New-York* Convention at *Fishkill*, there to have a hearing; and as Mr. *Cuyler* has a failing most of people are subject to, of being too passionate, I would beg leave for to go down with him, if the General could spare me for about eight days, in order to see if leave could not be obtained for him to remain with his family.

I am unfortunate that I have some near relations differs with me in sentiment about the times, though I am determined to stick to the principle I set out upon to the last, let the consequences be what it will, as I have that humanity and have a feeling for a sister and four young ones. I am of opinion, should it be possible for me to be from home for about eight days, to go with him and get some careful persons to look after the works of the barracks, that I might be of service; that I might persuade Mr. *Cuyler* to take up with such restrictions or security as may be proposed by our Convention for him to remain with his family, which might be occasion of his family not breaking up. I am in hopes to be back, should I get leave, before the arrival of the troops in winter-quarters. I send the bearer on purpose, and shall expect your answer by him.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

H. GLEN.

To Major-General *Schuyler*, *Saratoga*.

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### MEMORANDUM FOR HON. MAJOR-GENERAL HORATIO GATES.

Camp Ticonderoga, November 17th, 1776.

Whereas Captain *John Hulings*, of the Second *Pennsylvania* Regiment Foot, has been in a bad state of health since his coming into *Canada*, and incapable of doing any duty in the regiment, he obtained before my return to this place, a furlough for two months, and went for *Philadelphia*. He took with him all his company books and accounts, thereby rendering it impossible for any officer in the regiment to settle with his men, who are now entering complaints against him. The above facts are well known to General *St. Clair*, who was of opinion he ought not to continue in the service.

Captain *John Bresban*, of the above regiment, is become extremely disagreeable to the whole corps of officers, by frequently getting drunk with his privates, and in many other instances (disagreeable to mention) has behaved unlike a gentleman and a soldier.

Jos. WOOD, *Col. 2d. P. R.*

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### STATE OF TROOPS AT TYONDEROGA, 17 NOVEMBER, 1776.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **WOOD'S.** | | | |
| Commissioned officers | 32 | Sick, present | 136 |
| Staff officers | 31 | Sick, absent | 53 |
| Fit for duty | 179 | On command | 19 |
| | | | 450 |
| **WAYNE'S.** | | | |
| Commissioned | 36 | Sick, present | 144 |
| Non-commissioned | 44 | Sick, absent | 22 |
| Fit for duty | 261 | On command | 53 |
| | | | 560 |
| **IRVINE'S.** | | | |
| Commissioned | 25 | Sick, present | 182 |
| Non-commissioned | 27 | Sick, absent | 62 |
| Fit for duty | 199 | On command | 26 |
| | | | 521 |
| **WHITCOMB'S.** | | | |
| Commissioned | 29 | Sick, present | 83 |
| Non-commissioned | 27 | Sick, absent | 54 |
| Fit for duty | 178 | On command | 70 |
| | | | 441 |
| **DAYTON'S.** | | | |
| Commissioned | 36 | Sick, present | 24 |
| Non-commissioned | 48 | Sick, absent | 49 |
| Fit for duty | 445 | On command | 11 |
| | | | 613 |
| **BURRELL'S.** | | | |
| Commissioned | 24 | Sick, absent | 31 |
| Non-commissioned | 31 | On command | 51 |
| Fit for duty | 81 | On furlough | 28 |
| Sick, present | 66 | | 317 |
| | | | 2902 |

Artillery—Staff—Artificers—A regiment from Portsmouth, in New Hampshire.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bond's | (M.) | 279 |
| Porter's | (M.) | 270 |
| Reed's | (N. Ham.) | 251 |
| Bedel's | (Ham.) | 325 |
| Stark's | ( " ) | 295 |
| Poor's | ( " ) | 407 |
| Greaton's | (Mass.) | 283 |
| Patterson's | ( " ) | 331 |
| Phinney's | ( " ) for Ft. George | 356 |
| | | 2797 |
| Dr. Haas's | 472 | |
| Wynd's — Time expired and marched. | 285 | |
| Maxwell's | 350 | |
| | | 1107 |
| Wayne's | (P.) | 480 |
| Wood's | ( " ) | 388 |
| Dayton's | (Jersey) | 531 |
| Irvine's | (P.) | 470 |
| Burrell's | (C.) | 262 |
| Whitcomb's | (M.) | 388 |
| | | 2519 |
| Wingate and Wyman's | | 1020 |
| Swift and Mott's, by Skens | | 907 |
| Brewer's | | 568 |
| Willard's | | 576 |
| J. Reed's | | 531 |
| Wigglesworth's | | 410 |
| Wheelock's | | 552 |
| Woodbridge's | | 542 |
| | | 5106 |
| | | 11,529 |

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### LOSSES SUSTAINED IN CANADA BY UDNY HAY, (LATE OF QUEBECK, TIMBER MERCHANT, NOW ASSISTANT D. Q. M. GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN AMERICAN ARMY,) IN THE YEARS '75 AND '76.

| | |
|---|---|
| Three hundred tons of ship timber, left at *St. Erras*, in the spring, worth at *Quebeck* 2*s.* pr. foot, - | £1,200 0 0 |
| Forty tons of do. left on the banks of *Lake Champlain*, worth 1*s.* per foot, - - - - | 80 0 0 |
| Left fourteen horses in the woods, of which has never heard that one was saved, worth thirty dollars each on an average, - - - - - | 168 0 0 |
| One pair of very large oxen strayed away and lost, which cost - - - - - - - - | 22 0 0 |
| Horse harness and tools left at a house on the lake, and was lost thereof I believe to the amount of - - - - - - - - - - | 50 0 0 |
| Left at *Wolfe's Cave*, when I abandoned *Quebeck*, fifteen hundred merchantable pipe staves, worth then £40 per M. - - - - | 60 0 0 |
| Five thousand wreck do., for which had been offered sixty dollars per M. - - - - - | 120 0 0 |
| Twenty empty rafts, between eighty and sixty feet long each, which had agreed to deliver at six dollars each on an average, - - - | 40 0 0 |
| All the anchors, ropes, cables and sails, with which was accustomed to carry on the business, worth at least - - - - - - - | 240 0 0 |
| | £1,988 0 0 |

N. B. This is exclusive of all the household furniture left in *Quebeck*, and a large quantity of oak timber now lying in the woods, amounting to at least three hundred tons, besides a quantity of planks sawed for building two gondolas.

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### UDNY HAY TO GENERAL GATES.

HONOURABLE SIR: The favours you have bestowed on me on many occasions, that readiness you have always showed to assist every person who you had reason to believe was a true friend to the noble cause in which we were all engaged, induces me to hope you will lay the above account before

the honourable the Continental Congress of these States, not as a claim made by me for losses sustained, as every shilling's worth of it originated from acts of my own free will; but rather as a narrative of actual facts, which, should I hereafter be found to deserve it, may induce that honourable body, on some future day, to provide for me in a way which, without being any incumbrance to the publick, may, in some measure, compensate for the heavy loss I have sustained. And that the reality of those losses may appear more clear, must beg leave to give you a short sketch of the manner in which they were occasioned.

The first article in the above account, viz: the three hundred tons of ship timber, was carried down as low as *St. Erras*, but arrived there too late to be carried over the rapids of *Chamblee* that spring, owing to General *Carleton's* having refused me the liberty of getting that assistance, either in men or provisions, which I had provided for that purpose, not for any particular grudge he bore me as an individual, but from my being represented to him as a person too much biased in favour of the general *American* cause to be trusted, or in any respect assisted; and next fall, when the waters were again sufficiently high, though I offered the best security the city of *Quebeck* could afford for my good behaviour, was by Lieutenant-Governour *Cramahé* refused the liberty to go and save my property, which at that time could very easily have been done. The consequence was that this spring the greatest part was drove off by the ice, the rest either fell into the enemy's hands or was destroyed by ourselves. In short, sir, every article I lost in the above account proceeded from my being deprived of that liberty of looking after my own affairs, which a person less suspected than myself could easily have obtained; nor can you be surprised I was watched with a jealous eye, when I acquaint you that the business I followed occasioning me yearly to employ a great number of the lower class of *Canadians* at and about *Quebeck*, it was well known I must have a considerable influence over them, and that opinion was strengthened by a leading man of that class in the suburb of *St. Rocks*, informing the Adjutant-General of the *British* Militia, at that time very assiduous in raising men for Colonel *McLean's* regiment, that he and many more were ready to take up arms, provided I would agree to march at their head; this occasioned an immediate application to me on that subject; but I thank my God neither fear of punishment, nor offers of reward, were ever able to prevail on me to sign a paper, appear on the parade, or take up the arm against that cause in which I am determined religiously, zealously, and conscientiously to discharge the duties of whatever station I may be placed in, as far as ever my abilities will permit.

As to the prices of the articles charged, Mr. *John Benfield*, of *Quebeck*, merchant, now at Congress, is a very good judge, having had a considerable connection in that branch for several years past.

I hope you will excuse this trouble, and believe me to be, with a just sense of all your favours already conferred on me, and with due respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

UDNY HAY.

Major General *Gates*.

Endorsed: General *Gates* recommends *Udny Hay* to be made Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant D. Q. M. General, stationed at *Ticonderega*.

WILLIAM CLAJON.
*French Secretary and Interpreter to the Northern Department.*

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RAWLINS LOWNDES TO SOUTH-CAROLINA ASSEMBLY.

Charles-Town, November 18, 1776.

SIR: As I am elected a member of the General Assembly for the Parish of *St. Bartholomew*, I take the liberty, thus early, to acquaint the House that I decline serving, as I shall be absent when the House meets. I humbly hope this my refusal will be accepted, that so the Parish may have an opportunity of electing another person in my room.

I am, with the greatest respect, sir, your most humble servant,

RAW. LOWNDES.

The Honourable the Speaker.

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CÆSAR RODNEY TO COLONEL PATTERSON.

Dover, November the 18th, 1776.

SIR: At the request of the members of Council and Assembly, delivered me by Mr. *Collins*, I sent to the care of *Thomas McKean*, Esq., in *Philadelphia*, by *John Palmer*, shallopman, sixty blankets and all the clothes of any kind whatsoever that could be procured here suitable for the *Delaware* battalion. They were packed in three hogsheads and accompanied with a letter to Mr. *Wheat*. But as the collectors of those articles had not then made me their return in proper order, I could not send them the invoice and account of them. I have now enclosed you a general account of them and the charges thereon, all which I have presently charged to this Government as directed by Mr. *Collins*.

On *Monday*, the 4th of this month, one *George Gibson*, who says he is a Captain in the First *Virginia* Regiment, was sent by the State of *Virginia* and General *Lee* on an expedition to *New-Orleans*, and was passed through here with letters from the Governour of that place to Congress, applied to me to assist him with horses and a small matter of cash. I procured horses to send him a part of the way, let him have six pounds, which was all he asked, and have enclosed you his receipt for it. As the money was advanced for the publick service, I should be obliged to you to procure it again for me. Before I let him have the money, he showed his credentials, signed by Mr. *Pendleton* and many other gentlemen of note in *Virginia*.

Yesterday and the day before, I had two letters from General *McKenley*, with copies of other letters enclosed, informing that a great number of vessels had sailed from *New-York*; that it was expected that they intended up *Delaware*, to pay *Philadelphia* a visit. On the receipt of this piece of intelligence, I immediately issued and sent orders to all the Field Officers in this and *Sussex* County, to see that their several battalions were immediately prepared, with their arms, accoutrements, &c., to march when and where they should receive orders for that purpose. This I did in discharge of my duty as commanding officer; but between you and I, I no more believe they are coming at this season of the year to attack *Philadelphia* than I believe they intend besieging the moon.

I am pleased to find by the postscript of Mr. *Hancock's* letter, that *Carleton* and his forces have retreated. Whenever you have any thing, either publick or private, worth communicating, and should be fortunate enough to steer clear of those violent lazy fits that sometimes seize you, I should be much obliged to you to let me have it.

I am, with much respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

CÆSAR RODNEY.

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BOARD OF WAR TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

War Office, 18th November, 1776.

SIR: The *Hancock and Adams*, loaded from *France* with military stores and other articles for the use of the Continent, was taken by a *Rhode-Island* privateer, and carried into the port of *Dartmouth*, in *New-England*. The muskets, powder, lead, and gun-flints, are to be delivered by virtue of the enclosed resolution of Congress, to the order of this Board. We have wrote to the Committee of *Bedford*, in whose district *Dartmouth* lies, to deliver to your order such of the before-mentioned articles as you shall direct.

We have the honour to be, with great esteem, sir, your very humble servants,

BENJ'N HARRISON,
JAMES WILSON,
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE.

General *Washington*.

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IN CONGRESS, *November* 15, 1776.—The Secret Committee having reported that the Cargo imported in the *Hancock and Adams*, which has been carried into the port of *Bedford*, in *Massachusetts-Bay*, consisted of the following articles: 72 chests of Arms, 311 barrels Gunpowder, 338 pigs of Lead, 9 casks of Gun-Flints, 1 case of Pins, 133 barrels of Tin-Plates, 5 cases of Iron-Wire, 70 casks of Saltpetre, 10 bales of Merchandise:

*Resolved*, That the Muskets, Powder, Lead, and Gun-Flints, be delivered by the Committee of *Bedford* to the order of the Board of War, who are to inform the General of these stores, and direct the whole or any part to him that may be wanted for the use of the Army, with an injunction not to put the Muskets into the hands of any but those

soldiers who inlisted under the late resolves and regulations of Congress.

Extract from the Minutes:

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*

True copy: RICHARD PETERS, *Secretary.*

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MEMORIAL OF ISAAC COX IN BEHALF OF ALEXANDER FRAZER AND OTHER INHABITANTS OF PROVIDENCE.

[Read 18th November, 1776.]

*To the honourable the Delegates of the Thirteen* UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA, *in Congress assembled:*

*The Memorial of* ISAAC COX, *of the City of* PHILADELPHIA, *merchant, in behalf of* ALEXANDER FRAZER *and of* JOHN KEMP *and* ANTHONY KEMP, *of the Island of* PROVIDENCE, *merchants, respectfully showeth:*

That some time in the month of *August* last two sloops, called the *Dragon* and *Molly*, were seized and taken at or near the Island of *Providence* aforesaid, by Captain *Craig* and Captain *Robeson*, commanders of the private sloops of war called the *Congress* and the *Chance*, and brought into the port of *Philadelphia*.

That the said Captains *Craig* and *Robeson* also seized and took on board the said two sloops called the *Dragon* and *Molly*, twenty negro slaves, and brought them also into the port of *Philadelphia*. That the said two sloops called the *Dragon* and the *Molly*, and the said twenty negro slaves taken and found on board them, are, and at the time of the seizure and capture aforesaid were, the property of the said *Alexander Frazer* and of the said *John* and *Anthony Kemp*. That the said *Alexander Frazer* and *John* and *Anthony Kemp* now are, and at the time of the seizure and capture aforesaid were, inhabitants of the Island of *Providence* aforesaid.

That the said two private sloops of war belong to and were fitted out by *Andrew Caldwell* and *John Bayard*, of the city of *Philadelphia* aforesaid, merchants, and divers other persons inhabitants of the State of *Pennsylvania*.

Your memorialist further showeth, that the said two sloops called the *Dragon* and the *Molly*, remained in the port of *Philadelphia* a considerable time, and that no libel was filed or any proceedings whatever were had against them in order to try the legality of the captures aforesaid.

That your memorialist having received a letter from the said *Alexander Frazer*, one of the owners aforesaid, informing your memorialist of the seizures and captures aforesaid, and of the property of the said sloops and of the said twenty negroes taken and found on board them, applied to the owners of the said two private sloops of war, and requested them to deliver him up the said two sloops called the *Dragon* and the *Molly*, and the said twenty negroes, in behalf of their said owners, and to allow and pay reasonable damages for the captures aforesaid and the detention consequent thereto.

That after some little time the owners of the said two private sloops of war agreed with your memorialist to submit the determination of the justice and propriety of the captures aforesaid and the quantum of damages, to referees indifferently chosen; who, having met and considered the proofs and the allegations of the parties, did award, "That the said sloops *Dragon* and *Molly*, together with the twenty negroes, be delivered up to the said *Isaac Cox*, as factor for the owners, and that the said *Andrew Caldwell* and *John Bayard* do pay, &c., as by the award of the said referees hereunto annexed may appear."

That the said two sloops called *Dragon* and *Molly* were delivered to your memorialist in pursuance of the award aforesaid, and are now fitted and ready to depart the port of *Philadelphia* aforesaid, and to return to their owners; and as your memorialist apprehends it necessary to obtain some permit or certificate from the honourable the Congress in order to prevent any arrest or molestation from the ships of war in the service of the *United States* and from private ships of war fitted out by the inhabitants of these States, your memorialist humbly prays your Honours to take this case into consideration, and to grant to the said sloops letters of safe conduct to the port of *Providence* aforesaid, or such certificate or permit as to your Honours may seem meet, &c.

ISAAC COX.

Philadelphia, November 18th, 1776.

We, the subscribers, arbitrators chosen by *Andrew Caldwell* and *John Bayard*, in behalf of themselves and the other owners of the privateer sloops of war *Chance* and *Congress*, and *Isaac Cox*, in behalf of the owners of the sloops *Dragon* and *Molly* and twenty negroes taken by the privateers aforesaid, to settle and determine what damages, or if any should be allowed to the owners of the vessels and negroes aforesaid, having heard the allegations of the parties, do award:

That the said sloops *Dragon* and *Molly*, together with the twenty negroes, be delivered up to the said *Isaac Cox* as factor for the owners, and that the said *Andrew Caldwell* and *John Bayard* pay to him three hundred and twenty-eight pounds, current money of this State. The vessels to be delivered in like order and condition as when taken, reasonable wear and tear only excepted.

THOMAS FITZSIMMONS,
SAMUEL HOWELL,
THOMAS WHARTON, Jun.,
SHARPE DELANY.

Philadelphia, 30th October, 1776.

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MEMORIAL OF BENJAMIN EYRE.

*To the honourable the Continental Congress:*

*The Memorial of* BENJAMIN EYRE, *of* PHILADELPHIA, *shipwright:*

Humbly representing, that his petition of the 24th *October* last, preferred to your Honours, for the payment of certain services by him done, together with his bill of charges for the same services, has been by your order referred to the Board of Treasury. And they, by stating that account upon a postulatum or principle by them for similar cases adopted, have reduced your memorialist's said account to a sum less than half that which he thinks his said services are worth in justice and reason, the difference between his said bill and the taxation thereof made by the Board of Treasury is clearly appearing on the face of the synopsis of both accounts hereunto subjoined.

Your memorialist solemnly disclaims all those vague pretensions and presumptions of artists and tradesmen, in favour of their own knowledge and deserts. He only begs leave to make one or two observations upon the reduction account of the Board of Treasury, and to appeal from their settlement of his account to the wisdom and justice of the Delegates of the States of *America*.

1. First, and principally, because your memorialist's charge of building row-galleys at a certain price per ton is made agreeable to the usage and custom of shipbuilders in the Old and New World. But your Board of Treasury reduces and confines him to accept of daily wages and rations; which rule of ascertaining the *quantum meruit* could never be established against the constant custom without a previous contract between the employer and the workmen. And that the resolve of Congress to pay the journeymen carpenters thirteen pounds and the master builders double that sum per month, and to allow them stated rations, was made a month after your memorialist's setting out for *New-York*, and could have no retrospect to bind him, or fix upon him an express contract, when he, at the desire of Brigadier-General *Mifflin*, and on his promise that he should be handsomely rewarded, left *Philadelphia* without making any contract at all.

2. Secondly, because the Board of Treasury have allowed your memorialist rations, which he can in no wise accept of. When he arrived at *New-York*, he did not choose to live in that great town like as in a camp or barracks; he hired a house, furnished it, and kept regular house, and one horse constantly employed in the publick service, all which in the dearness of time has actually cost him more than fifteen shillings per day: and this he spent the freer as he never expected to be at any charge to the publick for his daily expenses, but to be paid for his work by the ton.

Therefore your memorialist most humbly submits to your Honours whether his charges of twenty-five shillings per ton for three row-galleys finished, and fifteen shillings for the one not finished, are too high? He left his own yard and his work in hand unfinished, by which, if he had staid at home he might well have earned more than what he has charged for his work abroad.

And your memorialist, as in duty, &c.,

BENJAMIN EYRE.

Philadelphia, November 18, 1776.

THE SYNOPSIS IN THE WITHIN MEMORIAL REFERRED TO.

A.

*Benjamin Eyre's charges.*

| | |
|---|---|
| To building three Row Galleys, 60 feet keel, 18 feet beam, 6 feet hold, 68 tons each, at 25 shillings per ton | £255 00 0 |
| To one Boat left on the stocks, at 15 shillings per ton | 51 00 0 |
| To 27 days' acting as an Assistant to the Quartermaster General, at 30 shillings per day | 40 10 0 |
| | £346 10 0 |

B.

*The Board of Treasury's allowances.*

| | |
|---|---|
| For 134 days' service in constructing Row Galleys, as builder, at £26 per month, is 4 months 14 days | £116 2 8 |
| For 134 days' Rations, 3 rations per day, is 402 rations, at 8 pence per ration | 13 8 0 |
| For going to and coming from *New-York*, in lieu of rations, at 3¼ pence *Pennsylvania* currency, allowed 200 miles | 3 2 6 |
| For horse-hire and traveling expenses going to *Albany* to engage boards for the Army, at 15 shillings, *Pennsylvania* currency, per day, 27 days employed in the service | 20 5 0 |
| For 134 pints of Rum, being 16 6-8 gallons, at 9 shillings | 7 10 9 |
| | £160 8 11 |

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EDWARD SHIPPEN AND OTHERS TO THE COUNCIL OF SAFETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Lancaster, the 8th November, 1776.

The bearer hereof, Mr. *Marcus Young*, being desirous of an ensigncy in the *German* battalion, we, the subscribers, members of Committee for the County of *Lancaster*, beg leave to mention, that he is of a very reputable and worthy family in the borough of *Lancaster;* that he served during the last year's campaign in one of the Rifle companies, and accompanied the Militia of Colonel *Ross's* battalion during their march and stay at the camp in the *Jerseys*. That from all report he hath behaved like a spirited good soldier, and we hope will prove himself worthy of such command as it may be thought proper to honour him with.

EDW'D SHIPPEN, JOHN WHITMOR, Jun.,
MATHIAS SLOUGH, SEBASTIAN GRAFF,
ADAM REIGART, WILLIAM ATLEE,
ANDREW GRAFF, J. YEATES.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of the State of *Pennsylvania*.

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Lancaster, November the 26th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: This will be handed to you by my brother, *Marcus Young*, who is gone to *Philadelphia* with a recommendation for an Ensign's commission in the *German* battalion (of which I informed you heretofore.) He would be very glad of having your name affixed to his recommendation. I would further mention to you that there will be a vacancy in a few days, for a second lieutenancy in Second Battalion; *Frederick Geiser*, a Second Lieutenant, who a few days ago married *John Carpenter's* daughter, is going down to resign, and has mentioned to me that *Marcus* might stand a good chance for getting in as youngest Second Lieutenant, to which I think he is as much entitled as most. Your assistance, which *Marcus* will ask of you, shall be thankfully acknowledged by, sir, your most humble servant,

SEBASTIAN GRAFF.

To *Jasper Yeates*, Esq., at *Philadelphia*.

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December 2d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: If it is possible to do any thing for this young man, with respect to an ensigncy or lieutenancy in the *German* battalion, you would do me a particular favour in affording him your assistance. His youth is the only objection against him, but of that he will mend every day.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. YEATES.

To *R. Peters*, Esq.

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GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Burlington, 18th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 7th and 14th I have had the honour to receive, and shall pay all possible attention to the requisitions therein contained. Should I be honoured with any other despatches from you during the sitting of our Assembly, which will probably last about a month, you will please to direct to me at *Burlington*.

With sentiments of the sincerest respect, I am your most humble and most obedient servant,

WILL. LIVINGSTON.

The Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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LORD STIRLING TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Brunswick, November 18th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: In consequence of the retreat of the *British* Army from the *White-Plains*, General *Washington* ordered me to march with the van of his Army towards this place. I crossed *Hudson's* river in the Highlands with eight regiments of foot, three of which I have left at *Rahway* and the other five I brought to this place yesterday. The loss of *Fort Washington* will leave the enemy at leisure to think of other movements, and it is not improbable they may attempt to push through this country towards *Philadelphia*. I shall therefore take every step which may occur to me as necessary to defeat such a design. The reports that have been circulated of their having embarked a body of men on board of a fleet which sailed a few days ago is without foundation. That fleet consisted of about one hundred and fifty sail of empty transports and store ships, under covoy of Admiral *Shuldham* in the *Bristol*, with two frigates. These ships are chiefly bound to *Ireland* for provisions.

I have no particulars of the loss on either side at *Fort Washington*, but I have no doubt that the enemy have dearly paid for the possession.

With the highest esteem and regard, I am, your most obedient, humble servant,

STIRLING.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL PALFREY.

Hackensack, November 18th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I just now received the favour of your letter of the 17th. I confess I did not expect that any warrants would have been presented to you for payment, except those which I signed myself. The inconveniences which might arise, if several persons in the same Army were allowed to draw are obvious, and such as might produce great uneasiness and injustice to the publick. All who applied to me were told that the abstracts were to be deposited with you and sent down in order to be signed by me at once, or that they would be completed by my signature, if brought at different times. I cannot allow double pay to Major *Lee* or any other officer. It is expressly against the resolves of Congress. The Militia will be paid on making out proper abstracts, and such as are satisfactory to you, as other troops are. You must inform their officers that they should be very particular in not charging for a longer time than the men were in actual service, and the abstracts should be certified by their Brigadiers or Colonels commandant.

As I cannot conceive it will be for the publick good that warrants should be drawn by different officers, and to prevent further mistakes on that account, I request that you will remove your office near my head quarters, and pay no warrants hereafter but such as come from me, giving notice of your removal. I shall mention to Congress the demands that will be on you, desiring that provision may be made for the same.

I am, &c. GO. WASHINGTON.

To Lieutenant-Colonel *William Palfrey*, Paymaster-General.

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Hartford, December 16th, 1776.

Messrs. *Mills* and *Hicks*, late printers in *Boston*, have opened an office in *New-York*, in company with one *Howe*, where they print a weekly paper, from one of which the following paragraphs are extracted:

"*New-York, November* 18.—The ships fitted out from *England*, for the supply of the Fleet and Army with necessary stores, such as wines, spirits, woolens, and linens, &c., have also supplied the town in great abundance.

"The 9th instant, a fleet of victualers, with five hundred recruits, arrived here from *Corke*, in eight weeks; they were dogged for several days on this coast by a brig and schooner, supposed to be rebel privateers.

"*Tuesday* last about one hundred transports sailed from *Sandy-Hook* for *Great Britain*, under convoy of his Majesty's ships *Fowey* and *Active*. In the former his Excellency Lord *Dunmore* took his passage for *England*.

"Last *Wednesday* a country carter was taken into custody for having in his possession an *English* horse belonging to the train, and another horse was taken from a gentleman's negro, but the fellow giving a good account of himself, and it appearing that his master had not the knowledge to whom the horse belonged, he was suffered to go home with a reprimand."

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GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fort Lee, November 18th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The much greater part of the enemy marched off from *Fort Washington* and above *King's Bridge* this morning. Their route appeared to be towards *New-York*. One of the train of artillery came across the river last night on a raft. By his account the enemy must have suffered greatly on the north side of *Fort Washington*. Colonel *Rawlings's* regiment was posted there, and behaved with great spirit. Colonel *Magaw* could not get the men to man the lines, otherwise he would not have given up the fort.

I am sending off the stores as fast as I can get wagons. I have sent three expresses to *Newark* for boats, but can get no return of what boats we may expect from that place. The stores here are large, and the transportation by land will be almost endless. The powder and fixed ammunition I have sent off first by land, as it is an article too valuable to trust upon the water.

Our *Bergen* guard were alarmed last night, but believe without much reason.

I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

NATHANAEL GREENE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, at *Hackensack*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, November 18, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: On the 12th instant I called a council to consider and determine upon the posts most important and proper to be occupied by our troops. There were present Brigadier-Generals *James* and *George Clinton* and *Scott*. (General *Morris*, Colonel *Duer*, and Colonel *Putnam*, whom I invited to sit with us.) After deliberation, it was thought best to make the following disposition of the troops at this post for the present, viz: Two regiments to take post on the west side of *Hudson's* river, at the entrance of the Highlands, near *Sidnum's* bridge, at *Ramapaugh* river; one brigade on the heights above *Peekskill* landing, and the remainder at the gorge of the mountains, beyond *Robinson's* bridge.

I have sent Colonel *Huntington's* and *Tyler's* regiments to *Sidnum's* bridge; General *George Clinton's* brigade on the heights above the landing; and the remaining three regiments of General *Parsons*, viz: Colonel *Prescott's*, *Ward's*, and *Wyllys's*, and General *Scott's* brigade, to the gorge of the mountains, by *Robinson's* bridge. Barracks and works are erecting at each of those places.

Yesterday the President of the Convention of the State of *New-York* directed to me Colonel *De Roussi*, with his *Canadian* detachment, who left *Albany* a few days since, in a number of batteaus; a return of the detachment is with the returns sent to the Adjutant-General. I have ordered the detachment to *King's Ferry*, to do duty at that place, as they are well acquainted with boats, until I know your Excellency's pleasure as to their destination.

Three Colonels, three Lieutenant-Colonels, three Majors, and about twenty Captains, appointed by the Committee of the State of *Connecticut* to serve in the new Army, have declined the service; the vacancies are to be filled up on *Wednesday* next. General *Parsons* has importuned me for leave to attend the Governour and Council, which I have granted, and hope for your Excellency's approbation.

I have just received by the express from your Excellency the disagreeable news of the loss of *Fort Washington*, the rumour of which had just before spread here. I much regret the loss of so many brave and good officers as there were in the battalions at that post.

I have been using my utmost endeavours to get a return of the killed, taken, and missing, in the several regiments of my division, but cannot send it completed, as Colonel *Lasher*, of General *Scott's* brigade, is as yet unable to ascertain those of his regiment. Such as I have received I have sent; the others shall be transmitted to your Excellency as soon as I can obtain them.

I have taken the liberty to enclose an abstract for three months' pay, and ask the favour that your Excellency would be pleased to sign the warrant.

The Colonels and Paymasters of the regiments here are complaining of the great distance which they are obliged to go to obtain warrants for the payment of their abstracts. I have promised them that I would lay the matter before your Excellency, and solicit some easier expedient if consistent with your Excellency's pleasure.

The chain which has been extended across the river above this place has broke twice. I must confess that from my first hearing of the intention, I expected no real advantage from it.

General *Clinton*, with some gentlemen from the Convention of the State of *New-York*, are to explore and sound the river to-morrow.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL JAMES CLINTON.

Peekskill, November 18, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have just received the disagreeable news of the reduction of *Fort Washington* the day before yesterday, but have not as yet had the particulars. The enemy will now have the possession of the river below us; and it behooves us to exert every power to render the river impassable at the Highlands. I beg, therefore, that you would endeavour to complete your works and the obstructions in the river as fast as possible.

I am, dear sir, with esteem, your humble servant,

W. HEATH.

To General *James Clinton*.

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PETER GARSON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peekskill, November 18th, 1776.

SIR: Agreeable to your directions I have taken an account of the flour at *Peekskill* landing, and find four hundred and ninety barrels, weighing about one hundred and ninety pounds apiece, and expends daily about twenty barrels.

I am, sir, yours at command,

PETER GARSON, *D. C.*

To the Honourable General *Heath*.

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DR. MCKNIGHT TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peekskills, November 18, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR: Your just sense of the necessity of establishing a part of the General Hospital at the *Kills*, for the reception and proper accommodation of the sick of your division, has caused me to make inquiry for houses which might be proper for that purpose, but could find none that, in my opinion, would answer that end so well as the churches, which are by no means at present fitted for it, nor will be until fire-places or stoves are provided, previous to the reception of any; and bunks or cribs for them to lie in are absolutely necessary for their comfortable accommodation, which ought to be immediately fitted or made within the churches or any other building should be made choice of. Captain *Adams* of the mechanicks is the only proper person to see and order the necessary alterations, as also the making of the bunks.

Should this meet with your approbation, you will be pleased to give Captain *Adams* his orders.

Your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

CHA'S MCKNIGHT, JR.

To Hon. Major-General *Heath*.

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ELIHU MARVIN TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Orange County, November 18, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Whereas complaints were made to the Committee against one *Cornelius Thorpe* and one *Murrice*,

alias *Sanford*, for passing Continental bills altered from two to ten dollars and from seven to ten, the Committee sent immediately after them, and found said *Murrice* in *Brunswick* jail, then pursued and brought said *Thorpe* back, who, when examined, confessed he had altered four bills and stole a saddle in *Oxford*, and that he and said *Murrie* stole two horses in the *Jerseys* and sold them in *Orange* County; whereupon I committed said *Thorpe* to *Goshen* jail, and gave orders to the keeper thereof to keep him safely till he was delivered thereupon by the County Committee or some other lawful authority.

I therefore beg for the direction of the honourable Convention what shall be done in the matter. The young man is poor and not able to help himself with necessaries.

I have sent two of the bills to the honourable Convention by Esquire *Little*, which was passed by said *Thorpe* and *Murrie*. The owners of the said bills are *Besaleel Seely* and *Joshua Miller*, who beg to be made whole, for the bills stand them in ten dollars each.

For further information inquire of Esquire *Little*.

I am, gentlemen, with great esteem, your very humble servant,

ELIHU MARVIN, *Chairman*.

To the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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This is to certify, to all whom it may concern, that *Joshua Miller* personally appeared before us, and on oath did declare that he received a two dollar bill from *William Sanford* which was altered to a ten dollar bill, and that said *Sanford* had passed a seven dollar bill to one *Besaleel Sealy* which was altered to a ten dollar bill. Said *Sanford* being present was asked concerning the above charge, confessed the whole to be true.

JNO. LLOYD, *Justice*.
LUCUS SCHENCK.

To the Committee of *Oxford*, *Orange* County.

South-Amboy, Middlesex County, 9th November, 1776.

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PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT TO ROBERT BOYD.

Fishkill, November 18, 1776.

SIR: It gives the members of the Convention very great concern to be informed that some of the soldiers who are discharged and returning from the northward, after serving their country with fidelity, are treated inhospitably and refused accommodations, though they are sick and unable to travel. Beside the inhumanity of such ungenerous usage, nothing can more effectually injure the publick service, as it must discourage at this critical time the inlistment of the Army, on which the preservation of *America*, next to Divine power, ever depends. We beg, therefore, that you will immediately give orders that these and all other soldiers, under the like circumstances, be treated with kindness and hospitality, and assisted to the places of their residence.

I am, in the name of the members of the Convention, sir, your most humble servant,

P. VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice-President*.

To *Robert Boyd*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee at *New-Windsor*.

P. S. The charge of such soldiers as are unable to pay will be advanced by the Convention.

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ROBERT BOYD, JUN., TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

New-Windsor, November 18th, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: Your kind favour of this day, per Mr. *Cooper*, just now came to hand, and note the contents. Am much afraid there is too much reason for the complaints you mention, which I am extremely sorry for. The people of *New-Windsor* have always appeared extremely friendly to the *American* cause, but fear they are now catching the spirit of the times, taking every opportunity to get money, even though to the disadvantage of the grand cause in which we are embarked. Yesterday morning I was applied to by some of Colonel *Winds's* regiment, who are sick, in order to be forwarded to *Elizabeth-Town*. I immediately went over, and as wagons are very scarce in our neighbourhood, thought the most eligible way would be to transport them by water to *Haverstraw*; and for that purpose engaged a small boat and two young men to work her, in order to convey them, as I was going some distance in the country. After my departure, some misunderstanding took place between the persons that was to go in the boat in order to work her, which prevented their going; and this morning the boatman, who is unwell and unable to go in her, unrigged her and laid her up for the winter. I heard nothing of the matter till this evening, some of the people came to me with complaints. As it was then too late, put the matter off until morning, when I was resolved to see the people righted some way or other. In the interim I have received your letter, which in future shall be a rule for my conduct, and you may depend that every thing in my power shall be done agreeable to your request.

I am, sir, with all respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

ROBERT BOYD.

Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq.

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JOHANNES SLEIGHT TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Committee Chamber, Kingston, November 18th, 1776.

SIR: The inhabitants of this County, till within a few days, have been distinguished for their firmness and attachment to the resolves of Congresses and Committees; in short, have been as peaceable, we flatter ourselves, as any people in this State; but it is with regret that we are under the disagreeable necessity to inform you that we are daily alarmed, and our streets filled with mobs from different parts of the County, breaking of doors and committing of outrages, to the disturbance of the peace and of the good people of this town, owing, as we have reason to believe, to the misfortune of having that detestable article called tea stowed here, which is taken by them and divided or distributed in such manner as they think fit. We have heretofore assured the good people that your Congress would pass a resolve for the disposal of that article lodged here; and it is asserted, (by what authority we know not,) that your Congress had passed a resolve to that purpose, but that before the publication thereof repealed or made void the same, which the people whom we have had before us assign in justification of their conduct in the premises. We now entreat you to advise us how and in what manner we shall suppress these disturbances. We will not presume to dictate to your honourable House, but are well assured that if a resolve was to be passed establishing a price and ordering a disposal thereof, would tend to the interest of the proprietors and the peace of the good people of this State.

We are, sir, with great respect, your very humble and obedient servant.

By order of the Committee:

JOHANNES SLEIGHT, *Chairman*.

The President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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A SPEECH OF OJISTARALE, THE GRASSHOPPER, AN ONEIDA CHIEF, TO COLONEL ELMORE, COMMANDANT OF FORT SCHUYLER.

BROTHER: I informed General *Schuyler* some time ago that I was going to *Niagara* on publick business, and upon my return he should hear from me. I have been no further than *Cayogon*; I am just now returned from my journey. I was advised by the sachems there to proceed no further, as the principal business I had in view when I set out from home was in a great measure answered by the intelligence I received at *Cayogon*. I was there informed by *Indians*, who came from *Niagara*, that the several tribes of *Indians*, particularly the *Chippewas*, *Ottawas*, and *Cherokees*, who had been convened at that post, were all dismissed and gone to their respective homes; that Colonel *Butler* had invited them to return and improve the season for hunting, for he should not proceed to *Albany* the ensuing winter, the season being too far advanced—should take up winter quarters at *Niagara*, and also that the commanding officer at that post had for some time been dangerously sick and his life despaired of; that Colonel *Butler* had also sent to all the *Seneka's* villages to repair to *Niagara*, and such as needed should receive powder for their fall hunt, but no other of the Confederacy east of the *Senekas* were invited to receive the King's bounty, and this reason given for it: "they had countenanced the *Bostonians* and wished them to succeed." These *Indians* also informed me that Colonel

*Butler* had been very much alarmed with a report that General *Schuyler* was on his march with a vast body of troops to that post, on which account he had agreed with a party of *Indians* to escort him to *Detroit* in case *Niagara* should be attacked, and the Governour of *Canada* could not send timely relief. The *Indians* say they had not two hundred regular soldiers in the garrison exclusive of Tory deserters who had fled there for refuge.

"Tis my opinion that you will have no trouble from the enemy this way till the next spring. I desire you will send this intelligence to General *Schuyler* as soon as may be, as I promised him, upon my return, he should hear from me. The Chiefs join in this petition. You may also let General *Schuyler* know that it is my opinion the *Senekas* have all agreed to side with the King of *Great Britain*; but the *Cayogas* and *Onondagoes* (except a few) are friendly to the *Americans*, and regard the treaty at *Albany* and *German-Flatts*. One thing I have to acquaint you with: that some of us sachems and warriours of *Oneida* have severely reprimanded the *Mohauk* warriour (called *Karahkontes*) and his party for killing one of Colonel *Dayton's* scouts on this side *Oswego*, and taken another prisoner. We should have interposed had we known their design when one of *Karahkontes's* party passed through *Kanogdarage*, and our friendly disposition was manifested in what we did a few weeks after this happened. When *Tchonasgweakte*, the *Onondago* chief, sent us word that *Karahkonte* and his party were on their way to *Oncida* to take our minister and the gunsmith, two of our sachems and three warriours set out instantly for *Kanahsorage*, and there met the before-mentioned *Mohawk*, and forbid his coming into *Oneida* or any of his party.

We have not yet seen the other *Indians* who took two of Colonel *Dayton's* men that were fishing at *Fort Bull*. The *Senekas* and *Onondagoes* told us that *William*, a son of the late Sir *William*, commanded the party, one *Seneka*, called *Onuhsoekle*, one *Onondago*, called *Kanehsaron*, and two others, said to be *Messesages*. We were sorry for the loss of these men, but it was not in our power to prevent it. I hope General *Schuyler* will find us *Oneidas* to be fast to our covenants; our belt of union is strong. You will give my compliments to General *Schuyler* and the thirteen *United States*.

OJISTALARE—GRASSHOPPER.

Interpreted by

SAMUEL KIRKLAND, *Missionary*.

N. B. Sent to Mr. *Trumbull*, P. M. G. for the Northern Department, for his perusal.

Fort Schuyler, 18th November, 1776.

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GENERAL WOOSTER TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Saw-Pitts, 18th November, 1776.

SIR: This will be handed your Honour by my son, who is at present one of my Aid-de-Camps, and as such entitled to the rank of Major, but as he is desirous of serving in the standing Army, requests that he may be appointed first or second Captain in Colonel *Chester's* regiment, if there is room, or in some other regiment belonging to the State of *Connecticut*.

I have at present about five hundred men out of the Tenth, Thirteenth, and Sixteenth Regiments, whereas I ought to have two thousand, for it is very certain that the enemy have it in their power to send men sufficient to take or drive us off the ground any day, as they are but three hours' march from us; therefore it is very necessary that some effectual measures be taken to call out the Militia when ordered.

I am, sir, with due regard, your Honour's most obedient and very humble servant,

DAVID WOOSTER.

To the Honourable *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq.

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WORCESTER COUNTY (MASSACHUSETTS) COMMITTEE.

In Committee Chamber, Worcester, November 18, 1776.

As expedients are no longer wise, prudent, and politick, than the reasons on which they are founded exist, and effects are reversed by a mutation of causes; as the demands of our country are continually variating, and the complexion of publick affairs incessantly altering; as our dangers and our fears subside by the approach of the enemy, and their arts of division have produced unanimity; as the resolve of the State on the 8th of *May*, 1775, was a temporary provision, and has had its operation; as the resolution of our predecessors in office, disarming and consigning to this town a number of its inhabitants, was expressly to prevent their joining our avowed enemies, and to deprive them of the means of obstructing measures adopted for the common defence; as the suffering, servile, spurned attendance on a passing camp, the fate of parricides, who have joined the adversary, must deter all but the mad from repeating the experiment; and the recent epistolary lamentations of disappointed refugees* extorts the poet's cry, "Ye gods! if there be a man I hate, let attendance and dependance be his fate:" as this day's spectacle† of wretched deluded objects, the ruined exiled grovelings, spued out from a sister State, is a serious warning to persons sporting with the feelings of an whole continent, be they whom, where, or what they may, and the *Worcester* jail filled with the same engaging geniuses, will remain a standing memento of future dangers to the unfriendly; as the Congress for the continent have supposed that there were some from weakness deceived, others from apprehensions that *British* power was irresistible, frightened into opposition, and have recommended such as subjects for kindness, reason, and reformation; as the privilege of repenting is one of the most precious indulgences incident to erring mortals, and when attended with an amendment of principle and practice is happy for the man, useful to society, and pleasing to Heaven; as some of the suspected are loud in proclaiming their affection for their country, their grievances from a disarmed confinement, and their readiness for exertions in the general struggle; as early in the dispute, when the expediency of measures was the topick of the day, possibly a mere difference in opinion was the too slender grounds of some hasty suspicions, and a subsequent change of sentiment and conduct may have laid the foundations for forgiveness and friendship, which are equally Christian and political duties; as an Army, potent enough to have made all *Europe* tremble, and a fleet sufficiently fiery to have set the seas on flames, have been able in a summer's campaign only to effect the possession of lines deserted from policy, a few evacuated towns, the retreat of a picket guard, and the rout of an advanced detachment, or a rambling party, by the weight of solid columns and heavy artillery, the timorous and the doubting must have become courageous and resolved: As the disaffected from principle have not now to learn, from the enemy's not attacking our main Army, or effecting a progress into the country, from their hugging the borders of the ocean under the cover of their hostile arks, that the conquest of *America* is an event never to be expected: As under such circumstances, joining the regulars would be perpetual exile, poverty, slavery, and death, and coöperating with freemen, with *Americans*, would be rational, manly, triumph, freedom, and glory: As the present struggle is bottomed on such principles as ought to make every man a party, and the times is hastening when there can be no neuters, no drones in the hives: As the restraining an *Englishman* to a single town is in derogation of common right, depriving him of his arms, an infraction on liberty, and recording him a Tory, stamping him with infamy, and cannot be justified but upon principles of publick necessity: As a preparation for war is a duty enforced by the laws of our being, and the weapons of death are necessary for the preservation of our own and the lives of our neighbours, that the deceiver and the deceived, the timorous and the obstinate, the dissembler and the undersigning, the abusive and the well-meaning, the ambiguous and the honest, may all have a full, fair, and ample opportunity of giving full, fair, and ample assurances of their friendship to independency, and their readiness to assist and join their countrymen in opposition to both open and secret enemies: That the discontented may be disarmed of every objection, that every barrier to their duty may be removed, and suitable encouragement tendered; and finally, as more effectual provision is made, and now making, both for the restraint and punishment of him who dares to be a dangerous man, and makes war upon the rights and interest of rising States,

* Vide the late letters from *England*.

† This day above one hundred Tories passed through this town under a military guard on their way to *Exeter*.

either by avowed exertions or concealed machinations; and as no good reason can be given for continuing the mere existence of the resolve made by our predecessors aforesaid:

Therefore *Resolved*, That it is inexpedient that the resolution of the late Committee of this town, disarming and confining a number of its inhabitants, be any longer in force; that such persons once more be put upon a standing with the rest of their fellow-countrymen; that they be allowed the privileges of *Englishmen*, of friends to their country, of passing where and when they please; until they evidence by their conduct and behaviour a different character; and that such as have arms in the possession of the Committee may receive the same by making application to Mr. *Baldwin*, their Chairman.

2dly. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to all true, firm, and tried friends to their country, to endeavour to convince persons of every degree, character, and complexion, that the cause we are engaged in is of too much dignity to be sullied by rashness, too important, too seriously important, to be weakened by tumult, divisions, and party strife; that liberty receives strength and vigour from prudence and consideration; that justice, equity, regularity, and, in some instances, moderation are her closest friends; that she courts virtue as her bosom companion, and shuns vice as her dangerous enemy; and therefore equally avoiding feverish fits of political heat and cold, banishing from their breast all personal prejudices, private piques, narrow opinions, illiberal distinctions, and unbecoming jealousies; displaying a magnanimity proportional to the importance and danger of the struggle, cultivating harmony of sentiment and unanimity of councils; and carefully distinguishing between the friend and the foe: that it is wisdom (acting discreetly, firmly, unitedly, and spiritedly) to receive all such to their favour, friendship, and confidence, who will give ample and satisfactory assurances of their readiness to join in the defence of their much-injured country, and their steady persevering attachment to her glorious cause, at the same time to exercise a vigilant attention to those who continue notoriously in opposition; those who secretly influence under the principles of an affected neutrality, and those who may labour to conceal themselves under the despicable cloak of a cunning duplicity, if any such there be.

3rdly. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the good people of this town that they use their utmost endeavours immediately to equip themselves with every implement of war, as the necessary means of defence from a foreign attack, or an internal insurrection.

Per order of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety, of *Worcester*.

NATHAN BALDWIN, *Chairman*.

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MEETING OF INHABITANTS OF BOSTON.

At a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of *Boston*, on *Monday*, the 18th of *November* instant, it was voted that the following Handbill be printed and delivered to the inhabitants, for their government in giving in to the Committee an account of the damage they have received from a savage enemy, viz:

The honourable Continental Congress and the General Assembly of this State having resolved that a just and well-authenticated account of the hostilities committed by the Ministerial Troops and Navy in *America* since *March*, 1775, be collected, with proper evidence of the truth of the facts related, the number and value of the vessels, inward and outward bound, which have been seized by them, as near as can be ascertained; also the stock taken by them from the different parts of the continent: The inhabitants of the town of *Boston* are hereby notified, that Committees are appointed for each Ward to ascertain the value of the buildings wholly destroyed, and the expense of repairing such as were partly destroyed; also to receive from such persons as have been sufferers, a particular account in writing, and on oath, of the losses and damages they have suffered, either in merchandise, furniture, plate, money, or other personal estate. And those who have been sufferers by the Army or Navy are desired to get their accounts ready for the Committee on or before the 10th of *December* next, when the Committee will attend this business, and call upon the inhabitants for the number and value of the buildings destroyed by them, also for said accounts. And the inhabitants are further informed that a schedule is delivered the said Committee, containing the method in which they are to proceed in ascertaining the same.

The heads of each column being as follows:

Column 1. Names of the sufferers, and of the publick buildings destroyed, or otherwise damaged.

Column 2. Number and value of dwelling-houses, and other buildings, wholly destroyed.

Column 3. Expense of repairing dwelling-houses, wharfs, and other buildings, partly destroyed.

Column 4. Expense of repairing the meeting-houses, and other publick buildings, made use of as barracks, &c.

Column 5. Damages sustained in lands on the Neck, Common, and where their works were erected, and the fences in every part of the town.

Column 6. Value of household furniture destroyed, damaged, or carried away, by the officers and others, as appears by attested accounts lodged with the Committee.

Column 7. Number and value of vessels and cargoes seized and taken.

Column 8. Value of stock, hay, grain, houses, and other buildings, on the islands in the harbour, taken, destroyed, or damaged.

Column 9. Value of merchandise, and other effects, taken from the inhabitants, as per account of particulars.

Column 10. Value of salt thrown into the sea, liquors stove, and other articles destroyed.

Column 11. Yearly rent of dwelling-houses and other buildings occupied by the officers, or improved as barracks, some of which were contracted for, and others taken by force, and no rent paid by either.

Column 12. Yearly rent of houses occupied by the inhabitants that removed out of town, many of which still remain empty, as the occupiers are not returned.

Column 13. Number and value of arms taken from the inhabitants, lodged in the State House, and destroyed, by General *Howe's* orders.

Column 14. Value of cannon and stores taken out of the batteries, or destroyed, and the town's stock of powder.

Column 15. Charges of transporting furniture and families into the country and back to *Boston*.

Column 16. Sum total of the losses and damages.

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SAMUEL DEXTER TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Woodstock, November 18th, 1776.

SIR: I hope I shall not be thought chargeable with neglect of the trust reposed in me, first by what was then called the Provincial Congress, and afterwards by the General Court, although I am not at present possessed of any of the letters or other papers of the late Governour *Hutchinson*, and consequently am unable to comply with the order of the honourable House of the 4th instant, forwarded to me by *Jonathan Metcalf*, Esq.

When I came to this town, to visit my family, whom, at their irresistible importunity, I consented should remove hither, it was not my determination to remain so long in this unsettled situation; but Providence so ordered it that the bodily disorders which forbade my taking a seat in the House of Representatives last year, increased upon me to that degree that I ventured abroad but very little during the greatest part of the following winter.

Before I came to this place I committed all the books and papers with which I had been intrusted to the care of the Rev. *William Gordon*, of *Roxbury*, whom their Honours of the House well know to be a gentleman trustworthy and patriotick. He still has them in keeping, and I purposed they should remain with him till my return to *Dedham*, with my family, which I had made preparation for, and should, with submission to Providence, have effected some time in this month, had I not been prevented by the prevalency of the small-pox, which I judged myself an unfit subject for, under my present complaints.

My expectation is that I shall return soon; but in the mean time Mr. *Gordon* will cheerfully obey the direction of the honourable House, if applied to, by their order, for any papers that may be wanted. I have not at this distance of time a perfect recollection of my seeing among them letters from Colonel *Israel Williams* to Mr. *Hutchinson;* although

I am inclined to think I did. One from the latter to the former I well remember to have seen in one of the books, wherein he mentions "the *Dedham* Councillor" as writing "nonsense in the *Evening Post*," (so he was pleased to call it,) with a view to confute the reasoning in his long speech of *January*, 1773. Whether he was right in his conjecture or not, he knew I detested his principles of Government. Alas that I ever should have been so much mistaken as to entertain, though so long before that period, and but for a short time, a favourable opinion of a man whom all *America* are bound to execrate.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

SAMUEL DEXTER.

—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE TWO TRUNKS AT COLONEL TAYLOR'S.

The Committee appointed to examine two trunks said to be at Colonel *Taylor's*, at *Milton*, belonging to the late Governour *Hutchinson*, and to take the same into their safe-keeping if any thing should be found therein whereby the interest of this Colony may be in any wise affected, have waited on Colonel *Taylor*, who informed your Committee that he had several trunks in his possession brought from the late Governour *Hutchinson's* house. He was willing to open them, and that their contents should be fully examined, but added, that a few days past a Committee from the House had been there on the same errand, and had taken out of his possession every paper which in their opinion in any wise affect the interest of this Colony. That being the case, your Committee thought it quite needless to inspect them.

B. LINCOLN. Per order.

IN COUNCIL, *September* 11th, 1775—Read and accepted.

P. MORTON, *Deputy Secretary*.

IN COUNCIL, *September* 6, 1775—*Ordered*, That Colonel *Lincoln* and Colonel *Palmer* be a Committee to examine two Trunks, said to be at Colonel *Taylor's*, at *Milton*, belonging to the late Governour *Hutchinson*; and if they shall find therein any papers or other things whereby the interests of this Colony may be in any wise affected, they are to take the same into their safe-keeping until the further order of this Board.

PEREZ MORTON, *Deputy Secretary*.

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ABM. VAN BIBBER TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

St. Eustatia, 19th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have this day wrote you fully, and only mean by this to advise you that I have this day drawn on you, in favour of Captain *Thomas Dalling*, payable at sight, for four hundred dollars, which draft I flatter myself will be punctually honoured; and I am, with much esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

ABM. VAN BIBBER.

The honourable the Council of Safety for the State of *Maryland*.

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VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

St. Eustatia, 19th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have by different opportunities lately advised you of the change and turn that has taken place here by Government in favour of the *American* States. Now our flag flies current every day in the road.

The merchants here are always complaining of Government, until they would give as much protection and indulgence here to us as the *French* and *Spaniards* do. The orders from the States and great *West-India* Company to this Governour, for the prohibition of the export of powder, and other warlike stores, expires the 28th instant. It's made publick, and the Governour is daily expressing the greatest desire and intention to protect a trade with us here. Indeed, they begin to discover their mistake, and are now very jealous of the *French's* running away with all their trade. All kinds of goods and warlike stores are very plenty here, and much more reasonable than they are at the *French* Islands, and all your goods purchased here, and at a very great expense and risk too, they are up to *Martinique*, to be reshipped to *Maryland* in your vessels as they all arrive here.

Your flour, bread, and tobacco, is all sent down here to be sold, as this is always the best market for your produce, especially tobacco, which this is the only market for. All these goods are burthened with a very heavy freight from *Martinique* here, and never fail to suffer great abuses on the way; hogsheads broken all to pieces, and the tobacco, hove loose ashore, &c., &c. Indeed, its lessened in value, fifty per cent. All this I have often mentioned in sundry of my last letters to your honourable House.

I have enclosed all my own private accounts by three different vessels. I hope you have received some of them, and flatter myself they will be approved of, as I must assure you I never omitted doing any thing that has ever been in my power that could serve my country.

Sirs, on Mr. *Crockett's* arrival here, I intended to have returned home, and left him to settle my affairs here, but my circumstances are such that our creditors would not consent to my leaving this place until our debts are discharged. I shall endeavour to content myself until it may suit you to enable us to wind up what we have done for our State here, and will render every service in my power during my stay; though I must inform you that I dislike my station, and would be happy if it was to be in my power to leave it very soon. I have endeavoured always to encourage all the trade and speculations that was possible to any part of the Continent, and particularly to our State, as perhaps you have observed, and I have engaged into some concerns very largely in order to induce others to speculate to our State, viz: in particular in two ships ordered to be purchased in *Baltimore*, and load out from there; one of them I engaged to be a fifth, and the other a fourth concerned. This was purely to serve my country, and my engagements otherwise will scarcely admit of my being concerned. This I inform you of with an expectation that you would take the risk, profit or loss, off my hands. The plans of the voyages are good, and we will attend to and see them well managed, &c.

Mr. *John Crockett* is to return, and is the bearer of this. He is well acquainted with all matters here that you may wish to be advised of, and to him please to be referred. Should he at any time want a sum of money to execute any orders he may receive, I hope you will not hesitate to let him have it, as I assure you, gentlemen, that he will not call upon you for it, unless it is to execute orders that he may receive from me or through my recommendation, &c. I shall in future send my letters under cover to Mr. *Crockett*, who will immediately wait on whomsoever you may direct him to with them.

Our Mr. *R. H.* is at *Martinique*, and has lately despatched several of your vessels with very valuable cargoes, &c.

I am doing all I can to send home salt, and have borrowed many large sums of money in order to join with merchants here to hold part of their vessels and cargoes, to induce them to send in salt. We never had any orders to join your honourable House into partnership, or perhaps we should have chose to interested you before ourselves. Indeed, as the saying is, we are making one nail drive another, and shoeing the horse, for when we were able to pay off one debt it gave us credit for twice as much, which credit we always modestly made use of.

Captain *Robertson*, of the Continental brig *Andrew Doria*, arrived here three days ago, and saluted the fort with eleven guns. The salute was returned from the fort with eighteen-pounders, and the Captain most graciously received by his Honour the Governour, and all ranks of people. It's esteemed here by the first gentlemen a favour and honour to be introduced to Captain *Robertson*. All *American* vessels here now wear the Congress colours. Tories sneak and shrink before the honest and brave *Americans* here. *Robertson* and his officers and crew make so good an appearance in every respect, and such good order observed, that it gives the greatest pleasure to the friends of our States, and strikes the Tories with terrour and confusion.

Gentlemen, we have the honour to be, respectfully, your very humble servants,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

The honourable the Council of Safety for the State of *Maryland*.

PATRICK HENRY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Williamsburg, November 19th, 1776.

SIR: Enclosed is a bond from Major *Simms* and his securities, who are sufficiently able for duly accounting for the recruiting money necessary to raise one battalion, of which he is appointed Major.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

P. HENRY, *President.*

The Hon. Mr. *Hancock.*

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Know all men by these presents, that we, *Charles Simms*, of the County of *Yohogania*, *James Wood*, of the County of *Frederick*, and *Abraham Hite*, of the County of *Hampshire*, are held and firmly bound unto the Honourable *John Hancock*, President of the *American* Congress, to and for the use of the *American* States, in the sum of twenty-nine thousand six hundred dollars, to the which payment well and truly to be made to the said *John Hancock*, his executors, administrators, or assigns, in trust to and for the use of the said States, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated this eighteenth day of *November*, Anno Domini 1776.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas the said *Charles Simms* hath received a letter from the Governour of *Virginia* to the *Virginia* Delegates in Congress, recommending to Congress to advance to him, the said *Charles Simms*, fourteen thousand eight hundred dollars, for bounty money of one of the six additional battalions to be raised in *Virginia:* If, therefore, the said *Charles Simms* shall receive the said money, or any part thereof, and shall render a just account of what of the said money he shall disburse in the aforesaid service according to order of the Congress, and refund any surplus that may remain in his hands, then the above obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

CHARLES SIMMS,
JAMES WOOD,
ABR'M HITE.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of
ARCH'D BLAIR, *Chairman.*

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ARCHER & HARRIS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Harford County, November 19th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We have sent to *Baltimore* town amount of eight hundred and sixty-five and three-eighths yards of hemp linen, and deposited it with Mr. *John Smith* for your order. Before it should be used agreeable to our engagement with the honourable Convention, we hope you will order it to be valued. Enclosed we send you a bill of what it cost us in manufacturing per yard, with the cost of sending it to *Baltimore*, without a farthing profit. Mr. *Smith* will send it to you at *Annapolis*, should you require it.

We are, gentlemen, with the greatest respect, you most obedient and very humble servants,

ARCHER & HARRIS.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis.*

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JAMES TILGHMAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Colonel Tilghman's, November 19th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your favour of the 14th instant, notifying my reappointment, and desiring that I would join the Board as soon as possible, I received only this morning. Had it reached me sooner I should have taken the earliest opportunity of answering it, to obviate any inconveniences which might arise from the want of your full complement of members.

The repeated honours I have experienced from the Convention merit my warmest acknowledgments, and afford agreeable testimonials of their approbation of my conduct as a member of the Council; and I could wish it were still in my power, without making too great a sacrifice, to remain of that body, as the fullness of my gratitude would, perhaps, be better manifested by a continuance in that department than any professions I can make; but as that cannot be effected unless under such circumstances as scarcely leave it optional to act or not, and in my opinion will justify a temporary retirement with one who has been so long and constantly engaged in the service of the publick as I have, I am obliged, however reluctantly, to decline a further continuance, and to request you to accept this as my resignation. When I was last in company with the President of the Convention, I desired that he would do me the favour to signify to them the impracticability of my remaining longer at your Board, and to request for me that I might not be in the nomination; but I presume, as I am in, it escaped his memory from the hurry of business, and was not intimated to them. I am persuaded if it had been they would have dispensed with my acting any longer in that station, and cheerfully indulged me with the recess, which I am now constrained to take.

I have the honour to be, most respectfully, gentlemen, your obedient, humble servant,

JAS. TILGHMAN.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis.*

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BOARD OF WAR TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

War Office, November 19th, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by the Board of War to inform your Excellency that they have given orders for the immediate collection of all the prisoners in *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, and those in the more southern States. They are to be sent to *Fort Lee*, agreeable to your Excellency's desire; but a considerable time will elapse before the whole can possibly arrive. There are a great number in *Virginia*, whose journey will be long. But perhaps it may be better that their arrivals at *Fort Lee* should happen at different times, lest their too great numbers might be disadvantageous.

It would be much better if your Excellency could be furnished with lists of all the prisoners, that you might at one view be enabled to settle the arrangement of the exchange; but although frequent attempts have been made by the Board to obtain such lists from the several States, their endeavours have hitherto been for the most part ineffectual. Such accounts of prisoners as are in the possession of the Board shall be sent, imperfect as they are.

Measures are taken to restore Major *Stewart's* servant, *Peter Jack*. He was permitted to go to *Princetown* with Doctor *Witherspoon*, who has been wrote to on the subject and desired to send the man to your Excellency at *Hackensack*. Many prisoners have been desirous to inlist, and some have been accepted in our service. Is it your opinion that these people should return? or will it not be dangerous for them so to do? The enemy have inlisted great numbers of our people, who were prisoners, and it is but justice that we should retaliate. Offers, however, from prisoners to engage in our service have in general been refused.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, your very obedient and most humble servant,

RICHARD PETERS, *Secretary.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

P. S. An officer from camp informs that *Fort Lee* is about being evacuated; if so your Excellency will no doubt alter the place of destination of the prisoners.

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SAMUEL CHASE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 19th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I arrived here yesterday afternoon. I have seen our Commissioners. Congress, in answer to the three propositions from our State for raising our quota, have given a copy of a resolve, relative to the *Massachusetts-Bay*, who has, I am informed, offered thirty shillings a month extra for the privates, in which Congress agrees to give twenty dollars bounty to each soldier who will inlist for three years. Our Commissioners are much distressed.

On *Saturday* last General *Howe* with his whole Army surrounded *Fort Washington*. We had two thousand men in the fort. There were two lines outside of the fort. A large body of our men marched out to the further lines, and sustained the attack with great bravery, until a party of the enemy enclosed them within the first lines on the back of our troops. Our forces then retreated into the fort, and soon afterwards surrendered. It seems agreed here, that the fort was injudiciously defended, and not with the bravery that might have been expected from the officer, Colonel *Magaw*,

who commanded, and the troops, which consisted of *Magaw's* and *Cadwalader's* battalions, and a party of the Flying-Camp, chiefly *Pennsylvanians*. If the fort had held out till the morning, General *Washington* had expectations of bringing off the men. However, two thousand men could not, I suppose, withstand an army of at least five times their numbers. Thus we have lost two thousand of our best troops, and some of our best officers, with provisions and stores for four months.

Be pleased to send us the form of Government when published. I write this in Congress.

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL CHASE.

The honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis.*

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RICHARD PETERS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

War Office, Philadelphia, 19th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: An exchange of prisoners having been long agreed upon, but prevented from taking effect by the General's being constantly employed in counteracting the designs of the enemy, it is now desired that no longer delay may be used.

General *Washington* writes very pressingly for all prisoners of war to be sent to *Fort Lee*, in *New-Jersey*, addressed to the care of General *Greene*, commanding officer there. You will therefore be pleased immediately to collect all the *British* prisoners in the State of *Maryland*, and have them properly escorted to *Fort Lee*, that an equal number of our suffering countrymen may be relieved from imprisonment and distress.

By order of the Board of War.

I have the honour to be, your very obedient servant,

RICHARD PETERS, *Secretary.*

Honourable Council of Safety, *Maryland.*

Be so good as to send lists of the prisoners to the War Office, with an account of all expenses incurred by your State on the score of prisoners. Please to have the officers conveyed separate from the privates, and let both take a route by which their coming through *Philadelphia* may be avoided.

[Same to honourable President and Council, Delaware.]

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MEMORIAL OF MAJOR LAMB.

[Read November 23, 1776. The General directed to include him in the next exchange of prisoners.]

*To the honourable Congress of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

GENTLEMEN: Although the enemy have, contrary to my expectations, liberated me from the dreary horrours of a prison, and suffered me to return to my family and friends, I am still subject to their power and control, liable to be called upon to surrender myself a prisoner whenever they please, and restrained by the sacred ties of honour from drawing my sword again in defence of my country till exchanged for some officer of equal rank. Extremely anxious to be relieved from this truly painful and disagreeable situation, I waited on General *Washington* immediately after my arrival from *Quebeck*, earnestly soliciting his interest with your Honours for that purpose; but as I have not yet heard that such an event has taken place, owing, I imagine, to the critical situation of the two armies, I take the liberty to address your Honours on that subject, humbly requesting that I may be included in the next exchange of prisoners. And as I have unfortunately been prevented by the fate of war from taking up arms again this campaign in support of the freedom and independence of the *American* States, and being conscious of having done no more than my duty in my former exertions for the publick good, I can have no claim to your Honours' particular attention; yet as I have been formerly honoured with your approbation of my conduct, and a singular mark of your confidence by an appointment to the chief command of the Artillery in the Northern Department, I flatter myself that I have not been neglected by your Honours in the new arrangement of the corps of Artillery.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of gratitude, duty, and respect, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN LAMB.

Philadelphia, 19 November, 1776.

E. BIDDLE TO WILLIAM ATLEE.

Reading, November 19, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I take the liberty of troubling you in hopes of rendering a service to some gentlemen prisoners here, who by their unexceptionable conduct have acquired the good will of the inhabitants here.

You will readily think that so great a number of prisoners as are crowded in so small a place as this must subject them to many inconveniences, especially as they almost all are at housekeeping and must furnish themselves. Two families are particularly in want of servants, and unless it is inconsistent with some instructions to or rule of your committee, I should take it as a favour if you would use your influence for *John Linoch* and *John Fallis*, (two soldiers,) with their wives, to be sent here. Captain *Anstruther* applies for the former, Dr. *Gill* and Lieutenant *Scholts* for the latter. They find it difficult to get even wood cut, and the two latter are obliged to cook for themselves.

I have given myself and you this trouble from no motive but that of humanity.

I am, sir, with great regard, your most obedient servant,

E. BIDDLE.

To *William Atlee*, Esq., *Lancaster.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 23d.]

Hackensack, November 19th, 1776.

SIR: I have not been yet able to obtain a particular account of the unhappy affair of the 16th, nor of the terms on which the garrison surrendered. The intelligence that has come to hand is not so full and accurate as I could wish. One of the artillery, and whose information is the most direct, who escaped on *Sunday* night, says the enemy's loss was very considerable, especially in the attack made above the fort by the division of *Hessians* that marched from *King's Bridge*, and where Lieutenant-Colonel *Rawlings*, of the late Colonel *Stevenson's* regiment, was posted. They burnt yesterday one or two houses on the heights and contiguous to the fort, and appeared, by advices from General *Greene*, to be moving in the evening their main body down towards the city. Whether they will close the campaign without attempting something more, or make an incursion into *Jersey*, must be determined by the events themselves.

As *Fort Lee* was always considered as only necessary in conjunction with that on the east side of the river, to preserve the communication across and to prevent the enemy from a free navigation, it has become of no importance by the loss of the other, or not so material as to employ a force for its defence. Being viewed in this light, and apprehending that the stores there would be precariously situated, their removal has been determined on to *Boundbrook*, above *Brunswick*, *Princetown*, *Springfield*, and *Acquaykinac* bridge, as places that will not be subject to sudden danger in case the enemy should pass the river, and which have been thought proper as repositories for some of our stores of provision and forage.

The troops belonging to the Flying-Camp, under Generals *Hand* and *Beal*, with what remains of General *Erwin's* brigade, are now at *Fort Lee*, where they will continue until the stores are got away. By the time that is effected their term of inlistment will be near expiring; and if the enemy should make a push in this quarter, the only troops that there will be to oppose 'em will be *Hand's*, *Haslet's*, the regiments from *Virginia*, and that lately *Smallwood's*, the latter greatly reduced by the losses it sustained on *Long-Island*, &c., and sickness. Nor are the rest by any means complete. In addition to these, I am told there are a few of the Militia of this State which have been called in by Governour *Livingston*. I shall make such a disposition of the whole at *Brunswick*, and at the intermediate posts, as shall seem most likely to guard against the designs of the enemy, and to prevent them making an irruption or foraging with detached parties.

The enclosed letter from Colonels *Miles* and *Atlee* will show Congress the distressed situation of our prisoners in *New-York*, and will become greater every day by the cold inclement season that is approaching. It will be happy if some expedient can be adopted, by which they may be furnished with necessary blankets and clothing. Humanity and the good of the service require it. I think the mode suggested by these gentlemen for establishing a credit appears

as likely to succeed, and as eligible as any that occurs to me. It is probable that many articles that may be wanted can be obtained there, and upon better terms than elsewhere. In respect to provisions, their allowance perhaps is as good as the situation of General *Howe's* stores will admit of. It has been said of late by deserters and others, that they were rather scant.

By a letter from the Paymaster-General, of the 7th, he says there will be a necessity that large and early remittances should be made him. The demands when the troops now in service are dismissed will be extremely great. Besides, the bounty to recruits will require a large supply; and he adds, that the Commissary-General has informed him that between this and the last of *December*, he shall have occasion for a million of dollars.

21st.—The unhappy affair of the 16th has been succeeded by further misfortunes. Yesterday morning a large body of the enemy landed between *Dobbs's Ferry* and *Fort Lee*. Their object was evidently to enclose the whole of our troops and stores that lay between the *North* and *Hackensack* rivers, which form a very narrow neck of land. For this purpose they formed, and marched as soon as they had ascended the high grounds, towards the fort. Upon the first information of their having landed and of their movements, our men were ordered to meet them; but finding their numbers greatly superiour, and that they were extending themselves to seize on the passes over the river, it was thought prudent to withdraw our men, which was effected, and their retreat secured.

We lost the whole of the cannon that was at the fort, except two twelve-pounders, and a great deal of baggage, between two and three hundred tents, about a thousand barrels of flour and other stores in the Quartermaster's department. This loss was inevitable. As many of the stores had been removed as circumstances and time would admit of. The ammunition had been happily got away. Our present situation between *Hackensack* and *Passaick* rivers being exactly similar to our late one, and our force here by no means adequate to an opposition that will promise the smallest probability of success, we are taking measures to retire over the waters of the latter, when the best disposition will be formed that circumstances will admit of.

By Colonel *Cadwalader*, who has been permitted by General *Howe* to return to his friends, I am informed the surrender of the garrison on the 16th was on the common terms as prisoners of war. The loss of the *Hessians* about three hundred privates and twenty-seven officers killed and wounded; about forty of the *British* troops, and two or three officers. The loss on our side but inconsiderable. I beg leave to refer you to him for a more particular account, and also for his relation of the distresses of our prisoners. Colonels *Miles* and *Atlee's* letter, mentioned above, upon this subject, was through mistake sent from hence yesterday evening. The mode of relief proposed by them was a credit or supply of cash, through the means of Mr. *Franks*. This seems to be doubtful, as he is said to be in confinement by Colonel *Cadwalader*, provided it would have been otherwise practicable.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. Your favour of the 16th was duly received. My letter to the Board of War on the subject of the return of the *Waldeckers*, I presume you will have soon.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON.

Hackensack, 19 November, 1776.

Dear Brother: At the *White-Plains* the enemy advanced a second time upon us, as if they meant a general attack; but finding us ready to receive them, and upon such ground as they could not approach without loss, they filed off and returned towards *New-York*. As it was conceived that this manœuvre was made with a design to attack *Fort Washington*, or to throw a body of troops into the *Jerseys*, or, what might be still worse, aim a stroke at *Philadelphia*, I hastened over to this side, with about five thousand men, by a circuitous march of about sixty-five miles, which we were obliged to take, on account of the shipping that opposed the passage at all the lower ferries. But I did not arrive in time to take measures to save *Fort Washington*, though here myself a day or two before it surrendered, which happened on the 16th instant, after making a defence of about four or five hours only. We have no particular account of the loss on either side, or of the circumstances attending this matter. The whole garrison, after being driven from the outer lines, and returning within the fort, surrendered themselves prisoners of war, but have given me no account of the terms. By a letter which I have just received from General *Greene* at *Fort Lee*, I am informed that "one of the train of artillery came across the river last night on a raft. By his account, the enemy have suffered greatly on the north side of *Fort Washington*. Colonel *Rawlings's* regiment (late *Hugh Stephenson's*) was posted there, and behaved with great spirit. Colonel *Magaw* could not get the men to man the lines, otherwise he would not have given up the fort."

This is a most unfortunate affair, and has given me great mortification; as we have lost not only two thousand men that were there, but a good deal of artillery, and some of the best arms we had. And what adds to my mortification is, that this post, after the last ships went past it, was held contrary to my wishes and opinion, as I conceived it to be a hazardous one; but, it having been determined on by a full council of General Officers, and a resolution of Congress having been received strongly expressive of their desire that the channel of the river, which we had been labouring to stop for a long time at that place, might be obstructed, if possible, and knowing that this could not be done unless there were batteries to protect the obstruction, I did not care to give an absolute order for withdrawing the garrison, till I could get round and see the situation of things, and then it became too late, as the fort was invested. Upon the passing of the last ships, I had given it as my opinion to General *Greene*, under whose care it was, that it would be best to evacuate the place; but, as the order was discretionary, and his opinion differed from mine, it unhappily was delayed too long, to my great grief; as I think General *Howe*, considering his army and ours, would have had but a poor tale to tell without it, and would have found it difficult, unless some southern expedition may prove successful, to reconcile the people of *England* to the conquest of a few pitiful islands, none of which were defensible, considering the great number of their ships, and the power they have by sea to surround and render them unapproachable.

It is a matter of great grief and surprise to me to find the different States so slow and inattentive to that essential business of levying their quotas of men. In ten days from this date, there will not be above two thousand men, if that number, of the fixed established regiments on this side of *Hudson's* river to oppose *Howe's* whole army, and very little more on the other to secure the Eastern Colonies and the important passes leading through the Highlands to *Albany* and the country about the lakes. In short, it is impossible for me in the compass of a letter to give you any idea of our situation, of my difficulties, and of the constant perplexities and mortifications I meet with, derived from the unhappy policy of short inlistments, and delaying them too long. Last fall or winter, before the Army, which was then to be raised, was set about, I represented in clear and explicit terms the evils which would arise from short inlistments, the expense which must attend the raising an army every year, the futility of such an army when raised; and, if I had spoken with a prophetick spirit, I could not have foretold the evils with more accuracy than I did. All the year since, I have been pressing Congress to delay no time in engaging men upon such terms as would insure success, telling them that the longer it was delayed the more difficult it would prove. But the measure was not commenced till it was too late to be effected, and then in such a manner as to bid adieu to every hope of getting an army, from which any services are to be expected; the different States, without regard to the qualifications of an officer, quarrelling about the appointments, and nominating such as are not fit to be shoe-blacks, from the local attachments of this or that member of Assembly.

I am wearied almost to death with the retrograde motion of things, and I solemnly protest that a pecuniary reward of twenty thousand pounds a year would not induce me to undergo what I do; and after all, perhaps, to lose my character, as it is impossible, under such a variety of distressing circumstances, to conduct matters agreeably to publick expectation, or even to the expectation of those who employ

me, as they will not make proper allowances for the difficulties their own errors have occasioned.

I am glad to find by your last letter that your family are tolerably well recovered from the indisposition they laboured under. God grant you all health and happiness. Nothing in this world would contribute so much to mine as to be once more fixed among you in the peaceable enjoyment of my own vine and fig-tree. Adieu, my dear sir; remember me affectionately to my sister and the children, and give my compliments to those who inquire after your sincerely affectionate brother.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Camp, November 19th, 1776.

Dear General: The recommendation of Gen. *Greene* which you transmitted to me, threw the officers to whom I communicated it into so great a flame of discontent, that I ventured, notwithstanding your orders, to hesitate. They accused him of partiality to his connexions and townsmen, to the prejudice of men of manifestly superiour merit; indeed, it appears from the concurrent testimony of unbiased persons, that some of the subjects he recommended were wretched; in short, I was so stunned with their clamour that I delayed till the arrival of the Committee, for which I ought to ask your pardon, but at the same time think the delay has been salutary.

My objections to moving from our present post are, as I observed before, that it would give us the air of being frightened; it would expose a fine fertile country to their ravages; and, I must add, that we are as secure as we could be in any position whatever. We are pretty well disencumbered of our impediments, which I propose depositing on or about *Crumb Pond*, which, (though I confess I have not reconnoitered the place,) from its situation, must be full as safe, and is much more centrical than *Peekskill*. If on further examination it has any material disadvantages, we can easily move from thence. As to ourselves, (light as we are,) several retreats present themselves. In short, if we keep a good look out, we are in no danger; but I must entreat your Excellency to enjoin the officers posted at *Fort Lee* to give us the quickest intelligence if they observe any embarkations of troops in the *North River*.

Our scouts are of late grown more vigilant, and make prisoners. The Militia, according to their laudable custom, would not stay a moment beyond their usual time. Oh, General, why would you be over-persuaded by men of inferiour judgment to your own? It was a cursed affair.

Yours, most affectionately,

Charles Lee.

To His Excellency General *Washington, Hackensack.*

P. S. The returns of the soldiers of the different regiments, now in the hands of the enemy, according to the mode you require, are not yet made out, but will soon, and shall be sent.

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO ROBERT YATES.

Peekskill, November 19th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I am favoured with yours of yesterday, in answer to which I can only say that the two lists of officers, to wit: that of Colonel *Dubois's* regiment, which I enclosed to Mr. *Duer*, and the one which your Secretary copied yesterday, contain the names of all the officers under the degree of Field-Officers in my brigade, who I can at present recommend for the standing army, and I believe many of them, were they appointed, would not accept.

I have no Ensigns in my brigade. I have some good Sergeants, but how well qualified for a higher office I can't answer, nor do I know whether they would incline to continue in the service. I hope I have no officer now above a Second Lieutenant who would accept of a second lieutenancy in the standing forces. If I am so unhappy as to have recommended any such, be assured I have been deceived in the men. Do, if there are any such, be good enough to strike them out of my list. There is a certain young Mr. *Samuel Hunt*, son of Captain *Hunt*, near *New-Rochelle*, who I have had occasion to employ on *Long-Island* this summer. He is very sensible, active, faithful, and well educated; I believe he would accept of a second lieutenancy, and I wish it offered him.

*James Duboys*, son of *Matthew Duboys*, of *New-Windsor*, was named as a Second Lieutenant in *Duboys's* regiment. He had a brother a Captain in the service last year, who behaved well and is since dead. I believe it would answer to appoint him. The men who were with his brother would incline to inlist with him. Many other young fellows in the country may be found who will answer, and incline to serve, but I don't at present recollect their names.

I am your most obedient servant,

Geo. Clinton.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq.

Since writing the above, Colonel *Graham* and *Swarthoudt* have furnished me with the following names of persons for Second Lieutenant, to wit: Quartermaster *George Morehouse;* Second Lieutenant *Ebenezer Mott;* Second Lieutenant *Benjamin Bogardus;* Second Lieutenant *Lawrence;* Second Lieutenant *Ostrander;* Second Lieutenant *William Bunshooten;* Second Lieutenant, *Horton.*

I can't conclude without mentioning, as my opinion, as well as that of most of our principal officers, that the acceptance of the officers I have recommended, should they be appointed, as well as the raising of men out of my brigade, will much depend on the Field-Officers who may be appointed; and from Colonel *Dubois's* being annexed to my brigade, and having served with many of them last year, I am convinced they have strong attachments toward him, and believe him to be a good officer.

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JOHN S. EUSTACE TO GENERAL SULLIVAN.

Head-Quarters, North-Castle, 19th November, 1776.

Sir: I am directed by General *Lee* to request (as he is going this morning to the *Saw-Pits*) that you will act in his stead till he returns, and give the necessary orders for your division.

In any thing respecting Tories, that you will act according to your own discretion.

I am, sir, respectfully, yours,

Jno. S. Eustace, *A. D. Camp.*

Major-General *Sullivan.*

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COLONEL RUFUS PUTNAM TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, November 19th, 1776.

Sir: Since your Excellency left this place I have been to *Anthony's Nose*, and I believe there is no danger of the enemy's attempting to possess it, nor will it be necessary we should occupy it. I have also been a tour up *Peekskill Hollow*, about eleven miles northeastward, then through the Highlands into the *Fishkill* country and down to the *North River*, then returned by the post road, which I found to be good; but the pass I went up in for ten miles no carriage can possibly get through; and a few men in a short time will make it impassable for a horse. About four miles further east is another pass through the mountains, but I am informed by good authority it is much worse than the last-mentioned one. I am told there is another pass about twenty miles from the *Peekskill* landing, leading from *Bedford* through the Highlands, which is said to be a good road. I mean to see it as soon as possible. I am fully convinced your Excellency will find it necessary to keep a post at *Croton's* bridge, which if you design, some care should be taken of building barrack and store there. I mean to get a general knowledge of the country as far east as *Horse-Neck*, and northward through the Highlands, a draft of which, as soon as possible, I shall forward, not waiting for an actual survey, as that will take up much time.

I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

Rufus Putnam.

To his Excellency General *Washington.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL VAN CORTLANDT.

Peekskill, November 19th, 1776.

Dear Sir: A safe repository for a considerable quantity of military stores is much wanted at or near *Fishkill*. If you can find such an one, and put Colonel *Cheever*, the Commissary of Artillery Stores, in possession of it, you will greatly serve the publick cause, and oblige your most obedient, and very humble servant,

W. Heath.

Colonel *Van Cortlandt.*

GENERAL HEATH TO DR. MORGAN.

Peekskill, November 19th, 1776.

SIR: There are at this three brigades of troops, besides the garrisons of the forts *Montgomery* and *Constitution*, making in the whole upwards of five thousand men, and neither general hospital, or surgeon belonging to the general hospital, at the post. The morning that his Excellency General *Washington* left this place, I mentioned to him the case of the sick. His Excellency replied that he intended to have mentioned the sick, but that it had slipped his memory, and that I must apply to you.

The daily complaints from the Colonels of the several regiments in the division, of the sufferings and distresses of their sick, renders it my indispensable duty to apply to you for assistance and relief, which I desire you would afford immediately, as the neglect of the sick will prove very prejudicial to the inlistment of a new army.

I am, dear sir, yours affectionately,

W. HEATH.

Doctor *Morgan*.

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GENERAL COURT MARTIAL.

At a General Court Martial, held near *Peekskill*, in the State of *New-York*, by order of Major-General *Heath*, on the nineteenth day of *November*, Anno Dom. 1776, Colonel *Pawling* President, *William Willcocks* Judge-Advocate.

Members.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. Colonel *Moulton*, | Captain *Hyet*, |
| Major *Van Renselaer*, | Captain *Hyet*, |
| Captain *Darby*, | Captain *Hermanse*, |
| Captain *Barns*, | Captain *Wood*, |
| Captain *Scott*, | Captain *Delavan*, |
| Captain *Wool*, | Captain *Swartwout*. |

*John Rinchart*, of Captain *Smith's* company, Colonel *Swartwout's* regiment, charged by Captain *Little* with having abused the General (General *Clinton* meaning) at his door.

Captain *Little* testifies that he saw the prisoner in at *Mandevil's;* that he was very drunk; that he was very pressing for liquor, and seemed to give entertainment to the company. That he afterwards saw him at the door pawing the General, as though he wanted to speak to him; that the General pushed him down and ordered him under guard.

The Court adjudge the prisoner not guilty of any abuse.

*David Brown*, *John Hussey*, *Justice Waistcot*, and *John Elliot*, of Captain *Cronk's* company, Colonel *Thomas's* regiment, charged with desertion.

The prisoners on their arraignment severally plead Not guilty.

Captain *Cronk*, being duly sworn, deposeth, that the prisoners went away without leave. That they were all unwell at the time; that they returned voluntarily to the regiment; that they have always been particularly staunch friends to the cause of *America*, and that they are very good soldiers.

*Roger Bussell*, for *Justice Waistcot* and *John Hussey*, testifies that they were unwell and unfit for duty during the whole time of their absence; and that he had been sent for to attend *Brown*, but did not go.

The Court adjudge the prisoners guilty of having left their company without permission. But considering that they appear to have been very good soldiers, and closely attached to the interests of this country, only sentence them severally to forfeit one half a month's pay; said moneys to be applied as directed in and by the fourth article of war, sixth section.

*William Bantly*, of Captain *King's* company, of the Twenty-First Regiment, charged with desertion.

The prisoner on his arraignment pleads Not guilty.

Lieutenant *Albert*, of Captain *King's* company, testifies, that the prisoner had been in the wagon service by permission; that he was dismissed from it; that he did not join his company till a month afterwards.

The prisoner, on his defence, confessed that he had deserted from Captain *King's* company.

The Court find the prisoner guilty. The Court sentence the prisoner to receive thirty-nine lashes on the bare back.

LEVI PAWLING.

I do approve of the foregoing sentences.

W. HEATH, *Major-General.*

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 28th.]

Saratoga, November 19th, 1776.

SIR: I am this moment honoured with your favour of the 9th, continued to the 18th instant, enclosing sundry resolutions of Congress.

I am greatly obliged by the leave Congress has granted me to repair to *Philadelphia*. I shall however not make use of it until every matter in this department that may require my intervention is completely settled.

The Legislature of the *Massachusetts-Bay* doubtless meant to promote the service when they made so capital an addition to the pay of the men to be reinlisted. It has, however, unfortunately already had a contrary effect, and almost altogether prevented recruiting on the Continental allowance. The Committee for that State have already been at *Ticonderoga*, and I am informed by gentlemen from thence that the arrangement of officers is already made, and many men engaged on the terms they offered. I am nevertheless in hopes that the resolution of the 12th instant, permitting inlistments for three years only, will in a great measure prevent all the bad consequences of that unhappy measure.

The Militia, besides the great quantity of provisions they consumed whilst they were to the northward, distressed us still more by bringing away with them every carriage employed in transporting provisions from *Fort Edward* to *Fort George* and *Fort Ann*, so that our troops have been one day without flour, although we had it in great quantities at *Fort Edward*, from whence I returned last night. I hope by *Sunday* next to have near two thousand barrels of flour at the north end of *Lake George* and *Ticonderoga*.

The *Pennsylvania* and *New-Jersey* regiments, whose terms of inlistment was expired, are on the way to *Albany*, from whence they will go down in sloops, and, if necessary, remain some time with General *Washington*. Colonel *Stark's* and Colonel *Poor's* regiments, with that lately belonging to Brigadier *Reech*, (the three amount to about five hundred men,) came across *Lake George* yesterday. They were sent for to march into *Tryon* County, in consequence of some information I had from two *Indians* who had left General *Carleton's* Army, which I afterwards discovered to be without foundation. Two of the regiments I have left at *Fort George*, to forward on the provisions, and the third will take up their quarters in the barracks here, until every possibility of the enemy's returning to *Ticonderoga* is vanished, after which I shall be under a necessity of permitting them to return to their respective Colonies, without which the officers declare they will not be able to complete their regiments.

I think it would be well if Congress was to order the different States to send up the new-raised men the soonest possible, that *Ticonderoga* and the other parts might be relieved before the term of inlistment expires of those troops that are to garrison them, and that we may have a body of troops at hand should the enemy attempt an expedition in the winter.

Enclose you a copy of an intercepted letter from a *Mohawk*, at *Niagara*, to his brother in the *Mohawk* country.

I shall order to the value of about fifteen hundred pounds, in *Indian* goods, to *Fort Stanwix*, to be there disposed of at such a price as to give no umbrage to the *Indians*, and that the States may not lose above four hundred pounds upon them; and I hope this will do as well as making them a direct present, which would probably amount to treble that sum, besides the enormous expense of maintaining them at *Albany*.

General *Gates* is momently expected here. On his arrival I shall do myself the honour to advise you what troops are left to garrison the different posts.

I am, with the most respectful sentiments, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

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*A true copy of a Letter wrote by* AARON KANONARON, *a* MOHAWK *Chief from* NIAGARA, *to his brother* DAVID, *residing in the lower* MOHAWK *village.*

I write this day, 28th *October*, 1776. You shall now be informed of our situation this way; for which purpose we send back *Kargah* (a young *Mohawk* so called) from *Niagara*, and I wish we might be certified what you are doing

your way. Our eyes are fixed upon *Canada*. The command of the Governour there determines our conduct, but we are assured he is well disposed. He will not punish such as are behindhand of others in coming in or joining them, and although you reside in the midst of *Bostonians* you are loved by all the *Britains* and by all the different nations of *Indians*. It is only expected of you that you do not take an active part with the *Bostonians* while you reside in the midst of them. The only reason why they don't arise this way and destroy all around you, is your situation, viz: residing in the midst of *Bostonians*. The *Indians* universally are firmly united with you on the King's side. The *Cherokees* are of your sentiment. Let this strengthen your minds with the disposition of the Governour of *Canada*. He purposes in the first place to take possession of *Ticonderoga* and this way, and then *New-York*. They are to meet in *Albany;* then the *Indians*, one and all, are to proceed and make their way thither. I hope no misfortune will befall you in the mean time. These are all the important matters I have now to communicate. Let these sentiments possess your minds, my younger brothers, and be assured of their taking place. I must however observe, at our grand meeting at *Niagara*, consisting of *Ottawas*, *Chippawes*, and others, with some of the *Six Nations*, many of the *Indians* were discouraged by disappointments. They were eager to rise and fall upon the frontiers, but the commander would not consent to it, solely on account of your situation, being surrounded by *Bostonians*. In this God has mercifully spared us, especially my country (the *Mohawks*.) This conduct of our commander I attribute to the Divine disposal. Let Colonel *Butler* receive many thanks from you for his friendly administration. He is well, and the one that is with him. [The *Indian* does not specify whether the one here mentioned be the commander or some other.]

Let no offence be taken that I don't return as soon as expected. The commander will not part with me. I am of great service to him.

AARON KANORRARON.

*Fort Schuyler*, 11th *November*, 1776. Translated by S. KIRKLAND, *Missionary*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Saratoga, November 19th, 1776.

SIR: I am honoured with your favour of the 8th instant, and am greatly obliged by the measures taken to furnish the stoves. Should no sheet-iron be sent to Mr. *Patrick*, in consequence of your application to the commanding officer at *Peekskill*, I wish him to be directed to make the doorhinges and latch, as I can have them completed here, expecting a sufficiency of sheet-iron from *New-Jersey*, both for that and for the pipes.

I am just advised that Colonel *Wigglesworth*, who went with a flag to General *Carleton*, is returned, and he brings assurances that the enemy are retired into winter quarters; we are doing the same.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

*Pierre V. Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice-President, &c.

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COLONEL WOOD TO GENERAL GATES.

Ticonderoga, November 19, 1776.

SIR: This will be delivered you by Captain *Bayard*, who has command of the recruiting party. Him you will please to supply with what money you shall think necessary for his purpose. Should be glad you would send me an order on the Paymaster for money, to recruit at this place.

Your Secretary, Mr. *Clajon*, has the papers relative to Captains *Breslau* and *Huling*, mentioning their being unfit for the service.

I should be much obliged to you for leave of absence, in writing.

I shall not think of leaving this place until matters are settled with respect to the enemy's coming, and my regiment provided for. Then should be glad to join the recruiting parties at *Philadelphia*, to provide the recruits with necessaries. We are all quiet here. If any thing material occurs I shall not fail to communicate it. Interim, remain, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOS. WOOD.

GOVERNOUR COOKE TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Providence, November 19th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I enclose you a copy of a letter from Major-General *Lee*, which I received last night. As the contents are very important, I have no doubt of your paying the greatest attention to it. I have to request your Honours to give the necessary orders to the Militia in the southern part of your State to march to our assistance, in case of an attack, with all possible expedition, and for giving such other aid as shall be necessary.

This letter will be delivered you by Captain *Topham*, one of those brave men who were taken prisoners at *Quebeck*.

I am, with every sentiment of esteem and respect, your Honours' most obedient and humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

General Court *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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Camp North-Castle, November 14th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: There is no doubt of a considerable force being embarked or about to embark in *Staten-Island*. They give out that *South-Carolina* is their place of destination; but as it is not impossible or improbable that they have some designs against *Rhode-Island*, either on a pillaging scheme or perhaps with a view of establishing winter-quarters for a part of their troops, as they find themselves straitened at *New-York*, I think it my duty to apprise your Honour of their preparations, that you may be upon your guard, either by removing your stock, fortifying yourselves, or in short by taking such measures as your wisdom shall dictate for the welfare of *America* and your particular security.

I beg my respects to the gentlemen of your Council, to the Province at large, and that you will personally be assured, that I am, dear sir, with the greatest truth, your most obedient, humble servant,

CHARLES LEE.

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JOHN AVERY TO MESHECH WEARE.

Boston, November 19, 1776.

SIR: I am directed to transmit an authenticated copy of a resolve relative to a Convention of the several States, respecting further emissions of paper currency, and for supporting the credit thereof.

I am, sir, with great respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

Hon. *Meshech Weare*.

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In the House of Representatives, November 16, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Honourable *Tristram Dalton* and *Aaron Orne*, Esquires, with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a Committee to meet Committees from the General Assemblies of the States of *Connecticut*, *New-Hampshire*, and *Rhode-Island*, at *Providence*, in *Rhode-Island*, the tenth day of *December* next, provided said Assemblies think proper to appoint such Committees, then and there to hold a conference respecting further emissions of Paper Currency on the credit of any of said States; also on measures necessary for supporting the credit of the publick Currencies thereof: And the said Committee (if the Committees of the other States so met agree thereto) be empowered to communicate to the other *United States of America* the intention of their Convention, and urge that some measures be taken by them to the same purpose, and to give like information to the honourable the Continental Congress, and propose to them whether the regulation of the Currencies is not an object of necessary attention, and to report as soon as may be.

And it is *Ordered*, That the Secretary immediately transmit authenticated copies of the Resolve to the General Assemblies of the several States aforementioned.

Sent up for concurrence:

J. WARREN, *Speaker*.

IN COUNCIL, *November* 16, 1776: Read and concurred, and *Thomas Cushing* joined on the part of the Board.

Consented to by the major part of the Board.

JOHN AVERY, *Dep. Sec'y*.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GENERAL WARD.

State of New-Hampshire, in Committee of Safety, at Exeter, November 19, 1776.

SIR: You will find by the enclosed copy of a vote of our General Assembly, No. 1, that on the 11th *June* last it was determined to raise a battalion on the Continental establishment, agreeable to a resolve of the Continental Congress, and would then have pursued the measure had not a requisition immediately followed to raise two battalions of Militia to recruit the *Canada* Army, therefore postponed that matter until the *Canada* recruits were raised. In *September* the affair was again taken up, as you will see by the vote No. 2, and officers were appointed to inlist the men, about four hundred of which have been raised and on duty at our lines about two months. By hurry of business in raising troops for *New-York*, and many other contingencies, the sending the names of the proposed persons for field-officers to Congress has been omitted until now.

In behalf of the Committee, I am your humble servant,

MESHECH WEARE, *Chairman.*

Honourable General *Ward.*

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COLONEL LONG TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Portsmouth, November 19, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am exceedingly sorry to be obliged to entreat your Honours to take into consideration the distresses of the soldiers inlisted in the regiment under my command. Before this time they expected to have received some money to lay in their stores for the winter, &c.; and I really expected to have got them some of the Paymaster for the Eastern department, to whom I sent, who said he could not pay any unless ordered by General *Ward*. But upon application made to him, the messenger was answered that he had no knowledge of us, therefore could not comply with the request. If they cannot get any it is impossible for me to get requisite duty done, I having repeatedly told them they would not be neglected.

I am, with due respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

PIERCE LONG.

Honourable Committee.

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ORDER IN COUNCIL, (ENGLAND.)

At the Court at *St. James's*, the 20th day of *November*, 1776. Present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas the time limited by His Majesty's order in Council of the 21st of *August* last, for prohibiting the exporting out of this Kingdom, or carrying coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, will expire on the 23d of this instant *November:* And whereas it is judged expedient that the said prohibition should be continued for some time longer, except in those cases where (for the benefit and advantage of trade, and for the use and defence of ships trading to foreign parts, and of the transports and victualling vessels employed in his Majesty's service) his Majesty, by his several orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of *October*, and of the 6th and 22d of *November*, 1775, of the 5th and 19th of *February*, and the 23d of *August*, and 25th of *September* last, has thought proper to permit and allow the exportation of, and carrying coastwise, Gunpowder, Saltpetre, Arms and Ammunition, under certain conditions and restrictions mentioned in the said orders; his Majesty doth therefore, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, hereby order, require, prohibit, and command that no person or persons whomsoever (except the Master-General, Lieutenant-General, or principal officers of the Ordnance for his Majesty's service) do, at any time during the space of three months, to commence from the said 23d day of this instant *November*, presume to transport into any parts out of this Kingdom, or carry coastwise any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, or ship or lade any Gunpowder, Saltpetre, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition, on board any ship or vessel, in order to transporting the same beyond the seas, or carrying the same coastwise, except in the cases comprised within the aforementioned orders in Council of the 13th and 27th of *October*, and the 6th and 22d of *November*, 1775, of the 5th and 19th of *February*, and the 23d of *August*, and 25th of *September* last, without leave or permission in that behalf first obtained from his Majesty or his Privy Council, upon pain of incurring and suffering the respective forfeitures and penalties inflicted by an act passed in the twenty-ninth year of his late Majesty's reign, entitled "An act to empower his Majesty to prohibit the exportation of Saltpetre, and to enforce the law for empowering his Majesty to prohibit the exportation of Gunpowder, or any sort of Arms and Ammunition, and also to empower his Majesty to restrain the carrying coastwise of Saltpetre, Gunpowder, or any sort of Arms or Ammunition." And the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of *Great Britain*, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Master-General of the Ordnance, and his Majesty's Secretary at War, are to give the necessary directions herein, as to them may respectively appertain.

STEPH. COTTRELL.

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CHARLES GRAHAM TO STEPHEN STEWARD.

Lower-Marlbro', 21st November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Mr. *Forbes* was at court. He says he can engage ten to twenty thousand pounds of beef, at the prices you mention, three to three and a half pence, but it must be for next week, as the people who have it will not feed it, and without feeding the beef will fall away now. He cannot engage to cure it. You must send salt and casks to take it away. There is a good deal of pork in that neighbourhood; some ask three shillings, others say they will take market price. If you will give directions he will engage that too. He has no one to assist in looking after the curing of meat, and therefore any commission on the purchase will not make it worth his while to undertake that part of the business.

*T. King* carried your letter and the cash to *Kinsey* on *Tuesday* night. Mr. *Forbes* had no inclination to go to *Virginia*. I shall be glad to hear from you, and you must give Mr. *Forbes* notice to engage the beef.

Dear sir, your ready servant, CHARLES GRAHAM.

Mr. *Stephen Steward, West River.*

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MAJOR DEAKINS TO RICHARD RIDGELY.

Montgomery County, 2 November, 1776.

SIR: *Samuel Wade Magruder*, Captain, and *James Wallace*, First Lieutenant, of a Militia company in the Twenty-Ninth Battalion, having resigned their commissions, or rather declining to act, the said company met and appointed *John Johnson* Captain, *Jesse Wilcoxon* (who was before their Second Lieutenant) First Lieutenant, and *Abraham Young* Second Lieutenant. You will therefore please make out their commissions, and send them per first opportunity.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

WILL. DEAKINS, Jun.,
*Second Major of the Twenty-Ninth Battalion.*

To Mr. *Richard Ridgely*, Clerk of the Council of Safety, *Annapolis.*

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CAPTAIN STONE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, 21st November, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIRS: Last time I had the honour to attend your body, I took the liberty to represent the great hardships I should be under if my vessel should fall into the hands of the enemy, or be lost by any casualty or stress of weather in her passage to the *West-Indies*, or back. As I am in no manner secured, and as your Honours would not give any security or satisfaction in case of loss, I was constrained to apply to *Baltimore* County Court for a writ of replevin, to endeavour to secure some indemnification. The writ of replevin was delivered to the Sheriff of this County to serve; in consequence of which he went to the Point where my brig lay, with intention to execute the writ, accompanied by the appraisers and myself; when the Sheriff was most violently opposed by Captain *Martin*, the crew, and others he had collected for the purpose, threatening to shoot, wound, or destroy him or any other person who should come on board, although the Sheriff acquainted Captain *Martin* that he was not to come on board in any illegal manner, but that he had a proper writ of replevin issued forth of *Baltimore* County Court. After the Sheriff had delivered the vessel

to me, by laying his hands on the gunwale, (which was the only manner he could make delivery,) Captain *Martin* with some others cast the vessel loose from the wharf, and carried her into the stream, at such a distance as put her out of my reach, and still forcibly detains her. I therefore have thought proper to inform your Honours of the whole proceeding, and to request you will permit no person immediately under you to so grossly violate the civil authority, which you have declared should be held sacred and unviolated. As Captain *Martin* has in this instance in a most daring manner opposed and put at defiance the civil authority, I hope your Honours will give the most immediate and positive orders to him to deliver the vessel to me, or not suffer him to depart the Province with her without my consent until the matter is settled; and not in a manner under your own sanction countenance a proceeding of so dangerous a nature. I repeat again that it much distresses me to have taken this course, and nothing but a view of securing myself should ever have compelled me, as I saw no other remedy, to secure myself in case of accident.

In hopes of your speedy and favourable answer, I have the honour to be, with greatest respect, sirs, your most obedient, humble servant, WILLIAM STONE.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of the State of *Maryland, Annapolis.*

P. S. Had I not been much indisposed I would have done myself the honour to have attended you myself.

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CAPTAIN NICHOLSON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 21st, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I received yours of the 17th yesterday, and have now to inform you that Mr. *Turnbull* returned four days since from the *Eastern-Shore*, where he has been detained by sickness. He thinks he will have the accounts ready by *Sunday* or *Monday* next, when I shall certainly come down to *Annapolis* with him to endeavour a settlement. Mr. *Turnbull* left Purser *Morris* very ill behind him. Was he here should bring him likewise; but as your suspicions have alarmed me, I shall lose no time in endeavouring to convince you I do not intend wronging the Province.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant, JAMES NICHOLSON.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis.*

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CUMBERLAND DUGAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Thursday, November 21st, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The bearer, Captain *Kelty*, waits on you for some canvas to make a foresail for the schooner *Ninety-Two*, which sail we now find wanting. It is a very great misfortune for us all that this sail should be wanting, as it will cause a detention of two days longer to the vessel, and no longer, as the sailmaker says he'll engage to complete it after he gets the canvas in less than two days.

The reason of this sail being now out of the way is owing to the ship *Defence*, who took all the *Ninety-Two's* sails a considerable time ago, on some occasion of putting them with many other sails into her gratings, and this sail is somewhere mislaid that nobody can tell where. I hope this stoppage will not do much damage, being in hopes that a new foresail for this vessel, whose other sails are all old, will answer some good purposes; however am willing to make an allowance for it that you may think just and reasonable.

The last of the *Ninety-Two's* cargo left me last *Monday*, being now entirely full. Her cargo is six hundred and twenty barrels of flour, two hundred barrels bread, one hundred and forty-six kegs fine bread, twenty hogsheads tobacco, and about three thousand of your hogshead and barrel staves, invoice and bill of lading of which shall render you as soon as I get this foresail and the vessel away from here. Captain *Kelty* has shipped some people, and I have put in a man for mate, that should not a better man offer send as master. This is a man whose family lives here, well attached to the cause, but do wish for a more active smart man; however, Captain *Kelty* says he seems to behave exceeding well.

I am, gentlemen, in great haste, as the bearer waits while I write, your most obedient servant, C. DUGAN.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis.*

HENRY HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head of Elk, 20th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By Captain *Norris* I have sent you a parcel of arms. As 'tis now a long time since I have heard from Mr. *Winters*, I have made so free as to trouble your Honours with them. Have sent the bill enclosed. I should have been down to *Annapolis* long since, had not the service, (which my whole time has lately been spent in) obliged my stay here; but I hope in a few days to be so much at liberty as to have the honour of waiting on your Honours, and flatter myself of giving satisfaction, and also to receive more full instructions relative to the large wall-pieces. Your Honours will observe that I have had two of them stocked; one I thought fit to rifle, in order that you might form a judgment which would answer your purpose best. The musket-barrels are such as the last fifty I sent to Mr. *Winters*, which he acknowledges are excellent. The bayonets are as good as I can get made, after many changes and much expense and trouble. The finishing of them has been entirely out of my power, as it would require several filers and an overlooker to be with them, which I am by no means equal to, as I have had half a dozen finished by a young man who offers to undertake some, and have sent them for your Honours' inspection among the two hundred. If they will do, suppose I can have some finished. Am going on as usual with the large and musket-barrels and such bayonets as those now sent.

And have the honour to be your Honours' most obedient, humble servant, H. HOLLINGSWORTH.

To the honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis.*

P. S. The arms are left at Mr. *Rook's* store.

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*Bill of Arms sent to the Council of Safety at* ANNAPOLIS, *by Captain* NORRIS, *November* 20, 1776.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To 50 Musket Barrels. | | To 200 Bayonets, | |
| 12 large Wall-pieces, chambor'd, | | | |
| To 1 large | do. | stocked, iron mounting, | |
| To 1 large | do. | rifled, brass mounting. | |

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 20th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have it in charge from Congress to transmit you the enclosed resolve, and to request your attention to it. From the great importance of it in carrying on the war against our enemies, I am persuaded you will take immediate measures for complying with it in the most effectual manner.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant, JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Honourable Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania.*

N. B. The vote of Congress was sent to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* at the same time.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO NEW-YORK AND NEW-JERSEY.

Philadelphia, November 20th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have it in charge from Congress to forward the enclosed vote, and to request your attention to it. You will perceive therein the sense of Congress on the necessity of pursuing the most immediate and vigorous measures for furnishing the troops as soon as possible for the new Army. As our enemies will no doubt take the field early in the spring it becomes us to be prepared to meet them, and for this end, to exert ourselves the approaching winter to complete the Army agreeably to the new establishment. I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant, JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Honourable Convention of *New-York.*

[Same to honourable Assembly of New-Jersey.]

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE STATES.

Philadelphia, November 20th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have it in charge from Congress to forward the enclosed resolves, and to request your attention

to them. From their great importance in carrying on the war against our enemies, I am persuaded you will take immediate measures for complying with them in the most effectual manner.

You will perceive from the vote of Congress, herewith transmitted, the sense of that body with regard to the necessity of furnishing the troops for the new Army as soon as possible. As our enemies no doubt will take the field early in the spring it becomes us to be prepared to meet them, and for this end, to exert ourselves the approaching winter to complete the Army agreeably to the new establishment.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

To the States of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, Georgia.*

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IN CONGRESS, *November* 19, 1776.—*Resolved*, That Letters be immediately sent to Councils of Safety, Conventions, or Legislatures of *Pennsylvania* and the States to the southward thereof, desiring them forthwith to lay up magazines of Military Stores, Ammunition, and Salt Provisions, in the safest and most convenient places in the said States respectively, for the use of such Continental Troops and Militia as it may be necessary to bring into the field in the ensuing winter for the defence of these States.

Congress deem it necessary, upon every principle of propriety, to remind the several States how indispensable it is to the common safety that they pursue the most immediate and vigorous measures to furnish their respective quotas of Troops for the new Army, as the time of service for which the present Army was inlisted is so near expiring that the country may be left in a condition in a great measure defenceless unless supplied by new levies.

IN CONGRESS, *November* 21, 1776.—As the necessity of obtaining an Army immediately to oppose the designs of the enemy is so evident and pressing as to render it proper to give all possible facility to that business:

*Resolved*, That each State be at liberty to direct their Recruiting Officers to inlist their men either for the war or for three years, upon the respective bounties offered by Congress, without presenting inlisting rolls for both terms, according to a former resolution, keeping it always in view that in the opinion of Congress the publick service will be best promoted by inlistments for the war, if the recruiting business is not retarded thereby.

By order of Congress:

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

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### PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 20th, 1776.

Agreeable to request from the honourable Congress, the Council have inquired into the affair respecting the escape of prisoners from the jail, and find nothing material, except some information from Mrs. *Conolly*, wife of Dr. *Conolly*, of an intended escape of her husband. Upon examination no person appears concerned with him.

The Council represent that Mrs. *Conolly*, in consequence of revealing her husband's intentions, has been so ill used by him as makes it impossible to live with him but on the worst of terms, and therefore begs permission to go to her family at *Pittsburgh*.

This Board apprehend such liberty will not be attended with ill consequences, and recommend her case to the honourable Congress.

By order of Council:

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President.*

To the honourable Congress.

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### PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LANCASTER COMMITTEE.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 20, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Board of War respecting the prisoners of war in this State, to the contents of which the Council request your immediate attention, by forwarding them agreeable to the directions, as soon as possible, and make such provision for them on the road as the Congress have allowed. After they are gone you are desired to transmit an exact account of what expenses have been incurred during their residence in your County, in order that they may be settled.

By order of the Council:

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President.*

To the Committee of Inspection for *Lancaster* County, at *Lancaster*.

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War Office, November 19, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: General *Washington* having very pressingly requested Congress that all *British* prisoners of war should be collected and sent to *Fort Lee*, in *New-Jersey*, to be exchanged, you will be pleased immediately to give directions that all such prisoners in this State be forthwith sent under proper escorts to General *Greene*, commanding at that fort. The officers should go separately from the privates. Those prisoners who were captivated in *North-Carolina* are not meant to be included. They should take the route directly from their respective places of residence to *Fort Lee*, and should not be suffered to pass *Philadelphia*. You will be pleased to direct the Committees to furnish you with accounts of all expenses disbursed for prisoners, which with those laid out by you and the late Committee of Safety of this State, you will transmit to the Board of War, by whose order I write on this subject. The Board would most earnestly recommend the most speedy compliance with their request, but are conscious that motives of publick concern as well as private humanity will induce you to fall upon immediate measures to relieve our distressed fellow-citizens from bondage, and restore them to their country and friends.

I have the honour to be your most obedient servant,

RICHARD PETERS, *Secretary.*

Honourable the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

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### CHESTER COUNTY (PA.) COMMITTEE.

In Committee of Inspection and Observation for Chester County.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Colonel *Moore*, Major *Evans*, Major *Davis*, Captain *Gardner*, and Colonel *Thomas*, be, and are hereby, appointed to settle the distribution of the Money drawn for the use of the distressed families of Associators in this County: Therefore the gentlemen who were appointed to contribute to the relief of such families, are desired to meet us at the house of *Jacob James*, in *Goshen*, on *Friday*, the 29th of *November* instant, at ten o'clock in the morning, with their Accounts.

JAMES MOORE, JOSEPH GARDNER,
WILLIAM EVANS, RICHARD THOMAS.
CALEB DAVIS,

On motion, it was unanimously *Resolved*, That the Committee of Inspection and Observation for *Chester* County be dissolved, and they are hereby dissolved.

By order of the Committee:

CALEB DAVIS, *Secretary.*

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November 20, 1776.

SIR: Understanding the township of *Heidelberg* have a right to a quantity of salt, and I being a committee-man of the same, request you will send me up by the bearer, *Hans Rodt*, wagoner, the complement due to us, together with mentioning what quantity each family, or the head of each family, is entitled to.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

HENRY P. HARDT.

To *William Atlee*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Lancaster*.

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### GENERAL MERCER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 22d.]

Elizabeth-Town, 20th November, 1776.

SIR: Intelligence was brought me last night by a person who has been some time in *New-York*, but commonly resides on *Staten-Island*, that the enemy intend to reduce *Fort Lee*, and then to march through the *Jerseys* to attack the city of *Philadelphia*.

All the transports that draw the least water are preparing to take in troops. Their destination was only conjectured to be against *Philadelphia* or *South-Carolina*. The transports carry fascines on their quarters. Houses are taken up in *New-York* to barrack ten thousand men; but it is given out, and firmly believed in the Army, that they will not go into winter-quarters, before another attempt is made to reduce some part of the coast.

The person who brought me the above intelligence is engaged to return to *New-York*. I hope to see him in two days, and be able then to give fuller information. One expedition is said to be intended to the northward and the other to the southward.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most humble servant,

HUGH MERCER.

The Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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WILLIAM GRAYSON TO GENERAL LEE.

Hackensack, November 20th, 1776.

SIR: His Excellency has directed me to write to you, and acquaint you with the late movements of the enemy. They landed this morning between *Dobbs's Ferry* and *Fort Lee*, as it is imagined, at a place called *Closter Dock*, nearly opposite to *Philips's* house, and (as the General has been informed) in great numbers, and an advanced party of them have proceeded as far as a hill two miles above the liberty pole, about a mile and an half above General *Greene's* quarters, where I left his Excellency. The road leading from thence to the bridge above *Hackensack*, as well as the bridge, is open for our troops to retreat; and from present appearances, it is expected they may be got off without the loss of many of them. What their object is cannot at present be clearly ascertained; but it is imagined the getting possession of *Fort Lee* is one part of their design; however, it is possible, and perhaps probable, they may have other and more capital views.

His Excellency thinks it would be advisable in you to remove the troops under your command on this side of the *North River*, and there wait for further orders.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant,

W. GRAYSON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

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COLONEL HARRISON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Hacensec, November the 20th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: His Excellency received your favour of the 18th this morning. He doubts not but the disposition you have determined to make of the troops has been maturely weighed, and will be well adapted to the important purposes you have in view and the general security. I would submit it to you, whether the pass through the Highlands, on this side the river, should not be instantly secured. You will readily suggest the reason on reading the conclusion of my letter. Your own discretion must direct the mode of employing Colonel *De Roussi* and his detachment till you receive further orders on the subject. As General *Parsons* is a very judicious and good officer, and his presence may have a happy influence in the appointment of good officers. I can almost assure you the liberty you have granted him will be approved by his Excellency.

The particulars of the unhappy affair of the 16th, nor the terms of surrender, have not been yet obtained. One of the train who escaped on *Sunday* night says the enemy sustained a great loss in killed and wounded, especially among the *Hessians*. Lieutenant-Colonel *Rawlings*, who was posted on the pass above the fort leading from *King's Bridge*, maintained his ground for a long time, (he said between two or three hours,) keeping up a close and heavy fire during that time. God grant it may have been a dear-bought victory.

You will receive the warrants. The complaint of the officers about their abstracts cannot be helped; none but one person can with any propriety draw warrants in the same army. Nor would the trouble be great if several were lodged with the Paymaster and went down to be signed at one time. If that mode is not pursued, it can only take a trusty agent two days to complete the business. We cannot have things as we wish; we must take them as they are found. Circumstances must govern always.

An express arrived this morning just as your letter came to hand, advising that a great number of the enemy had landed between *Dobbs's Ferry* and *Fort Lee*. The fact is true, as is confidently believed. Their advanced party is said to be within five or six miles from this place. Their immediate object is most probably to shut in our troops, &c., between the *North* and *Heckenseck* rivers. I trust they will be disappointed. His Excellency has been gone ever since the advice came, which has left me in the dark how to write you. I must be done. I believe I have mentioned in short terms what he would have said himself. He hinted as much.

I am, dear General, in haste, yours,

ROB'T H. HARRISON.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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WILLIAM GRAYSON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Hackensack, November 20th, 1776.

SIR: His Excellency has directed me to write to you, and acquaint you of the late movements of the enemy. They landed this morning between *Dobbs's Ferry* and *Fort Lee*, (as the General has been informed,) in great numbers, and an advanced party of them proceeded as far as a hill two miles above the liberty pole, at the cross roads, where I left his Excellency. The road leading from thence to *Hackensack* bridge, as well as the bridge, is open for our people to retreat, and, from present appearances, it is expected they may be got off without loss of many of them. What their object is cannot at present be clearly ascertained, but it is imagined the getting possession of *Fort Lee* is one part of their designs; however, it is possible they may have other and more capital views.

You will be pleased to hold yourself in readiness to march at a moment's warning, and to forward this letter to Lord *Stirling* and General *Stephen*, who are to make the same preparation.

I am, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

W. GRAYSON, *A. D. C.*

To Brigadier-General *Mercer*.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Hackensack, November 20th, 1776—10 o'clock.

SIR: I this morning received the honour of your letter of the 13th instant by Mr. *Bennet*. The contents I communicated to his Excellency, and have to inform you that there is no necessity for the batteaus you mention coming to *Fishkills*, all the troops belonging to the States south of *Hudson's* river, and which were in the Army under his immediate command, having already crossed, and there being a sufficient number of vessels there to answer such further transportation as may be necessary at this time. As the enemy have returned to *Canada*, his Excellency hopes no inconveniences will result from the return of the *Pennsylvania* and *Jersey* regiments; at the same time he would have been more happy to have heard of their inlisting again, and continuing in the service. He fears a similar conduct will be observed by the rest. As the term of their inlistment is expired, they had a right to claim their dismission; and he does not apprehend that an attempt to restrain or continue 'em against their inclinations, would have been attended with any valuable consequences. They may be here of some service; from the present appearance of things their aid may be extremely seasonable, if they will give it.

In respect to the disposition you propose for quartering the troops, his Excellency doubts not but that it is perfectly good, and such as will be well adapted to their accommodation and the general security.

The proceedings of the Court Martial upon Colonel *Campbell* were transmitted to Congress, and never returned to his Excellency. All we have heard of the matter since is that, by a resolve of the 16th ultimo, the commander in the northern department is desired to affirm or reject the sentence, as he shall judge proper upon mature deliberation.

Before this reaches you, you will have heard of the loss of *Fort Washington*, and of the captivity of the troops who garrisoned it—about two thousand. The particulars respecting this unhappy affair, or the terms of surrender, we have not yet obtained. I can only inform you that on *Saturday*, the 16th, about eleven o'clock, the enemy made a general attack

upon the lines on the heights, which having carried, our men retired within the fort; it being invested on all all sides, was surrendered that evening. The loss sustained on either side is uncertain; but we know the lines were warmly disputed in some parts, particularly on the pass above the fort leading from *King's Bridge*. In that quarter the engagement was of long continuance and heavy, and by the information of one of the train who escaped on *Monday* night, attended with a considerable slaughter of *Hessians*. The firing there lasted, it is said, and was incessant, from two-and-a-half to three hours. The artillerist adds, that Lieutenant-Colonel *Rawlings*, who was posted in that part, maintained his ground a long time within three or four rods of the enemy, and at length was obliged to give way on account of their infinitely superiour number and a constant succession of troops. His Major, *Otho Williams*, Esq., is reported to have fallen. Our loss in killed is supposed to be inconsiderable.

*Ten o'clock.*—This minute an express from *Orange-Town* advises that some of the enemy have landed below *Dobbs's Ferry*. A smart firing is also heard below *Fort Lee*, towards *Bergen*. It is probable the immediate object they have in view is to shut in such of our troops and stores as lay between *Hackensack* and *Hudson's* river. I trust they will be disappointed. They seem determined to push matters, and the weather is most favourable for 'em.

I am, sir, &c.,

R. H. Harrison.

To Major-General *Schuyler*, Northern Department.

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GENERAL HEATH TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, November 20, 1776, 7 o'clock in the evening.

Dear Sir: I have just received intelligence from *Tapan*, by express, that a body of the enemy have landed on the west side of *Hudson's* river, nearly opposite to Colonel *Philips's* house.

If General *George Clinton* or General *Scott* are at *Fishkill* with the honourable Convention or their Committee, beg the favour that you would acquaint them with this, and desire them to repair to this place without a moment's loss of time.

I am, sir, with esteem, your most obedient and very humble servant,

W. Heath.

Colonel *Van Cortlandt*, President of the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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DR. MORGAN TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peekskill, November 20, 1776.

Doctor *Morgan* proposes to General *Heath* the quarters be fitted up immediately for a General Hospital for the reception of the sick at *Peekskill*.

To be omitted { They ought to be floored above, so as to make two stories each, and to have a stack of chimneys carried up in the middle.

If convenient quarters are not provided for the sick, and they cannot be obtained unless the Commander-in-Chief of the division gives orders and enforces them effectually, every attempt to establish an hospital will prove ineffectual.

To call for the establishment of a General Hospital for Surgeons to attend, and take care of the sick, and not to strengthen their hands, so as to enable them to do their duty, is the certain way of plunging them into insuperable difficulties, which must bring reflections on them, which it is not in their power to wipe off, but by showing the defect lies not at their door.

Wherever a General Hospital is established, it is necessary that the Commissary in that department furnish the necessary hospital stores, in sufficient abundance, so that the Surgeon on drawing for them be immediately provided with flour or bread, fresh-meat, salt, vinegar, rum, soap, candles, vegetables, Indian-meal, oatmeal, barley, rice, chocolate, coffee, tea, sugar, wine, butter, &c.

It is also necessary where other attendants cannot be had, as nurses, waiters, labourers and cooks, out of the Army, that fatigue men be appointed by the commander in sufficient number.

It is further required that bed-bunks be made, and straw always in readiness, for the sick, and a carpenter or two be employed solely in the business of the General Hospital, in making coffins, tables, and utensils of various kinds.

From the Quartermaster-General's store should be provided blankets, bed-sacks, platters, kettles, spoons, knives and forks, and other articles of the like kind.

Besides these several requisites, which depend not on the Director-General or Superintendent of an hospital, it is necessary for the better management of the hospital, that all the Regimental Surgeons and Mates be kept to their posts, attend their regiment, and make weekly returns of their sick to the Director-General, when present, and in his absence to the Surgeon of the General Hospital, that provision be always made in time for the sick; to do which, it is necessary that the state of the sick be constantly known.

It is further necessary that all the Surgeons of regiments be informed that the Congress have resolved, whenever the sick require any further provision than their rations, they are to be reported immediately to the General Hospital and received into it, and that no issuing store will be opened to supply the sick remaining under their care with provisions from the General Hospital.

The weekly returns of the Regimental Surgeons to be in the form already given out to them; and if any Surgeon neglect being punctual in giving in his weekly returns, he should be reported to the commanding officer.

That it may be known who are deficient therein, the Director-General or Surgeon of the General Hospital, should be furnished by order of the commandant with a list of the regiments, and the names of the Surgeons in that division.

With every sick the Regimental Surgeon sends to the General Hospital, there should be a report, joined with the application for admission, addressed to the Surgeon of the General Hospital, signed by the Surgeon or Mate of the regiment, and by some commissioned officer belonging to the company or regiment, specifying when the sick was taken ill, and what was done; specifying, also, what blankets, clothes, &c., are sent with the sick.

When this regularity is observed it will be seen and known who do their duty, and who not, so that when complaints are made of the sick being neglected it may be known at whose door the fault lies.

Agreeable to General *Heath's* desire, these things are pointed out, and a Surgeon with three or four Mates shall be ordered to *Peekskill* to improve and take care of the General Hospital.

John Morgan.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, Fishkill, November 20, 1776.

Sir: I have the honour to enclose you resolutions of the Committee of Safety, respecting the more effectual obstruction of *Hudson* river. No object appears to them of more importance, when they consider either the safety of this State, the supply of the Continental Army, or the preservation of the communication between the Southern and Eastern States. Experience has evinced that if the navigation had been rendered impassable opposite to *Fort Washington*, it must have been attended with infinite advantage; among which, even the security of the garrison, and military stores at that fort is not the most considerable; indeed, it is no presumption to suppose that after the fruitless attempt of the *British* Army to penetrate the country through the *White-Plains*, they must have closed the campaign, at least in this quarter, with disappointment and disgrace. Their success in reducing the fort revived their spirits; and the evacuation of *Fort Lee* in consequence of it opened a passage for them into the defenceless parts of *New-Jersey*.

In projecting the obstruction between *Anthony's Nose*, on the eastern shore, and *Fort Montgomery*, we endeavoured to avail ourselves of the model of that which had proved effectual in the river *Delaware*, and were assisted by the advice and experience of Captain *Hazelwood*. But the great length of the chain, being upwards of eighteen hundred feet, the bulk of the logs which were necessary to support it, the immense weight of water which it accumulated, and the rapidity of the tide, having baffled all our efforts, it separated twice after holding only a few hours; and we have too much reason to despair of its ever fully answering the important

purpose for which it was constructed. A like disappointment, we are informed, happened at *Portsmouth;* the chain intended to obstruct the navigation of that harbour proved equally ineffectual.

These considerations have induced us to explore the depth of the river throughout the Highlands, in which a Committee of Convention have been assisted by General *George Clinton*. The distance and depth of water at the north entrance, which, on this experiment, is found to be the fittest place, will be seen by the enclosed plan. It is proposed, with the approbation of the honourable Congress, to obstruct the navigation in this part by caissons, which it is conceived will be very practicable. The Convention wish on account of General *Washington's* distance from this place, and the multiplicity of business with which he is encumbered, that the direction of this work may be committed to Major-General *Schuyler*, who we believe every way qualified to ensure its success. Timber and stone can be conveniently procured; and when the campaign terminates, the troops cantoned in this part of the country may be employed in rotation to assist in the work. But no time is to be lost in preparing the materials, and we shall wait with anxiety for the determination of the honourable Congress on a subject which, in the opinion of the Committee, is of the utmost moment to the *United States*. If the enemy persevere in their plan of subjugating these States to the yoke of *Great Britain*, they must, in proportion to their knowledge of the country, be more and more convinced of the necessity of their becoming masters of *Hudson's* river; which will give them the entire command of the water communication with the *Indian* nations, effectually prevent all intercourse between the Eastern and Southern Confederates, divide our strength, and enfeeble every effort for our common preservation and security. That this was their original plan, and that General *Carleton* and General *Howe* flattered themselves with the delusive hopes of uniting their forces at *Albany*, every intelligence confirms; and it appears to the Committee that they will not give up this grand object until they shall finally relinquish the project of enslaving *America*. The Committee take the liberty to submit these reflections to the honourable Congress. If they are well founded, an early and vigorous preparation to oppose the progress of the enemy in this quarter must be indispensable, and the defence and security of *Hudson's* river, the principal object of that preparation.

We are informed that some merchants in the Eastern States are pursuing the scheme of transporting flaxseed to *France*, to be shipped, as it is apprehended, from thence to *Ireland*. If it is necessary to make *Great Britain* feel the distresses of the war, by obstructing the manufacture of linen, this project will demand the attention of Congress; and, in the opinion of this Committee, nothing less than the entire prohibition of the exportation of flaxseed will afford an adequate remedy. Another very important advantage must arise from such a measure—it will encourage the linen manufacture in these States, to which, of all others, they are the most competent. However severe the sudden reverse of fortune which we have lately experienced, however melancholy the loss of our metropolis, sea-coast, and four of our counties, and the aspect of that part of our State which has been plundered and desolated by a retreating enemy—barbarous beyond all description—and however great the number of our ruined friends who are left naked and destitute in an inclement season, a country without commerce, or the means of affording them clothing,—I have the satisfaction to assure you that the fortitude of this State, and their zeal for the glorious cause in which we are engaged, is not abated; on the contrary, we are prepared to meet even severer misfortunes, with a spirit and firmness becoming the generous advocates for liberty. Unhappy am I to add, that amidst all our suffering the Army employed for the protection of *America* have not refrained from embittering even the calamities of war. At a time when the utmost resources of this State were laid open to their wants, and the members of Convention personally submitted to the labour and fatigue which were necessary on a sudden emergency, and after frequent losses of provisions and barracks, to supply two numerous armies, augmented by the Militia, with every article which they required, the court-house and the remains of the village at the *White-Plains*, which had been spared on the retreat of our forces, was, after the enemy had in their turn retired, wantonly destroyed, without the orders and to the infinite regret of our worthy General. Besides, in spite of all his Excellency's efforts, wherever our troops have marched, or been stationed, they have done infinite damage to the possessions and farms, and pilfered the property of the people. I am directed, sir, to submit it to the honourable Congress, whether some effectual remedy ought not to be provided against such disorderly and disgraceful proceedings. The soldier who plunders the country he is employed to protect is no better than a robber, and ought to be treated accordingly; and a severe example ought, in the opinion of the Committee, to be made of the officer who, without any necessity, or his General's permission, set fire to the court-house and other buildings at the *White-Plains*. He is guilty of the crime of arson, and if he cannot be punished by the articles of war, ought to be given up to the laws of the land. If so glaring a violation of every sentiment of humanity should be passed over in silence, if the Army is not seasonably restrained from such acts of barbarity, the consequence must be fatal to the cause of a people whose exalted glory it is to be advocates for the rights of mankind against the tyranny and oppression of lawless power. The resolutions which the Committee of Safety have passed upon this subject are herewith transmitted.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant.

By order:

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *President.*

The Honourable *John Hancock*, Esquire, President of the Congress of the *United States of America.*

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PASS FOR GYSBERT OSTERHOUT.

*Gysbert Osterhout*, the bearer hereof, is hereby appointed one of the subalterns of the party sent to work at the Barracks at *Fishkill*, according to resolution of Committee of Safety for the State of *New-York*, of the 6th *November*, instant.

Dated 20th *November*, 1776.

ANTHONY VAN BERGEN,
*Colonel of the Militia Reg't in the County of Albany.*

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COLONEL JACOB BAYLEY TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Newbury, November 20th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am sensible that the intent of raising the Rangers in this State was not only to secure the frontiers, but, on any emergence, might be called to any post to assist and defend, &c. Now, if our rangers have not what was engaged them, viz: bounty, six months' pay, and billeting, we have no right to command them, and if that payment is not made we must not expect them on any duty; and if General *Gates*, who doubtless stands in need of them, should call for them, he must be disappointed. Where the blame lays I can't say; however, it is my opinion, that the Major be paid according to his rolls, if authentick; afterward he may be called to account, if he has been faulty, otherwise the whole had better now be dropped; better now than when one or two months more time is spent to no purpose.

Excuse me for this, and give me leave to inscribe myself the publick's and your very humble servant,

JACOB BAYLEY.

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RICHARD STOCKTON AND GEORGE CLYMER (COMMITTEE) TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Albany, November 20th, 1776.

SIR: We did ourselves the honour of writing you on the 26th of last month from *Saratoga;* and after waiting in vain a few days, in expectation of advice from General *Gates*, agreeable to his letter to us of the 24th, we thought it our duty nevertheless to proceed on to *Ticonderoga*. We continued there during the first two days, in hourly expectation of sharing in the glory of our Army in a successful opposition to the attack of General *Carleton*, but we were disappointed, and instead thereof, had the pleasure of knowing that he had totally evacuated *Crown-Point*. Of this great event you will have received authentick accounts before this can reach you. We returned here the evening before the last, and this morning we received from General *Gates* the enclosed letter, together with some despatches for ourselves.

The letter he requested might be immediately forwarded to you by express. We are acquainted with the contents of it, and had a conference with the Commissioners from the *Massachusetts-Bay*, in company with General *Gates*, before we left *Ticonderoga*. We did not fail to represent to them in the strongest terms our apprehensions of the fatal consequences of the measure adopted by their General Court, and advised them by all means to suspend the declaration of their powers until Congress should be advised of this extraordinary step. We left them apparently undetermined, and as to what has followed, General *Gates's* letter will fully inform you.

Having gone through the business committed to us by Congress, as far as it has been in our power, we propose to set out to-morrow on our return, if the weather shall permit; in the mean time, with the greatest respect, we have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and most humble servants,

RICHARD STOCKTON,
GEORGE CLYMER.

To Mr. President *Hancock*.

P. S. This moment fresh accounts from General *Gates* inform us that he had sent boats forty miles down *Lake Champlain*, and no appearance of the enemy.

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COLONEL WAYNE TO GENERAL GATES.

Ticonderoga, 20 November, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: We shall be hard pushed for time and materials, to put this place in any tolerable state of defence; however, nothing will be wanting on my part to render it tenable. I have this morning prevailed on the commanding officers of the regiments (who can't get batteaus immediately) to turn out the whole of their men to assist in fixing the pickets, whilst those from the garrison are employed in procuring provender, boards, bricks, &c.

We have little to fear when once we get into the works, by keeping a good look-out, provided we are properly supplied with provisions, clothing, soap, &c., &c., articles which you know are much wanted. I need say no more on this head.

Colonel *White* has given his honour not to challenge or offer any violence to Captain *Varick*, until their friends have had an opportunity of settling the affair in an honourable way.

I wait impatiently for your orders how to proceed, which you may rely on being punctually observed, by your most obedient and very humble servant,

ANT'Y WAYNE.

☞ You'll try to relieve us as soon as possible. Colonel *White* is on his way across the lake, and liberated, according to your orders.

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PROVIDENCE (RHODE-ISLAND) TOWN-MEETING.

At a town-meeting of the town of *Providence*, legally warned and assembled on the 20th day of *November*, A. D. 1776, Colonel *Jabez Bowen* Moderator.

It is *Voted*, That Colonel *John Mathewson* and *Theodore Foster*, Esq., be, and they hereby are, appointed to wait upon *George Taylor*, Esq., President of the Town Council, to know whether he has, or is willing to subscribe the Test-Act, as required by law; and to make report as soon as may be.

It is also *Voted*, That Captain *David Lawrence* and Captain *Joseph Bucklin* be appointed to wait upon *Job Sweeting*, Esq., to know whether he has, or is willing to, subscribe the Test-Act, and to make report as soon as may be.

And the said Colonel *Mathewson* and *Theodore Foster*, reported that they have been to the house of *George Taylor*, Esq., and he not being at home, they could not see him. And the said *David Lawrence* and *Joseph Bucklin* report that they have waited upon *Job Sweeting*, Esq., who returned them for answer that he would presently attend this town-meeting.

And the said *Job Sweeting*, Esq., who is a member of the Town-Council, and one of the Town-Audit, having appeared before this meeting, and refused to subscribe the Test-Act, and the town having received sufficient information that *George Taylor*, Esq., had also refused subscribing the same, whereby their said offices according to law are become vacant:

The town thereupon proceeded to choose others in their room.

Colonel *Jabez Bowen* is chosen President of the Town-Council, in the place of *George Taylor*, Esq., aforesaid; *Benjamin Mann*, Esq., is chosen a member of the Town-Council in the place of the said *Job Sweeting*; Mr. *Paul Allen* is chosen one of the Town-Audit, in the place of the said *Job Sweeting*.

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SUMMONS OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE AMERICANS TO THE GOVERNOUR OF FORT CUMBERLAND.

*To* JOSEPH GORHAM, *Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Royal Fencible Americans, commanding at* FORT CUMBERLAND:

The already too plentiful effusion of human blood in the unhappy contest between *Great Britain* and her Colonies calls on every one engaged on either side to use the utmost efforts to prevent the unnatural carnage; but the importance of the cause on the side of *America* has made war necessary, and its consequences, though in some cases shocking, are yet unavoidable. But to evidence that the virtues of humanity are carefully attended to, to temper the fortitude of a soldier, I have to summon you, in the name of the *United Colonies*, to surrender the fort now under your command to the army sent under me by the States of *America*. I do promise that if you surrender yourselves as prisoners of war, you may depend upon being treated with the utmost civility and kindness; if you refuse, I am determined to storm the fort, and you must abide the consequences. An answer is expected in four hours after you receive this, and the flag to return safe.

I am your humble servant,

JONATHAN EDDY, *Commanding Officer.*

Head-Quarters, November 20, 1776.

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LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GORHAM'S ANSWER TO THE ABOVE SUMMONS.

Fort Cumberland, November 20, 1776.

I acknowledge the receipt of a letter signed *Jonathan Eddy*, commanding officer, expressing a concern of the unhappy contest at present subsisting between *Great Britain* and the Colonies, and recommending those engaged on either side to use their endeavours to prevent the too plentiful effusion of human blood, and further summoning the commanding officer to surrender this garrison.

From the commencement of these unhappy contests I have felt for my deluded fellow-subjects and countrymen of *America*, and for the many innocent people they have involuntarily involved in the horrours of an unnatural rebellion, and entertain every humane principle and aversion to the unnecessary effusion of Christian blood; therefore command you, in his Majesty's name, to disarm, and recommend your surrendering self and party to the King's mercy; and further desire you would communicate the enclosed manifesto to as many of the inhabitants as you can, and as speedily as possible, to prevent their involving themselves in the same dangerous and unhappy dilemma.

Be assured, sir, I shall never dishonour the character of a soldier by surrendering my command to any power but that of my Sovereign, from whence it originated.

I am you humble servant,

JOSEPH GORHAM.

To *Jonathan Eddy*.

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MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

In Council of Safety, November 21st, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 15th, by express, we only received this forenoon, and immediately sent off a fresh express to *Virginia*.

Despatches have been sent to the Militia officers throughout this State to hold their different corps in readiness to march upon the shortest notice.

It gives us concern to find, from information just now received from *Dorset* and *Caroline* Counties, on the *East Shores*, that there are likely to be disturbances in those

Counties, for want of salt, it is said, of a serious nature. The progress the disaffected have made we have not time to transmit by this opportunity without detaining your messenger, but we shall send duplicates of the information we received to our Delegates by to-morrow's post, who probably will arrive in *Philadelphia* almost as soon as this bearer.

For, and on behalf of the Council, I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

DAN. OF S. THO's JENIFER, *President.*

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 21st, 1776.

SIR: I have the honour to transmit the enclosed resolves in obedience to the commands of Congress. They are so explicit that I shall only request your attention to them.

You will perceive from the vote of Congress the sense of that body with regard to the necessity of furnishing the troops for the new army as soon as possible, a copy of which I have forwarded to the respective States agreeably to the orders of Congress. I have also written to the States southward of *Pennsylvania*, inclusively, urging them to lay up magazines of military stores and salt provision, for the use of the Army and Militia, in case it should be necessary to call them into the field the approaching winter. As our enemies will doubtless open the campaign early in the spring, it is absolutely necessary we should prepare for them, and exert ourselves to fill up the Army agreeably to the new establishment.

The Congress, to remove every objection, and in hopes of forwarding the recruiting service, have resolved that the troops may be engaged for three years, without presenting inlisting rolls, both for that term and during the continuance of the war, as ordered by a former resolution.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

The enclosed letter from Mrs. *Graydon* for her son I should esteem a favour you would order to be conveyed, if any opportunity.

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JOHN GIBSON, JUN., TO COUNCIL OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Treasury Office, Philadelphia, November 21, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: The Commissioners for adjusting the accounts of the Army at *New-York* and the *Jerseys* under the command of General *Washington*, are now engaged in executing that business, and are in immediate want of all the accounts of advances made by the several States for paying and subsisting the said Army. I am therefore to request you to order an account of such advances by your State to be forthwith transmitted to the Commissioners, that the proper stoppages may be made and the State reimbursed accordingly.

When the accounts are prepared you will please to order them to *William Denning*, *Thomas Smith*, and *James Stephenson*, Esquires, or either of them, at Head-Quarters at *New-York*, or the *Jerseys*.

I have the honour to be, in the name of the Superintendent of the Treasury, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JOHN GIBSON, Jun., *Auditor-General.*

To the honourable the President and Council of the State of *New-Hampshire.*

[Same to the President and Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay.*]

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SAMUEL CHASE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 21st, 1776—Thursday evening.

GENTLEMEN: Congress have not received any further particulars of the loss of *Fort Washington* than the account published *November* 19th. Captain *Ramsey* arrived here this afternoon. I am informed by Doctor *Rush* that he relates the affair in this manner, from Colonel *Cadwalader*, who is released by the enemy without any parole, on the request of General *Prescott*, for the civilities and attendance of his father (the Doctor) on the General when a prisoner in this city: That *Fort Washington* could not contain any thing near the number of our troops ordered for its defence. That there were two lines thrown up, the first at a considerable distance from the fort; that the second (and by far the strongest and capable of holding all the garrison) much nearer to the fort. Our troops were posted chiefly in the first lines, and were there attacked by the *British* troops. At this time a large body of *Hessians* crossed *Harlem* river and landed within the second lines, there not being any lines, breastwork, or forces, to oppose them. As soon as this movement of the enemy was discovered, a body was sent to oppose them. Of the *British* troops, there were only forty privates and one Captain killed; of the *Hessians* there were two hundred privates killed, and twenty-seven officers killed and wounded. Of our troops only thirty privates, and a Colonel *Baxter*, and a Captain *Miller*, of *Pennsylvania*, killed. Twenty-two hundred of our troops are prisoners.

The fort was victualled for three months, and amply supplied with cannon and all military stores. If this account be true, we have again blundered. Our loss is certainly very great. Doctor *Rush* says that General *Washington* is abandoning *Fort Lee*. '

All is well at *Ticonderoga*. I have this evening received an exact account of the enemy's naval force on *Lake Champlain:* One ship, 16 guns; one snow, 16 do.; one schooner, 14 do.; one do., 12 do.; one do., 12 do.; one sloop, 10 do.; bomb-ketch; one large floating battery, 24 10-pounders; twenty gondolas, of one gun each, 12 and 10-pounders; fifteen batteaus for boarding, one gun in each, 3-pounders; manned with one thousand men.

I have seen your opinion to our Commissioners, that they should proceed and inlist our troops for three years. I am apprehensive you do not see the opinion and object of Congress in its fullest extent. The Congress will agree that *Maryland* may raise her troops for three years, but have declared, and now hold, our State bound to contribute her proportion of the expense attending the procuring of lands for the officers and soldiers furnished by other States for the war.

We have proposed and urged on Congress that the question as to the procuring lands at the expense of the *United States*, and our claim that the back lands acquired from the Crown of *Great Britain* in the present war, should be a common stock for the benefit of the *United States*, and should remain open for the determination of some future Congress.

We have proposed that any State which may raise its quota for the war and give a bounty in lieu of land should indemnify the *United States* from any claim from their officers and soldiers who received an allowance in lieu of land, and that such State should not be chargeable to the *United States* for any part of the expense attending the procuring of lands for the officers and soldiers of the other States who shall furnish troops for the war. Both these propositions have been rejected. This day a resolve passed that each State be at liberty to inlist for the war or three years. What our Commissioners will do I know not, nor can I advise them. I am amazed at the obstinacy of Congress.

The paper for our money is shipped this day. Mr. *Paca* arrived this morning, so that we are now represented; but if Mr. *Rumsey* should go to camp, we shall soon be without a representation.

I am, gentlemen, with respect and regard, your most obedient servant,

SAM'L CHASE.

To the honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis.*

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DOCTOR WITHERSPOON TO RICHARD STOCKTON.

Princeton, November 21, 1776.

SIR: I beg the favour of you when at *Philadelphia* to lose as little time as possible in getting some orders given about the sick. In passing through this town I spoke to *John Hill* two days ago, who promised to take care of them, provided some money was sent up for the necessary expense. I gave him reason to think that would be done, and perhaps it would be best to give some money into Mr. *Kelsey's* hands to supply *John Hill* as it is needed. Whether it should be done in this way, or the appointment

immediately of a Deputy Quartermaster to stay here, I leave to you; but the case is clamant and affecting, and very well known to you. I have left some little affairs to finish in *Philadelphia*, for which I may perhaps be in a day or two next week, but cannot be certain.

There was sent to me this day the enclosed list of medicines ordered for tending the sick, which, if they are furnished, it seems Doctor *Bainbridge*, whom I did not see, has offered his assistance. You may do in this as you think best; but nursing and attendance and shelter to them are absolutely necessary.

Wishing you a good journey, I am, dear sir, your obedient, humble servant,

JNO. WITHERSPOON.

To the Hon. *Richard Stockton*, Esq.

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LORD STIRLING TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Brunswick, November 21st, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have this moment received a letter from Colonel *Grayson*, informing that General *Washington* had received information that the enemy had landed a large body of men on the west side of *Hudson's* river, about four miles above *Fort Lee*; in consequence of which I am putting all the troops in this State in readiness to march at a moment's warning. But from what Major *Mentges*, the bearer hereof, informs me, I think there is room to doubt whether the intelligence be well founded; however a few hours will determine whether it be so or not.

I am, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

STIRLING.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Hackensack, November 21st, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: It must be painful to you, as well as to us, to have no news to send you but of a melancholy nature. Yesterday morning the enemy landed a large body of troops below *Dobbs's Ferry*, and advanced very rapidly to the fort called by your name. I immediately went over, and as the fort was not tenable on this side, and we in a narrow neck of land, the passes out of which the enemy were attempting to seize, directed the troops, consisting of *Beall's*, *Heard's*, the remainder of *Ewing's* brigades, and some other parts of broken regiments, to move over to the west side of *Hackensack* river. A considerable quantity of stores and some artillery have fallen into their hands. We have no account of their movements this morning; but as this country is almost a dead flat, we have not an intrenching tool, and not above three thousand men, and they much broken and dispirited, not only with our ill success, but the loss of their tents and baggage, I have resolved to avoid any attack, though by so doing I must leave a very fine country open to their ravages, or a plentiful store-house, from which they will draw voluntary supplies.

Your favour of the 19th is just come to hand. I approve of your step with respect to the *Rhode-Island* officers. As I am unacquainted with their merits, I was obliged to leave the determination of the matter much to General *Greene*, hoping, I confess, that he would make an arrangement acceptable to his countrymen. However, I am well satisfied with what you have done, and must leave it upon that footing.

With respect to your situation, I am very much at a loss what now to determine. There is such a change of circumstances since the date of your letter, as seem to call for a change of measures. Your post undoubtedly will answer some important purposes; but whether so many or so great as your removal, is well worthy of consideration. You observe, it prevents a fine fertile country affording them supplies; but now they have one much more so and more contiguous. They have already traversed a part of that country, leaving little behind them. Is it probable they will return? If not, the distance must be too great in winter time to render it effectually serviceable. Upon the whole, therefore, I am of opinion, and the gentlemen about me concur in it, that the publick interest requires your coming over to this side, with the Continental troops, leaving *Fellows's* and *Wadsworth's* brigades to take care of the stores during their short stay, at the expiration of which I suppose they will set out home.

My reasons for this measure, and which I think must have weight with you, are, that the enemy are evidently changing the seat of war to this side of the *North River;* that this country, therefore, will expect the Continental Army to give what support they can, and, failing in this, will cease to depend upon or support a force from which no protection is given to them. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that at least an appearance of force should be made to keep this Province in the connection with the others. If that should not continue, it is much to be feared that its influence on *Pennsylvania* would be very considerable, and more and more endanger our publick interest. Unless, therefore, some new event should occur, or some more cogent reason present itself, I would have you move over by the easiest and best passage. I am sensible your numbers will not be large, and that, perhaps, it may not be agreeable to the troops. As to the first, report will exaggerate them, and preserve an appearance of an army, which will at least have an effect to encourage the desponding here; and as to the other, you will doubtless represent to them, that in duty and gratitude, their service is due wherever the enemy make the greatest impression or seem to intend so to do.

The stores at *North-Castle*, *Croton Bridge*, and *King's Ferry*, are to be removed to *Peekskill*, so as to be under General *Heath's* eye. This, we hope, there will be time and means to do.

Colonel *Putnam*, who has been surveying the country, thinks the bridge at *Croton* river a very important place, and that troops would be necessary there. You will please to regard it accordingly, by leaving or ordering one regiment there.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON.

Aquackenonk Bridge, 21st November, 1776.

SIR: I have this moment arrived at this place with General *Beall's* and General *Heard's* brigades from *Maryland* and *Jersey*, and part of General *Ewing's* from *Pennsylvania*. Three other regiments, left to guard the passes upon *Hackensack* river and to serve as covering parties, are expected up this evening.

After the unfortunate loss of *Fort Washington*, it was determined to evacuate *Fort Lee* in a great measure, as it was in a manner useless in obstructing the passage of the *North River* without the assistance of *Fort Washington*. The ammunition and some other stores were accordingly removed; but before we could effect our purpose, the enemy landed yesterday morning, in very considerable numbers, about six miles above the fort. Their intent evidently was, to form a line across from the place of their landing to *Hackensack* bridge, and thereby hem in the whole garrison between the *North* and *Hackensack* rivers. However, we were lucky enough to gain the bridge before them, by which means we saved all our men, but were obliged to leave some hundred barrels of flour, most of our cannon, and a considerable parcel of tents and baggage. Finding we were in the same danger of being pent up between *Hackensack* and *Passaic* rivers that we had been between the *North* and *Hackensack*, and also finding the country, from its levelness and openness, unfit for making a stand, it was determined to draw the whole of our force over this side of the river, where we can watch the operations of the enemy without danger of their surrounding us, or making a lodgment in our rear. But as our numbers are still very inadequate to that of the enemy, I imagine I shall be obliged to fall down towards *Brunswick*, and form a junction with troops already in that quarter under the command of Lord *Stirling*.

As the term of the inlistment of the Flying-Camp, belonging to *Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Maryland*, is near expiring, it will occasion so great a diminution of my Army that I submit it to your judgment whether it would not be proper for you to call together such a number of Militia as, in conjunction with the troops I shall have left, will serve to cover the country, and stop the progress of the enemy if they should still attempt to penetrate. If the weather continues favourable, I am apprehensive they will attempt

to make amends for the slowness of their operations the beginning of the campaign.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Governour *Livingston, New-Jersey.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL ATLEE.

Head-Quarters, November 21st, 1776.

SIR: I am favoured with yours of the 9th instant. I can so well conceive the desire that persons in captivity must feel for releasement and a return to their friends, that I do not wonder at your anxious endeavours to procure your own. If Mr. *Thomas Irving*, Receiver-General of *South-Carolina*, (who I do not look upon in the military line,) can receive any assurance from General *Howe* that he will exchange you for him, I certainly can have no objection. This proposition cannot with propriety go from me to General *Howe*, because by the terms of our cartel, exchanges can only be proposed between officers of equal rank; but either side may deviate from the rule if they please, as was the case of Governour *Brown* for Brigadier Lord *Stirling*. If, therefore, you and Mr. *Irving* can obtain General *Howe's* consent for your reciprocal exchange, I will, immediately upon receiving his approbation of the measure, send for Mr. *Irving*, from *Connecticut*.

In consequence of a joint letter from you and Colonel *Miles*, respecting the deplorable condition of our prisoners in *New-York*, for want of clothes and other necessaries, I have laid the matter before Congress, and have recommended it to them to provide a proper fund for their support. As to the scanty allowance of provisions, I would hope that it proceeded from the state of General *Howe's* stores, and not from any desire in him to add famine to the misfortune of captivity.

I am, sir, &c.,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Colonel *Samuel J. Atlee, Pennsylvania* Militia, prisoner.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GENERAL LEE TO COLONEL REED, DATED NOVEMBER 21, 1776.

I have just received your letter dated *Hackensack*, by *Cornelius Cooper*. His Excellency recommends me to move with the troops under my command to the other side of the river. I apprehend that this advice is founded on the presumption that we have the means of crossing at or near *Dobbs's Ferry*, or that my corps is moved up the country near to *King's Ferry*. There are no means of passing *Dobbs's Ferry;* and as we remain where you left us, the round by *King's Ferry* would be so great that we could not be there in time to answer any purpose. I have therefore ordered General *Heath*, who is close to the only ferry which can be passed, to detach two thousand men, to apprise his Excellency, and await his further orders, a mode which I flatter myself will answer better what I conceive to be the spirit of the orders than should I move the corps from hence. Withdrawing our troops from hence would be attended with some very serious consequences, which at present would be tedious to enumerate. As to myself I hope to set out to-morrow.

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*Return of the Brigade commanded by Brigadier-General* GEORGE CLINTON, *dated* PEEKSKILL, 21*st November*, 1776.

| REGIMENTS. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieutenant-Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Staff. Ensigns. | Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Comm'd. Sergeant-Majors. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Privates. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colonel Thomas | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 5 | 5 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 17 | 10 | 168 | 23 | 64 | 53 | 5 | 313 | - | - | 112 | - | 2 | - | 18 |
| Colonel Graham | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 20 | 13 | 108 | 26 | 37 | 84 | 9 | 264 | - | 2 | 160 | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| Colonel Swartwout | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 21 | 7 | 210 | 22 | 85 | 20 | - | 337 | - | 5 | 127 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Colonel Nicoll | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 30 | 19 | 230 | 31 | 87 | 26 | 6 | 380 | 2 | 3 | 109 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Pawling | 1 | - | 1 | 7 | 7 | 9 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 20 | 12 | 248 | 32 | 48 | 71 | 20 | 417 | - | 4 | 117 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Tash's detachment | 1 | - | - | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 2 | 85 | 13 | - | 17 | - | 115 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 6 | 4 | 4 | 32 | 38 | 38 | 1 | - | 4 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 116 | 63 | 1049 | 147 | 319 | 271 | 40 | 1826 | 2 | 14 | 625 | - | 6 | 1 | 19 |

N. B. Colonel *De Roussie*, with a detachment of *Canadians*, consisting of 6 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 1 Fifer, 72 Privates, including 8 sick and 1 in the *Jerseys* by leave of the General on command at *King's Ferry*, and not included in the above Return.

GEO. CLINTON, *Brig'r Gen'l.*

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*Return of the Regiment of Foot in the service of the* UNITED COLONIES, *commanded by Colonel* ISAAC NICOLL.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonel. | Lieutenant-Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Staff. Ensigns. | Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | Non-Commiss'd. Staff-Major, Drum Major, Quarter-master Sergeant. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Privates. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Sam. Raymond | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 23 | 2 | 21 | - | - | 55 | - | 1 | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Jno. Wood | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 33 | 5 | 6 | - | - | 44 | - | - | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Wm. Blain | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 34 | 3 | 9 | - | 2 | 48 | 1 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Jno. Little | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 20 | 8 | 17 | - | - | 45 | - | - | 8 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Joshua Brown | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 22 | 5 | 15 | - | - | 42 | - | - | 11 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Dolson | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 23 | 6 | 9 | - | - | 38 | - | - | 15 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain James Smith | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 3 | - | - | 19 | 1 | - | 34 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Jacob Dernder | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 43 | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Abraham Underdunck | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 43 | - | 1 | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain James Gregg | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | 11 | - | 1 | - | - | 12 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 30 | 17 | 230 | 31 | 87 | 26 | 6 | 389 | 2 | 3 | 109 | - | - | - | - |

Lieutenant *Dunning*, sick, present, of Captain *Wood's* Company.
Captain *Wm. Blain* and Lieutenant *David Rogers* gone home on furlough.
Lieutenant *Fantile*, sick, present.
Captain *Joshua Brown*, sick, present.
Captain *James Smith*, sick, present.
Lieutenant *Marling*, sick, at home.
Captain *Gregg*, gone home on furlough.
Four Sergeants sick, present; 2 do. sick, absent.
Captain *Dernder* and Captain *Underdonk* with their companies at *Fort Independence.*

PEEKSKILL, *November* 21*st*, 1776.

ISAAC NICOLL, *Colonel.*

JOSEPH REED, ADJUTANT-GENERAL, TO GENERAL LEE.

Hackensack, November 21st, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: The letter you will receive with this contains my sentiments with respect to your present station; but besides this, I have some reasons for most earnestly wishing to have you where the principal scene of action is laid. I do not mean to flatter nor praise you at the expense of any other, but, I confess, I do think that it is entirely owing to you that this Army and the liberties of *America*, so far as they are dependent on it, are not totally cut off. You have decision, a quality often wanting in minds otherwise valuable; and I ascribe to this our escape from *York-Island*, from *King's Bridge*, and the *Plains*; and I have no doubt, had you been here, the garrison of *Mount Washington* would now have composed a part of this Army: and from all these circumstances, I confess I ardently wish to see you removed from a place where I think there will be little call for your judgment and experience, to the place where they are likely to be so necessary. Nor am I singular in my opinion: every gentleman of the family, the officers and soldiers, generally, have a confidence in you. The enemy constantly inquire where you are, and seem to be less confident when you are present.

Colonel *Cadwalader*, through a special indulgence on account of some civilities shown by his family to General *Prescott*, has been liberated from *New-York* without any parole. He informs that the enemy have a southern expedition in view; that they hold us very cheap in consequence of the late affair at *Mount Washington*, where both the plan of defence and execution were contemptible. If a real defence of the lines was intended, the number was too few; if the fort only, the garrison was too numerous by half. General *Washington's* own judgment, seconded by representations from us, would, I believe, have saved the men and their arms; but unluckily, General *Greene's* judgment was contrary. This kept the General's mind in a state of suspense till the stroke was struck. Oh, General! an indecisive mind is one of the greatest misfortunes that can befall an army: how often have I lamented it this campaign!

All circumstances considered, we are in a very awful, alarming state, one that requires the utmost wisdom and firmness of mind. As soon as the season will admit, I think yourself and some others should go to Congress, and form the plan of the new army, point out their defects to them, and, if possible, prevail on them to bend their whole attention to this great object, even to the exclusion of every other. If they will not, or cannot do this, I fear all our exertions will be vain in this part of the world. Foreign assistance is soliciting, but we cannot expect they will fight the whole battle.

I intended to have said more, but the express is waiting, and I must conclude with my clear and explicit opinion that your presence is of the last importance.

I am, with very much affection and regard, your very affectionate, humble servant,

JOSEPH REED, *Adjut. Gen.*

Major-General *Lee*, at the *White-Plains*.

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COLONEL E. HUNTINGTON TO THE COMMITTEE OF LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT.

Peekskill, 21st November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By General *Heath's* order, I have sent to your care one Sergeant *McClowl*, who is a prisoner of war; was taken on the 17th instant, nigh the enemy's camp. You will please to have him so taken care of that whenever a change of prisoners shall take place he may be had.

I am, gentlemen, with respect, your obedient and humble servant,

E. HUNTINGTON, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

To the Committee of Safety of *Litchfield*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COLONEL JEDEDIAH HUNTINGTON TO HIS SON, DATED CAMP, 21ST NOVEMBER, 1776.

I am now at *Sidman's* bridge, on *Ramapough* river, in the Precinct of *Haverstraw*, *Orange* County, *New-York*, twenty miles in a southwesterly direction from *Peekskill*, on *Hudson's* river, twenty miles from *Hackensack* town, which lies on the river of that name, that empties itself into *Newark Bay*, about ten miles below *Hackensack* town. We hear to-day that the enemy are at *Hackensack* new bridge, two miles below the town, and that our Army have taken up the bridge to prevent their passing. I expect to be stationed at this place all winter. Have orders to build barracks for my men, which I am doing with logs. They make homely but very warm habitations. Your uncle *David* was glad to sleep in them in his journey to *Susquehanna*. I am in good health.

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GENERAL LEE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Camp at Philipsburg, November 21st, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Before the unfortunate affair of *Fort Washington*, it was my opinion that the two armies—that on the east and that on the west side of *North River*—must rest each on its own bottom; that the idea of detaching and reinforcing from one side to the other, on every motion of the enemy, was chimerical; but to harbour such a thought in our present circumstances is absolute insanity. In this invasion, should the enemy alter the present direction of their operations, and attempt to open the passage of the Highlands, or enter *New-England*, I should never entertain a thought of being succoured from the western army. I know it is impossible. We must therefore depend upon ourselves. To *Connecticut* and *Massachusetts*, I shall look for assistance. The time of service of the men who compose the little corps under my command is near expiring. The enemy's troops are well clad for a winter campaign. Should they attempt when the winter sets in to open the communication of the Highlands, or enter *New-England*, I know not what we have to oppose 'em. Some means must be devised to raise your regular battalions, for as to your Militia, they are grown more detestable than ever, not from the bad quality of the men, for they are certainly good, but from the wretched character of the officers, particularly the lower sort, who want every attribute of soldiers and citizens. They want spirit, patience, constitution, integrity, and publick virtue of course. If your men run away you may be assured that the way is led by the officers. There are, notwithstanding, some worthy subjects amongst 'em, but the bad preponderates so enormously that little confidence can be placed in your Militia. I must repeat, therefore, that I hope not only the legislative body, but the whole gentlemen of the *New-England* Provinces, will exert themselves to forward the completion of the Continental regiments. For Heaven's sake, sir, contrive to send us some blankets, otherwise we must dissolve away before the time of our natural death. I hope the cursed job of *Fort Washington* will occasion no dejection: the place itself was of no value. For my own part I am persuaded that if we only act with common sense, spirit, and decision, the day must be our own.

Adieu, dear sir, and believe me to be, most respectfully, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

To the President of the Council of *Massachusetts*.

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WILLIAM BRADFORD TO MESHECH WEARE.

General Lee's Quarters, November 21, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: Hurry of business at present prevents the General from writing himself. He has desired me to apologize for the same, and to inform your Excellency that there is the greatest probability of the enemy's paying you a visit very soon, a deserter having just come from the enemy, who declares 'twas in orders they should embark this day. Their design is, we imagine, to obtain secure winter quarters for themselves and shipping. Yesterday they landed, by the best intelligence we can get, about five thousand, in the *Jerseys*, four miles from *Dobbs's Ferry*. The particulars, since they landed, we have not learned. This manœuvre don't look like embarking, but the deserter appears so confident in his assertion that the General thought proper to acquaint your Excellency of it immediately,

I am, sir, with respect, your obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM BRADFORD,
*Aid-de-Camp to General Lee.*

By General *Lee's* orders.

GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Philipsburg, November 21st, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I yesterday received your note, for which I thank you; but had before received the intelligence of the enemy's having landed in the *Jersey*. Colonel *Reed* has written me a short billet that I do not well understand.* I shall be obliged to you for some account of the condition and progress of your barracks, and what number of men they are or will be capable of lodging, and what is the state of your defences, should you be attacked; as of likewise your numbers, and how they are stationed. If you have any sketch of the country, be so kind as to favour me with it; and am, dear General, yours most sincerely,

CHARLES LEE.

General *Heath, Peekskill.*

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp, November 21st, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have just received a recommendation—not a positive order—from the General to move the corps under my command to the other side the river. This recommendation was, I imagine, on the presumption that I had already moved nearer the *Peekskills*. There is no possibility of crossing over *Dobbs's Ferry*, or at any place lower than *King's Ferry*, which to us would be such an immense round that we could never answer any purpose. I must therefore desire and request that you will order two thousand of your corps, under a Brigadier-General, to cross the river, apprise the General, and wait his further orders.† As soon as we have finished a necessary job I will replace this number from hence, which job will, I believe, be finished to-morrow.

I am, dear General, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

General *Heath.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL LEE.

Peekskill, November 21st, 1776—10 o'clock at night.

DEAR GENERAL: I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of this day's date, the former of which I had answered early in the evening. With respect to the latter, upon having recourse to my instructions, I find they are such as not to admit of moving any part of the troops from the posts assigned to me, unless it be by express orders from his Excellency or to support you in case you are attacked. My instructions, among other things, are as follows:

"Your division, with such troops as are now at Forts *Montgomery, Independence,* and *Constitution*, are to be under your command, and remain in this quarter, for the security of the above posts and the passes through the Highlands from this place and the one on the west side of *Hudson's* river. Unnecessary it is for me to say any thing to evince the importance of securing the land and water communication through these passes, or to prove the indispensable necessity of using every exertion in your power to have such works erected for the defence of them as your own judgment, assisted by that of your Brigadiers and Engineer, may show the expediency of. You will not only keep in view the importance of securing these passes, but the necessity of doing it without delay, not only from the probability of the enemy's attempting to seize them, but from the advanced season, which will not admit of any spade-work after the frost (which may be daily expected) sets in. Lose not a moment therefore in choosing the grounds on the east and west side of the river, on which your intended works are to be erected. Let your men for each post be speedily allotted," &c.

After instructions so positive and pressing, you will readily agree, that it would be very improper in me to order any of the troops from posts to which they are so expressly assigned, and from business which in his Excellency's view is so very important. Add to this, their present disposition is such, that to collect any thing near the number you mention would occasion as great delay, and cause many of them to march nearly as far, as if sent immediately from your quarter.

I am, dear General, with esteem, yours respectfully,

W. HEATH.

General *Lee.*

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HENRY OUTHOUDT TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Catskill, November 21, 1776.

SIR: By a resolution passed the 9th *October* last, we find that we and others are appointed to purchase at the cheapest rate, in the County of *Albany*, sundry articles mentioned in said resolution, for the use of the Army. We have, although we lately received the notice of our appointment, made all the inquiry in our power whether we could purchase any of the said articles, and find that we can get the following, to wit: shoes at the rate of twenty shillings per pair; woolen hose from ten to twelve shillings per pair; felt hats from ten to twelve shillings each; mittens from three shillings and six pence to five shillings and six pence; check from thirty-two to forty shillings per shirt, beside the making; coarse woolen cloth, linsey-woolsey, and blankets, not to be had in our district.

As the prices of the above articles are much above the common price, we have not engaged any except a few pair of mittens, until such time as we could receive advice from the Convention.

If any of the above articles will suit at the rates mentioned, we suppose we can purchase for the value of five hundred pounds, and have them ready to be delivered to any person appointed for said purpose within a short time. Should the honourable Convention resolve to order us to purchase for any sum, we should be glad to have the money sent to us by the first safe opportunity, with directions of Convention in the premises.

With due esteem, remain, sir, your humble servants,

HENRY OUTHOUDT,
ANTHONY VAN BERGEN.

To the President of the Convention of the State of *New-York.*

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 7th December.]

Saratoga, November 21st, 1776.

SIR: Generals *Gates, Arnold,* and *Bricket*, arrived here yesterday. Being informed that very few of the men would reëngage unless they had furloughs granted them to return home, and that the greater part would not engage at all before they got into the States from whence they came, and apprehensive that the garrisons to the northward would with difficulty be detained after the expiration of the term for which they were inlisted, I called a council of General Officers on the subject, the determination of which I do myself the honour to enclose, together with copy of my orders in consequence thereof. But as I am still apprehensive that a sufficient number of troops will not reach *Ticonderoga* by the last of *December*, without some other spur, I could wish that Congress would order the different States to hasten their troops up to such places as I have directed.

Colonel *Wigglesworth*, who went with the flag, is returned. Enclose you a copy of a scandalous paper delivered him. He brought with him Sergeant *Younglove*, of *Dayton's*, who was taken near *Oswego* in *August* last. *Younglove* says the enemy are certainly gone into winter-quarters; that he saw Sir *John Johnson* at *Montreal* a few weeks ago; that he was afterwards informed that Sir *John* had sailed for *New-York.*

*November 20th.—Just at evening an express, which General *Heath* had sent down to General *Washington* before he had any knowledge of what had happened, returned with a most alarming account of what he had seen with his own eyes, viz: that the *Americans* were rapidly retreating, and the *British* as rapidly pursuing. The Adjutant-General [*Reed*] wished to write to General *Lee*, but he had neither pen, ink, or paper, with him. The Light-Horseman had a rough piece of wrapping paper in his pocket, and the Adjutant-General had an old pencil. Bringing these two together, he wrote to General *Lee:* "Dear General, we are flying before the *British*. I pray"—and the pencil broke. He then told the Light-Horeman to carry the paper to General *Lee* and tell him that he was verbally ordered to add, after I pray, "you push and join us." The Light-Horseman, when he arrived at General *Heath's* was both fatigued and wet. He requested that one of his brother horsemen might proceed to General *Lee;* but he was told that no other could discharge the duty enjoined on him by the Adjutant-General, and that General *Lee* might wish to make many inquiries of him. He was therefore refreshed and pushed on. General *Lee*, instead of moving his division, or any part of it, wrote General *Heath* by the returning express, the following letter.—*Heath.*

†Upon receiving this letter from General *Lee*, (for General *Heath* did not receive the least hint from General *Washington* to move any part of the troops under his command by the express who brought the order to *Lee*,) he took up his instructions from General *Washington* to see if he might dare to make any detachment; upon which he wrote General *Lee* the following answer to his letter.—*Heath.*

*November* 24th.—Colonel *Warner* was with me some months ago, and showed me a copy of a resolution of Congress appointing him Colonel of a regiment to be raised, and applied to me for money to recruit. As I had not the least information from Congress that such a regiment was to be raised, I declined giving him a warrant until I should receive orders from Congress. Mr. *Sherman* waited upon me some time after, as Paymaster to the regiment, to whom I gave the same answer; and this morning Colonel *Warner* and Mr. *Sherman* again called upon me on the same business. As Congress have not sent me any orders on that head, and as I do not know that the State of *New-York* has appointed him to one of the four regiments to be raised therein, I have again declined to order him money until I receive the resolution of Congress through the proper channel.

Notwithstanding the resolution of the Board of General Officers mentioned in the former part of this letter, I have ordered General *Gates* to detain the troops at *Albany* until I receive information from General *Washington* of his situation, as it may be necessary to send the troops down there. I wish, however, there may be no occasion, as it will greatly retard the recruiting for the new Army.

As I cannot without the consent of Congress leave this department without a General Officer, I have ordered General *Gates* to remain at *Albany*, the others being already gone down.

Enclose you two papers put into my hands by the Paymaster-General of this department. I really think there is reason in the observations made in them, and it is beyond doubt that his duty is much more than that of the Paymaster at *New-York*; and as he is a gentleman of strict honour and delicate feelings, I think the publick should not lose him, and therefore hope for something in his favour.

25th.—I have this moment received the account of the loss of *Fort Washington*, and shall send the troops that are passed and passing, to the Commander-in-Chief, as he may stand in need of them.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*.

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At a Council of War, held at *Saratoga*, the 21st *November*, 1776: Present, the Honourable Major-General *Schuyler*, Major-General *Gates*, Brigadier-General *Arnold*, Brigadier-General *Bricket*.

*Resolved, unanimously*, That there is great reason to believe that very few of the soldiers now in service will reëngage, either during the war or for three years, unless they are permitted first to return to the different States in which they were inlisted; and that as the term for which the troops now in service are engaged will expire on the last day of *December* next, that it will be prudent and of the greatest advantage to the publick service that all, except such a number as is sufficient to garrison the fortresses in the northern department, should be immediately sent to their respective States, with orders to recruit with all expedition, agreeable to the resolutions of the honourable Continental Congress; and to send all the recruits so to be raised, under proper officers of the respective corps they may belong to, in such time as to arrive at the places to be assigned for their quarters on or before the first of *January* next, to relieve such as may remain, and whose term of inlistment will then expire.

PHILIP SCHUYLER,
HORATIO GATES,
B. ARNOLD.

J. LANSING, Jun., *Secretary*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER'S ORDERS.

Saratoga, November 21st, 1776.

SIR: As the term for which most of the troops now in garrison at *Ticonderoga*, and other posts above, will expire on the last day of *December* next, and it would be extremely imprudent to leave any of the upper posts with less troops than are now assigned to them, you will march your regiment (whose term of inlistment also expires on the last day of *December*) to the State of *New-Hampshire*, and there recruit the same with the utmost expedition. Whatever number you may have recruited about the latter end of *December*, you will order to march under one of your field-officers in such time as that they may reach *Ticonderoga* if possible by the first of *January*, to relieve part of the garrison of that place. You will please send me returns every fortnight of the state of your regiment, that I may be enabled to take measures for sending other troops to the northward in case there should be a deficiency from your quarter.

I am, &c.,

PH. SCHUYLER.

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GENERAL PHILIPS'S ORDERS RELATIVE TO FLAGS OF TRUCE.

The boat from *Ticonderoga*, called a flag of truce, may be sent back with the persons who came in it. It is unnecessary to say more to these people than to repeat that his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief does not permit flags of truce, or any communication with the *American* Rebels, unless coming to implore the King's mercy. The allowing these Rebels in this boat to return, and not made prisoners, is an instance of the clemency of his Majesty's officers to these unfortunate people, but it is recommended to them to be careful how they venture within the posts of the Army, as they will be treated as spies.

Camp at St. John's, November 15th, 1776.

W. PHILIPS, *M. General*.

To Captain *Schanks*, commanding the Naval department at *St. John's*, to be sent by him to Lieutenant *Longcroft*; and a copy of this may be given to the Rebels.

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GENERAL HERCHKEIMER TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Canajoharie, November 21, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: I recommend Captain *John Eisenlord*, of Colonel *Van Dyke's* regiment, as a well qualified gentleman for his rank and station, and would be glad if he would be nominated and appointed as a Captain in the new arrangement during war, by your Honours' choice and authority. I am convinced that he will behave further satisfactory to the States in general, as well as to our County in particular.

I am, respectfully, honourable gentlemen, your obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS HERCHKEIMER.

To the honourable Committee of Convention for the new arrangement of Continental service, in the State of *New-York*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM QUEBECK, DATED NOVEMBER 21, 1776.

On *Friday* night last General *Carleton* arrived here from the Army, and on *Monday* he was waited on with the following Address by a committee of gentlemen appointed for that purpose by their fellow-citizens:

*To his Excellency Sir* GUY CARLETON, *Knight of the Bath, Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Provinces of* QUEBECK, *General and Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's Forces, &c., &c., &c.:*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: We, his Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the gentlemen, merchants, and citizens residing in *Quebeck*, most sincerely congratulate your Excellency on the signal victory obtained by the forces under your command over the Rebel fleet on *Lake Champlain*.

Impressed with a just and lively sense of the excellence of our glorious Constitution, we are determined under all circumstances to preserve it inviolate. Firmly attached to our most gracious Sovereign, and truly sensible of the inestimable blessings we enjoy under the protection of his Government, we behold with sorrow and indignation the mad attempts of factious men on either side the *Atlantick*, by whose diabolical machinations the greatest part of this Continent is plunged into the horrours of a civil war.

With grateful hearts we acknowledge that the peace and tranquillity we now enjoy is owing (under Providence) to the determined resolution, steady perseverance, and unshaken constancy, which, during the tedious siege of this city, shone in every part of your Excellency's conduct. If we, on our parts, have been in any degree conducive to the preservation of the garrison, we are happy in the reflection of having done an act of duty to our King and country.

We take the liberty to request your Excellency will assure our most gracious Sovereign, that we will, to the utmost of our power, on every occasion, with our lives and fortunes, protect, maintain, and support his Royal person, his family, and Government.

Permit us also to add our gratulations on your safe return to this city, where we truly wish you may enjoy, without interruption, those endearing and domestick blessings of which you have been so long deprived, by the duties inseparably annexed to your publick character.

[To this Address, which was signed by those, and those only, who assisted in the defence of the garrison last winter, his Excellency returned the following Answer:]

Gentlemen: I return you thanks for this dutiful and affectionate Address. You may assure yourselves it will not be less agreeable to me to represent, than it must be grateful to our Sovereign to know, the loyalty and firm attachment of subjects whose actions have so well evinced the sincerity of their professions.

I have no doubt that you will on every occasion exert the same ardour and spirit in the cause of the King and Government, as was so manifest in the trial to which you were so lately put.

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### CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

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Sir: Agreeable to your request I have been to *Sheffield,* and viewed the situation that is proposed for the building of a furnace for the making of cannon there. I think the place will answer for that purpose, and that a furnace convenient for the same may be built on the spot that I have viewed. Wood is very near and plenty, and I imagine the water will never fail. These are essential articles, and the encouragement for being well supplied with them there is great.

If it is determined by your State to go on with this undertaking, I should think that some preparation this winter would much forward the business next season. My compliments attend yourself and family.

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### REPRESENTATION OF JOHN ALLEN, OF NOVA-SCOTIA, TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL, RELATIVE TO THE MICKMAC AND ST. JOHN'S TRIBE OF INDIANS.

*The honourable Council Board for the* Massachusetts *State,* America:

May it please your Honours: The *Micmac Indians* having empowered me to represent to your Honours their

situation, their reasons for not complying with the treaty entered into by some of their young men, and your Honours desiring it might be done in writing, I shall endeavour, from the different minutes I have taken, to state the different movements, which I presume may be further satisfactory, their reasons for not assenting to the said treaty, and their present situation, as accurately and intelligible as my time and hurry of mind will permit.

After hostilities were commenced between *America* and *Britain*, they appeared very sullen in their form and behaviour. This created much anxiety in the minds of the people of *Nova-Scotia*; both sides seemed jealous of their intentions; even the *Acadians*, their most intimate friends, were strangers to their designs. They did not, as usual, frequent the different towns, but kept close to their respective villages, only now and then particular ones from the several tribes meeting to consult.

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The inhabitants in general being well-affected to the cause of *America*, occasioned the powers of Government to exert their authority in curbing (as they said) the progress of rebellion, passed several severe acts against *American* principles. The House of Assembly being so modeled they could get no help or redress from them.

The County of *Cumberland* and the settlement of *Cobequide*, perceiving the intention of Government, and being for some time considering how to join with the Continent, began to consult for immediate safety. *Cumberland* in particular seemed most assiduous, determined if there were any way practicable, to throw off the grievous yoke of *Britain*, which had so galled them since their first settlement, and form under the banner of *America*. These proceedings procured them most inveterate enemies. Messengers were despatched *incog.* among them, (the *Indians*,) to urge them to come and destroy us; and, indeed, some of them seemed very well pleased with the scheme During this, the hurry of business was such, and my indisposition, being lately recovered from the small-pox, I could not myself get among the *Indians*, I sent some *French* to hear what they intended doing. I had the happiness of receiving such satisfactory answers that I had no reason to expect any difficulty would happen from thence at the present, intending early in the spring to pay them a visit. But in the month of *March* we were again alarmed, that there had been a general meeting of all the tribes from *Bay of Cheleur* to *Cape Sable*, for what end we could not learn. Soon after I heard that some were coming to *Cumberland*, authorized by the whole, in order to do something. This prevented my intended journey. Soon after the arrival of the *British* troops at *Fort Cumberland* advice came to me that a number of *Indians* had been at the garrison, had a conference with Colonel *Goreham*, and were returned loaded with provisions, clothing, and ammunition. I immediately proceeded with all expedition to *Bay Verte*, where I only found one of the chiefs, just setting off. I had a great deal of conversation with him, but could not understand what his business was with *Goreham*. He was very precise in his behaviour sometimes, and cross, which did not a little surprise me, from the intimacy which always subsisted between us. These movements created great fear among the country people, so much so that despondency seemed to take the place with some.

In *June* three chiefs came to my house one morning, who acquainted me they had come to converse on the state of affairs, and consult what method was best to take, presenting me at the same time a letter from General *Washington*. They further said that *Goreham* had invited them to come and see him, which they intended doing, asking my advice how they should behave when at the garrison; and finding by their conversation, their well wish to *America*, and their determination to go in, I advised them to go at once, so that I might have an opportunity at their returning to hear what had passed. I took from them General *Washington's* letter, to keep till they came back. They also delivered me a letter from one *Carte*, at *Merimicke*, to Colonel *Goreham*, which I opened, and mentioning to them of Mr. *Washington's* letter, and something of their situation, they snatched it out of my hand and burnt it. They refused drinking any thing till their return from the garrison.

In the evening they returned very sober, told me that *Goreham* had asked them several questions about the state of *Canada*—if they did not think the Rebels of *America* were bad men? whether they would not take up arms to oppose them? He told them they should have every thing they wanted, such as good clothing, provisions, money, and ammunition, and desired them to consider of the affair among themselves; but if they would not take up arms in favour of the King, he expected they would not take up arms against him. *Goreham* dismissed them after giving ammunition and provision.

Next morning we conversed pretty largely on matters; they said General *Washington's* letter had given universal satisfaction. They adored him as a saint, for the reason that though he was harassed with war himself, still he tells us (says they) "to be at peace, and if we want help he will grant it and defend us. That for this their incessant prayers were for his success." They further told me that they had turned out one of their chiefs because he spoke disrespectfully of General *Washington*. They expected a truck-house would soon be erected on their shore, and that they had sent *John Baptist* and *Mantua* to answer the letter, and tell their good wishes towards their brothers the *Boston* men. But (say they) "we do not comprehend what all this quarreling is about. How comes it that *Old England* and *New* should quarrel and come to blows? The father and son to fight is terrible. *Old France* and *Canada* did not do so; we cannot think of fighting ourselves until we know who is right and who is wrong." In answer, I told them that I intended to have gone among them to have a conference respecting these matters; but on hearing of their coming I postponed it, and that I was now ready to instruct them in any thing I knew; and, in a brief manner, acquainted them with the nature of the dispute; which apparently gave them much satisfaction. They said it was very well, but I must go and explain it to the whole, who would assemble for that purpose any where I pleased to meet them. I told them I had wrote to *New-England* a state of the Province; had particularly mentioned their situation, and that when an answer came, I should attend at *Coquen*, twenty-five leagues from *Bay Varte*, but would be glad they would send word when ready themselves, intending at that time to persuade them to a treaty, take up the *French* Commissioners, and procure them others from the States.

Soon after the courier, which I sent to *Machias*, returned; instead of receiving any satisfactory answer, as I was in daily expectation of, they told that the man who had been entrusted with the packet to the General Court of the

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In *June* three chiefs came to my house one morning, who acquainted me they had come to converse on the state of affairs, and consult what method was best to take, presenting me at the same time a letter from General *Washington*. They further said that *Goreham* had invited them to come and see him, which they intended doing, asking my advice how they should behave when at the garrison; and finding by their conversation, their well wish to *America*, and their determination to go in, I advised them to go at once, so that I might have an opportunity at their returning to hear what had passed. I took from them General *Washington's* letter, to keep till they came back. They also delivered me a letter from one *Carte*, at *Merimicke*, to Colonel *Goreham*, which I opened, and mentioning to them of Mr. *Washington's* letter, and something of their situation, they snatched it out of my hand and burnt it. They refused drinking any thing till their return from the garrison.

In the evening they returned very sober, told me that *Goreham* had asked them several questions about the state of *Canada*—if they did not think the Rebels of *America* were bad men? whether they would not take up arms to oppose them? He told them they should have every thing they wanted, such as good clothing, provisions, money, and ammunition, and desired them to consider of the affair among themselves; but if they would not take up arms in favour of the King, he expected they would not take up arms against him. *Goreham* dismissed them after giving ammunition and provision.

Next morning we conversed pretty largely on matters; they said General *Washington's* letter had given universal satisfaction. They adored him as a saint, for the reason that though he was harassed with war himself, still he tells us (says they) "to be at peace, and if we want help he will grant it and defend us. That for this their incessant prayers were for his success." They further told me that they had turned out one of their chiefs because he spoke disrespectfully of General *Washington*. They expected a truck-house would soon be erected on their shore, and that they had sent *John Baptist* and *Mantua* to answer the letter, and tell their good wishes towards their brothers the *Boston* men. But (say they) "we do not comprehend what all this quarreling is about. How comes it that *Old England* and *New* should quarrel and come to blows? The father and son to fight is terrible. *Old France* and *Canada* did not do so; we cannot think of fighting ourselves until we know who is right and who is wrong." In answer, I told them that I intended to have gone among them to have a conference respecting these matters; but on hearing of their coming I postponed it, and that I was now ready to instruct them in any thing I knew; and, in a brief manner, acquainted them with the nature of the dispute; which apparently gave them much satisfaction. They said it was very well, but I must go and explain it to the whole, who would assemble for that purpose any where I pleased to meet them. I told them I had wrote to *New-England* a state of the Province; had particularly mentioned their situation, and that when an answer came, I should attend at *Coquen*, twenty-five leagues from *Bay Varte*, but would be glad they would send word when ready themselves, intending at that time to persuade them to a treaty, take up the *French* Commissioners, and procure them others from the States.

Soon after the courier, which I sent to *Machias*, returned; instead of receiving any satisfactory answer, as I was in daily expectation of, they told that the man who had been entrusted with the packet to the General Court of the

*Massachusetts* State, was landed from a man-of-war at *St. John's*, was thrown overboard, by which I was not only frustrated in my plan for reducing the Province, but at a loss what to say to the *Indians*, and perform my promise to them. We were also during this period attacked on every side by various false reports, to excite the inhabitants to keep peaceable, or to fright them to compliances with the mandates of Government. A scene of trouble and confusion seemed impending over the country. The few straggling *Indians* who appeared in the settlements gave great attention, and it appeared obvious their minds were too fluctuating to put any real dependence on their fidelity.

I found my situation too precarious to continue in the country, and rather detrimental to the peace of the community, as several express orders had come to apprehend me, and by the advice of my friends determined to take shelter in these new States.

I was very anxious to have a conference with the *Indians* before I left the country, but found it very difficult, as the different roads and avenues were guarded to the place I promised to meet the *Indians;* nor was I certain of meeting them, and how they stood affected at the time. I waited some time longer, when two *Indians* arrived for me. I immediately took some *Frenchmen* who were pilots, through the woods, and set off the next day for *Coquen*, distance by land about twenty leagues. I was somewhat detained in my journey by a tree falling in the night, when one of my *Frenchmen* received such a wound I imagine is since dead. It took him four days to get to inhabitants. Before my arrival at *Coquen*, I met some young *Indians*, who were coming to meet me. They informed that *John Baptist* and *Matua* had returned, and had a great packet with them, but that it much displeased the chiefs, and asked me if I was not come to request them to take up the hatchet; I answered no; which seemed to please them much. This somewhat surprised me. I waived saying any thing more to them.

On my arrival I was received very kindly by the different *Indians*, but perceived gloomy countenances. After telling them some news which they seemed anxious to know, I desired to meet next day, at ten o'clock. The *Frenchmen* where I lodged understood the language well; acquainted me that *John Baptist* and *Matua* had been to *New-England*, and had entered into a treaty; that it very much displeased the chiefs, even so much that *Baptist* and *Mantua*, from fear, (as he supposed,) told them that they were imposed on, and had signed things that were not read to them, and that he understood from their different conversations, they were determined not to agree to the treaty.

They all assembled the day after, twenty-one in number; and asked them if there were any more of the chiefs expected. They answered that they appeared there in behalf of the whole *Mickmac* tribe, at the desire and by the authority of the absent chiefs, as well as in behalf of their own particular tribes. I then addressed them, that agreeable to promise made *Joseph Sapscruort*, I had come to have a conference, not with any authority from the *United States*, but as a member of the same community with themselves, to determine upon something for our safety and welfare, and that I expected soon to be on the continent, where I intended making known their situation. They were very glad (they answered) that I appeared as one of themselves, and would be glad to know of things, but that they were very angry and uneasy about some proceedings of *John Baptist* and *Mantua*. I told them we would not enter upon that till we had discussed some other affairs about the dispute with *America* and *Britain*. They desired me to proceed. I accordingly gave a short historical account of matters from the beginning of the settlement of *America*, the reasons of the first emigrants leaving *Europe*, the different charters of the Colonies, the unjust demand of *Britain*, and breach of faith, the usurped authority claimed by *Britain*, the different steps taken by the *Americans* for redress, and finally the design of establishing civil and religious liberty, their power and strength. They listened with the greatest attention, and at the end of every sentence gave their assent.

As I presume it may appear more intelligible to your Honours, I shall write it down, as the conversation happened, by way of dialogue.

*An.* You have now heard the nature and rise of the dispute: do you think *Great Britain* had a right to treat *America* in such a manner?

*In.* If it is as you set forth, No.

*An.* Do you justify the *Americans* in their opposition?

*In.* Yes.

*An.* Then what objections have you against the treaty signed by some of your own tribe; why would you not join with them in defence of that liberty wherein you are concerned yourself?

*In.* Because we never authorized those persons to do such a thing. Some of it we cannot perform. Our situation is such that it must be of fatal consequences to families should it (even if we were willing) be known; and these men say they were imposed on, and we are determined to return it.

*An.* I cannot allow that your men were imposed on, for I know the gentlemen who made the treaty were different kind of persons. I desire that *John Baptist* and *Matua* may be examined before me.

*Jno. Baptist.* I don't believe they intended to impose upon us, but as I was the only interpreter, I believe we did not understand one another.

*An.* You hear this; and I expect that reports of being imposed on, be not propagated. What do you intend to do with the treaty?

*In.* We intend to carry it to *Fort Cumberland* or *Halifax*, and show it, and let them know we intend to send it back, for fear they will send their big vessels in our rivers and prevent us from fowling and fishing.

*An.* This will be very wrong. You may affront a power that is far superiour—the *New-England* men. If you are determined to send it back, I will take it, and deliver it to the governours of the *Massachusetts*.

*In.* This we would be very glad of.

*An.* Since this is your determination concerning the treaty, I would ask some questions.

*In.* Very well.

*An.* Would you be willing, if in your power, without distressing your families, to help your brothers the *New-England* men?

*In.* We are afraid to tell you what we would do in that case. We receive our present support from *Old England*. We want not to molest any, but to keep in friendship with all.

*An.* Would you screen any person who should flee for safety among you who might be drove form their dwellings by the *Britons*?

*In.* We would not hurt them.

*An.* Do you incline to help *Briton* against our countrymen the *Americans?*

*In.* No.

*An.* Would you rather traffick with the *United States* than *Britain?*

*In.* Yes, very much; but we have been greatly imposed on by the traders and fishermen from *New-England*.

*An.* Would you incline to assist the other inhabitants if they join with the *United States?*

*In.* When we see a sufficient power in this country we will tell you what we will do. We know nothing certain about things. We know we must submit to the strongest power. They then presented General *Washington's* letter, saying "There is what we will stand to. *George Washington* wrote that we might continue in peace if we pleased, for which he must be a good man. We will pray for him; and if our messengers had acted as they ought, and what we had instructed them with, we should now have been happy, and not have given any suspicion to our brethren in *New-England*."

*An.* Would you have all these matters made known to the governours of the *Massachusetts* State?

*In.* Yes, certainly.

*Matua.* I think there should be a copy of this conference, that we might show it to the *Englishmen*, that they may be convinced we don't want to quarrel.

*Ins.* Very good.

*An.* I think *Matua* has a great deal of impudence to make such a proposal. After putting us into such confusion, I cannot be of your opinion, nor think it expedient such a thing should be done. I told you before that I came not with authority from the States, but only as one of yourselves, and that what we talked upon there should be kept secret. And I promise you that I will communicate sufficient to prevent any hurt coming on you by the *Englishmen* for any

thing done here; and I expect from you that you will not give them any encouragement by having a correspondence with them, but keep them at a distance.

*In.* We understand all this, and think it very good. We will take your advice, and trust you will do what you can to help us, and not have us destroyed by the *Old Englishmen* nor be thought enemies by the *New-Englandmen*.

*An.* I think you do right to be at peace in your situation, and am sure your brothers the *New-Englandmen* want you should. Their young men acted foolishly, but forgive them. Be quiet and easy; you will by and by see what great things God will do for you and us. Have you any thing more to say?

*In.* Yes, we would be glad you would write a letter to the governours of *New-England*, which we will sign.

*An.* Please choose some person among you to dictate.

*Joseph Sapscruort* was chosen. He dictated what is wrote in their letter, as exact as the style of their language would any way admit.

*An.* Have you any thing more to mention?

They recapitulated over the contents of the letter again, with this addition: "You may tell them that we will send two chiefs in the spring. Are obliged to our brothers for their good offers, particularly the truck-house at *Machias;* but tell them it is no service to us, even should we have things for nothing, the distance is so great. We give our love to all our brothers in *New-England*, and particular to our good friend and brother *George Washington*. We wish you a good voyage, and that God will take care of you and bring you back safe."

I distributed among them about twenty weight of tobacco, being all I could bring. After smoking a pipe together, they very affectionately took leave of me, and departed for their different settlements the same evening.

From this conversation your Honours might reasonably suppose the *Indians* were very sincere; but from their different manœuvres and behaviour, which I have seen by many, I have the greatest reason to suspect their fidelity. They think among themselves it is a great qualification to use deception in these affairs, and are led thereby to practise dissimulation, and use every art to gain their ends. Where they perceive an opportunity to get something, they will exert every faculty to obtain it, although they are endued with some good properties and capable of improvement. The *French* and *English*, and I am sorry to say the latter in particular, have greatly inculcated (within my remembrance) every vice and immorality, and impaired any virtue they were possessed of. The great respect shown them from time to time from different sides, emulates a spirit of ambition. They think that they are of so much importance that many events depends upon them. I doubt not but your Honours are well acquainted with the nature of *Indians* in general, but the *Mickmacs* of *Nova-Scotia* are somewhat different from most others. Their living altogether on the sea-coast, and that being of considerable extent, mostly settled by *English*, the *Indians* are generally actuated according to the importance of the person or influence any one has who lives amongst them. The greatest number of these persons are zealous Government men, so called in that Province; and, indeed, I know not one in trade but the *Frenchmen* settled at *Coquen*, but what are enemies to *America*. Some of these merchants are men of great property, and supported also in these times by Government, who use every means to gain them over. I have received repeated intelligence of their persuading the *Indians* to take up arms, propagating every kind of news in favour of *Britain* and detrimental to *America*. The *Indians*, who are credulous to a degree, will listen to every report, and generally believe it, and think every thing true that is told them.

I would take the liberty to inform your Honours that a plan has been formed (though not made publick) to raise a body of light troops from *Newfoundland*, *Cape-Breton*, and *Nova-Scotia*, who, with the *Indians* they expect to raise in *Cheulieur-Bay* and confines of *Canada*, to penetrate in conjunction with others from *Canada*, by the river *St. John's*, into the easterly parts of this State, to prevent and stop the lumber trade. The personal knowledge I have of their ways, (though acknowledged by them as a friend,) I think them to be a most dangerous set of neighbours, and liable to do great damage if there is not some step taken with them. They are pernicious either as friends or foes in these times; though not brave, are capable to take advantages and commit the greatest cruelties. There is some few merits esteem, as honest, upright men, but there being no government among them, they are only as ciphers in point of authority. But, notwithstanding all their bad qualities, there is a method to win them. Any one acquainted with their disposition, and having fortitude and perseverance to put up with their foibles, and use such arguments necessary as they think their minds are proper to receive it, showing a good example, any thing in reason may be done with them. These circumstances (should it not be expedient to reduce that Province at present) I would recommend to your Honours, as my humble opinion, that some person acquainted with them as beforementioned should be employed as a superintendent, or some other dignified office, and to keep as constant as possible among them, acquainting them from time to time with the different news, and how things passes; by this, their different movements may be known; to have a truck-house erected in the most suitable place that he thinks for the benefit of the States and agreeable to the *Indians*. This would be the means of keeping them quiet or from assisting *Great Britain*.

I would observe to your Honours that something of trade with the *Mickmacs* would turn to considerable account, there being great quantities of furs collected there; more particular as the staple commodities might be procured in *Nova-Scotia*, which consequently would not be so expensive as transporting every thing from the Continent. I would beg liberty further to observe to your Honours, that a plan might be very easily laid to procure from *Nova-Scotia* great quantities of goods, which, at this time, to the clothing the Army, &c.

Your Honours may by this time think me lengthy, and find fault at my troubling you at this busy time with such a detail of things, and the many repetitions used, but presumed it might appear more clear in forming a judgment of the *Indians'* instability.

Should it be approved of, or any part of it satisfactory, it would be esteemed a pleasure; if otherwise, your Honours will please indulge me so far as to attribute it to a heart warmly attached to the liberties of *America*, and ever ambitious when thought to be performing the least atom which might have a tendency of promoting its happiness and prosperity.

I am, with the most profound duty and respect, your Honours' most obedient and devoted humble servant,

JNO. ALLAN.

Boston, November 21st, 1776.

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FRIENDS, BROTHERS, AND COUNTRYMEN: In the spring of the year we received, with joy and gladness, a very kind letter from our friend and brother his Excellency *George Washington*.

What he said therein gave us great satisfaction, and determined we were to continue in that friendship, with the same faith as he possessed towards us, and to keep the chain bright forever.

A few days ago an alarm was spread among us that another paper was come to require us to take up the hatchet. We met thereupon, and found that some of our young men had been with you in the character of chiefs, and made a treaty to go to war contrary to our desire. And, as we understand from them, was not rightly understood.

Our situation and circumstances being such at present, our natural inclinations being peace, only accustomed to hunt for the subsistence of our families, we could not comply with the terms; our number being not sufficient among other objections. And as it was not done by our authority and consent of the different tribes, we are necessitated to return it.

Still depending upon the promise of our brother *Washington*, and relying upon the friendship of all our brothers and friends your way, we hope and trust no offence in sending it back, and protesting at the same time that the chain of friendship is still subsisting between us on our side, and that we hope forever. A further account of our situation will in our name be delivered by our brother and

countryman, *John Allan*, Esq., bearer of this. Our love and friendship be with you all.

We are your friends and brothers,

his
JOSEPH × SAPSAROUCH, *Chief of Miramichi.*
mark.

his
JEANE BAPTISTE × ALYMPH, *Chief of Rechiboucton.*
mark.

his
AUGUSTINE × MICHEL, *of Rechiboucton.*
mark.

his
THOMAS × ATHENAZE, *Chief of Chediac.*
mark.

his
JEROME × ATHAUAZE, *of Chediac.*
mark.

his
BAPTIST × ARGUIMON, *Chief of Chiguemiton.*
mark.

his
JEAN × NOEL ARQUIMON, *of Chiguemiton.*
mark.

his
CHARLES × ALEXIR, *of Cape Sable.*
mark.

At Coquen, September 19th, 1776.

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INDIAN PETITION.

*To the honourable Council and House of Representatives of the* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

We, the petitioners, humble showeth, we being inhabitants to the Province of *Massachusetts-Bay*, and friends to the *United States of America*, did on the 25th day of *October*, set out on our hunting business, in order to support ourself and family, on the branches of *Union* river, where we use to hunt for our support. At our arrival at the branches we found all the hunting grounds taken up by *Englishmen* from *Deer-Island* and *Bagaduse*, which is great disappointment to us; having no other way to support ourself and family, we beg your Honours would take our circumstances into consideration, and do something to prevent the *Englishmen* from hunting, or we and our family will suffer, as we are afraid to go back in the limits of *Canada* as we use to do.

Gentlemen, your attentions to the above will oblige your friend and humble servant,

his
JOSEPH × PLOARQUA.
mark.

his
ACTON × NOCKTUMBARURAR.
mark.

his
JOSEPH × RORAN.
mark.

his
SER × CARTIS.
mark.

*Witness:*
JOHN RAY.
JOSEPH JEWETT.

Union River, November 2, 1776.

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A SHORT STATE OF THE INCONVENIENCES TO WHICH THE TROOPS ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA ARE PARTICULARLY SUBJECT.

[Read in Congress November 22d, 1776. Referred to Board of War.]

The publick store in *Williamsburg* has never been sufficiently furnished with goods to supply all the troops. Those on this station have in a great measure been deprived of the benefit of it, as the most necessary are constantly engrossed by the soldiers more immediately on the spot. The establishing a store to supply the troops on this station would certainly be a wise measure, as it would not only be a great relief to the soldiers, but might be attended with considerable profit to the Continent, which at present is enjoyed by petty adventurers, who almost ruin the soldiers by supplying them with worthless articles at most exorbitant price.

Without the advantage of sending the sick to the general hospital, (which is evidently our case,) the provision made for that of a regiment is entirely insufficient, their allowance of medicines being by no means adequate to our necessities, and proper attendance and many essential necessaries being entirely unprovided for.

The regulations of Congress in respect to their officers and soldiers receiving cash instead of their rations is a particular hardship on the troops here. Since they have not, nor can they be, supplied with Continental rations, the articles not being at present to be had, it is but just and reasonable they should receive an equivalent.

The situation of this country makes it absolutely necessary that the troops should occupy eight or nine posts, some of which are between eighty and ninety miles apart, and although the Field Officers of the regiment are under the necessity of frequently visiting these stations they are not allowed so much as forage for their horses.

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ORDER OF THE COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA.

In Council, Williamsburg, November 22d, 1776.

Colonel *Aylett*, the Deputy Commissary of the Continental Army, having represented to the Board the impracticability of supplying the troops with such rations as are prescribed by Congress, which besides, if they could be procured, would not be likely to give that satisfaction to the troops here which may be expected from the rations which have been usual, and which it is supposed may be furnished as cheap as the former:

*Ordered*, That the Governour be requested to write to our Delegates in Congress stating the substance of the above representations, enclosing an account of the rations allowed by this State, and recommending the adoption thereof for the Continental troops serving in this country.

A copy: ARCH'D BLAIR, *Clerk.*

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RESOLVES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF VIRGINIA TRANSMITTED TO THEIR DELEGATES.

November 20th, 1776.

VIRGINIA *Sess.*

*Resolved*, That it be an instruction to our Delegates in Congress that they use their endeavours to oblige all persons who now are, or hereafter may be, entrusted with any sum or sums of money under the appointment of the General Congress, to give sufficient security for the performance of their several trusts and faithfully accounting for the same.

*Resolved*, That instructions be sent to our Delegates in General Congress to propose to Congress the taking into Continental pay so many of the troops of Horse raised in this Commonwealth as shall consent thereto, and to agree that the expenses already incurred thereby shall be a Continental charge.

*Resolved*, That instructions be sent to our Delegates in General Congress to propose to Congress the defraying out of the Continental Treasury the expenses of the expedition against the southern *Indians*—an expedition which it is conceived should be a Continental charge, and to procure necessary supplies of money to be sent hither for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That instructions be given to our Delegates in General Congress, to propose to Congress that two of the six additional battalions of Infantry lately ordered to be raised in this Commonwealth for the Continental defence, may be stationed on the western frontiers for the defence thereof, and that the said two battalions may be of those consisting of men to be raised in that part of the country.

JOHN TAZEWELL, *C. H. D.*

Agreed to by the Senate:

JOHN PENDLETON, *C. S.*

A true copy.

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ADDRESS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE SEVENTH VIRGINIA REGIMENT TO COLONEL WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

We beg leave to take this method of expressing our sense of the warmest attachment to you, and at the same time our sorrow in the loss of a commander who has always been influenced by motives that deservedly gain the unfeigned esteem and respect of all those who have the honour of serving under them. Both officers and soldiers retain the strongest remembrance of the regard and affection

you have ever discovered towards them; but as we are well assured that you have the best interest of your country ever in view, we should not regret, however sensibly we may feel the loss of you, that you have chosen another field for the display of your military talents. Permit us, therefore, to express our most cordial wish, that you may ever find a regiment no less attached to you than the Seventh, and that your services may ever be productive of benefit to your country and honour to yourself.

COLONEL CRAWFORD'S ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN: Your very affectionate and polite Address demands my warmest acknowledgments, which I beg leave to return to you in the strongest terms of gratitude and affection. Be assured the officers of the Seventh Regiment will ever share my tender regard; and I have great hopes that they will continue to merit the highest esteem of their insulted and injured country. My kind wishes will ever attend the lowest soldier in the regiment.

My own abilities are small, but I have this serious satisfaction, that they have been, and shall continue to be, exerted to the utmost in defence of *American* liberty, justice, and the rights of humanity.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most humble servant, W. CRAWFORD.

SAMUEL CHASE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 22d, 1776—Friday morning.

GENTLEMEN: I received from Major *Gist* the enclosed return of the Independent companies and *Smallwood's* battalion.

I have seen Captain *Ramsey*, who relates the particulars of the surrender of *Fort Washington*, in the manner I communicated to you in my letter of yesterday evening. Of the *Maryland* troops, Colonel *Rawlings*, Colonel *Williams*, and about two hundred of that battalion are prisoners. *Williams* was wounded. With their men they defended a pass against the *Hessians* for two hours, and killed two hundred of them, and not, as I mentioned, after they landed across *Harlem* river. Of General *Beall's* brigade one hundred and sixty are prisoners, and Captain *Ling's* company, he being sick in the *Jerseys*. Captain *Hardman*, of *Frederick*, and his company, are prisoners. In all the troops raised in our State above four hundred are prisoners.

It is reported General *Howe* meditates an attack on this city.

I am, gentlemen, with respect and regard, your obedient servant, SAMUEL CHASE.

The honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis*.

ADDRESS OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

In Council of Safety, November 22, 1776.

*To the Freemen of the City and Liberties of* PHILADELPHIA:

FELLOW-CITIZENS: It is our duty to inform you that our enemies are advancing upon us, and that the most vigorous measures alone can save this city from falling into their hands. Consider your situation, and determine what part you will take. There is no time for delay; and by your conduct the Continent will be influenced. We therefore entreat you, by the most sacred of all bonds—the love of virtue, of liberty, and of your country—to forget every distinction, and unite as one man in this time of extreme danger. Let us defend ourselves like men determined to be free.

And we do most earnestly request that you will meet your fellow-citizens at the State-House to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, there publickly to determine what measures we shall pursue. The bells will be ordered to ring, and the most publick notice possible will be given of this meeting.

By order of Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President.*

LANCASTER (PENNSYLVANIA) COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation, Inspection, and Correspondence, for the County of *Lancaster*, at the house of *Adam Reigart*, the 22d *November*, 1776, present, *William Atlee*, *William Bowsman*, *Mathias Slough*, *Edward Shippen*, *George Moore*, *Henry DeHuff*, *Sebastian Graff*, *Adam Reigart*, *Andrew Graff*, *Christopher Crawford*, *Lodwick Lowman*. *William Atlee* in the chair.

Mr. *Lowman* mentions that lately in *Philadelphia* he received from the Committee of Safety sixty bushels of Salt, for the use of this County; that he gave orders there for hogsheads to be purchased for it, and for sending it up, and that a wagon with three hogsheads of it is now arrived, and requesting the price may be fixed, a store provided, and a person appointed to measure it out.

Upon consideration the expenses attending the same are settled as follows, viz:

| | |
|---|---|
| Hogsheads, per bushel, - - - - - - - | 0*s.* 6*d.* |
| Carriage at 2*s.* per bushel, - - - - - - | 2 0 |
| Wastage, 1 bushel in 15, per bushel, - - - | 1 0 |
| Storage, measuring, &c., per bushel, - - - | 1 0 |
| | 4 6 |
| To which add the prime cost of the Salt, - | 15 0 |
| | 19 0 |

So that 19 0 is fixed as the price to be paid here for the Salt per bushel, it being supposed the hogshead will sell for as much as will pay their porterage and cooperage; and Mr. *Christopher Crawford* agrees to provide a store for it, and measure it out, and is to receive for it at the above rate; and when all delivered out, is to settle his accounts with the Committee.

Mr. *Crawford* is requested to exercise his own judgment in the delivering it out, having respect to the families of those who apply, but is not to deliver to any one housekeeper above half a bushel, and is to keep an alphabetical list of those who receive Salt from him, as more is expected, and the same person should not receive twice.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Atlee*, out of the publick Continental Moneys in his hands, pay to Mr. *Lowman* £4 7*s.*, for his expenses in his journey to *Philadelphia*, at the request of the Committee in *August* last, to negotiate business with the Congress, &c.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Atlee* pay *Lewis Peter* and *George Lindeberger*, for one hundred and thirty one thousand one hundred bricks furnished by them for the barracks and works carrying on there, out of the Continental moneys in his hands.

In Committee, Lancaster, the 22d November, 1776.

The honourable the Council of Safety of this State having, agreeable to the request of the Board of War, directed that the prisoners of war should be collected and forwarded under proper escorts to a place appointed by his Excellency General *Washington* for their reception, to be exchanged, and the Committee of this County being desirous to carry the said order, so far as respects the prisoners in their charge, into execution as expeditiously as possible: Therefore all prisoners of war who have left and are absent from the barracks in *Lancaster* are required immediately to repair there; and all members of Committee in the County, officers of the Militia, and others who are desirous to release their distressed fellow-citizens from bondage, and restore them to their country and friends, are desired to be active in forwarding in the prisoners of war who may be in their districts, townships, and neighbourhoods, immediately to *Lancaster*, that they may be conducted to their place of destination for exchange without delay; and all such as shall venture to harbour or conceal any of the prisoners of war after this notice and request, will be marched with them to Head-Quarters, to be disposed of as the General shall direct.

COMMITTEE OF READING (PENN.) TO LANCASTER COMMITTEE.

Reading, November 22, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The Committee here desire that when you send the prisoners of war from *Lancaster* to *Fort Lee*, you would not send them through this town, or (if you must send them this way) that you send them in parties or companies not exceeding one hundred at a time. We also desire you would provide wagons and other things necessary for the conveying the prisoners now with you all the way to *Fort Lee*, as we cannot take upon us to do any thing but for those who are now in this town.

It being ordered that officers and privates go separately, it is apprehended that if prisoners with you come this way this order cannot be strictly executed.

By order of Committee.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

JAMES READ, *Chairman.*

Committee *Lancaster.*

P. S. We wish you would forward the substance of this letter to *York* and *Carlisle*, that we may have nothing to provide here but for the prisoners we send off, for we will not provide for more.

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ALLEN McDONALD (PRISONER) TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Reading, November 22d, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIR: By the order to Mr. *Read*, Chairman of the Committee here, about the exchange of prisoners, it seems the gentlemen from *North-Carolina* are excepted. I and my son are the only prisoners here from that quarter, and are both in the regular service, the one a Captain, and the other a Lieutenant, in the Emigrants. I entered the King's service in the year 1745, as my commission will attest, and have been in the service of my King and country in different capacity since, so that I look on myself and son in a different light from the *North-Carolina* militia. Therefore believe we are entitled to be arranged in the class of regular officers. This I submit to your better judgment, and beg you will forgive this freedom and trouble from, honourable sir, your very humble servant,

ALLEN McDONALD.

P. S. The allowance of five dollars per week to me, my son, and servant, would be serviceable in clearing off our small debts here, as we cannot do so without receiving it, being ten weeks *Monday* next, being paid to the 17th *September*.

ALLEN McDONALD.

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JOHN GIBSON TO THE COUNCIL OF DELAWARE.

Treasury Office, Philadelphia, November 21, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: The Commissioners for adjusting the accounts of the Army at *New-York* and the *Jerseys*, under the command of General *Washington*, are now engaged in executing that business, and are in immediate want of all the accounts of advances made by the several States for paying or subsisting said Army.

I am therefore to request you to order an account of such advances by your State to be forthwith transmitted to the Commissioners, that the proper stoppages may be made, and the State reimbursed accordingly.

When the accounts are prepared you will please to order them to *William Denning*, *Thomas Smith*, and *James Stephenson*, Esqs., or either of them, at Head-Quarters at *New-York* or the *Jerseys*.

I have the honour to be, in the name of the Superintendents of the Treasury, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JOHN GIBSON, *Auditor-General.*

To the Hon. *George Read*, Esq., *New-Castle.*

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GENERAL LEE TO THE PRESIDENT OF MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Camp near Phillipsbourg, 22d November, 1776.

SIR: Indecision bids fair for tumbling down the goodly fabrick of *American* freedom, and, with it, the rights of mankind. 'Twas indecision of Congress prevented our having a noble army, and on an excellent footing. 'Twas indecision in our military councils which cost us the garrison of *Fort Washington*, the consequence of which must be fatal, unless remedied in time by a contrary spirit. Enclosed I send you an extract of a letter from the General, on which you will make your comments; and I have no doubt but that you will concur with me in the necessity of raising immediately an army to save us from perdition. Affairs appear in so important a crisis, that I think even the resolves of the Congress must no longer too nicely weigh with us. We must save the community in spite of the ordinances of the Legislature. There are times when we must commit treason against the laws of the State for the salvation of the State. The present crisis demands this brave, virtuous kind of treason. For my own part, (and I flatter myself that my way of thinking is congenial with that of Mr. *Boidoin's*,) I will stake my head and reputation on the propriety of the measure. To come to the point: I request and conjure you, therefore, to waive all formalities, and devise some means of completing not only your regiments prescribed to the Province, but add, if possible, four companies to each regiment. We must not only have a force sufficient to cover your Province and these fertile districts from the insults and irruptions of the tyrant's troops, but sufficient to drive 'em out of all their quarters in the *Jerseys*, or all is lost. Disaffection is daily increasing in *Pennsylvania*, which must be checked by a tremendous superiority. In the mean time send up a formidable body of Militia to supply the place of the Continental troops, which I am ordered to convey over the river. Let your people be well supplied with blankets and warm clothes, as I am determined by the help of God to unnest 'em even in the dead of winter. Let me hear from you soon.

Yours most affectionately and respectfully,

CHARLES LEE.

For Heaven's sake lose no time in sending up the Militia, and a number of shoes, stockings, and blankets, for the Army. If *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut* do not now exert themselves, they must, and indeed ought to be, enslaved; but if they act with the necessary vigour and virtue, I will answer for their success.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR-GENERAL LEE, DATED HACKENSACK, NOVEMBER 21, 1776.

It must be painful to you as well as to us, to have no news to send you but of a melancholy nature. Yesterday morning the enemy landed a large body of troops below *Dobbs's Ferry*, and advanced very rapidly to the fort called by your name. I immediately went over, and as the fort was not tenable on this side, and we in a narrow neck of land, the passes out of which the enemy were attempting to seize, I directed the troops, consisting of *Beall's*, *Heard's*, the remainder of *Ewing's* brigade, and some other parts of broken regiments, to move over to the west side of *Hackensack* river. A considerable quantity of stores, and some artillery, have fallen into their hands. We have no accounts of their movements this morning. As this country is almost a dead flat, and we have not an intrenching tool, and not above three thousand men, and they much broken and dispirited, not only with our ill success, but the loss of their tents and baggage, I have resolved to avoid any attack, though by so doing I must leave a very fine country open to their ravages, or a plentiful storehouse from which they will draw voluntary supplies.

A true copy—attest: JOHN AVERY, *Dep'y Sec'y.*

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SOUNDINGS OF HUDSON RIVER, IN THE HIGHLANDS.

In consequence of a letter received by us, the subscribers, members of the Secret Committee, from the Committee of Safety, dated the day of *November* instant, when we were at *Fort Montgomery* fixing the chain across the river, enclosing an extract from a letter of General *Schuyler's*, requesting the Convention to have the river sounded in different places in the Highlands, we have sounded the river, beginning between *Verplank* and *Stoney-Point*, thence northward through the Highland to *Pollapel's Island*, and find no part of the river in that distance less than eighty feet deep in the main channel, till within a short distance of the Island. From the Island to the western shore, found by measurement the distance to be fifty-three chains. The channel near the middle of the river at that place is about eight chains broad and fifty feet deep; from the channel the water shoals gradually on both sides to the flats, which are about eight or ten chains broad, reckoning both sides. This above-described place is the only one, in our opinion, that it is possible for an obstruction to be made by docking, effectually to impede the navigation of *Hudson's* river, at any place above the south part of the Highlands.

HENRY WISNER,
GILBERT LIVINGSTON.

To the Committee of Safety.

November 22d, 1776.

AUGUSTUS LAWRENCE AND SAMUEL TUDOR TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Poughkeepsie, 22d November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed we send you an order to us from the Marine Committee of *Philadelphia*, which order we conceive to be of the utmost importance; and as they have heretofore directed us to advise with your honourable House in matters of consequence, request your advice in the premises. Beg you would return the order, as we have not had time to take a copy.

We are, gentlemen, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servants,

AUGUSTUS LAWRENCE,
SAMUEL TUDOR.

The honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE OFFICERS APPOINTED TO RECRUIT IN NEW-YORK FOR THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The honourable Continental Congress having reconsidered the resolution of the 16th *September* last, for raising eighty-eight battalions to serve during the present war with *Great Britain*, and being of opinion that the readiness of the inhabitants of the States to enter into the service for limited times, in defence of their invaluable privileges on all former occasions, gives good ground to hope that the same zeal for the publick good will appear in future, when necessity calls for their assistance, and the uncertain length of time which forces raised during the continuance of the war may be compelled to serve, may prevent many from inlisting who would otherwise readily manifest their attachment to the common cause by engaging for a limited time, have therefore, on the 7th instant, resolved to admit into their service non-commissioned officers and soldiers for the space of three years. The encouragement you are to offer is so great as will, it is hoped, give you a choice of men and insure you success, to wit: A bounty of ten dollars in money to every non-commissioned officer and soldier already inlisted for three years, and who has received the Continental bounty of ten dollars, and to every other recruit a bounty of twenty dollars; and also, to each a suit of clothes yearly, to consist for the present year of two linen hunting-shirts, two pair of hose, two pair of overalls, a leathern or woolen waistcoat with sleeves, one pair of breeches, one hat or leathern cap, two pair of shoes, amounting in the whole to the value of twenty dollars more. But each non-commissioned officer or soldier who shall procure those articles for himself, and produce to the Paymaster of the regiment a certificate thereof from the Captain of the company to which he shall belong, shall be entitled to receive the twenty dollars in money; besides which, every non-commissioned officer and soldier who shall inlist during the war is to receive at the end of the war one hundred acres of land as a further encouragement.

2dly. You are to be careful to inlist none but healthy, able-bodied men, who shall engage to serve in the Army of the *United States of America* during the present war, or for the term of three years, unless sooner discharged by Congress.

3dly. You are required to provide two distinct inlisting rolls, one to be subscribed by such who shall inlist during the continuance of the war, and the other by such as shall inlist for three years if their services shall so long be required.

4thly. You shall take the age, size, complexion, colour of hair and eyes, and natural or accidental mark of every recruit, with an account of the place of his birth and occupation.

5thly. You shall embrace all opportunities to have the recruits drilled and disciplined, and for that purpose you shall despatch them without delay to such station or place of rendezvous as shall be appointed for that purpose.

6thly. To every recruit at the time of inlistment you shall administer the oath prescribed by the articles of war published by the Continental Congress.

7thly. You shall appoint four active and capable recruiting Sergeants to assist you in this service.

8thly. If you shall reinlist for the war or for three years any non-commissioned officer or soldier who is at present in actual service for a shorter time, you are to give in his name and description to the Captain to whose company he shall then belong, who is to take particular charge of him, that he be delivered over to his proper officer at the end of the service for which he may so be preëngaged, or sooner if required.

9thly. You are to have your men mustered by the Commissary of Musters the first opportunity after inlistment, in order that they may receive their full bounty, five dollars of which only you shall pay to each recruit as an encouragement at the time of inlistment.

10thly. For this purpose you shall receive from the Treasury of the State of *New-York* the necessary sums, of the expenditure of which you shall keep a regular account, and transmit it to the Treasurer at *Fishkill*.

After the articles of war are read to the non-commissioned officer or soldier inlisted by the inlisting officer or the commanding officer of the troop or company, the following oath (or affirmation, if the recruit is conscientiously scrupulous) shall be administered to him before the next Justice of the Peace or Chief Magistrate of any city or town corporate, not being an officer of the Army, or, where recourse cannot be had to a Magistrate, before the Judge Advocate:

"I swear (or affirm as the case may be) to be true to the *United States of America*, and to serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whatsoever; and to observe and obey the orders of the Continental Congress, and the orders of the General and officers set over me by them."

By order of the Committee of Arrangement:

ROBERT HARPER, *Chairman p. t.*

To *Brinton Payne*, Esq., Captain.

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CAPTAIN COPP TO GILBERT LIVINGSTON.

Johnston-Hall, November 22d, 1776.

SIR: Being informed that the regiment in which I now serve is shortly to be disbanded, and probably I may be out of office unless the interposition of my friends may prevent it, and as I hear there are four regiments to be raised for the State of *New-York*, in consequence therefore of the good opinion you was pleased to entertain of me while I had the honour of boarding with you at Mr. *Scott's*, in *New-York*, and of your willingness to promote my interest, I now take the liberty of requesting the favour of you to use your influence with the Convention in my behalf for an office in one of the above regiments. Of my military character, Colonel *Weisenfels*, and others with whom I had the honour to serve, can give you a particular account. In other respects I flatter myself I am not altogether unknown to several of the members of the Convention.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JNO. COPP.

To *Gilbert Livingston*, Esq.

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RECOMMENDATION OF CAPTAIN EISENLORD.

Fort Dayton, November 29th, 1776.

I do certify that Captain *John Eisenlord*, in Colonel *Van Dyk's* regiment, has behaved himself in his station as a gentleman becoming to his rank, and as a good soldier, very capable for the service, agreeable to his present appointment during my command at the fort above-mentioned.

ROB'T COCHRAN, *Major*.

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MAJOR FONDA TO ROBERT YATES.

Cahnawaga, 22d November, 1776.

I have been considering about persons proper for officers, according to your desire, and am of opinion (without any private view or interest) that Captain *McKeen* and *Ebenezer French*, now his Lieutenant, *Albert Van Dewark* his Second Lieutenant, and *Garrit Pottman* and Major *Robert Cochran*, who is an active good soldier—those persons I know are good men and true to the cause, and will make good officers as any that I know of, and if they had warrants would soon be able to raise a quantity of men. Major *Cochran* would choose to be in the Rangers, as he is well used to that business, and understands the woods as well as any man.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

JELLIS FONDA.

*R. Yates*, Esq.

NATHANIEL GRISWOLD TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Lyme, November 22d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By direction from Governour *Trumbull*, at the request of the Committee of Inspection for the town of *Lyme*, in the State of *Connecticut*, have to acquaint you that about the 1st of *October* last, five cows with fifteen yearling cattle were, by order of Colonel *H. B. Livingston*, brought from *Shelter-Island* to *Saybrook*, and by order of the Committee of Inspection for that town, carried over the river and landed at *Lyme*, with direction to be kept there till further orders. Those cattle are said to have belonged to *W. Nichols*, Esq., of *Long-Island*. They cannot be kept in the place where they now are during the winter; indeed, it is supposed to keep them longer would be a loss to the owner, or those to whom the avails belong. It is therefore desired you would please without loss of time to give orders relative to the sale and disposal of said cattle, to account for the avails, &c. A line directed to the Committee of Inspection of the town of *Lyme*, in the State of *Connecticut*, will undoubtedly answer the purpose. If it were superscribed to my care will faithfully endeavour to see your orders fully executed.

I am, with great esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

MATTH'W GRISWOLD.

To the gentlemen of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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DECLARATION OF MILES DELWOOD.

New-Melford, November 22d, 1776.

The declaration of *Miles Delwood*, before the Committee of this town: The beginning of my being inimical to my country was when Major *Skeens* first came to my house, *November* 5th, 1775, about eight o'clock at evening, in company with one *Mark Prindle*. I went up stairs with *Skeens* to light him to bed, when he opened his business to me as follows: He asked me if I was not a mind to save my estate? My answer to him was, By all means, but how shall I do it? Said *Skeens* then made me take an oath not to inform where he was before he should get out of the country. I swore I would not. Then he told me he was young Major *Skeens*, and hoped I was friendly to the King, and for my promise in keeping him secure in so critical a moment he would save my estate, for there would be two hundred thousand Regulars here in the spring, and that one half the country was on the King's side, and that he, said *Skeens*, had connection with one *Robberson*, over in the Pasture, in the State of *New-York*. Said *Miles* saith he has not seen the above *Skeens* or *Prindle* since.

*March*, 1776, one *Levi Rich*, who belonged on board one of the King's ships, came to said *Miles's* house, directed to him by the above *Skeens*. Said *Rich* told him Major *Skeens* sent his love to him, and still remembered him. Said *Rich* told him all loyal subjects to the King would save their estates, and that he had been in all the towns round about and had been an actor in sundry combinations in seeking Tories, and he told him (said *Miles*) that *Fairchild*, of *Reading*, had a Captain's commission, which he got on board one of the King's ships, and that *Theophilus Stebbins* and *Josiah Stebbins*, of *Buckfield*, had been on board said ships sundry times.

*November* 21st, 1776, in the morning, a man came from *Dover*, his name not known, to the above *Miles*, and desired him to take in at a late hour of night twenty men, who were going to the eastward, but said *Miles* denied him.

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GENERAL WARD TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Boston, November 22d, 1776.

SIR: The Continental regiment stationed in *New-Hampshire*, I have ordered to *Ticonderoga*, agreeable to General *Gates's* request, which is contained in the enclosed letter. I should not have ordered that regiment to march without first receiving directions from the Congress, or from General *Washington*, but from the necessity of the case, which did not appear to admit of delay; and being also informed it would be agreeable to that State.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD.

P. S. *November* 23d. This moment I received your favour of the 8th instant, enclosing a resolve of Congress, for which I am to acknowledge my obligation.

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Ticonderoga, November 9th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: The Deputies from the State of *New-Hampshire* have informed me that there is a Continental regiment raised in that State, under the command of Colonel *Pierce Long*, stationed at *Portsmouth*. As the regiments from that State, now at this post, have suffered exceedingly by defeat, disease, and fatigue, it would most certainly be for the immediate benefit of the service that Colonel *Long's* regiment should be ordered to march directly to this place, and the three regiments commanded by *Stark*, *Poor*, and *Reed*, shall, upon their arrival, march to *Portsmouth*, where they can not only be recruited, but recovered and refreshed, after the almost unspeakable fatigues and distresses they have undergone. I beg you to determine upon this matter without referring it to any one but the General Court of your State, as it would defeat every good intention to delay it longer.

I am, &c., HORATIO GATES.

To Major-General *Ward*.

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GENERAL WARD TO MESHECH WEARE.

Head-Quarters, Boston, 22 November, 1776.

SIR: I am favoured with your letter of the 19th *November*. In consequence of your informations respecting Colonel *Long's* regiment, together with a request from General *Gates*, that the regiment might be sent to *Ticonderoga*, I have ordered Colonel *Long* to march his regiment to that post with the utmost expedition. He is directed to apply to your State for such assistance as is necessary for his march.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD.

Honourable *Meshech Weare*, Esq.

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JOHN AVERY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Council Chamber, Boston, November 22d, 1776.

SIR: I am directed to acquaint the President of the honourable Congress of the sums advanced to the Sieur *Gaiault*, Chevalier, and Sieur *Conleaux*, on account of the Congress; which you'll perceive by the enclosed resolves that I have now the honour to transmit to you.

I am, sir, with great esteem, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN AVERY, *Dep. Sec'y.*

The Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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LORD HOWE TO MR. STEPHENS, SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY.

Eagle, off New-York, November 23, 1776.

SIR: The General thinking fit to move with a large part of the Army to the right of the Rebel forces, who were preparing to establish themselves for the winter on the heights above *King's Bridge*, as well as on the north part of *York-Island*, the embarkation of the troops in the flat-boats and small vessels provided, was made from *Kep's Bay* in the night of the 11th of last month, under the direction of Commodore *Hotham*, with the Captains of the ships from which the boats were manned, as in the former instances, and the troops were landed in the morning on the peninsula of *Frog's Neck*, in the *Sound*, about ten miles eastward from *New-York*, without opposition.

A thick fog prevailing when the boats entered the dangerous passage through *Hell-Gate*, every ill consequence was to be apprehended; but it fortunately happened that no other injury was sustained besides the oversetting of an artillery boat, by which accident two field-pieces and three men were lost.

It had been some time before resolved, in order to prevent the enemy from receiving supplies by the *North River*, to send a detachment of ships above their works at *Jeffery's Hook*, on *York-Island*, and the opposite shore of *Jersey*, between which they had been lately making fresh attempts to block the channel. Captain *Parker*, in the *Phœnix*, was again chosen for this service, with the *Roebuck* and *Tartar*. The wind did not permit the ships to pass the

enemy's works until the 9th. By the accounts I have a few days since received from Captain *Parker*, I find the ships had suffered much in their masts and rigging; the loss of men, as in the enclosed return, was less considerable. Of four of the enemy's galleys chased from their stations behind the lines of sunken frames and vessels placed to obstruct the passage of the river, two were taken; one mounting a thirty-two-pounder with swivels, the other two nine-pounders and two four-pounders. The two remaining galleys, with some small vessels, being favoured by the tide and weather, escaped the ships in shoal water, where they had sufficient protection from the shore, which was in the enemy's possession.

The General judging it necessary to make a second movement with the troops he conducted further to the eastward of *Frog's Neck*, the Light-Infantry, Grenadiers, and other corps of the first embarkation, were again taken into the flat-bottomed boats, and landed the 18th on *Pell's Neck*, separated from *Frog's Neck* by *Hutchinson's River*. The rest of the Army, which had only that narrow stream to pass, were conveyed over with the artillery and baggage a few hours after, and the second division of the *Hessians*, that came under convoy of the *Diamond* the 19th, were carried up in the flat-boats, and landed the 23d on *Myer's Neck*, the post of communication with the fleet last established nearer to *New-Rochelle*. This position of the Army requiring further provision to be made for keeping the intercourse open by water with *York-Island*, the *Rose* and *Senegal* were added to the frigates and small armed vessels before stationed in the *Sound* for that purpose.

It is incumbent on me to represent to your Lordships on this occasion, and I cannot too pointedly express the unabating perseverance and alacrity with which the several classes of officers and seamen of the ships-of-war and transports have supported a long attendance and unusual degree of fatigue consequent of these different movements of the Army. Captain *Phipps*, and the detachment of seamen under his command, who were further appointed to assist in the service of the artillery upon an emergency, have acquired much credit by their spirited conduct on that day.

The enemy, retreating on every occasion as the Army advanced, were forced from the *White-Plains* (where they seemed prepared to make some stand) into the *North-Castle* district, and have finally retired with the greatest part of their forces behind the *Croton River*, whereby the communication was open from *York-Island* with the continent by *King's Bridge*.

On the 16th instant the General directed an attack to be made on their lines adjacent to *Fort Washington*, a regular work constructed upon the high grounds above *Jeffery's Hook*. It was appointed to be carried on from the side of *New-York*, off *King's Bridge*, and two separate embarkations from the continent across the *East River*. Thirty flat-boats were ordered up to *King's Bridge* by the *North River* the night of the 14th, under the direction of Captain *Wilkinson*, (who has distinguished himself very much in the different parts of this and the subsequent operation,) assisted by Captain *Molloy*. The batteaus, mostly manned from transports, were commanded by Lieutenant *Botham*, of the *Brune*, Lieutenant *Loggie*, of the *Mercury*, and the *Agent*, Lieutenant *Henry*.

The troops embarked in the boats had a considerable fire to sustain from the enemy in their passage across the *East River*, and at their landing; but having surmounted every obstacle, under the further disadvantage of a very steep ascent, to gain the flank of the enemy's lines, and the other attacks succeeding at the same time, the fort was completely invested in the evening. The Rebels, in number about two thousand seven hundred, were thereupon induced to surrender prisoners of war, and several pieces of cannon, with a considerable proportion of military stores, were taken in the fort and outworks.

Captain *Wilkinson's* presence being deemed most material with the flat-boats, the *Pearl* was left under the direction of the First Lieutenant, *Scot*, to be placed for covering the march of the *Hessian* troops, and to flank the enemy's lines on the side of the *North River*, in which service his behaviour was much approved. The same commendation is due to the officers and seamen in the boats; only one of the last was killed, and five wounded, the loss of men at the landing having happened chiefly amongst the troops.

Twenty more flat-boats which were sent up the *North River* under Captain *Phipps*, passed the enemy's forts undiscovered in the night of the 18th, and a detachment from the Army, commanded by Lord *Cornwallis*, being landed on the *Jersey* shore the 20th, in the morning, above the enemy's redoubts, opposite to *Jeffery's Hook*, and unperceived by the Rebels for some time, they soon became possessed of the redoubts without loss. Some few of the enemy were killed, and about seventy taken, with many pieces of artillery and a large quantity of ammunition and stores.

The sudden effect of these two unexpected attacks seems to have made great impression upon them.

In my report to their Lordships upon these several transactions, particular notice is due to the ability testified in the direction and conduct of many difficult and very fatiguing services which Captain *Fergusone*, of the *Brune*, was charged with preparatory to, and in the progress of, the various movements of the Army, from the time of the first descent on *York-Island* to this period. Lieutenant *Botham* of the same ship, and the agents, Lieutenants *Knowles* and *Henry*, (the last more especially,) having had a considerable share in the arrangement as well as execution of such services, are likewise entitled to a particular distinction on this occasion; and the unwearied spirit of the seamen, from the transports as well as ships-of-war, in dragging the artillery up the difficult heights for sustaining the Infantry on their landings can never be exceeded.

I have thought it necessary for the speedy conveyance of the General's despatches on the present occasion to appoint the *Tamar* for that purpose, having had the sloop cleaned and refitted here for her passage to *Europe*, in the best manner that the materials to be provided in our present circumstances would permit. Captain *Mason* is directed to the port he can first most conveniently gain in *England*, and to wait to receive their Lordships' commands for his further proceedings.

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RETURN OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED ON BOARD HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS PASSING THE BATTERIES THE 9TH OF OCTOBER, 1776.

*Phœnix*—One Midshipman, two seamen, one servant, killed; one boatswain, one carpenter, eight seamen, one servant, one negro man, one private marine, wounded.

*Roebuck*—One Lieutenant, one Midshipman, two seamen, killed; one Midshipman, two seamen, one corporal of Marines, wounded.

*Tartar*—One Midshipman, killed; one Lieutenant of Marines, wounded.

*Total*—Nine killed; eighteen wounded.

H. PARKER.

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VAN BIBBER & HARRISON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

St. Pierre, November 23d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We wrote you on the 2d instant, by Captain *Conway*, who sailed the 4th, with a cargo consisting of muskets, powder, woolens, linens and salt, to the amount of £3.944 19*s.* 10*d.*, this currency, which we hope are all or will be soon safe in store with you. We have received your favour of the 29th ultimo by Captain *Patterson*, who we have supplied with sundry necessaries for his vessel, amounting to £72 18*s.* 3*d.* per receipt.

We are glad to find you were loading out some vessels for us. Our creditors are growing importunate, and unless paid off soon, will be exceedingly clamorous and troublesome. We can with truth affirm that no men can be more desirous to serve their country than we have been and still are; and we would immediately ship to the amount of the £25,000 in such articles as we could get, was there a possibility of raising money of bills, but there is not the least chance of procuring a penny that way. Every man who has money here knows too well the advantage of sending it home in goods.

This being the case, our sole dependence must be on remittances from you, which we doubt not of your disposition to forward as quickly as possible. So soon as our old scores are rubbed out we can with more confidence and facility dip a little farther for you, though it would be greatly for your advantage to get beforehand.

Linens are in great abundance. Powder we are quite

overstocked with, and some small-arms may be bought. But we know of no brass cannon or howitzers, and woolens are yet scarce.

We have just received a parcel of goods from *Bordeaux*, from Mr. *McCreary*, among which are some woolens. We would willingly forward them to you by Captain *Patterson*, but he being lumbered and bound on a cruise, cannot take them. They shall go by the next opportunity that we like.

The *Elizabeth*, Captain *Sangier*, got safe into *Charlestown*, and sold your powder there with the cargo, and has since arrived here with a fine parcel of rice and indigo. It has been determined by the opinion of some merchants, that we should take an interest in the expedition in proportion to the amount of the powder, and we are in hopes of getting fourteen or fifteen hundred pounds for you if a ship arrives that was purchased and loaded with rice in part of the returns. At any rate we expect to save the capital, and you'll please to make a blank charge of it against us until the voyage is settled.

Tobacco is raising fast in *St. Eustatia*, where several ships are loading with it for *Holland*, and begins to sell well here. But flour and corn are very low, and will keep down towards the spring. Such a cargo as Captain *Conway* brought us last, will generally answer best, especially if the quality of the tobacco was to be more large, black, and thin. We hope soon to be advised of the arrival of *Martin* and *Conway*; and are, very sincerely, sirs, your very obedient servants,

VAN BIBBER & HARRISON.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of the State of *Maryland*.

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ST. PIERRE, MARTINIQUE, *November 24th*, 1776.—Received of *Van Bibber & Harrison* seventy two pounds eighteen shillings and three pence, this currency, for the use of the schooner *Dolphin*, belonging to the State of *Maryland*. This being one of three receipts for the same.

WILLIAM PATTERSON.

£72 18 3.

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M. AUDIE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

De Baltimore, le 23e 9bre, 1776.

MONSIEUR: J'ai eu l'honneur de vous apprendre par ma précédente l'état de mes affaires, et l'embarras où je me trouve pour avoir des batiments. Etant persuadé, monsieur, que vous m'honorez de votre protection, j'espere que vous m'accorderez la permission d'embarquer vingt-cinq barrils farine, sur le brigantin *l'Amitié*, Capitaine *Martin*, com. J'ai eu l'honneur de vous écrire par ma précédente. Soyez persuadé que je vous en serai reconnoissant tante ma vie. En attendant cette faveur, j'ai l'honneur d'être très respectueusement, votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur,

AUDIE.

To the honourable *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, &c., honourable Council of Safety.

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[TRANSLATION.]

Baltimore, 23d November, 1776.

SIR: I have had the honour to inform you in my last, of the state of my business, and of the embarrassment in which I find myself in procuring vessels. Being persuaded, sir, that you honour me with your favour, I hope that you will grant me permission to ship twenty-five barrels of flour on board the brig *l'Amitie*, [*Friendship*,] Captain *Martin* commander. I have had the honour to write you by my preceding [opportunity.] Be assured I shall be grateful to you for it all my life.

In expectation of this favour, I have the honour to be, very respectfully, your very humble and very obedient servant,

AUDIE.

To the Hon. *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, &c., honourable Council of Safety.

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SAMUEL CHASE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 23d, 1776—Saturday.

GENTLEMEN: Since I wrote you on yesterday I saw a letter from General *Mifflin*, from *Elizabeth-Town*, dated the 21st instant, in which he writes that the enemy crossed the *North River*, below *Dobbs's Ferry*, in four hundred boats, and stole a march to *Fort Lee*, which the garrison evacuated, leaving all their artillery, cannon, stores, provisions, and their baggage.

We have not heard from the Army since the General's letter of the 19th. The alarm of a fleet sailing from *New-York* with troops is without foundation. About one hundred and fifty transports and store-ships sailed under convoy of Commodore *Shuldham*, in the *Bristol* and two frigates, and are supposed to be bound to *Ireland* for provisions. This information comes from General *Howe*.

On yesterday I procured a statement of our treasury as a few days ago: Emitted, $20,000,000; expended, $16,817,737;—in treasury, $3,182,263. This is for your private information and not to be made publick.

The Congress have resolved to increase their Navy. Two frigates, of thirty-six guns, are to be built in our State.

Many of the Congress, some true friends, are uneasy at the powers of the Delegates of *Maryland*. They are apprehensive if made known, they will reach Lord *Howe* and encourage him; and if the Courts of *Europe* should see them, it would prevent a foreign alliance. Some reasons are given to counteract this opinion. I do not see why they should not be published in the journal. The powers relate to peace and war, and can be of no service to the publick. I wish you would consider this subject.

In eight days the inlistment of the far greater part of our Army expires. I greatly doubt if we shall be able to prevail upon the troops to enter into the service. I have some hopes of obtaining our wish from Congress. Our commissioners will proceed on to-morrow, I believe; however, whether they do or not is a secret.

I am, gentlemen, with respect and regard, your obedient servant,

SAM'L CHASE.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis*.

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BOARD OF WAR TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

War Office, Philadelphia, November 23d, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by the Board of War to acquaint your Excellency that, agreeable to your request, directions were given to those who had the charge of prisoners, immediately to march them in companies to *Fort Lee*. But having received information that that post has been evacuated, they have countermanded the orders, and directed that they be sent to *Brunswick*, of which I beg leave to advise your Excellency; and have the honour to be your very obedient and most humble servant,

RICHARD PETERS, *Sec'y*.

His Excellency General *Washington*, Head-Quarters, *New-Jersey*.

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THOMAS WHARTON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, 23d November, 1776.

SIR: The uncertain intelligence which we have received respecting the movements of General *Howe's* Army and the evacuation of *Fort Lee*, renders it absolutely necessary for us to apply to your Excellency for further and more perfect information concerning these movements; and we earnestly request your Excellency will inform this Board if it is your judgment that he intends for this State; and such other matters relating to this great object as you may think proper to communicate. The vast importance of this inquiry will excuse the trouble we give your Excellency at this critical and interesting moment.

We are, with the utmost respect, your Excellency's most obedient, and very humble servants.

By order of the Council:

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

P. S. The bearer hereof, Mr. *John Dunlap*, is a citizen of character, and in whom the utmost confidence can be placed; it is on that account that we have applied to this gentleman to undertake this business, as your Excellency may communicate very freely, either by letter or verbally, any information you think may be useful for us to know.

T. W.

WILLIAM GOODRICH TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

State-Prison, 23d November, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: I now have to inform you that I received a sum of money from Mr. *Duffield*, who owed me the same upwards of two years ago, which has been taken from me by order of the honourable Council of Safety, who has since said they have nothing to do with the same, which obliges me to trouble your Honours, humbly begging you will order the money to be delivered to me again, as I am in want of it, partly to send to my father and mother, who is in the back country, and I do suppose are in distress for the want of many necessaries that they have not been used to do without; the remainder I wanted to purchase many necessaries that my brother and self is in want of at present, such as winter clothes, as we had nothing but summer clothing with us when taken. The compliance with this request will much oblige, gentlemen, yours, &c.,

WILLIAM GOODRICH.

To the honourable Continental Congress.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN PHILADELPHIA TO HIS FRIEND IN BALTIMORE, DATED NOVEMBER 23, 1776.

A letter from General *Mifflin* arrived last night by express, which gives us an account that *Fort Lee* was evacuated by our people and taken possession of by the enemy last *Wednesday* evening. Our troops brought off all their stores, arms, ammunition, &c. Colonel *Cadwalader*, in a letter to his father, says that between thirty and forty of our men were killed in the engagement in the lines before *Mount Washington*. There are two affidavits and letters in town which give an account that the enemy's loss was sixteen hundred killed on the field, and twice that number wounded, many of which mortally; so that *Howe*, with his *Hessians*, &c., bought *Fort Washington* at a dear price.

Yesterday came into port a fine large well-built *Guinea* ship. Her cargo consists of gold dust, rum, sugar, &c., &c., last from *Jamaica*, bound to *England*, taken by the *Montgomery* privateer, commanded by *James Montgomery*, Esq., belonging to this State.

Same day arrived five vessels from *St. Martin's*, loaded with salt, fruit, &c.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read the 25th.]

Newark, November 23d, 1776.

SIR: I have not yet heard that any provision is making to supply the place of the troops composing the Flying-Camp, whose departure is now at hand. The situation of our affairs is truly critical and such as requires uncommon exertions on our part. From the movements of the enemy and the information we have received, they certainly will make a push to possess themselves of this part of *Jersey*. In order that you may be fully apprised of our weakness and of the necessity there is of our obtaining early succours, I have, by the advice of the General Officers here, directed General *Mifflin* to wait on you. He is intimately acquainted with our circumstances, and will represent them better than my hurried state will allow. I have wrote to General *Lee* to come over with the Continental regiments immediately under his command. Those with General *Heath* I have ordered to secure the passes through the Highlands. I have also wrote to Governour *Livingston*, requesting of him such aid as may be in his power, and would submit it to the consideration of Congress whether the application should not be made for part of the *Pennsylvania* Militia to step forth at this pressing time.

Before I conclude, I would mention, if an early and immediate supply of money could be sent to Mr. *Dalham*, to pay the Flying-Camp troops, it might have a happy effect. They would subsist themselves comfortably on their return, provide many necessaries, of which they are in great want; and moreover, it might be the means of inducing many, after seeing their friends, to engage again.

I expected on coming here to have met with many of the Militia, but find from inquiry that there are not more than from four to five hundred on the different posts.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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*Abstract of the Return of the Troops now at and near* NEW-ARK *fit for duty.*

| | |
|---|---|
| General *Stevens's* Brigade, | 600 |
| General *Beall's*, (term expire 1st *December*,) | 1,200 |
| General *Heard's*, (same,) | 800 |
| Colonel *Hands's*, | 600 |
| Colonel *Smallwood's* Regiment, | 200 |
| Colonel *Durkee's*, (time expire 1st *January*,) | 250 |
| Colonel *Hutchinson's*, (term expire 1st *January*,) | 100 |
| Colonel *Bradly's*, (time expire 1st *December*,) | 60 |
| General *Ewing's*, (time expire 1st *January*,) | 600 |
| Lord *Stirling's*, | 1,000 |
| | 5,410 |

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON.

Head-Quarters, Newark, 23d November, 1776.

SIR: The critical situation of our affairs, and the movements of the enemy, make some further and immediate exertions absolutely necessary. In order that you may have the fullest representation, and form a perfect idea of what is now necessary, I have desired Colonel *Reed* to wait on you, and must refer you to him for particulars.

I am, with great respect and regard, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Governour *Livingston, New-Jersey.*

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COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Ramapaugh, 23d November, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I expect to be here the 1st of *January* without any men, unless something more is done to encourage the new inlistment. Some would engage now if they could have furloughs. Will it not be best to let some go home now, that they may be returned by the time the others go, for go they will as soon as the term expires?

I shall not be able to do more than complete a musketry line this season; the barracks will take up the rest of the time. Three or four pieces of small artillery may by and by be advantageously planted at this pass.

A considerable number of troops, sick and well, are come up this way from our army below, and are gone to *Fishkills*. They have no passes. I should think of stopping them if I had covering or provisions for them.

I beg leave to repeat my wishes that some officers and men may go home on furlough immediately.

I am, with esteem and respect, your most obedient,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

Major-General *Heath.*

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp, November 23d, 1776.

SIR: By your mode of reasoning, the General's injunctions are so binding that not a tittle must be broke through for the salvation of the General and the Army. I have ordered *Glover's* brigade to march up towards the *Peekskills* to put the passage of the Highlands out of danger; but I intended to take two thousand from your division with me into the *Jerseys;* so I must desire that you will have that number in readiness by the day after to-morrow, when I shall be with you early in the forenoon; and am, sir, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES LEE.

Major-General *Heath.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, November 23, 1776.

SIR: If you have on the file of the honourable Convention a copy of the encouragement offered by the honourable Continental Congress to such as shall engage to serve

in their next Army, I should be much obliged to you for a copy thereof.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most obedient and humble servant,

W. Heath.

Honourable *Pierre Van Cortlandt*.

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EXAMINATION OF SEVERAL PRISONERS.

Peekskill, 23d November, 1776.

*John McLeon* formerly lived in *Harford* County, *Maryland*, a soldier in Captain *Peter Codains's* company, First Battalion of that State; was taken on *Long-Island* the day Lord *Stirling* was defeated, and was put on board one of the enemy's sloops; was compelled to inlist in Colonel *Rogers's* Rangers, with whom he has been till last *Saturday* night, when he deserted from them at *Williams's* tavern, at *West-Chester*, came to *Rye*, and was taken up by General *Wooster's* Militia, without arms, and sent to General *Lee*, and by him sent forward to *Croton*, and by General *Fellows* from thence to this place. Three other persons, who say they were also taken at *Long-Island*, at the same time, came off with him, having previously agreed to do so the first opportunity. He did not know them before he joined *Rogers*, though he has reason to believe they were in the *American* Army and taken at the same time he was. Many others intend deserting.

*Michael Quin* formerly lived in *Pennsylvania*, in *Cumberland* County, a soldier in Captain *Miller's* company, Colonel *Hand's* regiment; was taken the same time abovementioned and disposed of in the same manner. Was ill-treated, and inlisted with Captain *Williams*, in *Rogers's* Rangers, with intent to desert. That he agreed to desert with the three others who came in with him, and did so at the time and in the manner above-mentioned. Did not know any of his comrades before he met with them in *Rogers's* Rangers, but believes they were taken the same day he was. Nearly the whole company he belonged to in the Rangers intend deserting as soon as they can. He was confined for buying paper money, as was also his comrades. They purchased fourteen dollars in paper, for one silver dollar.

*Luke Kearn* formerly lived in *Philadelphia*, came to see his brother, who was in the *York* Militia, on *Long-Island*; joined Captain *Craige's* company, Colonel *Hand's* regiment; though not inlisted was taken at the time abovementioned, and in every other part of his account agrees with the other two before examined.

*James Brown* formerly lived in *Lancaster* County, *Pennsylvania*, formerly belonged to Colonel *Hand's* regiment, but the time of his inlistment being expired, inlisted in Captain *Lane's* company of new levies, on *Long-Island*; was taken the time above-mentioned. Agrees in his account as to every other particular with the other three persons before examined.

The prisoners appear to be very candid and honest in their account of matters; and it is my opinion they ought to be sent forward towards their respective companies or homes.

Geo. Clinton.

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COLONEL HARDENBERGH TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Camp near Peek's Kill, November 23.

Sir: I have some time last summer received a parcel of arms, cartouch-boxes, and belts for the use of my regiment as part of General *Scott's* brigade, in the service of the *United States*, belonging to the State of *New-York*. And as the time of my engagement, agreeable to resolves of your honourable House, is now nearly expired, I would be glad to know in whose hands to deliver said arms, so that I may be released of them. I would beg your Honour to appoint a person near the place to receive it, and let me know by a line, and you will very much oblige yours, &c.,

John Hardenbergh, *Colonel*.

To the President of the State of *New-York*.

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*A Return of the Men in Garrison at the Forts* Montgomery *and* Constitution.

| REGIMENTS. | *Commissioned Officers.* Colonels. | Lieutenant-Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | *Staff Officers.* Adjutants. | Paymasters. | Quartermasters. | Q'rmaster's Serg'ts. | Chaplains. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Sergeant Majors. | Sergeants, present. | Corporals, present. | Fifes and Drums. | *Privates.* Present, fit for duty. | Sick, in quarters. | On command. | On furlough. | Deserted. | Dead and Discharged. | Sick, absent. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *At Fort Montgomery.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Second New-York Regiment | - | - | - | 3 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 12 | 12 | 5 | 168 | 15 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | 228 |
| Colonel Humphrey's Dutchess County Militia | 1 | - | - | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 178 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 5 | - | 2 | 255 |
| Colonel Snyder's | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 9 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 15 | 13 | 8 | 162 | 17 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 16 | - | 259 |
| Total | 2 | - | 1 | 11 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 2 | 39 | 39 | 22 | 508 | 47 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 16 | 2 | 742 |
| *At Fort Constitution.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Second New-York Regiment | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 6 | 6 | 4 | 102 | 17 | - | 4 | 5 | 6 | - | 161 |
| Colonel Humphrey's Dutchess County Militia | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 2 | 44 | 11 | - | - | 1 | 4 | - | 71 |
| Colonel Snyder's | - | 1 | - | 3 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 10 | 4 | 103 | 10 | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | 151 |
| Total | - | 1 | - | 6 | 11 | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 19 | 19 | 10 | 249 | 38 | - | 6 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 383 |
| At *Fort Montgomery*: Major Proctor's Artillery from Philadelphia | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 4 | 35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 43 |
| Colonel Knox's do | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| At *Fort Constitution*: Of Colonel Knox's Artillery | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| Total | 2 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 31 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 58 | 60 | 36 | 807 | 85 | 10 | 15 | 12 | 26 | 4 | 1186 |

* Coopers.

Fort Montgomery, 23d *November*, 1776.

James Clinton, *Brigadier-General*.

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Providence, November 23, 1776.

Captain *John Tillinghast*, in the privateer sloop *Independence*, belonging to this place, has taken and carried into a safe port a ship of three hundred tons, mounting sixteen carriage guns, three and four pounders, eight swivels, and having on board thirty men, among them a Sergeant, Corporal, and eleven private soldiers. She was bound from *Cork* to the Army at *New-York*, laden with a valuable cargo of provisions, &c. Captain *Tillinghast* engaged her about twenty minutes and then boarded her, when the men were soon drove from their quarters, leaving the Captain alone to defend the ship. Captain *Tillinghast* was shot through the body by a musket-ball, but is recovered. Three of his men were likewise wounded, and two killed. On board the prize the Sergeant and two soldiers were killed, and the Captain and six men wounded. Another ship of fourteen guns, and a brig mounting eight swivels, were in company. Captain *Tillinghast* exchanged a few broadsides with the former, after securing his prize, when they thought proper to sheer off. The cargo of the prize consists of 11,970 weight of beef, 47,880 weight of pork, 14,625 weight of butter, 48,750 weight of oatmeal, 140,280 weight of flour, 44,800 weight of bread, 1,200 bushels of peas, one ton of powder, a quantity of cannon-ball, six tons of cordage, &c. A large

number of provision ships were to leave *Cork* soon after the above vessels sailed, most of them armed, and to sail ten or twelve in company.

*Thursday*, Captain *Avery*, in a schooner, arrived here from *Nantz*, in *France*, laden with woolens, &c., on account of the *United States*. He left *Nantz* the 11th of *October*, and informs that the Empress of *Russia* had agreed to furnish *Great Britain* with a body of troops to serve against *America*. And that a great naval armament was preparing at *Brest*, said to be destined to intercept the *Russian* fleet in the *Baltic*.

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NEW-HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

State of New-Hampshire, in Committee of Safety, November 23, 1776.

SIR: By two different guards, viz: Captain *Fonda* and Captain *Robinson*, from the State of *New-York*, has been delivered into the care of this Committee about two hundred persons, sent by the Committee appointed for inquiring into and detecting conspiracies against your State; also the votes and resolves of said Committee relative to the confinement and care of said persons.

Pursuant to said resolutions we have ordered sixty-seven of said persons to be confined in several prisons in this State, and the remainder have liberty to provide their own lodgings and support themselves by labour, or otherways, in several towns allotted to them, under cautions and restrictions for their behaviour.

We must acknowledge the civil and polite behaviour of the gentlemen from *New-York* who had the care of the prisoners, in particular Mr. *Benson*, in whom appeared the gentleman and generous disinterested supporter of *American* liberty.

The persons committed to our care, we shall proceed with according to the resolves of your Committee until further information.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 24th, 1776.

SIR: You will perceive from the enclosed resolve the steps which Congress have thought proper to take in the present critical state of our affairs.

In order to give you all possible assistance in keeping the Army together at this juncture, the Congress have appointed a Committee to repair to Head-Quarters to coöperate with you in the business. They will set out to-morrow morning; at which time the blank commissions, ordered to be sent by the enclosed resolve, shall be forwarded.

You will please to order from the Northern department such of the troops as were raised in *Pennsylvania* and *New-Jersey*, to join the Army immediately under your command. Should there be a necessity for supplying their places, the Eastern States are to be applied to for that purpose.

The Congress being desirous of exchanging Mr. *Franklin* for General *Thompson*, you will please to propose the matter to General *Howe*, agreeably to the enclosed resolve.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

Your favour of the 21st is received and laid before Congress.

The Committee appointed to devise measures for reinforcing you, have taken sundry steps for that end, of which the Committee that sets out to-morrow will inform you, and make you fully acquainted with particulars.

The bearer hereof will proceed immediately to General *Schuyler*, with despatches, and will convey any commands from you to the Northern department.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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EDWARD RUTLEDGE TO JOHN JAY.

Philadelphia, November 24, 1776.

MY DEAR JAY: I expected long ere this to have been seated quietly at home; but the progress which the enemy had made, and seemed likely to make, into your country induced me to suspend my resolution which I came to several months ago, and assist with the whole of my power (little enough, God knows) a State which appeared to be marked for destruction. The storm, however, has passed away; and though I have reason to dread its bursting upon the heads of my countrymen, I cannot but most sincerely congratulate you upon the event. I wish you may improve the time, and if you can concur with me in sentiment, it will be improved in the following manner. Let *Schuyler*, whose reputation has been deeply wounded by the malevolence of party spirit, immediately repair to Congress, and after establishing himself in the good opinion of his countrymen, by a fair and open inquiry into his conduct, concert with the House such a plan as he shall think will effectually secure all the upper country against the attacks of the enemy; which plan being agreed to by the House, give him full power to effect it, and send him off with all possible despatch to carry it into execution. Let steps be taken to place real obstructions in the *North River*, at least in that part of it which can be commanded by *Fort Montgomery*, and the other fort in the Highlands. If these things be done, and that soon, your country, I think, will be safe, provided you establish a good Government, with a strong Executive. A pure democracy may possibly do, when patriotism is the ruling passion; but when the State abounds with rascals, as is the case with too many at this day, you must suppress a little of that popular spirit. Vest the Executive powers of Government in an individual, that they may have vigour, and let them be as ample as is consistent with the great outlines of freedom. As several of the reasons which operated against you or *Livingston's* leaving the State are now removed, I think you would be of vast service in Congress. You know that body possesses its share of human weakness; and that it is not impossible for the members of that House to have their attention engrossed by subjects which might as well be postponed for the present, while such as require despatch have been—I had almost said—neglected. This may be the case with the measures which should be taken for the defence of your State. It is therefore your interest and your duty, if you are not prevented by some superiour publick concern, to attend the House, and that soon; you have a right to demand their attention, and I trust they will give you early assistance.

Every intelligence from *New-York* for the last ten days convincing me that the enemy are preparing to attack the State with a large body of troops, I shall take the wings of the morning and hasten to my native home; where I shall endeavour to render my country more service in the field than I have been able to render her in the cabinet. I have therefore little time to write, and none to lengthen this letter. I could not, however, think of quitting this part of the continent without writing you what appeared to me to be of consequence; especially when I consider that it is probable, at least possible, that this may be the last time I may have it in my power to give you any evidence of my affection. I shall add no more than that you have my best wishes for your happiness, and that if I fall in the defence of my country it will alleviate my misfortune to think that it is in the support of the best of causes, and that I am esteemed by the best of men. God bless you. Adieu, my friend.

Yours sincerely, E. RUTLEDGE.

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RICHARD HENRY LEE TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR.

Philadelphia, 24th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: You have imputed to the right cause my not answering your former letter sooner; it was indeed multiplicity of business.

Very long before your recommendation of Mr. *Plunket* came to hand, a Captain *Disney* had been appointed Captain of Marines on board the *Virginia*, upon the recommendation of Mr. *Stone*. The Congress have determined to build in *Maryland* two frigates of thirty-six guns each, and I make no doubt but that one at least of these will be built at *Baltimore*. I suppose when the committee meets on *Tuesday* next, that directions concerning the building the new ships will issue to the respective States. Not a word has been yet said in Congress touching a quarrel with *Portugal*, nor will any such thing happen, I imagine, unless they should confiscate any of our vessels.

It will give us much pleasure to learn that Captain *Nicholson* is ready for sea, and I think we can furnish him from hence with one such anchor as you mention. Captain

*Biddle's* frigate, *Randolph*, of thirty-two guns, is now completely ready, except that she wants men, which we hope hope to remedy when the vessels daily expected arrive. The *Virginia* and the *Randolph* cruising together might bring us in some of the enemy's scattering frigates that now go about very badly manned, in juring our trade extremely. I wish, therefore, that every effort were strained to get the *Virginia* ready. Our enemy's Army has been pretty busy since they retreated from the *White-Plains*. Already they have got possession both of *Mount Washington* and *Fort Lee*, and they talk, or the Tories talk for them, strongly of their aiming at this city. I fancy they will find some difficulty and not a little danger in the accomplishment of this part of their plan.

My compliments, if you please, to the Rev. Mr. *Allison* and my other friends in *Baltimore*.

If the Tories do not mend their manners, be more modest, and less noisy, they will shortly be hauled over the coals in such a manner as will make the country too hot to hold them.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

RICHARD HENRY LEE.

List of new ships to be immediately undertaken: *New-Hampshire*, one ship of seventy-four guns; *Massachusetts*, one ship of seventy-four guns and one of thirty-six guns; *Pennsylvania*, one ship of seventy-four guns and one of eighteen guns; *Maryland*, two ships of thirty-six guns; *Virginia*, two ships of thirty-six guns.

To *Samuel Purviance*, Jr., Esq., *Baltimore*.

P. S. *November* 25, 1776.—I thank you for your favour of the 22d, with its enclosures, and will answer your letter by next post, not being able now to do it with proper effect. I know we want vessels, both on charter and to purchase, in *Virginia* and *Maryland*. But more of this hereafter. General *Howe* seems intent on this city. R. H. LEE.

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### BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 24th, 1776.
(Wrote in the midst of company.)

SIR: We have continued in this place until this day, in which we shall set off for the camp, not being able to proceed before, neither under the letter nor spirit of our commission.

Our Convention had certainly two capital objects in view: that as the Congress had engaged the faith of the *United States* to furnish the soldiery with the bounty of lands, which they were to purchase, it followed by implication that the *United States* had none belonging to them in common, but must purchase of particular States, who claimed a monopoly in them, and of course might ruin those States who had none. Her view then was to have those lands declared a common stock, as being purchased (if ever purchased) by the joint blood and treasure of the Confederacy, or find no land, to her ruin. The first satisfaction she received on this head was that she might inlist for three years, and give the twenty dollars bounty, but must give the soldiers the alternative to inlist during the war on the first conditions—opening two rolls for the purpose. This not pleasing, they resolved again that the Commissioners may proceed to inlist for three years upon one roll alone, keeping it always in view that it was better to inlist during the war, if it did not retard the service.

This resolution keeping up the first bone of contention, the land, and by implication that the States had none still not answering expectation, the Congress further resolved that any resolutions that had passed should neither operate to weaken or strengthen the claim of the *United States*, or any of them, to any back land, by which this point, that has given such uneasiness in our Province, will be saved, and be discussed hereafter in our future Confederacy.

The second point they had in view was the point of taxation, which they thought unequal, being rated on slaves as well as whites.

This has been expressly named as the mode as to six millions of dollars. As to fourteen more, the same declaration is made as in the article of land, that the proportion of sinking it shall be adjusted hereafter on each State, and that nothing heretofore done shall strengthen or weaken such inquiry or question.

Our Province having in some measure obtained a satisfaction on these two heads, nothing now remains to consider whether, the Convention having empowered us to proceed and inlist for and during the war on the twenty dollars, we can go on the terms of three years, and the same bounty being for a less term; and in this point we are pretty generally agreed to depart from the letter to preserve the spirit.

*Fort Lee* has followed the same fate as *Fort Washington*, except that our powder and men, with two twelve-pounders, escaped. We lost one thousand barrels of flour and three hundred tents. Better than four hundred of the *Maryland* troops were taken in and about *Fort Washington*, where Major *Price*, writes our brethren Commissioners, fell as well as Colonel *Williams* of the Rifle battalion, bravely fighting in his country's cause.

I am greatly surprised that these *Britons* are so bent on surprising, and that we should be so often so surprised on *Long-Island*, *York-Island*, *White-Plains*, *Fort Washington*, and now *Fort Lee*. Though the enemy crossed at *Dobbs's Ferry* they became not visible till within sight of the fort; in short, there are so many of them that I shall be all wonder and surprise, or learn, in the poet's phrase, *nil admirari*. I am afraid you have not sent commissions enough.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

BENJAMIN RUMSEY.

The Hon. *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esquire, at *Annapolis*.

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### RESOLUTIONS OF COMMITTEE FOR REINFORCING GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Congress, November 23, 1776.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed, with full powers to devise and execute measures for effectually reinforcing General *Washington*, and obstructing the progress of General *Howe's* Army; and that they proceed immediately on this business.

The Members chosen: Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Chase*, Mr. *Clymer*, and Mr. *Stockton*.

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

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The Committee before-mentioned have come to the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Commanding Officers of the several Battalions of Associators in *Pennsylvania* immediately to call together the Battalions respectively under their command, and to select out of each Battalion one Company, or, if possible, two Companies of Volunteers.

That each Company consist of seventy-six Privates, one Drummer, one Fifer, four Corporals, and four Sergeants, under the command of a Captain, two Lieutenants, and one Ensign.

That the Field Officer of each Battalion, or such of them as shall be present, with the approbation and concurrence of the Volunteers appoint the Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers of each Company.

That the Companies be engaged in the service of the *United States* till the tenth day of *March* next, unless sooner discharged by Congress, and be entitled to a pair of shoes and stockings, and to the same rations and the same monthly pay with the other Troops on the Continental establishment, to commence from the time of their enrollment.

That the form of the enrollment be as follows: "I hereby promise and engage to enter into the service of the *United States*, and to serve them till the tenth day of *March* next, unless sooner discharged by Congress, and to observe and obey the orders of Congress, and the orders of the Generals and the officers set over me by them."

That in order to supply the Companies with arms, accoutrements, and other necessaries, the Field Officers of each Battalion, or any of them, be empowered and directed to purchase, and if they cannot purchase, to impress, arms, cartouch-boxes, blankets, shoes, stockings, and other necessaries for the use of the said Companies.

That the articles impressed be appraised by persons to be appointed by the Field Officers, or any of them, for that purpose.

That the Field Officers, or any of them, give certificates of the value of the articles so purchased or appraised, which

certificates shall be deemed sufficient vouchers to the persons to whom they shall be given, or to their assigns, for the respective sums therein mentioned, and shall be paid at the Continental Treasury.

That the Captains march their Companies with the utmost expedition, and join the Army under General *Washington*.

That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be empowered and directed to form the said Companies into Battalions; and to adopt such further measures as they may find necessary for the march and equipment of the said companies; and particularly to collect in the city of *Philadelphia* and its neighbourhood, blankets and other necessaries for their use, and to seize such articles, paying the value of them, if they cannot otherwise be procured.

That one month's pay be advanced to each volunteer upon his enrollment; and that the Council of Safety be supplied with money for this purpose.

That the Council of Safety be requested to forward by express the foregoing Resolutions to the Commanding Officers of the several Battalions of the State of *Pennsylvania*.

JAMES WILSON, JAMES SMITH,
GEORGE CLYMER, SAMUEL CHASE.

Philadelphia, November 24, 1776.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COMMANDERS OF BATTALIONS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 24, 1776.

SIR: General *Howe*, after having reduced *Fort Washington*, and obtained possession of *Fort Lee*, is now directing his operations against *New-Jersey*. There is much reason to believe that his views extend to the city of *Philadelphia*. The forces in *New-Jersey* may be insufficient to oppose his progress. It is therefore indispensably requisite, for the preservation of this State, and the support of the general cause, that troops be immediately raised to reinforce General *Washington*. The measures adopted for this purpose you will learn from the resolutions enclosed. In this time of danger it is unnecessary to use arguments with freemen, who are determined never to lose that character but with their lives. We have entire confidence that you, and the battalion under your command, will, upon this occasion, give the strongest proofs of vigour and patriotism.

A judicious choice of the officers will do honour to the volunteers, and produce essential advantages to the service, for it is our opinion that the volunteers ought to have the election of them; and we recommend to you the utmost circumspection and care, not only in the persons you may recommend to them, but also in the manner of doing it. As this Council can only have in view the interest of the whole, you may safely assure the people of our care and attention in the appointment of the Field Officers, so as at the same time to forward the service and as much as possible to give satisfaction to the people.

A Paymaster will be appointed for each battalion, and the volunteers may depend on having their pay regularly. The Colonel or commanding officer ought to muster each company, and send a certificate thereof to this Board.

Money is forwarded to in order to advance the month's pay; to him you will please to apply for what money will be necessary in your battalion for that purpose.

By order of the Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President*.

To the Colonel or commanding officer of
the Battalion of .

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Newark, November 24th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: By the negligent and infamous conduct of the post rider, the eastern mail of *Friday* was brought to *Hackensack* and there stopped to fall into the hands of the enemy. Of this event I have thought it proper to give you the earliest notice, supposing the mail may have contained some letters from you of a publick nature, that you may guard against any advantages the enemy may expect to derive from this accident.

From your letter to Colonel *Reed*, you seem to have mistaken my views entirely, in ordering troops from General *Heath* to cross *Hudson's* river to this side. The importance of the posts and passes through the Highlands is so infinitely great that I never thought there should be the least possible risk of losing 'em. Colonel *Reed's* second letter will have sufficiently explained my intention upon this subject, and pointed out to you that it was your division I want to have over. As the enemy have possessed themselves of the usual route by *Dobbs's Ferry* and *Hackensack*, it will be necessary that you should be careful in choosing some back way, in which you and your troops may come secure. I doubt not but they will take measures to intercept you, and therefore am induced to request your caution; I also wish you to send me frequent expresses on your march, that I may know how to direct it, and how to provide for the same.

I am, dear sir, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Newark, November 24th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I wrote you this morning of the probability that some of your letters to me had fallen with the mail into the enemy's hands. My apprehensions on that head have been since confirmed by direct intelligence from their camp. I am informed that a letter from you is confidently said to have come to their hands, and that measures are taken to intercept your march. To prevent them from effecting this object, I have judged it proper to acquaint you of this accident, and of their design; at the same time I must request that you will take every precaution to come by a safe and secure route. I am told by those who have an intimate knowledge of the country, that after you leave *Haverstraw* the western road by *Kakiate* will be proper for you to take. But I will not undertake to prescribe any one in particular, only observing, that you will by all means keep between the enemy and the mountains.

Before I conclude, I would wish you to leave under the care of General *Heath*, the two twelve-pounders on traveling carriages. They will be safe with him at *Peekskill*. The brass twenty-four I would have you bring, provided it can be done without great inconvenience.

I need not urge the necessity of your gaining intelligence of the enemy's situation in the course of your march; I will be silent on that head; nor need I mention the propriety of your sending frequent expresses, to advise of your approaches. Hoping and trusting that your arrival will be safe and happy, I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

P. S. The expresses should come by the western road otherwise they may fall in with the enemy. Enclosed you will receive a copy of sundry resolves of Congress, which you will publish in orders.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL FORMAN.

SIR: Having received information that there is danger of an insurrection of Tories in the County of *Monmouth*, and it being highly necessary that the most speedy check should be given to a measure of so pernicious a tendency, you are hereby ordered to march with the regiment under your command into the said County of *Monmouth*, and on your arrival there, you are authorized to apprehend all such persons as, from good information, appear to be concerned in any plot or design against the liberty or safety of the *United States*. And you are further authorized immediately to attack any body of men whom you may find actually assembled or in arms for the purpose aforesaid; and if you should find their numbers superiour to your force, you have full authority to call in and take the command of such a number of Militia of the State of *New-Jersey* as you may judge sufficient. I would recommend to you to be cautious in proceeding against any but such as you have the fullest grounds of suspicion, and not suffer your men to give the least molestation to the property of any in the course of your march. If you find any stock of cattle or provision that you may judge in danger of falling into the hands of the enemy you are first to desire the inhabitants to remove them; and upon their refusal you are to have it done yourself, giving the owners certificates of the quantity, that they

may, if they please, call upon the Quartermaster or Commissary-General for pay.

Given under my hand at Head-Quarters, at *Newark*, this 24th day of *November*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Colonel *David Forman*, *New-Jersey* Militia.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Camp, November 24, 1776.

Dear General: I have received your orders, and shall endeavour to put them in execution; but question much whether I shall be able to carry with me any considerable number; not so much from a want of zeal in the men, as from their wretched condition with respect to shoes, stockings, and blankets, which the present bad weather renders more intolerable. I sent *Heath* orders to transport two thousand men across the river, apprise the General, and wait for further orders; but that great man (as I might have expected) intrenched himself within the letter of his instructions, and refused to part with a single file, though I undertook to replace them with a part of my own. I should march this day with *Glover's* brigade, but have just received intelligence that *Rogers's* corps, a part of the Light-Horse, and another brigade, lie in so exposed a situation as to present us the fairest opportunity of carrying them off. If we succeed it will have a great effect, and amply compensate for two days' delay.

I am, dear General, yours most sincerely,

Charles Lee.

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*Return of the Forces under the command of General* Lee, *November 24th*, 1776.

| DISTRIBUTIONS. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieutenant Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Paymasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Comm'd. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *General Lee's Division.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Nixon's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Nixon | - | 1 | - | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 19 | 13 | 172 | 57 | 13 | 135 | - | 377 | 1 | 1 | 263 | - | 2 | 6 | - |
| Colonel Varnum | - | - | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 18 | 19 | 178 | 21 | 83 | 80 | - | 362 | - | - | 278 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Hitchcock | - | - | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 8 | 7 | 132 | 30 | 80 | 91 | 2 | 335 | 1 | - | 305 | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| Colonel Little | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 22 | 8 | 166 | 26 | 86 | 156 | 1 | 434 | - | 1 | 206 | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Lippett | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | - | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 38 | 13 | 296 | 61 | 68 | 24 | - | 449 | - | 6 | 187 | - | 3 | - | - |
| Brigade total | 1 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 28 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 5 | - | 3 | 1 | 105 | 60 | 944 | 195 | 330 | 486 | 3 | 1957 | 2 | 8 | 1239 | - | 6 | 8 | - |
| *Colonel Glover's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Shepherd | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 15 | 10 | 215 | 89 | 2 | 186 | 1 | 493 | - | 2 | 147 | - | - | 4 | - |
| Colonel Glover | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 24 | 12 | 164 | 30 | 17 | 134 | - | 347 | - | 2 | 293 | - | - | 2 | - |
| Colonel Webb | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 9 | 234 | 38 | 53 | 168 | 24 | 517 | - | 4 | 123 | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| Colonel Bailey | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 17 | 10 | 176 | 158 | 2 | 138 | - | 474 | - | 1 | 166 | - | - | 2 | - |
| Colonel Baldwin | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 21 | 12 | 259 | 116 | 10 | 69 | - | 454 | - | 1 | 186 | - | 1 | 5 | - |
| Brigade total | 5 | 2 | 5 | 22 | 25 | 28 | 29 | 2 | 5 | 5 | - | 3 | 4 | 97 | 53 | 1048 | 431 | 84 | 695 | 25 | 2285 | - | 10 | 915 | - | 2 | 15 | - |
| *General Sullivan's Division.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *McDougall's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Late McDougall's | - | - | - | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 8 | 6 | 97 | 67 | 74 | 72 | 1 | 311 | 11 | 5 | 329 | 5 | - | - | 1 |
| Colonel Ritzema | 1 | - | - | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 17 | 8 | 215 | 28 | 71 | 27 | 4 | 345 | 4 | 2 | 295 | 2 | - | 1 | - |
| Colonel Reid | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 12 | 236 | 126 | 5 | 106 | 1 | 474 | 2 | 1 | 166 | - | 1 | 7 | - |
| Brigade total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 45 | 26 | 548 | 221 | 150 | 205 | 6 | 1130 | 17 | 8 | 790 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| *Chester's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Sergeant | - | - | - | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 10 | 7 | 169 | 41 | 139 | 100 | - | 449 | 1 | 1 | 191 | 1 | - | 3 | - |
| Colonel Chester | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 14 | 11 | 258 | 65 | 66 | 94 | 2 | 485 | 2 | 2 | 179 | - | - | 7 | - |
| Colonel Ward | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 11 | 5 | 214 | 31 | 116 | 63 | 6 | 430 | 1 | - | 210 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Colonel Baldwin | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 31 | 10 | 327 | 27 | 53 | 16 | - | 423 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Brigade total | 3 | 3 | 3 | 23 | 12 | 12 | 13 | - | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 66 | 33 | 968 | 164 | 374 | 373 | 8 | 1787 | 4 | 3 | 580 | 2 | - | 10 | 3 |
| *General Spencer's Division.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Fellows's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Holman | 1 | - | 1 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 29 | 14 | 388 | 29 | 27 | 43 | - | 507 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 56 | - |
| Colonel Cary | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 31 | 17 | 374 | 29 | 12 | 56 | - | 471 | 9 | 3 | 259 | - | 2 | 65 | - |
| Colonel Smith | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 26 | 14 | 362 | 34 | 33 | 38 | - | 467 | - | - | - | - | - | 30 | - |
| Brigade total | 2 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 21 | 19 | 17 | 2 | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 2 | 86 | 45 | 1124 | 92 | 72 | 137 | - | 1445 | 9 | 3 | 259 | - | 3 | 151 | - |
| *Wadsworth's Brigade.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Silliman | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | - | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 18 | 7 | 169 | 35 | 124 | 41 | - | 369 | 1 | 1 | 295 | - | - | 3 | - |
| Colonel Gay | - | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 21 | 11 | 202 | 30 | 73 | 71 | 1 | 377 | 2 | 4 | 287 | - | - | 13 | - |
| Colonel Sage | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 22 | 8 | 205 | 61 | 126 | 50 | 1 | 443 | - | 2 | 221 | - | 2 | 22 | - |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Latimore | - | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 19 | 11 | 174 | 36 | 144 | 106 | - | 460 | 5 | 3 | 204 | - | - | - | - |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Douglass | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 24 | 12 | 207 | 25 | 122 | 71 | 3 | 428 | - | 2 | 236 | - | - | 2 | - |
| Brigade total | 3 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 2 | 5 | 4 | - | 1 | 3 | 104 | 49 | 957 | 187 | 589 | 339 | 5 | 2077 | 8 | 12 | 1243 | - | 2 | 40 | - |
| General Nixon's Brigade | 1 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 28 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 4 | 5 | - | 3 | 1 | 105 | 60 | 944 | 195 | 330 | 486 | 1 | 493 | - | 2 | 147 | - | - | 4 | - |
| Glover's | 5 | 2 | 5 | 22 | 25 | 28 | 29 | 2 | 5 | 5 | - | 3 | 4 | 97 | 53 | 1048 | 431 | 84 | 695 | 25 | 2285 | - | 10 | 915 | - | 2 | 15 | - |
| McDougall's | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 15 | 14 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 45 | 26 | 548 | 221 | 150 | 205 | 6 | 1130 | 17 | 8 | 790 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| Chester's | 3 | 3 | 3 | 23 | 12 | 12 | 13 | - | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 66 | 33 | 968 | 164 | 374 | 373 | 8 | 1787 | 4 | 3 | 580 | 2 | - | 13 | 3 |
| Fellows's | 2 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 21 | 19 | 17 | 2 | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | 2 | 86 | 45 | 1124 | 92 | 72 | 137 | - | 1445 | 9 | 3 | 259 | - | 3 | 151 | - |
| Total | 15 | 12 | 20 | 114 | 119 | 112 | 118 | 9 | 23 | 23 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 503 | 266 | 5589 | 1290 | 1599 | 2235 | 45 | 9217 | 38 | 38 | 3934 | 9 | 8 | 231 | 4 |
| Wooster's Militia | 2 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 21 | - | 20 | 1 | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 89 | 15 | 303 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Light-Horse | - | - | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 27 | - | 60 | 5 | - | 5 | 1 | 71 | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | - |

*Artillery.*—In General *Lee's* Division, General *Nixon's* Brigade: 1 Howitzer, 1 Captain, 1 Captain-Lieutenant, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 2 Bombardiers, 2 Gunners, 18 Matrosses. Colonel *Glover's* Brigade: 3 Field-Pieces, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 1 Bombardier, 1 Gunner, 12 Matrosses. In General *Sullivan's* Division, General *McDougall's* Brigade: 2 Field Pieces, 1 Captain-Lieutenant, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 28 Matrosses.

A. Scammell, *Deputy Adjutant-General.*

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GENERAL LEE TO COLONEL REED.

Camp, November 24th, 1776.

My dear Reed: I received your most obliging, flattering letter; lament with you that fatal indecision of mind which in war is a much greater disqualification than stupidity, or even want of personal courage: accident may put a decisive blunderer in the right, but eternal defeat and miscarriage must attend the man of the best parts if cursed with indecision. The General recommends in so pressing a manner as almost to amount to an order, to bring over the Continental troops under my command, which recommendation or order throws me into the greatest dilemma from several considerations. Part of the troops are so ill furnished with shoes and stockings, blankets, &c., that they must inevitably perish in this

wretched weather. Part of them are to be dismissed on *Saturday*, and this part is the best accoutred for service. What shelter we are to find on the other side of the river is a serious consideration. But these considerations should not sway me. My reason for not having marched already is, that we have just received intelligence that *Rogers's* corps, the Light-Horse, part of the *Highlanders*, and another brigade, lie in so exposed a situation as to give the fairest opportunity of being carried. I should have attempted it last night, but the rain was too violent, and when our pieces are wet you know our troops are *hors du combat*. This night I hope will be better. If we succeed we shall be well compensated for the delay; we shall likewise be able on our return to clear the country of all the articles wanted by the enemy. In every view, therefore, the expedition must answer.

I have just received a most flattering letter from Don *Luis Venzaga*, Governour of *New-Orleans*. He gives me the title of "*General de los Estados Unidos Americanos*," which is a tolerable step towards declaring himself our ally in positive terms. The substance is, that he is sensible of the vast advantages which must result from the separation to his master and nation; that he cannot positively enter into a regular system without consulting his master, but in the mean time he will render us all the service in his power. I only wait myself for this business of *Rogers* and company being over. I shall then fly to you; for to confess a truth, I really think our Chief will do better with me than without me.

I am, dear *Reed*, yours most sincerely,

CHARLES LEE.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL LEE.

Peekskill, November 24th, 1776.

SIR: Be my mode of reasoning as it may, I conceive it to be my duty to obey my instructions, especially those which are positive and poignant; and that to deviate from them, even in extreme cases, would be an errour; though perhaps an errour on the right side. I can assure you, sir, that I have the salvation of the General and Army so much at heart that the least recommendation from him to march my division, or any part of them, over the river should have been instantly obeyed, without waiting for a positive order.

My conduct must be approved or censured as I adhere to, or depart from, my orders; and as it is my duty I shall strictly abide by them, until they are countermanded in such manner as will justify a deviation from them to him who instructed me and to the world.

I shall be happy in being honoured with your company to-morrow; and am, with respect and esteem, your obedient, humble servant,

W. HEATH.

General *Lee*.

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*A Return of four Brigades under the command of Major-General* HEATH, *24th November*, 1776, PEEKSKILL.

| BRIGADES. | OFFICERS. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieut Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | 1st Lieut'nts. | 2d Lieut'nts. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Paymasters. | Q'rtermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Commis'd. Sergeants. | Rank and File. Drums & Fifes. | Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums & Fifes. | Rank and File. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| General Parsons | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 64 | 31 | 569 | 95 | 249 | 399 | 4 | 1316 | 2 | 4 | 604 | - | 3 | 15 | 2 |
| General J. Clinton | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 63 | 36 | 867 | 85 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 1186 | - | - | - | - | 26 | - | 13 |
| General G. Clinton | 6 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 5 | 5 | 1 | 119 | 63 | 1049 | 147 | 319 | 271 | 40 | 1826 | 2 | 14 | 635 | - | 6 | 1 | 19 |
| General Scott | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | - | 3 | 4 | - | 4 | 4 | 1 | 87 | 31 | 710 | 54 | 129 | 141 | 18 | 1052 | 19 | 39 | 1293 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| | 14 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 5 | 333 | 161 | 3195 | 381 | 701 | 821 | 77 | 5380 | 23 | 57 | 2532 | 9 | 37 | 19 | 34 |

Errours excepted.

EBEN'R HUNTINGTON, *Assis't Adj't General.*

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COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Ramapough, November 24th, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I am credibly informed that great numbers of the inhabitants between this and *Hackensack* have been to the enemy and obtained letters of protection, particularly one *Christyam Andrew Zabriskie*, who says that an express from General *Lee* to General *Washington* has been lately intercepted by the enemy, who had information of it from the Tories. By the best information the greatest part of the people between this and the enemy's camp are friendly to them and will do them all the service in their power.

If I had men to spare I should send a strong party to inspect their conduct. I just now hear that General *Lee* is making that way, which I hope is true.

I am your most obedient and humble servant,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

General *Heath*.

P. S. Have just had six men taken up by the guards for endeavouring to inveigle a soldier by giving him money.

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GENERAL SCOTT TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Camp near Peekskill, November 24, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: When I consider the misfortunes of the Rev. Mr. *Tetard*, I can not refrain from recommending him to your Committee, as I flatter myself you will pay some attention to his case, in forming of the staff of the *New-York* brigade. Our Provincial Congress were pleased to appoint him to the offices of Chaplain and Interpreter, with the rank of Major, in the *Canada* service. He will produce to you General *Arnold's* certificate, as a testimony of his good conduct. The losses he has met with since his return merit, in my opinion, no small attention. His house in the city, which rented for seventy pounds per annum, with some valuable furniture in it, has been reduced to ashes; his farm in the country entirely destroyed by our own troops, and thirteen slaves most probably captivated by the enemy. He is therefore reduced to abject poverty. As to his political sentiments, collected not only from private conversation, but from his preaching, he appears to be a zealous friend to the *American* cause. I must therefore, in justice to him, take the liberty earnestly to recommend him for Chaplain in the *New-York* brigade.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

To the honourable Committee of Arrangement.

P. S. Mr. *Corne* has met with the accident of a breach in his mill-dam, the repair of which will require his presence. He has therefore requested me to interpose my good offices for continuing his stay on parole a week longer than was originally intended.

Yours, &c., J. M. S.

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COLONEL LIVINGSTON TO COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Peekskill, 24th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am just informed that Lieutenant-Colonel *Hulbert* has gone to *Long-Island*, and that it is very improbable that he will accept of his commission. Should this be the case, I must beg leave to recommend Major *Fish* as the most eligible person I can think of as Major to the regiment. He is a young man of spirit and abilities. Three Captains, *Sacket*, *Jackson*, and *Smith*, accept, and are now recruiting. As we are at a loss for a Chaplain, it may not be improper to acquaint you that one Mr. *Peter Tetter*, a clergyman and gentleman who formerly made one of Gen-

eral *Montgomery's* family as Interpreter in *Canada*, has now lost his all, (it being in the hands of the enemy, at *King's Bridge*,) is very desirous of being appointed Chaplain to one of the four regiments now raising to serve during the war. The goodness of his disposition, and his attachment to General *Montgomery*, induce me to solicit his appointment. Ensign *Joshua Drake* resigns.

I remain, gentlemen, with respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

HENRY B. LIVINGSTON,
*Colonel 4th New-York Regiment Continental Troops.*

To the Committee of Arrangement for the State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Saratoga, November 24, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: As it is more than probable that I should be exceedingly blamed if I left this department without a General Officer to command it in my absence, and all having left it except you, I am under the necessity of detaining you until the return of some other General Officer. You will therefore remain at *Albany* until further orders.

Please inform Colonel *Lewis* that more carriages are wanting on the portage between *Fort Edward* and *Lake George*, and that he is to send up thirty immediately. Order him to send up fifty bars of iron, proper for shoeing what are commonly called log-sleds, which are making here to transport cannon with in winter.

I am, dear General, sincerely, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

The Hon. General *Gates*.

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COLONEL WILLETT TO ROBERT YATES.

Danbury, November 24, 1776.

SIR: I have received your account of my appointment by the Committee of Arrangement for the State of *New-York*, who you inform me have been pleased to take notice of my former rank and services. I can by no means think of refusing to attend to the voice of my country at so critical and important a period as this. I shall therefore with cheerfulness receive the appointment with which I am honoured, nor shall my best endeavours be wanting to render to my country every service I am capable of.

Some business I have undertaken for the Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army has engaged my attendance at *North-Castle* to-morrow, after which I shall immediately attend the Committee of Arrangement at the *Fishkill*. And am, in the mean time, with sincere respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

MARINUS WILLETT.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Arrangement for the State of *New-York*, at the *Fishkill*.

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO COLONEL PICKERING.

State of Massachusetts Bay, Council Chamber, November, 1776.

*To* TIMOTHY PICKERING, *Colonel:*

In pursuance of a resolve of General Court of this State, you are hereby ordered forthwith to discharge the officers and men belonging to Captain *Benjamin Ward's* company, stationed at *Salem*, and to deliver all the ammunition and military stores of every kind which have been improved by said company, belonging to this State, to *Richard Ward*, Commissary, who is hereby directed to receive the same and make return thereof to this Board, as soon as may be.

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CAPTAIN MARTIN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 25th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I received yours of the 21st, and as you did not write to me concerning the sailors' wages, I thought it my duty to acquaint your honourable Board, that the few vessels now fitting out in this place gives from eleven to twelve pounds per month for common hands, and officers' wages is what they please to ask; Mates have fifteen pounds per month. As I shall have but few seamen this passage, I think it requisite to have an officer of Marines. It is much wanting in a harbour; and at sea they serve to work the guns. If you think it proper, I shall be glad Mr. *Bond* may have the preference.

I can't ship a sailor for want of articles, and then, as I agree with them, I can make them sign, and be on the sure side. When I get the articles, I can get men in great plenty, by telling them I shall have a commission; and I hope, as I had the promise last voyage, and as I sail for low wages, and refused good offers in vessels that have made fortunes, this voyage I hope according to promise to have a commission, and do some good for myself and country.

Captain *Stone* came the 18th instant, with the bailiff and a parcel of men to take the brig, but I defended her with four men, and still keep possession, though the Sheriff put his hands on the side, and said he delivered her as Captain *Stone's* property. Something strange that, a man to deliver a thing he can't get possession of.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JOHN MARTIN.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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JOHN HAAS AND OTHERS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 25th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We have been applied to by the guard who have the prisoners from *Carolina* now in charge, for their pay. Mr. *Harrison*, in whose hands money was lodged, is from home, and the gentleman who he left to transact business in his absence, has paid away all the money Mr. *Harrison* left in his hands. The guard in general are men in low circumstances, and we think are, and must in little time be much distressed, unless you will be kind enough to pay them. Private gentlemen have already advanced money to support the prisoners. You will undoubtedly be of opinion that it is necessary to send some money to pay for the victualling of them.

We are, gentlemen, with great respect, your obedient servants,

| | |
|---|---|
| JOHN HAAS, | CHRIS. EDELIN, |
| MILFORD RAMSEY, | ADAM FISHER, |
| C. BEATTY, | JOHN ADLUM, |
| B. JOHNSON, | CONRAD GROSH. |

To honourable the Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

Mr. *Stock* also hopes you will be pleased to allow the enclosed account for the victualling some of the soldiers.

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*Captain* JOHN REYNOLDS *in account with* ANTHONY STOCK.

1776. *August* 11th. To boarding six of his men for eight days—amount to six weeks and six days - - £

FREDERICK COUNTY, *sct:*

*October* 31, 1776:

Then came *Anthony Stock* before me, the subscriber, and made oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, that the above account is just and true, to the best of his knowledge.

Sworn before JACOB YOUNG.

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JAMES TILGHMAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Colonel Tilghman's, November 25th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I received the enclosed letter from Doctor *Pine*, by yesterday's post, and as it greatly concerns our soldiery, have thought proper to lay it before your Board. The Doctor is a man of veracity, and what he advances may be relied on. A discrimination of that nature among soldiers cannot be submitted to, and is enough to check the ardour of the bravest man upon earth.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, gentlemen, your most obedient and humble servant,

JA. TILGHMAN.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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Camp at White-Plains, November 7th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I arrived here on *Monday*, the 28th of last month, about four in the afternoon, while our people were engaged in a very hot battle, the particulars of which I suppose you'll hear before this comes to hand. Colonel *Smallwood's* battalion suffered a good deal; the Colonel himself wounded in two places; the number of killed and

wounded, as the report is in the camp, amounts only to about ninety, but from the wounded I saw myself in the hospital and adjacent houses, there must at least be an hundred and twenty or thirty wounded; the number of killed I don't know.

The day after I came here I waited on Doctor *Morgan*, Director-General of the hospitals here, for medicines, &c. He told me he had nothing to say to the *Maryland* troops, and that it was not his business to supply the Regimental Surgeons with medicines, and that it must have been a mistake of the Convention or Council of Safety of *Maryland*, to send their Surgeons here without them and think they were to be supplied here. Upon this, I went to Colonel *Smallwood*, who is about fifteen miles from this, near the hospital, and told him the case, and what condition I found the sick in, both the Regular and Flying-Camp, *Maryland* troops, without the least morsel of physick of any sort, although a great many of them in a very pitiable condition, upon which the Colonel gave me a letter to Doctor *Morgan*. The Doctor then told me I might have some few things, if I could go to *New-York* for them, which is about eighty miles from this. I told him by the time I went there and got back, that the time of most of the *Maryland* troops would be expired. He told me he could not help it, and that medicines were very hard to be got. I should be glad this matter was communicated to the Council of Safety. Since I came here I have been of what service I could to the *Maryland* troops; all their Surgeons are over in the *Jerseys* with their sick, and a great number are still sick here.

The companies to which I was appointed are not yet come here, nor can I hear any thing of them. I am just now with Colonel *Smallwood's* battalion and Independent companies. I go up to-day to the Flying-Camp, who are about sixteen miles from this, to inquire into the state of their sick, and see if I can, by any possible means, get some medicines for their relief.

I should be glad you let me know first opportunity, whether I am to continue here, or how I am to proceed if these companies do not come up. The enemy went off from this night before last; it is conjectured they are to attack *Fort Washington*, which is about twenty miles from this, and then go into winter-quarters.

We expect to move from this every hour. I have been exceeding hearty since I came here. The camp seems to agree very well with me. We have got plenty of every thing. I shall write you fuller and more particular in a day or two.

I am, dear sir, in haste, respectfully, your very humble servant, JOHN PINE.

To *James Tilghman*, Esq., *Annapolis, Maryland*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO LANCASTER COMMITTEE.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 25, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The enclosed letters to the several Commanding Officers in your County you are requested to forward immediately by express.

By order of Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President*.

To the Committee of Inspection of *Lancaster* County.

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Letter received, Wednesday evening, about six o'clock, 27 *November*, 1776.

1st Battalion, Colonel *Ross*, delivered to Lieutenant-Colonel *Reigart*.
2d " *Curtis Grubb*, sent by *John Phleiger*, express.
3d " *Thomas Porter*, sent by *Christian Zorn*, express.
4th " *James Burd*, sent by *John Phleiger*, express.
5th " *James Crawford*, sent by *Christian Zorn*, express.
6th " *B. Galbreath*, sent by *John Phleiger*, express.
7th " *M. Slough*, delivered to Colonel *Slough*.
8th " *P. Grubb*, sent by *John Phleiger*, express.
9th " *P. Greenawalt*, sent by *John Phleiger*, express.
10th " *John Ferree*, sent by *Christian Zorn*, express.
11th " *Timothy Green*, sent by *John Phleiger*, express.

Expresses sent off *Wednesday* evening, about seven o'clock, 27th *November*, 1776.

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COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO GEORGE READ.

Philadelphia, November 25, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed resolutions will inform you of the steps adopted in this State for the immediate reinforcement of the Army under the command of General *Washington*. We wish for assistance from the State of *Delaware*, and cannot doubt their alacrity in furnishing every aid in their power, in this hour of common danger.

We know not to whom our application ought to be made, but we earnestly entreat your influence and exertions with the proper authorities of your State, to send a speedy assistance of five hundred volunteers if possible, on the same terms and times of service with the volunteers of this State.

We are, sir, with great regard, your most obedient and humble servants,

JAMES WILSON,
GEORGE CLYMER,
SAM'L CHASE.

To the Hon. *George Read*, Esq., at *Newcastle*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL ATLEE.

Head-Quarters, 25th November, 1776.

SIR: I lately received a letter from you, but having sent it forward among other papers, I cannot recollect the date. I do not at all wonder at your earnest desire to return to your family and friends; and you may be assured that every thing in my power, consistent with the resolutions of Congress, shall be done to procure your speedy release. If General *Howe* shall please to give his assent to the exchange of Mr. *Irving*, of *South-Carolina*, for you, I certainly shall have no objection. The reason why the proposal cannot with propriety go from me, is, that Mr. *Irving* is not in the military line, and, by the terms of our cartel, officers of equal rank only are to be proposed for each other; but either side may dispense with this rule, if they think fit, as was the case in the exchange of Governour *Brown* (not in the military line) for Brigadier-General Lord *Stirling*. Therefore, what you are to do is, to obtain General *Howe's* assurance that Mr. *Irving* will be received in exchange for you; and upon this being signified to me, he shall be immediately sent for, that the exchange may be carried into execution.

I received a joint letter from Colonel *Miles* and you, respecting the state of our prisoners for want of clothes and other necessaries. I have laid this before Congress, and desired them to procure a credit in *New-York* for their supply. In respect to the short allowance of provisions, I can only attribute it to the state of General *Howe's* stores; for I have too high an opinion of his humanity to suppose that he would willingly add the calamity of famine to that of captivity.

I am, sir, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Col. *Samuel J. Atlee*, *Pennsylvania* Militia, prisoner.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL MILES.

Head-Quarters, 25th November, 1776.

SIR: I lately had the pleasure of a letter from you, but I am unable to answer it as particularly as I could wish, for want of the letter itself, having sent it forward among other papers. From the best of my recollection, you mention that you had reason to believe that an exchange might be procured of *John Foxcraft*, Esq., for yourself, and Mr. *Dashwood* for Colonel *Piper*, and another gentleman, whose name I do not remember, for Lieutenant *De Courcy*. If you can obtain General *Howe's* assent to these several exchanges, I shall on my part most readily comply; but as the gentlemen you have mentioned are not in the military line, the proposal cannot with propriety go from me, as by the terms of our cartel, officers of equal rank are only to be proposed for each other. But General *Howe* has dispensed with this rule in one instance, by giving up Brigadier-General Lord *Stirling* for Governour *Brown*, though not belonging to the Army; and if he pleases again to accept of gentlemen in the civil department for those in the military, I, as I said before, shall have no objection.

I have, in a letter to Colonel *Atlee*, taken notice of a joint letter from yourself and him, respecting the miserable state of our prisoners in *New-York* for want of clothes and necessaries. I have wrote to Congress on the subject, recommending it to them to procure a proper credit in *New-York* for their supply, but I have not yet received an answer from them.

I am, sir, yours, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Colonel *Miles*, *Pennsylvania* Militia, prisoner.

COLONEL HARRISON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Newark, November the 25th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I am directed by his Excellency to acknowledge his receipt of your letter of yesterday, and to inform you the disposition of the troops mentioned in your former letter has his approbation.

In respect to the troops intended to come to this quarter, his Excellency never meant that they should be from your division. He has wrote General *Lee* since so fully and explicitly upon the subject, that any misapprehensions he may have been under at first must be now done away. He will most probably have reached *Peek's Kills* before now with his division, and be pushing to join us. No new event has taken place.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

ROB'T H. HARRISON.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM NEWARK, DATED NOVEMBER 25, 1776.

I have just time enough to inform you that there is very good intelligence that the enemy intend to make a push for *Philadelphia*. We hear part of their force is embarked, either to go up the *Delaware* and make their attacks on both sides at once, or else to amuse the Southern States, and prevent their sending any assistance to *Philadelphia*. We have not force enough to oppose their march by land. We look to *New-Jersey* and *Pennsylvania* for their Militia, and on their spirit depends the preservation of *America*. If in this hour of adversity they shrink from danger, they deserve to be slaves indeed. If the freedom that success will ensure us, if the misery that awaits our subjection, will not rouse them, why let them sleep on till they wake in bondage.

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COLONEL GUY JOHNSON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, November 25, 1776.

MY LORD: The last letter I had the honour to address to your Lordship was of the 9th of *August*, giving an account of my arrival at *Staten-Island*, and of such particulars as I had been able to obtain respecting *Indian* affairs. Since which I have, by General *Howe's* orders, waited the event of such military operations as might enable me to proceed to the *Indians* with such presents and marks of the King's bounty as are absolutely necessary at our interview; but although the advanced season, when these operations commenced, though conducted with much success and rapidity, has hitherto prevented that wished-for opportunity, I have the pleasure to assure your Lordship that the *Indians* have faithfully observed the promises they made to me, rejected all the proposals of the Rebels, and a considerable number of them proceeded on service. And notwithstanding the artifices practised by the *Indians* of the *Oneida* villages, influenced by their *New-England* missionary *Kirkland*, the enclosed intercepted letter,* communicated to me by Lord *Howe*, will show the fidelity of the *Six-Nations*, and evince their attention to me.

In my last interview with your Lordship I took the liberty to observe that whatever measures had been resolved on by the *Indians*, were about that time carrying into execution, and that I had a confidence in the treaties made before me at *Ontario* with the *Six-Nations* and *Hurons*, &c., of *Detroit*, and with the rest in *Canada*, notwithstanding they were so surrounded by deceivers possessed of the back country, that even their neutrality was an object of some importance. But I hope they will appear in a much superiour light, and that I shall ere long be enabled to collect such necessaries as they want. To pave the way for their future operations, I have, with the approbation of General *Howe*, lately despatched (in disguise) one of my officers with *Joseph* the *Indian* chief, (who desired this service,) to get across the country to the *Six-Nations;* and from their activity and knowledge of the way, I have hopes of their getting through undiscovered, and of their preparing the *Indians* to coöperate with our military movements, but the many difficulties which retarded the Northern Army disappointed our hopes of a junction until the hunting season now come on, when the *Indians* must necessarily provide winter stores for their families. This done, I think I can answer for them, from my confidence in General *Howe's* enabling me to get what is necessary for the *Indians*, as I hear that the articles sent out last year are much damaged and deficient; nor should I mention this matter, but that it is an essential consideration in affairs with *Indians*.

The Rebels on the frontiers of this Government have taken uncommon pains to prevent the success of his Majesty's arms from coming to the ear of the *Indians*, and have destroyed the effects of all the loyal party there. Mine have been totally plundered and my negroes carried off; but I am sensible that this must be the fate of any man in office, particularly in such a one as mine; and therefore I little regret it so long as I preserve your Lordship's favour and am enabled to serve his Majesty with a zeal and loyalty displeasing to his enemies.

I hope to be honoured with your Lordship's comm on any occurring subject; and I am, with great respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most devoted, humble servant,

G. JOHNSON.

P. S. A gentleman of my acquaintance, who made his escape from *Schenectady*, is just arrived, and informs me that about six weeks since a large belt came down to the *Oneidas* and *Mohocks* from *Niagara*, from the *Six-Nations* and others, desiring to know the state of the latter, and that as the whole Confederacy had acted during the campaign agreeable to their promise to me, they wished to strengthen the hands of the Lower Nations, and desired their attendance at a general meeting to concert further measures; and that if they found themselves obstructed by the Rebels, the Upper Nations would come down and open the road for them.

G. J.

The Right Honourable Lord *George Germain*.

*From six *Oneida* Chiefs to General *Schuyler*, dated *May* 22, 1776.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN ENGLISH OFFICER AT NEW-YORK, DATED NOVEMBER 25, 1776.

I refer you to the publick accounts of our rapid successes in this part of the world. It is impossible I can in this letter follow the Army through its manœuvres. *Fort Washington*, and the grounds around it, fell with inconsiderable loss on our side, notwithstanding it had every advantage of art and nature.

Colonel *Cadwalader* was second in command in this fortress. He is the son of a physician at *Philadelphia*, who showed some civilities to General *Prescott* when prisoner; of this the General made mention to Sir *William Howe*, who was pleased to order his immediate release, without parole, or even injunction not to serve the Congress. This was a handsome compliment to General *Prescott*, and is one of the numberless instances of generosity that mark the character of our Commander-in-Chief.

Lord *Cornwallis* is carrying all before him in the *Jerseys*. Two forts, of equal strength with *Fort Washington*, have fallen into his hands; ten thousand stand of arms, forty pieces of cannon, several mortars, and stores innumerable, have the Rebels abandoned to us, retreating most precipitately toward *Philadelphia*.

In short it is impossible but that peace must soon be the consequence of our success. An embarkation of seven thousand men will be completed to-morrow: as to its destination no one can even form the least conjecture, for the utmost secrecy is observed. Whilst one supposes it is intended against *Rhode-Island*, others with equal probability say it is to sail up the bay of *Delaware*, and second Lord *Cornwallis's* attack on *Philadelphia*. General *Clinton* has the command of this enterprise. Lord *Percy* goes second, and General *Prescott* third.

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COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Ramapaugh, November 25, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: Every man, and I was going to say every woman, within a large circle of this place who stand for Whigs, and, for aught I know, are really such, are constantly distressing me with their fears and apprehensions from the enemy and Tories. They are confident the latter have so much knowledge of the country as to guide a body of troops any where among the mountains. Their anxiety has gone far towards intimidating some of my own troops.

A considerable part of the inhabitants between this and the enemy have been conversant with the enemy since they came to *Hackensack*, and have had meetings among themselves. I communicate what intelligence I get, for your information, and not because it at all appears important to your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

General *Heath*.

*26th*.—Your order of yesterday came to hand last night at two o'clock. Colonel *Tyler* marched at daybreak for *Toppon*. I hear a large number of wagons are on the road loaded with flour from *Toppon*, coming this way. It is said *Bergen* County is to raise a regiment to join the *British* Army, and that one *Buscart*, or some such hard name, is appointed Colonel, and that they have given a specimen of their valour by shooting a Whig, one *Zabriskie*.

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GENERAL SCOTT TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Haverstraw, November 25, 1776.

SIR: Upon some alarming accounts from Colonel *Hay* of a probability that the enemy would attempt a landing from their shipping, and of the defenceless state of the country, as well as the danger that many well-wishers would be reduced by fear to a submission, General *Heath* thought proper to send me over with my brigade. Upon my arrival here I heard a distant firing, supposed to be at *Acquachneck*, where I am assured our Army were determined to engage the enemy this day. I am told the firing began early this morning. I hope to be able to communicate something agreeable to you, which, if in my power, I shall not fail to do by express.

The sole design of this letter is most earnestly to request the interposition of Convention to prevent the disbanding of my brigade on *Sunday* next. I have sent an express to General *Heath* with a request to send me two more regiments and a fieldpiece or two. But what will that succour avail if the service is to last only till *Sunday*? I hope my request will not be imputed to interested motives when I assure you of my desire to serve my country one month longer without pay. I flatter myself the officers will be ashamed to refuse their service. If our Convention would think proper to furnish me with a bounty for the men, I think I can hold them. You cannot think, sir, of what infinite consequence it will be to this part of the country. Without some proper support, if our troops below should not succeed, the country below the mountains must submit to the enemy. If my views can be seconded by Convention, and General *Heath* should comply with my requisition, I flatter myself that, with the Militia of the County, numbers of them I am sure will join me if we countenance them by some suitable support, I may fall in the rear of the enemy with two thousand men. You may easily judge that if General *Washington* keeps them well employed in front, the expedient I propose may be successful; at least if I can be strengthened, I am determined to risk it, if I should fall in the attempt. In short, sir, our cunctandas have put me out of patience.

Let me not forget to tell you that thirty men were inlisted last *Sunday* into the enemy's service. And can you think, sir, that two thousand men marched southward from this, would not check the growing mischief? Be pleased, sir, to make my respectful compliments acceptable to Convention; assure them of my readiness to obey all their commands; reward the expresses. I keep no accounts with the publick. Believe me to be, sir, with undissembled respect and esteem, yours and the publick's devotedly,

JN. MORIN SCOTT.

To the President of the honourable Convention, State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL LEE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Camp at Phillipsburg, November ye 25th.

DEAR SIR: Would it not be prudent to order all the Continental stores to a more centrical place than *Boston? Worcester*, for instance, I should think would be a convenient place. There is another reason for this measure: should the enemy take it into their heads to send a fleet before *Boston*, in the confusion, when every man is attentive to his own affairs, the publick is totally neglected. The small-arms should likewise be moved. For Heaven's sake, sir, devise some means of furnishing us with blankets. Can no method be found of putting a stop to the enormous and impious extortion of the merchants on the soldiers?

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES LEE.

The Honourable *James Bowdoin*.

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COLONEL HAY TO GENERAL HEATH.

King's Ferry, November 25th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have just now received intelligence that the enemy landed last night from their ships a parcel of their men at the place called *Nyack*, about ten miles from this place. I must therefore request that you will be so good as to send us over proper guards, or we who have been faithful friends to our country must fall a sacrifice to a cruel and unrelenting enemy. I will esteem it as a particular favour if you will order the Captain of the row-galley to receive a few of my most valuable effects, and carry them to *New-Windsor*, if we are obliged to move from this place. A number of the Tories from *Ramapaugh* have gone over to the enemy, and have told persons that they meet on the road that they intended to conduct them up to Colonel *Huntington*, and surround him and his party. Pray excuse this scrawl; and I am, in great haste, your most obedient, humble servant,

A. HAWKES HAY.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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COUNCIL OF WAR.

Peekskill, November 25th, 1776.

At a Council of War held at General *Heath's* quarters, this day, report, Major-General *Heath*, Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, Brigadier-General *Scott*.

A Letter from Colonel *Hay* being read, intimating that a party of the enemy had landed at *Nyack*, and that a number of disaffected persons had gone over to the enemy, declaring as they went that they would conduct the enemy to the pass in the mountain, and cut off our troops:

The Council are unanimously of opinion that General *Scott* with his brigade should immediately repair to *Haverstraw*, to cover the stores at that place, and to prevent the advance of the enemy into the passes of the Highlands, should they attempt it.

W. HEATH,
GEO. CLINTON,
JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

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ORDER TO GENERAL SCOTT.

Peekskill, November 25th, 1776.

SIR: Upon receipt hereof you will immediately move with your brigade over to *Haverstraw*. You will post your men in such manner as to cover the stores on that side of the river and to prevent the advances of the enemy into the passes of the Highlands, should they attempt.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

W. HEATH.

Brigadier-General *Scott*.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th December.]

North-Castle, 25th November, 1776.

SIR: I have this day drawn on you a set of bills for fifteen hundred and forty-nine dollars and two-thirds of a dollar, payable at four days' sight, the value of which I have received in cash of General *Morris*, for use of the Army, and hope the same will be paid and placed to my account accordingly.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

JOS. TRUMBULL.

Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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COLONEL HAZEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read Dec. 9, 1776. Referred to Committee on Northern Army.]

Albany, 25th November.

SIR: On receipt of the order of Congress to recruit the regiment I have the honour to command to its origina

establishment, and after having received a sum of money for that purpose, in consultation with Lieutenant-Colonel *Antill*, it was thought best that I should proceed from *Philadelphia* to this place and *Ticonderoga*, and from thence down through the Eastern States on the recruiting service, while Colonel *Antill* was first to wait on General *Washington*, and by his approbation appoint some recruiting officers in his army, and from thence make a tour through some of the Southern States, which, notwithstanding we were rather late in that service, left a fair prospect of success, at least to those of our brother officers. But I was unhappy to find on my arrival here a barrier thrown in the way of my recruiting in the Eastern States, by their giving an additional encouragement to soldiers over and above what I was authorized by Congress to offer. I however delayed no time proceeding, with General *Schuyler's* approbation, to *Ticonderoga*, in hopes that by the appointment of some officers there on the ground, and those who could be well recommended, I might stand an equal chance to recruit out of the Southern regiments at that place. On my arrival here I found myself again disappointed, as the commanding officers of those regiments were averse to such a measure, and would not consent to their soldiers inlisting into any other corps, until regularly discharged, which Geneal *Gates* did not think fit to overrule. I hope that some immediate measures will be taken to put the Army of the *United States* on an equal footing, which will not only leave me an opportunity of raising the regiment from the different States agreeable to the resolve of Congress, but will prevent in your Army the greatest discontent, disorders, jealousies, and confusion, from which the worst of evils can only be expected. I hope Lieutenant-Colonel *Antill* will be successful in his department; and should we be so fortunate as to recruit the regiments under all the present disadvantages, I must take this early opportunity of requesting the favour of Congress that we may serve the ensuing campaign under the immediate command of General *Washington*. I have many reasons to back this application, not now necessary to trouble Congress with.

Having foretold the fate of our Northern army and fleet, at least the loss of *Canada* and the fleet on *Lake Champlain*, from the knowledge I have of the northern department, from the fortune I have sacrificed by the active part I have taken, and lastly from the rank I have in your Army, I will once more venture to give my opinion of our situation in that quarter, and the necessary precautions to be taken for its defence. It has been wisely determined that we should keep the superiority of a naval force on *Lake Champlain*, and for that purpose a fleet at a great expense was provided. It has been defeated, the losses great. The consequences may be fatal; for if the war continues, and the enemy enabled to carry it on with spirit, they will most probably make a bold push from *Canada*, as they have now an open inlet to our frontiers in that part of the country. They have already a formidable army of *British* troops and hirelings in *Canada*, which most probably will be augmented early in the spring. They may collect a large number of savages, who will be the most useful troops to them—an inveterate enemy, and might harm and distress, if not depopulate, the frontiers of our Eastern States. They may imbody the *Canadians*, who will not dare resist any order from military authority. Therefore if we guard *Ticonderoga* only, the enemy may early in the spring take possession of *Crown-Point*, encamp a large army at that place, and by the assistance which they may have from the *Canadians*, and without retarding their other operations, repair that fortress in such a manner as will render it next to improbable for us to dispossess them. They will then have the entire command of *Lake Champlain*, and serve as advantageous communications, leading directly into the frontier of the *New-England* States. In vain will you man your lines at *Ticonderoga*, that *American* grave, as that will guard a part of the frontiers of the State of *New-York* on *Crown-Point*, is surrounded with large settlements, numerous are the inhabitants in a plentiful country for provisions. From *Crown-Point* to *Number Four*, on the *Connecticut* river, is about eighty miles, an open road and settled country. From the mouth of *Onion* river, on *Lake Champlain*, to *Cohaus* on the *Connecticut*, is about the same distance. All this country totally unguarded, of easy access to the enemy, and it is too much to be feared many of the inhabitants disaffected; at least they will be so if they find themselves neglected. I am therefore clearly of opinion that our frontiers in that quarter will never be secured, until we are once more masters of that lake; that *Crown-Point* is far better situated for the protection of our frontiers in general than the post we have taken at *Ticonderoga*, and that it is the proper barrier against *Canada*. It was by the ablest General and best engineers ever considered as such, and built for that purpose. The old fortress may be easily put into a good posture of defence, and by us at a little expense; for until we are perfect masters of that navigation we must in the summer season keep up a large army of observation in that quarter, who may as well be employed in raising necessary fortifications and preparing a naval force as to lie idle. The enemy is now secure, guarded by their naval force, which leaves them the advantage of carrying on either an offensive or defensive war. If the former, a reinforcement, as I before observed, will probably be sent into this country, savages and *Canadians* assembled, and a vigorous push made, which will require a large army of observation in that quarter. If the latter, they may, unknown to us, withdraw their troops from *Canada*, or the most considerable part of the Army, and bring them to act in some other part on the sea-coast, while your Army may be waiting for them at *Ticonderoga*. I say this may be done unknown to us, if we may judge by the intelligence which we have received from *Canada* the last campaign. If we can raise a fleet superiour to that of our enemy, and once more make ourselves master of that water carriage, we shall then have nothing to fear from that quarter; but, on the contrary, turn the tables on our enemies, and our Army at that place may be small, and the enemy's large to watch our motions, or otherwise *Canada* would not be secured to them. If we should attempt to raise a fleet and fall short of the superiority, yet the labour and expense may not be lost, as naval armaments are a great protection to land forces, in such an advantageous situation as *Crown-Point*. They will there protect in a great measure the fortifications on the land, being so many moving battalions, and the land batteries will most effectually protect the Navy. They may act in conjunction, defend and secure each other, if properly conducted.

You will here see I have given my opinion of this important matter, and have endeavoured to lay down some reasons in support of it, simple as they are, naked and unadorned. I can only say my motive is good, which I hope will atone for the liberty I have taken on this occasion. The whole may be summed up in a few words, viz: *Crown-Point* is the proper barrier against *Canada*. We ought to take possession of that post and rebuild the fort. A respectable army you must have in that quarter, a formidable fleet you ought to have. A moment's time you have not to lose in making the necessary preparations, or fatal may be the consequences. I will only add, *Crown-Point* is a healthy climate, *Ticonderoga* a sickly one, a proof of which you had the last campaign. This is a matter of consideration.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, your most obedient and most devoted humble servant,

MOSES HAZEN.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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ALBANY COMMITTEE TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany Committee Chamber, November 28th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Frequent representations have been made to the Board of the abuses committed on flour by the manufacturers of it, in this County, and several other parts of the State, not only in the quality but the weights thereof; in the latter, so much, that barrels have been found deficient a hundred weight. This being so intolerable an imposition on the publick, that we are constrained to mention it to you, and pray that some effectual means may be devised by the Convention to prevent such practices for the future. We beg leave, with great deference, to submit to you whether a resolve from your House, declaring that no flour should be purchased or sold in the State, under a certain penalty, without having the brand of the manufacturer thereof marked on the barrel, would not, in some respects, obviate the abuse.

On the late alarms to the northward, when the Militia of this County were called forth, particularly from the district of *Saratoga*, many of the inhabitants, from whom a con-

trary line of conduct was expected, deserted, and have since joined the enemy at *Crown-Point*. Some of them have left families in the greatest necessity and want, others have left estates sufficient to maintain their own families and more. The poor, we are apprehensive, must fall a burthen to the district, unless provided for by the Convention. It has been agitated in Committee whether the estates of all should not be seized and disposed of, for the maintenance of the whole indiscriminately. This we also beg leave to mention to you, that the Convention may act therein as they judge most expedient.

We are, most respectfully, sir, your very humble servants.

By order:

JOHN BARCLAY, *Chairman.*

To the Convention of the State of *New-York.*

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COLONEL WAYNE TO COLONEL HURD.

Ticonderoga, 25 November, 1776.

SIR: The enemy retreated from *Crown-Point* with their whole force, about three weeks since. One or two regiments of them are stationed at the *Isle-au-Noix*, one at *St. Johns*, and one at *Chamblee*; the remainder are cantoned from *Montreal* to *Quebec.*

A strong garrison remain here during the winter which will be reinforced early in the spring. But I have no direction respecting matters in your quarter. I shall write to General *Schuyler* on the occasion. If you should be able to gain any intelligence of the enemy's motions that would affect this post, it cannot be too early conveyed to, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ANT'Y WAYNE, *Col. Com't.*

Colonel *Hurd.*

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Hartford, November 25th, 1776.

SIR: In a letter from General *Lee* of the 21st instant, he says, "I shall begin with my application immediately. For Heaven's sake contrive to procure us blankets. Write to *Massachusetts* if you have none yourselves." A large quantity is wanted for the use of the Army. This State have not a sufficiency for the supply of the men sent from it, which necessitates us to apply to yours. If in your power we trust you'll forward a quantity to the Army with the utmost despatch and alacrity. Inform whether some cannot be supplied to furnish troops raised and ordered to march immediately from this State.

Your speedy answer will much oblige your most obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH. TRUMBULL.

Hon. *James Bowdoin.*

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Hartford, November 25th, 1776.

SIR: In answer to a resolve of your Assembly proposing a convention of the several States respecting further emissions of paper currency, and for supporting the credit thereof, am desired by the Assembly of this State to advise that the proposal would be very agreeable, and might have very salutary effects; yet as we understand that the honourable Continental Congress have taken the subject into consideration with a purpose to act upon it, we are fearful lest a convention as proposed at this time would give umbrage to the other States, and cause some unhappy jealousies, which might prove detrimental. We have already passed sundry acts for the purpose of securing the credit of our currency, by making the Continental bills and our own a tender in all payments; also by stating and regulating the prices of the necessaries and conveniences of life, and enforcing the same, the rapid and exorbitant rise of which has a great tendency to depreciate the currency; copies of which several acts will, if desired, transmit you when leisure permits; wherefore this State beg leave for the present to decline the motion made.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir, your obedient humble servant,

JON'TH. TRUMBULL.

To the President of the Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay.*

IN COUNCIL, *December* 6th, 1776.—Read, and resolved, that the Committee appointed by this Court to confer with such Committees as may be appointed by the General Assembly of the States of *Connecticut*, *New-Hampshire*, and *Rhode-Island*, respecting further emission of Paper Currency, also on the measures necessary for supporting the credit of the same, be and hereby are directed to proceed upon said conference, the foregoing letter notwithstanding.

Sent down for concurrence.

JOHN AVERY, *Dp'y Sec'y.*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *December* 6, 1776.—Read, and non-concurred, and ordered that Mr. *Pitts* and Judge *Sargent*, with such as the honourable Board shall join, be a Committee to write to the State of *New-Hampshire* and the State of *Rhode-Island*, informing them of the reasons the Committee of this State do not proceed on that business.

Sent up for concurrence.

SAM'L FREEMAN, *Spk'r p. t.*

IN COUNCIL, *December* 6, 1776.—Read, and the Board reconsider their Resolve of this day, and concur with the honourable House in vote, and *Francis Dana*, Esq., to be joined on the part of the Board.

JOHN AVERY, *Dp'y Sec'y.*

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New-Haven, November 27, 1776.

*Friday* last, a flag-of-truce schooner arrived at *New-London*, from *New-York*, with a letter from Lord *Howe* to Governour *Trumbull*, proposing an exchange of the Navy prisoners, confined in this State, for an equal number of the State's subjects, which are prisoners on board the *English* fleet.*

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LORD HOWE'S INSTRUCTIONS TO LIEUTENANT BARKER.

Eagle, off New-York, November 15, 1776.

Lieutenant *Barker* is to repair in the pilot tender, with a flag of truce, to the port of *New-London*, in *Connecticut*, having charge to negotiate, on the part of Lord *Howe*, with the principal inhabitants, or persons of the greatest authority, in that Colony, an exchange of prisoners, officers for officers in each class, and sailors for sailors, according to the enclosed list of *American* prisoners now on board the fleet. Mr. *William Howland* is permitted to attend Lieutenant *Barker*, in view to forward the proposed exchange by such means as his knowledge of the country and principal inhabitants shall suggest. Mr. *Howland* is permitted to land from the tender, being by his parole engaged to return with Lieutenant *Barker*, to receive the benefit of the general exchange, if it take place, or otherwise to remain under the circumstances of restraint from which he is temporarily released for the purpose before mentioned.

HOWE.

Lieutenant *Barker.*

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J. HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

November 25, 1776.

We, your Honour's Committee, appointed to consider of the application made by Lord *Howe*, for exchange of prisoners in the Marine or Naval department, now report it as our opinion, that such an application to this State is altogether improper and inconsistent; and that the same ought to have been made to his Excellency General *Washington* in the first instance, with whom a negotiation of this sort, between him and Lord *Howe*, has already been proposed; and that his Honour the Governour be desired to advise General *Washington* of this singular application, and of the opinion of this Assembly thereon; and that he also signify to Lord *Howe*, or the commander of the flag, through whom the application was made, as he shall judge proper, the impropriety of said application to this State, assigning the pendency of the negotiation aforesaid.

Signed per order:

J. HUNTINGTON.

* It appears, by a letter dated *New-London*, *November* 23d, 1776, from *Jedediah Elderkin* and *Nathaniel Wales, Jr.*, to Governour *Trumbull*, that upon the 22d day aforesaid, about one o'clock, a small schooner with a flag appeared in *New-London* harbour, which greatly surprised the citizens. She came within about one mile of *Fort Trumbull*, lay to, and lowered sails, with her flag up. A whale-boat was sent to her with armed men, to go on board of her, and soon returned with Captain

WILLIAM FRANKLIN TO MRS. FRANKLIN.

Middleton, November 25, 1776.

My dearest Life: I had last *Saturday* the happiness of receiving your dear long letter of the 5th and 6th instant. The one dated the 16th of *September*, (which I had given up as lost,) got safe to hand a few days before. But I have not yet been so lucky as to receive that which you mention to have wrote on the 20th of *October*. Perhaps it may find its way here some weeks hence. Since the new regulations in the post office, never was there greater confusion in the management of any business. I wrote a few lines to you by Mr. *A. O.* about a fortnight ago, just to let you know that I was well. I am much concerned that that fellow *F.* should report I had been extremely ill, as I know the uneasiness it must have occasioned you. I had only a slight cold attended with a little fever, which went off in a few days.

If the old gentleman has taken the boy with him, I hope it is only to put him in some foreign university, which he seemed anxious to do when he spoke to me last about his education. As the *Cobhams* are already sent to *Powell's*, I would not have them removed. Had I known *D.* had solicited the matter you mention, I should not have desired you to send him any money; but I suppose it is now too late to stop it.

You have been lucky in your jockeyship. I am sorry, however, for the poor gentleman's loss, which I much wonder at, as *Whitefoot* always appeared as sound a horse as any I had.

I wish Mr. *Mercer* had continued in *Amboy*, as his polite attention to you must have greatly lessened the distresses of your present situation.

I hope your fears about poor Mr. *Bonnel* are groundless. I shall be extremely concerned if he does not recover from his present indisposition. Remember me kindly to him and his wife.

It gives me pleasure to hear that Mrs. *Burnet* is in *Amboy*, as she will help to enliven your little society. My best regards to her and to Mr. *S.* and the ladies with you. Let Mrs. *A.* know that I received her message in yours of *September* 16, and that I now desire my particular compliments to her. Keep up your spirits, my dearest life, and assure yourself of the unalterable affection of your ever faithful husband,

W. Franklin.

P. S. *Thomas* sends his duty to you, and love to *Kitty* and the servants. You need make no apology about pen or paper. The fault, however, if any, is not so much in the first as in the latter. Write if you choose it on the folio gilt paper which I used for my despatches. But your letters are all as fair and legible as I could wish.

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GOVERNOR COOKE TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Providence, November 25th, 1776.

Gentlemen: The enclosed resolutions of Congress were transmitted to me by General *Lee*, with a request that I would immediately forward them to you. I accordingly send them by express, and beg leave to assure that I am, with great respect, your Honours' most obedient and most humble servant,

Nich's Cooke.

The honourable the General Court of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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In Congress, *November* 7th, 1776.—*Resolved*, That the Resolution passed the 14th of *October* last, "that the allowance to Officers of one and one-third Dollar for inlisting Soldiers be not extended or given on the reinlistment of the Soldiers in camp," be repealed.

*November* 12th, 1776.—*Resolved*, (as the opinion of this Congress,) That if the Soldiers to be raised by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be inlisted on the terms offered to them, which are more advantageous than what are offered to other Soldiers serving in the same Army, it would much retard, if not wholly impede, the inlistment of the latter, and produce discontent and murmur, unless Congress should equally increase the pay of these, which it is the opinion of this Congress would universally be reprobated as an immoderate expense, and complained of as a grievous burthen by those who must bear it, and therefore that the Committee from the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be desired not to inlist their men on the additional pay offered by the Assembly of that State.

Upon reconsidering the Resolution of the 16th *September* last, for raising eighty-eight Battalions to serve during the present war with *Great Britain*, Congress being of opinion that the readiness of the inhabitants of the States to enter into the service for limited times, in defence of their invaluable privileges, on all former occasions, gives good ground to hope the same zeal for the publick good will appear in future when necessity calls for their assistance; and the uncertain length of time which forces raised during the continuance of the war may be compelled to serve, may prevent many from inlisting who would otherwise readily manifest their attachment to the common cause by engaging for a limited time:

Therefore *Resolved*, That all Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers who do not incline to engage their services during the continuance of the present war, and shall inlist to serve three years unless sooner discharged by Congress, shall be entitled to and receive all such bounty and pay as are allowed to those who inlist during the continuance of the present war, except the one hundred acres of land, which is to be granted to those only who inlist without limitation of time.

And each Recruiting Officer is required to provide two distinct inlisting rolls, one for such to sign who inlist during the continuance of the war, and the other for such as inlist for three years, if their service shall be so long required.

By order of the Congress:

John Hancock, *President*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

Newport, November 25th, 1776.

Gentlemen: I received yours of *October* 23d, and have ordered the *Cabot* round from *Boston*. The *Hamden*

*Howland*. Several gentlemen from *Groton* and *New-London*, with Messrs. *Elderkin* and *Wales*, examined Captain *Howland*. He informed them that on the 1st day of *November*, 1776, he sailed from *Bedford*, in *Massachusetts*, for *Surinam*, loaded with horses, candles, &c., and was taken soon after he sailed and carried to *New-York*, where himself and his men were put on board of a ship which had one hundred and forty prisoners on board, in one berth between decks, on two-thirds allowance, where the prisoners were very sickly, and many of them died. And that he used his influence to procure the flag of truce to go to *Connecticut* to endeavour to effect an exchange of prisoners; that he left *New-York* the *Monday* previous, and that the news of taking *Fort Washington* arrived in *New-York* on the day before; and he saw the prisoners come in, about three thousand seven hundred men, and stated that the garrison surrendered at the moment the enemy were about to take it by storm. Captain *Howland* had with him a copy of his parole.

Another boat went to the flag from the fort and brought a letter for the Governour of *Connecticut*. Several gentlemen were sent on board, directed to request Lieutenant *Barker* for a copy of his instructions from Lord *Howe*, which he readily gave, and politely remarked that he was distressed for the prisoners, that they were in want of clothing and much interested for an exchange. Lieutenant *Barker* had a list of all the prisoners, and offered to give a copy, but stated that he came for the prisoners in the naval department alone. They queried the Lieutenant why application had not been made to General *Washington* for the exchange. He replied that they did not know where to find General *Washington*, as he changed his location so often.

Messrs. *Elderkin* and *Wales* stated that they had been informed in *New-London*, that a number of sea captains and other officers, who had been taken on board merchantmen and private ships of war, who were brought into *Providence* and places adjacent, by armed vessels, about sixty in number, had purchased a vessel at *Providence*, for the purpose of returning to *Europe*, some of whom were from *New-London*, and were soon to sail. On the arrival of the flag at *New-London*, Mr. *Elderkin*, &c., immediately informed Governour *Cooke*, of *Rhode-Island*, of the condition of our prisoners, and sent to him copies of Lieutenant *Barker's* orders, *Howland's* parole, &c., and intimated to him the propriety of stopping the officers (who had been taken prisoners) from sailing; that Captain *Howland* was at *New-London*, who was not permitted to view the forts, &c., or going to *Hartford*, as he was a stranger. The flag with Lieutenant *Barker* and the men, &c., were kept under guard, to wait and learn the pleasure of Governour *Trumbull* upon the subject.

The General Assembly appointed Colonel *Erastus Wolcott* and Captain *John Deshon* to advise and determine on the expediency of entering into any negotiation with Lieutenant *Barker* for the exchange of prisoners in the marine department, with power, if they should judge best, to inquire after and obtain such marine prisoners as they should be enabled; and to agree on time, place, and manner of exchange, and to treat with said *Barker* as they should think prudent and best.

Lieutenant *Barker*, at the time he first sent Captain *Howland* on his parole on shore, sent by him a letter, dated *Pilot Tender*, *New-London*, *November* 23d, 1776, directed to the Governour, or principal inhabitants of *New-London*; in which he stated, that he was empowered by Lord *Howe* to negotiate respecting the exchange of prisoners on board the fleet at *New-York*, and requested an interview; and stated that he sent him on his parole for three days, to accelerate the exchange. By Captain *Howland's* parole, it appeared he was authorized to negotiate for exchanges of prisoners, either in *Connecticut* or *Rhode-Island*, on board the fleet, for an equal number of *British* prisoners, officers for officers in each class, and sailors for sailors.—*Hinman*.

is nearly fitted. The new ships and the *Columbus* are ready, but not yet fully manned. If they are not manned when the *Cabot* arrives, I believe I shall take the officers and men out of the *Columbus*, and attempt to put your orders in execution with all the despatch in my power. Captain *Falconer*, by whom this comes, will be able to inform you more fully in respect to our circumstances.

Enclosed you have a copy of Captain *Jones's* letters, which I received last evening by Mr. *Walter Spooner*, the master of the *Alfred*, who arrived yesterday at *Bedford*, in the *Active*, prize. I hope the ship with the clothing may arrive safe, as that will be of great advantage to the States, by supplying the Army. Mr. *Spooner* informs that the ship has some quantity of arms, and says he heard the Captain say her cargo was worth sixty thousand pounds sterling. I think it will be necessary for you to send orders for the *Alfred*, *Providence*, and *Columbus*, if she should be left behind, directing them how to be employed. It may be best to direct them to the care of my brother, to forward them to whatever port they may come into. I hope you will give some directions in respect to supplying the sailors out of the prize goods, as they will not be able to do duty well in the winter without, and it is with difficulty we are able to supply them with any.

I have not been able to find a small vessel fit for a tender, and think of making use of the *Hamden* for that purpose.

I am, with great regard, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the *Marine* Committee, at *Philadelphia*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO LEONARD JARVIS.

Newport, November 25th, 1776.

SIR: I received yours by Mr. *Spooner*, and am to inform you that it will be for the publick good and agreeable to the orders of the *Marine* Committee, that you keep all the clothing, and other things that are fit for the use of the Army or Navy, until you receive further orders. The anchors, cord, and, indeed, every thing that will be wanted by the publick, should not be sold.

You will please to send me, as soon as possible, a copy of the invoice of the brigantine *Active's* cargo, as there may be some things that are very much wanted by the fleet now near ready to sail. In behalf of the officers and people of the Navy, I now desire you to take care of their part of the several prizes under your care until we send for the same.

I am, with esteem, sir, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To Mr. *Leonard Jarvis*, Dep'y Agent for the Continental fleet at *Dartmouth*.

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Newport, November 25, 1776.

*Thursday* a schooner from *France* went up the bay; she brings advice that a declaration of war was expected every moment; also that there were very great confusions in *Ireland*; that the *British* Court were about sending some foreign troops to that island, which increased the uneasiness of the people; that there was the greatest preparations in *France* for war ever known; and that the *British* Ministry had applied to the Court of *France* for leave to march a body of *Russians* through that kingdom to embark them in the *Mediterranean*, for *America*, but were absolutely forbidden.

Last evening arrived in town Mr. *Spooner*, late Lieutenant of the *Alfred*, and informs that he arrived at an Eastern port, in a brig of which he was prize-master, taken by the ship *Alfred* and the sloop *Providence*, having on board a cargo of stores, cloths, &c., to the amount of six thousand pounds sterling, at prime cost, mounting six carriage-guns, and bound to *New-York*; also that the *Alfred* and *Providence* had taken a very valuable ship, mounting sixteen carriage-guns, having on board forty seamen and passengers, and thirty recruits for the *British* Army, who, it is not doubted, are arrived in port by this time.

We hear the honourable General Assembly of this State, who met at *East-Greenwich* last *Thursday*, have voted one thousand more men, to be raised as soon as possible, for the defence of this island, and ordered all the independent companies to march in, to continue till those men are embodied.

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NOAH GOODMAN TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Boston, November 25th, 1776.

The Secretary has just acquainted me that I was some days since appointed by the General Court a Major in one of the regiments to be raised in the Continental Army. I am much obliged to the Court for the honour they have done me in this appointment; but such is my other engagements, that I cannot possibly accept the appointment.

I am, sir, with great esteem, your humble servant,

NOAH GOODMAN.

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JOSEPH GREENLEAF TO JAMES WARREN.

Boston, November 25th, 1776.

SIR: I have ventured to stop a number of bills of credit which had been altered and offered for larger sums than their real value; but as they are neither counterfeit, nor uttered knowing them to be such, the possessors, notwithstanding their innocence, are sufferers, by being deprived of the real value of their bills, and myself made liable to an action for depriving them of their property, which I have presumed to do, to prevent further frauds. If you would propose to the honourable House a resolve indemnifying the magistrate in such conduct as above-mentioned, ordering him to stop all such bills, and to deliver them to the Treasurer of the State, that persons who shall inadvertently take such bills may receive from him the real worth of the bills, I imagine it would be productive of much good. The bills thus received by the Treasurer (if this State's bills) might be destroyed, the Continental and bills of other States, no doubt, they would redeem upon the same terms, if applied to by your honourable House.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

JOS. GREENLEAF.

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JOSIAH BARTLETT TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE.

Kingstown, November 25th, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR: I arrived here on the 9th instant, after a very agreeable journey, and better in health than when I left you, and am now (*Dei gratia*) in a comfortable state of health; as I hope this will find you and your worthy colleague. As to news of the movements of the armies at *New-York*, they are so various and contradictory that I hardly know any thing that is to be depended on since I left you. However, I think it cannot be long before the campaign must be closed and the armies retire to winter quarters. The report of the day is, that the *British* Army has crossed over *Hudson's* river into the *Jerseys*, but whether true or not is very uncertain here. By accounts from the Northern Army, it appears that General *Carleton* and his army are returned into *Canada*, and so there is an end of the campaign there. Major *Cilley* is come with a request from General *Gates* that the regiment stationed at *Portsmouth* may be sent to him, and Colonel *Poor's* regiment, who have undergone the fatigue of the campaign, be sent home to recruit; but, as the officers are not commissioned, and there is no order of Congress, or of General *Washington*, for their removal, I know not what will be done about it. The men seem very loth to be sent to the northward, as there are very grievous complaints of the soldiers suffering not only by sickness and a total want of medicines, but for provisions and clothing, and that by the exorbitant prices of the necessaries sold by the sutlers, they have been obliged to expend the whole of their wages to prevent them from starving. I really fear we shall be unable to procure an army for that department, unless effectual care is taken to have them better supplied, and cheaper than they have been the year past. I really think an inquiry ought to be made how it happened that the sick soldiers could not have any medicine from the physicians, of any kind, when I know large quantities have been sent there. And I could wish such persons were appointed to supply the Army as sutlers with things at the prime cost, and any necessary expense of dealing them out, and be paid by the publick.

The Convention of *New-York* have sent our State a present of above two hundred Tories, to be taken care of by us; some of them to be confined in close jail, others confined to certain limits on their parole.

The extravagant rise of things, especially merchants' goods, has raised a great clamour in the country, and has given a handle to some restless persons in the County of *Hillsborough* to call a convention of the Committees of the several towns, to meet at *Dracut*, the 26th instant, to redress this and some other grievances. I am informed they have had one meeting, and have now sent to the greatest part of the towns in the State, and to a great number in the *Massachusetts*, and expect a very grand meeting. What will be the consequence I know not; but am much afraid of some bad effects, and am very sorry that the infamous conduct of some traders, who pretend to be great Sons of Liberty, should give any just grounds of complaint to the people.

I hope soon to receive a letter from you, and hope you will inform me of every interesting particular that you are at liberty to communicate, both foreign and domestick. I suppose the *Reprisal* has sailed; and I hope got clear off the coast. Has *Pennsylvania* settled Government, and how? Has *Maryland* formed a Constitution? I am very anxious to know how things go on. Here all is doubt and uncertainty.

Please to give my best regards to Colonel *Thornton* and his lady, who, I hope, are safe arrived and well. Remember me to Miss *Susy*, Captain *Dean*, Mr. *Boyle*, &c.

I am, with great esteem, your affectionate friend and humble servant,

JOSIAH BARTLETT.

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 26th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I send you enclosed an open letter for his Excellency Mr. *Hancock*, which, after perusing, please to seal and deliver. This will save me the saying the same things in this letter respecting the bearer, Mr. *Rogers*, who will give you good information; and I have only to ask your patronage and introduction of him, as a young gentleman deserving the same, and who has ever interested himself in the cause of his country, with zeal and firmness, and will, I trust, be of eminent service, as he advances in years and experience. He has assiduously studied the theory of war since I have been here, is ingenious at drawing and designing, and understanding something of the *French* language, will prove, I am confident, a valuable acquisition.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 26th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: This serves only to enclose and explain the within state of the commerce of *Leghorn*, which was given me by the Envoy of the Grand Duke of *Tuscany*, a gentleman of universal knowledge and a warm friend to *America*, and, indeed, to all mankind. I have the honour of his acquaintance in an intimate degree, and having communicated to him a memoir, setting forth the particular state of the commerce of *America*, with the history of its rise and increase, and its present importance, it being copy of what I delivered this Court, he marked the articles in demand in general, and those in particular as you will see in the enclosed, after which he enumerated their articles for exportation, which, in my turn, I mark and observed upon as before you. I have only to add, the Grand Duke has taken off all duties on the *American* commerce to give it encouragement. This, indeed, is done rather privately to prevent complaints of other powers of seeming partiality; when I add to this, that it is agreed on all hands, ships of war may be purchased at *Leghorn* ready fitted for sea, cheaper than in any other port in *Europe*, I think a good acquaintance ought to be cultivated with this State.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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JOHN ARCHER TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Harford County, November 26th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As I understand some of the gondolas are nearly ready, for which your honourable Board has the appointment of officers, I would therefore beg leave to remind you of two gentlemen who have been recommended to you by sundry persons who are well acquainted with them. Their names are Captain *Bennett Matthews* and *John Stevenson*, of *Harford* County. Captain *Mathews* is well acquainted with the sea, and is a gentleman of integrity and attachment to the *American* cause. He applies for a Captain's commission. *John Stevenson* is a worthy deserving young man, as well acquainted with military discipline as most young men in our country. He applies for a First Lieutenancy; and should your Honours think proper to appoint him, he would be desirous of serving under Captain *Mathews*. They are both natives of this Province.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your very humble servant,

JOHN ARCHER.

The honourable Council of Safety in *Annapolis*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 26th, 1776.

SIR: In consequence of your despatches by General *Mifflin*, who arrived here on *Sunday* evening, the Congress the next day came to the enclosed resolves, which I do myself the honour of forwarding, in obedience to their commands. They will inform you of the steps taken to reinforce your Army at this juncture.

The urgency of affairs will, I trust, induce the Militia to exert themselves in a proper manner on this occasion, as it is extremely evident that nothing but such an exertion will be effectual in our present situation.

The Congress have ordered General *Mifflin* to stay in this city until you shall require his attendance at Head-Quarters, being well convinced that his influence, which is very considerable over the Associators of this place, will be employed to spirit them on to the most vigorous measures.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL MIFFLIN TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, November 26, 1776—9 o'clock, A. M.

MY DEAR GENERAL: At ten o'clock last evening I received your letter of the 24th instant, and will make proper applications of your Excellency's sentiments on the probable movements of the enemy.

I came into this town at eight o'clock *Sunday* evening, and waited on Mr. *Hancock* with your letter immediately after my arrival. Yesterday morning I was admitted to Congress, in general committee, and went as far in my relation of the wretched appointments of the Army, the dangerous and critical situation of the *Jerseys* and *Pennsylvania*, and the necessity of immediate vigorous exertions to oppose Mr. *Howe*, as their sensibility and my own delicacy would justify. After some debate, a requisition was made to the Assembly now sitting, and Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, of their whole Militia; and resolutions formed for the purpose of establishing wholesome and necessary regulations for this and the next campaign.

I received orders from Congress to remain in this town until your Excellency judged it necessary for me to join the Army. Those orders were in consequence of the divided and lethargic state of my countrymen, who appeared to be slumbering under the shade of peace, and in the full enjoyment of the sweets of commerce.

In the afternoon I waited on the Committee of Safety, and with much success addressed their passions. The Assembly are to meet this morning. Their lesson is prepared by the Committee of Safety and some of their leading members, who say matters will now go on well.

It is proposed to call on every man in the State to turn out. Such as refuse are to be fined five pounds per month, the fines to be distributed among those who inlist.

To-morrow the city Militia is to be reviewed. If they appear in such numbers as we expect, I am to give them a talk well seasoned. The *German* battalion move from hence to-morrow. Three regiments from *Delaware* and *Maryland* are to follow them to *Brunswick* as soon as pos-

sible, by which I fear the shores of *Delaware* at and near *New-Castle* will be much exposed, provided Mr. *Howe* attempts to disembark in this river.

Your Excellency's opinion on the designs of the enemy, and the best means to oppose them should they divert your attention in *Jersey* and attempt an impression on this State by means of their ships, will be necessary from time to time. The Light-Horse of the State of *Virginia* are ordered to join your Excellency's Army. The principal military stores are to be removed from hence. Five hundred thousand musket-cartridges will be sent to *Brunswick*.

A prize ship came in yesterday. She had on board, when taken by a Congress packet, twenty thousand hard dollars, nine thousand of which were lost by an attempt to heave them on board the packet at sea.

I have ordered one thousand wagons to be collected, if possible, near this city, to remove, when occasion requires, the most essential articles belonging to the publick.

I sent Colonel *Harrison's* letter to him last evening.

Mrs. *W.'s* letter is in the post office, and will be forwarded by post at eleven o'clock this day.

I am, my dear General, with much attachment, your obedient servant, THOMAS MIFFLIN.

His Excellency General *Washington*, at or near *Newark, West-Jersey*.

The Council of Safety, I am just informed, open the campaign this day by moving the principal Tories in and near the city.

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SAMUEL CHASE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, November 26th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In my last I expressed some hopes of prevailing on Congress to give our State some satisfaction as to the back lands, and the mode by which the proportion of the expenses of the war was to be paid by each State. In this expectation I was delayed and disappointed for two days, by Mr. *Jenifer's* mentioning that our Commissioners had your orders to proceed. By an obstinate perseverance the enclosed resolution was obtained last *Saturday*; on *Sunday* afternoon our Commissioners left this city. On yesterday the Commissioners from Congress, of which Mr. *Paca* is one, also set off for the camp. Much depends on their success.

The reduction of *Fort Washington* and easy possession obtained of *Fort Lee*, has greatly encouraged General *Howe*, and probably induced him to carry on the campaign much longer than he would otherwise have done. There is great reason to believe that his views extended to this city. On *Saturday* evening General *Mifflin* arrived in this city.

Our Army under the command of General *Washington*, in the *Jerseys*, are about six thousand, of which the service of about fifteen hundred expires on *Sunday* next. General *Lee* has about eleven thousand effectives on the west side of *North River*, of which the inlistment of about three thousand expires on the same day. The enemy have about twenty-one thousand effectives. They can spare about sixteen thousand, and have a sufficient garrison to maintain *New-York*. General *Howe* has six thousand in the *Jerseys*, opposite to *Newark*. In this State it is proposed to call out all the Militia of four Counties and this city, immediately, for six weeks. *Chester, Bucks, Northampton*, and *Philadelphia* Counties, are the nearest to the *Jerseys;* and it is also proposed to call out a company of volunteers from each battalion in this State, to enroll till 10th *March* next. The preservation of this State and the *Jerseys*, and in great measure the common safety, will depend on the success of this requisition.

*New-Jersey* is also called on for aid, and *Delaware* is solicited; and if our State could afford any assistance in time, an application would also be made to her.

If the present cloud should be happily dispersed, the new levies will be the first object of your attention. We can neither prosecute the war nor obtain honourable terms of peace without an army. The inlistment will be only for three years, on the bounty of twenty dollars, and the usual clothing, or the twenty dollars in lieu thereof, by the resolves of Congress. I am informed that the recruiting officers are entitled to ten shillings for each man inlisted and passed, and ten shillings per week for provisions, till the recruits arrive at some place where they can be furnished by the Continental Commissaries.

We have certain intelligence that a number of ships of the smallest draught of water, sufficient to carry ten thousand troops, are now lying ready in the *North River*, with fascines on their sides. The destination of this fleet is uncertain; some conjecture to land a body of troops at *South-Amboy*, which is very probable, if this city is the object with Mr. *Howe;* others guess *Virginia* or *South-Carolina*. The latter is the most suspicious, because if they succeed against *Charlestown* they can pass the winter there. A few days will relieve us from conjecture.

I submit to you the propriety of ordering the Artillery companies at *Baltimore* town and *Annapolis* be exercised daily, if the weather will permit, and at least three times a week. Practice alone can make artillerists. In our Army we destroy as many of our own troops as the enemy.

Your letter of the 2d I received by yesterday's post. We have paid for the paper. There are not four hundred dollars in Mr. *Paca's* hands. Would it not be proper to transmit the account to Congress, or by some means lodge money here to exchange our money?

I delivered the resolves relative to *Virginia* to the Delegates of that State.

I am, gentlemen, with respect, your obedient servant, SAM'L CHASE.

To the honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis*.

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Philadelphia, November 26, 1776.

Yesterday the ship *Sam*, lately commanded by *Samuel Richardson*, was sent into this port. She was taken on her passage from *Barbadoes* to *Liverpool*, by the Continental sloop *Independence*, Captain *Young*, was mounted with four guns, and had on board twenty thousand dollars, two tons and a half of ivory, one hundred bars of iron, &c.

*Fort Lee* having been evacuated by our troops, and the stores removed to a place of security, part of the *British* Army we hear took possession of it last *Thursday*.

We hear that part of General *Howe's* Army has advanced a few miles into the State of *New-Jersey*, and that he is preparing with the remaining body of his troops to effect a landing in that State. General *Washington* is busy preparing to receive them, and if properly reinforced with the Militia of *New-Jersey* and the neighbouring States, we hope will be able to check their progress. We also hear that General *Lee* is advancing to join General *Washington* with a reinforcement from the Continental Army in the State of *New-York*.

The honourable Congress have promoted *M. de Roche de Fermoy*, a brave and experienced officer, and formerly a Colonel in the *French* service, to the rank of a Brigadier-General.

On *Wednesday* one hundred sail of vessels left *Sandy-Hook*, and put to sea, but whether they have troops on board is uncertain. Various are the conjectures of their destination, but the prevailing opinion is that they are empty transports, and are bound to *Ireland* for provisions for the *British* troops.

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LANCASTER (PENNSYLVANIA) COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation, Inspection and Correspondence, at the house of *Adam Reigart*, the 26th *November*, 1776: Present, *Wm. Atlee, Lodwick Lowman, John Miller, Henry Dehuff, Christopher Crawford, Jacob King, Michael Musser, Wm. Bowsman, A. Reigart, George Moore, Mathias Slough. William Atlee* in the chair.

Mr. *Geo. Moore*, Mr. *William Bowsman*, and Mr. *Casper Shaffner*, are appointed a Committee to settle the Accounts of the Bricklayers employed in building the addition to the Barracks, and make report to this Committee. They are also to report to the Committee the quantity of bricks delivered by *Peter Albright* and *Lewis Peters* and *George Lindeberger*, to the Barracks for those buildings.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Newark, November 26th, 1776—3 o'clock, P. M.

SIR: By command of his Excellency I have the honour to transmit you the enclosed resolves of Congress, the

original of which this minute came to hand; and I am to request you, in his name, to have the purport of it complied with, by sending down with all possible expedition the whole of the troops belonging to the States of *Pennsylvania* and *Jersey*, which are in the Northern Department, to join the Army under his immediate command. You will please to order them to fall in on the communication leading from *New-York* to *Philadelphia*, at *Brunswick*, or between that and *Princeton*, and to direct their march by a back and secure route, that it may not be liable to be intercepted by the enemy. I have mentioned *Brunswick*, supposing and hoping that we shall be able to make a stand there, if not before. However, his Excellency begs you will direct the commanding officers of those troops to send him frequent expresses to advise of their approaches, by which means their destination may be explicitly pointed out; at present it is conjectural. It must depend on circumstances.

I have not time to add much; therefore shall only inform you that the enemy are in possession of *Hackensack*, and are now pushing this way. From report they are this side the *Passaic*. Their number is not ascertained, but it is supposed considerable. They were marching in four heavy columns yesterday evening.

I have the honour, &c., R. H. Harrison.

To Major-General *Schuyler*, Northern Department.

P. S. The officers must inquire the situation of our Army and that of the enemy from time to time, and regulate their movements accordingly, and in such a manner as not to run the most distant shadow of risk in falling in with the latter.

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GOVERNOUR TRYON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 26th November, 1776.

My Lord: I have been honoured with your Lordship's despatches No. 5 and 6, with their enclosures. The duplicates were delivered by Mr. *Kemble;* to all which I shall pay due regard.

I have communicated to the principal inhabitants of *Staten-Island*, by an extract from your Lordship's despatch, his Majesty's approbation of the loyal and affectionate conduct of the people of that island, and his most gracious assurances of paternal regard for, and constant protection of, them; but as that island, from the present operations of the war, is not in a state of absolute security, and has within these few weeks been visited by some parties of the Rebels, I have not thought it prudent in the present moment, to make a publick declaration of the Royal disposition in their favour.

As the Militia law is in force I am getting proper lists of officers, as also of Magistrates, that the civil government may have its full operation as soon as it is judged proper to re-establish it with all its powers.

Mr. *White*, one of his Majesty's Council, arrived here with the last division of the *Hessians*, and is very useful to me from his influence among the citizens, in such regulations of police as are left me in my restricted sphere of executive power, arising from the present necessity of the times.

The Liberty Pole erected some years ago in this city, and which remained as a monument of insult to Government and of licentiousness to the people, was last month, by my recommendation to the inhabitants, very properly and very quietly taken down and removed by them.*

I am, with all possible respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,

Wm. Tryon.

Lord *George Germain*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN ENGLISH OFFICER, DATED NEW-YORK, NOVEMBER 26, 1776.

On *Saturday* last we attacked *Fort Washington*, on the Island of *New-York*, the strongest post that ever was occupied by an army. The difficulties we had to surmount are almost incredible; hills covered with wood, and almost perpendicular; from the fall of the leaf the footing insecure; in short, there was every thing to favour the Rebels in point of ground. We attacked the south and east sides of the ground; the *Hessians*, in two columns, made their attack on the north. *Hannibal*, in his passage over the *Alps*, could not have met with ground or difficulties more formidable than what the *Hessians* had to go over. They behaved with distinguished bravery; their General solicited to act separately with his troops, and headed the left column. Notwithstanding the impediments, they preserved their order amazingly. Lord *Percy* led on the troops under his command with great spirit, and forced the Rebels' works with very little loss; his Lordship's horse was twice wounded, but fortunately he received no hurt. The Rebels all ran into the fort, where they had three thousand firelocks charged. Our men stood laughing at them as they passed, crying out, "Make room for the soldiers!" They hung out a flag of truce, and asked leave to surrender with the honours of war. They were sent word by Lieutenant-General *Kniphausen*, that if they did not surrender in thirty minutes, the fort should be stormed, and every man put to death; they instantly complied with the terms, marched out of the fort, and grounded their arms. We made two thousand five hundred and eighty-six prisoners, with new clothing for two battalions. At twelve at night they were marched prisoners to *New-York*.

In two nights after this we went over to the *Jerseys*, and took *Fort Lee* without loss, and made two thousand prisoners, who, like their friends at *Fort Washington*, laid down their arms loaded.

Too much cannot be said in favour of General *Howe*. If the ardour of the troops could be restrained, he would crush this rebellion without spilling much blood. Lord *Howe*, in his department, does every thing to support the General; and it is but justice to say, the Navy has contributed greatly to the successes we met with. So great is the affection of the Army for their General, that I am confident they would cheerfully keep the field the whole winter, without murmuring, if he thought proper to employ them.

The people of *Pennsylvania* have refused to obey an order of Congress for levying money; and they have sent a man, who calls himself Lord *Stirling*, with a body of the Rebels, to coerce them; but I am in hopes we shall be able to give a good account of them in a few days, as we are now between them and *Philadelphia*. The Rebels throw up great works, but never stay to defend them.

We have taken on the *Jerseys* all *Washington's* baggage, and great quantities of publick stores. They are so much alarmed at *Philadelphia*, that they are quitting the town.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Camp Philipsburg, November ye 26th, 1776.

Dear General: It never was my idea to leave the Highlands unguarded, but only for expedition's sake that *Heath* should detach two thousand of his corps immediately over the river, and to replace these two thousand by the same number the most lightly accoutred from this body here till the main body with their baggage, cannon, &c., could move. I conceive this movement could be attended with no risk, as he has now nothing to guard but the western passages, for there is no possibility of their approaching by the eastern, having, as I can learn, no vessels on the eastern river to transport their cannon, and the road at *King's Bridge* by land is now almost impracticable. The want of carriages, and this disappointment with respect to *Heath*, but above all, the alarms we have been thrown into by the activity of the Tories and the important consideration of leaving this country in a tolerable state of security on my departing, have still detained me here. The enemy kept a very considerable part of their force on this side of *King's Bridge* till yesterday, so considerable, indeed, that from what we saw, we conceived the numbers transported to the *Jerseys* not near so great as you were taught to think. This, and the apprehension of their gleaning all the forage of this district, contributed to the other considerations I have mentioned, have detained me so much longer than I could have wished. Yesterday they drew themselves in, and at the same time we made a sweep of the country, from *Philips's* house. Part of the Army have moved on; I set out to-morrow. No Militia have come in to cover the

*New-York, (Royal Gazette,) *September* 16, 1780.—The gentlemen who supped at the late Widow *De le Montagnie's*, on the 17th of *September*, 1776, (after taking down the Liberty Pole,) are informed in this publick manner, that their bill for the supper and liquor still remains unpaid. If the iron that was about the Pole remains unsold, the subscriber will recommend a purchaser, and if the bill is not paid very soon, the subscriber will be under the necessity of publishing the names of the gentlemen that supped on that occasion. John Amory.

country. I have wrote most pressing letters on this subject to *Trumbull*, and hope they will have effect. I have been equally urgent with Mr. *Bowdoin*, for blankets, shoes, &c.; indeed, our soldiers are not in a moving condition, but seem well disposed and engage themselves beyond expectation. But we are in great want of money for bounty. I have been under the necessity, without authority, to draw for this purpose. Several deserters, come out to day, inform us that a considerable embarkation is made for *Amboy*.

I shall take care to obey your Excellency's orders in regard to my march, as exactly as possible; and am, dear General, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, *Newark*.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Philipsburg, November y^e^ 26th, 1776.

SIR: I perceive that you have formed an opinion to yourself, that should General *Washington* remove to the Straits of *Magellan*, the instructions he left with you upon a particular occasion have to all intents and purposes invested you with a command separate from, and independent of, any other superiours—that General *Heath* and General *Lee* are only two Majors-General, who perhaps ought to hold a friendly intercourse with each other, and when their humour or fancied interest prompts, may afford mutual assistance, but that General *Heath* is by no means to consider himself obliged to obey any orders of the second in command. This idea of yours, sir, may not only be prejudicial to yourself, but to the publick. I could wish, sir, before things go any further, you would correct the notion. I enjoined you to send two thousand men over the river, and informed you that I would replace 'em with an equal number. This was the only mode in my power of complying with the intentions of the General; but it seems your danger was so imminent and your instructions so positive, that instead of taking a step which both duty and common sense dictated, you are so kind as to advise me to send the troops from hence, the two days' march from hence to *Peekskill*, and the want of wagons, with the badness of the roads, making no sort of difference; but I must inform you, sir, that we could not have been (such are our circumstances) in less than five days at *Peekskill;* and that five days may turn the fate of an empire. If any misfortune should happen from this refusal, you must answer for it. If any misfortune had happened to your present post by the detachment of these two thousand men from your corps, the blame would have fallen upon me; but enough on this subject. I shall therefore conclude that the Commander-in-Chief is now separated from us; that I of course command on this side the water; that for the future I will and must be obeyed.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES LEE.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

North-Castle, 26th November, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: Enclosed is a warrant on the Paymaster-General, for one hundred thousand dollars, which I beg you to sign and send me by the bearer. I expect he will find Colonel *Palfrey* removing into *Jersey*, and therefore have put a receipt on the back, that he may take the money from him, and bring it on here to me.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JOS. TRUMBULL.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL LIVINGSTON TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Camp, North-Castle, 26th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am now with General *McDougall*, and have seen some of the officers you have been pleased to appoint to the regiment you, gentlemen, have been pleased to honour me with the command of. Of those, Captain *Wiley*, Lieutenant *J. Harton*, Lieutenant *Thomas Lefoy*, resign. It is also very uncertain whether Major *Ledyard* will serve. *James Bownel*, who is appointed an Ensign, I am under the necessity of requesting you to change, as General *McDougall* accuses him of throwing away his arms in time of action, which at least argues a want of presence of mind that every officer ought to be possessed of. However, this you are better judges of than your humble servant,

HENRY B. LIVINGSTON,
*Col 4th N. Y. Reg't of Cl Forces.*

To the Gentlemen of the Committee of Arrangement.

N. B. If no Paymaster should be appointed for the regiment, I beg leave to present for your approbation Mr. *John Lawrence*, formerly Paymaster to the First Regiment of *New-York* troops.

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INTELLIGENCE FROM NEW-YORK.

Examination of *David Hunt*, of *West-Chester*, a known friend to *America*, taken by Brigadier-General *McDougall*, *November* 26, 1776, viz:

Mr. *Hunt* says that he left *New-York* on *Wednesday*, the 20th instant. That he understood from the inhabitants and soldiers, that fifteen thousand were to embark, and that the transports were preparing for them; but their destination was not known; that he also understood summer clothes were making for the officers; that there were not a great number of troops then in the city, the most of which were *Hessians;* that provisions in general were scarce and dear, flour in particular, and all kinds of vegetables; that our officers who are prisoners with the enemy were walking about, but the soldiers were closely confined, and allowed but half allowance; that the prisoners were very sickly, and died fast; that he returned to *West-Chester* about three o'clock on *Wednesday* last; that General *Howe's* head-quarters at that time were at *James De Lancey's* Mills; that there were there at the same time, General *Agnew*, Adjutant-General *Patterson*, and Sir *William Erskine*, the Quartermaster-General. That he saw the *Hessian* encampment at *West-Chester*, between our late hospital there and the mills, and understood there were eight thousand *Hessians* there, but did not imagine there were so many; that he saw a number of *Highlanders* and *British* troops encamped on the east of the *Hessians;* that many of the enemy's troops died at *West-Chester;* that on *Sunday* morning last, General *Howe* and the staff moved off for *New-York*, and on *Monday* General *Agnew*, with his brigade, and the *Hessians*, struck their tents at six in the morning, and were ordered to march at seven; that Mr. *Hunt* left *West-Chester* at six o'clock yesterday evening, and that from what he could collect, the Rangers were then there. That they had collected twelve hundred sheep, nine hundred hogs, and several hundred cattle, and drove them on *Willett's Neck*, and since gone off to *New-York*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, November 26th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have to acknowledge the honour of the receipt of yours of the 24th instant. I do not recollect to have sent any letters by the *Friday's* post, who lost his mail in an infamous manner.

I have also received from Colonel *Harrison* the resolves of the honourable Continental Congress of the 19th instant, with a signification of your Excellency's pleasure that they should be published in orders, which shall be done to-morrow.

I have for several days been exerting my utmost endeavours to secure the stores on the west side of the river, and have the pleasure to acquaint your Excellency that, through the vigilance of Colonel *Tupper* and his party, the provisions, warlike and naval stores, near the river at *Tapan*, *Slot's* landing, &c., have been safely brought off, although the ships fired a number of cannon-shot at the boats.

Major *Clark*, who was posted at *Tapan*, informed me yesterday by letter, that there was at that place a considerable quantity of flour, and that he was ordered to join his regiment. I immediately sent order to Colonel *Tyler's* regiment to march down to *Tapan*, and to impress all the teams between Colonel *Huntington's* post and that place, and to bring off the flour, part to the entrance of the mountains and part near to *King's* Ferry.

In the afternoon I received a letter from Colonel *Hay*, acquainting me that many of the disaffected in that vicinity had gone to the enemy, some of whom had hinted that

they would conduct the enemy up and cut off our troops; upon which, having consulted my Brigadiers, I ordered General *Scott's* brigade over the river, to cover the provisions, to support Colonel *Huntington* in case of need, or possess the mountain on the back of *Fort Montgomery*. I have also stationed the *Lady Washington* galley at the ferry, to prevent insults from the enemy's boats or tenders.

General *Mifflin's* goods have been brought over to this place.

A survey of the river and soundings has lately been taken, and is now before the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

General *Clinton* is confident that obstructions may be effectually made by the sinking of blocks. I have wrote the Convention that if they should think it practicable, and should make the attempt, I will assist them all in my power. The place proposed is some miles above *Fort Constitution*.

Our numbers in a few days will be much diminished. General *Scott* has wrote to the Convention to encourage his brigade to continue a short time longer in the service, and thinks he shall be able to persuade many of them to tarry; but sad experience has taught me to expect but little from soldiers after the expiration of the time of their engagements. I think the recruiting of a new army will be successful if the men can, by and by, somehow or another, a few at a time, be indulged to go home, which seems to be a darling object with them.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. Heath.

To His Excellency General *Washington, Newark*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, November 26th, 1776.

Sir: The time to which the several regiments of General *Scott's* brigade stand engaged expire on *Saturday* next, as does that of the garrison at the forts *Montgomery* and *Constitution*, and Colonel *Tash's* regiment of Militia from the State of *New-Hampshire*, which is now at this post. I also expect that part of the other troops now here will be ordered to march southward. Should this be the case, a pass of vast importance (and now enhanced by the loss of *Fort Lee* and the enemy having the entire possession of the river up to the fort) will, I think, be much exposed. I think it my duty, therefore, to give you this hint, that if his Excellency General *Washington* has not wrote to the honourable Convention on the subject, such measures may be adopted as the honourable Convention may think proper. I think that if the several regiments whose time is now expired, could be prevailed upon to continue a little longer, it would greatly promote the service. But of this I despair, having been too often convinced that it is hard to persuade them.

If any of the before-mentioned troops have received arms, accoutrements, or ammunition, from the State of *New-York*, I submit it to you whether it would not be expedient to appoint some person or persons to receive them from the soldiery.

I have not received any thing lately from the southward, either particular or interesting.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most obedient and very humble servant,

W. Heath.

Honourable *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq.

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GENERAL HEATH TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, November 26th, 1776.

Sir: Since I wrote you in the morning, I have received letters from his Excellency General *Washington;* and as they do not contain the least intimation that any part of the corps under my command are to move from this post, I shall assiduously pursue the plan of securing the passes through the Highlands.

I have been informed that a survey of the river and sounding has lately been taken and laid before the honourable Convention; and if it appears that the obstruction of the river is practicable, and it should be thought advisable to attempt it, I shall cheerfully afford all the assistance in my power.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most humble servant,

W. Heath.

Hon *Pierre Van Cortlandt*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL CHEEVER.

Peekskill, November 26th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I desire you would immediately furnish me with a list of the number of arms, accoutrements, and the quantity of ammunition which has been delivered to the several regiments of General *Scott's* brigade, viz: Colonel *Lasher's, Malcom's, Drake's*, and *Humphries's* or *Hardenbergh's;* and also Colonel *Tash's* regiment of Militia, belonging to the State of *New-Hampshire*, if the latter has received any. The time to which the before-mentioned regiments are engaged expires on *Saturday* next. I think it will be proper for you, or some other person or persons under you, to be at this post on *Thursday* or *Friday* next, to receive the arms, &c., or at least to take the necessary steps for the reception of them.

I am, dear sir, yours affectionately, W. Heath.

To *Ezekiel Cheever*, Esq., Commissary of Artillery Stores.

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, November 26, 1776.

Dear Sir: Can you tell me the reason why Convention have not been good enough to answer my letter concerning the obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* river across *Polopin's Island?* I have taken a good deal of care to sound and measure it, and think it very practicable, and I am sure it is a matter of the utmost moment to the publick, and to this State in particular; and not a moment's time therefore ought to be lost in effecting it. Had Convention taken up the matter immediately, and applied to General *Heath* for aid, he would have furnished three hundred men at least, and tools to set about it. He could have done it consistent with his instructions from the Commander-in-Chief, and I had prepared the way for it; but fear it is too late now. We have been under marching orders these three days past, and only wait the directions of General *Washington*. Should they be to move, all is over with the river this season, and I fear forever. Had the men been employed in that business they would not have been taken from it.

General *Lee* four or five days ago had orders to move with his division across the river. Instead of doing so, he ordered General *Heath* to march his men through, and he would replace them with so many of his. General *Heath* could not do this consistent with his instructions, but put his men under marching orders, and wait his Excellency's orders. None have gone over yet, except *Scott's* brigade, which this morning moved to *Haverstraw*;—a strange way of cooking business. We have no particular accounts yet from Head-Quarters, but I am apt to believe retreating is yet fashionable. Yours sincerely,

George Clinton.

To *John McKesson*, Esq., at *Fishkill*.

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ORDER TO THE ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Peekskill, November 26th, 1776.

Sir: I am directed by General *Heath* to request you to furnish him immediately with a list of the number of tents, pots, kettles, &c., which have been delivered from the Quartermaster-General's store to General *Scott's* brigade and Colonel *Tash's* regiment of Militia. The Colonels of the several regiments are *Lasher, Malcom, Drake*, and *Humphries*. Though probably Colonel *Hardenbergh*, of Colonel *Humphrey's* regiment, may have drawn for utensils, as the regiment has been at different posts.

Your humble servant, Israel Keith, *A. D. G.*

To the Assistant Quartermaster-General at *Peekskill*.

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STATE OF THE SICK OF COLONEL BRADLEY'S REGIMENT.

Fishkill, November 26, 1776.

The present state of Colonel *Bradley's* regiment is as follows: Killed or taken at the reduction of *Fort Washington*, the Lieutenant-Colonel, *Hobby*, 4 Captains, 10 Subs, 1 Sergeant-Major, 10 Sergeants, 11 Corporals, 6 Drums and Fifes, 238 privates. Colonel *Bradley* gone home sick;

Major *Dimon* at *Albany*. The last weekly return only eighty-eight present fit for duty. At the evacuation of *Fort Lee* some of them killed and taken—the exact number not yet known, at this sudden retreat, in a confused manner, without carriages; some of the well ordered to get off the sick to some place of safety, scattered over the country, at different places, and different numbers at a place; the enemy furiously advancing to *Hackensack* and *Paramus*. General *Putnam* and General *Greene* ordered the sick immediately to be conveyed into the country, to some place of safety, out of the way of the enemy. Accordingly we have collected together the sick of the regiment, together with the well along with them, came to *New-Windsor*, and by the direction of Colonel *Frazier*, after the sick being examined by a doctor he provided, came to the *Fishkill*, directed to Colonel *Welch*.

Benj'n Mill, *Captain*.
Dimon Berry, *Lieutenant*. } Present.

Behind, with part of the sick, *Lemuel Benedic*, Lieutenant.

N. B. Applying to Colonel *Huntington* on the way, he advised to get the sick over to this place.

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REV. JOHN MASON TO ROBERT HARPER.

Peekskill, November 26, 1776.

Dear Sir: I intended to have sent you a concise dissertation upon the subject of our late conversation at *Fishkill*, but the constant hurry and innumerable other inconveniences of a camp life put my mind, not accustomed to these scenes, into such an unsettled state, that I was seldom in a temper for attempting this necessary service. Being still in the same situation, I can send you only a few *loci argumentorum*, without illustration or arrangement. These are the sacred rights of conscience and the policy of indulging even such of its scruples as appear whimsical; the solemnity of an oath, and the requisites necessary to make us feel its bounding energy; the exceptionableness of the *English* mode of making oath, as originating from superstition, as not containing an explicit appeal to Heaven, and as being offensive to the greatest part of the Protestant Church; the visible tendency of the *Scot's* mode to impress the conscience of the swearer, and to draw from him a discovery of the truth, and the sanction it receives from the concurring practice of God, angels, and the best of men in the ages of inspiration. I might add other considerations, but if these were set in a full light, the evidence against the *English*, and in favour of the *Scot's* mode of making oath, would, in my opinion, be demonstrative. I hope the honourable Convention, in settling the Constitution of this State, will at least make the *Scot's* mode as legal as the *English*. At the same time I hope they will take steps for stemming the torrent of profanity and vice, that disgraces our country and exposes it to the vengeance of Heaven, especially profane cursing and swearing, and the open violation of the fourth commandment, and that they will declare clergymen of every denomination ineligible for a place of authority in the civil department.

Next week I return to my family near *Bound-Creek* impressed with the melancholy reflection that my congregation is dispersed; that I have little prospect of being useful, whilst every visible source of supporting a rising family is dried up. I do not, however, despond. My all-sufficient God will provide, and will not, I hope, suffer me to be altogether useless. I am open to his direction, and wait for a call to serve him in the station of a Chaplain for the Army or any other consistent with my office. May God direct you and make you eminently useful in your present station.

I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

John Mason.

To *Robert Harper*, Esq., *Fishkill*.

P. S. Give me leave to beseech you to urge in Convention the absolute necessity of making every preparation for rendering our river unnavigable by ships of war through the Highlands. I believe you will scarce be able to read these hasty, unconnected sentences.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Saratoga, November 26, 1776.

Dear General: Notwithstanding my orders to the Colonels or commanding officers of the several regiments passed this, to repair to their respective States, and you will please to order them to join his Excellency General *Washington* with all possible despatch; as also the others that may arrive at *Albany* from *Tyonderoga*, sending recruiting officers to the different States they came from.

If the express that brought Mr. *Harrison's* letter is already returned, you will please to send the enclosed by another.

Pray urge Colonel *Lewis* to send up more wagons and the bedding for the garrison at *Tyonderoga*.

*Stark's* and *Patterson's* leave this to-day. Sloops should be provided for them.

I am, dear General, sincerely yours, &c., &c., &c.,

Ph. Schuyler.

Hon. General *Gates*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *Hartford*, *November* 26th, 1776: Present, his Honour the Governour, the Deputy Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Williams*, *Titus Hosmer*, *Benjamin Huntington*, *William Hillhouse*, *Thos. Seymour*.

Voted, to accept and establish *William Cone* for Captain, *Nathaniel Sparrow* for a Lieutenant, and *Gideon Ackley*, for an Ensign, for a Company of householders and others, not in the Militia roll, who have formed themselves into a Company in the town of *East-Haddam;* and his Honour the Governour is desired to commission them accordingly.

Voted, to accept and establish *Nathaniel Ackley* to be Ensign of a Company of householders and others in *East-Haddam;* and his Honour the Governour is desired to commission him accordingly.

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BENJAMIN BIRDSALL TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

New-Haven, November 26th, 1776.

Gentlemen of the Convention of the State of New-York: I think myself bound in duty to let you know the several transactions past, and the present unhappy situation I am now labouring under, in the unnatural contest between *Great Britain* and *America*. In the first of the disputes, for a just cause, I took the part of *America*, and continued it for a long time, through many difficult and dangerous contests against my friends, relations, and almost all sects and ranks of denominations, in particular in my own County. I was appointed one of the County Committee, and from that a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Second Battalion in our County; and while in the service of the Committee, it took me almost all my time in service with the Committee, and attending the different companies, with many adjournments to choose their officers for the Militia, I being appointed as a sub-committee for that purpose, and continued it until the whole districts were divided and the officers chosen; and was, by the request of the inhabitants, eight or ten days with a petition from the inhabitants to the Convention at the *White-Plains*, concerning the removing the stock from the island. In all which time I bore my own expenses and received nothing for any of the service. And as for the service of a Colonel, myself and two more officers were appointed, and ordered by the County Committee to secure all the boats on the south side, from *Rockaway* to *Huntingtown* line, which is eighteen miles distance. Seven miles I collected all the boats together and secured them by a sentry, one hundred and six in number; and if the other eleven miles distance had been as well secured, by collecting the boats together and a guard kept over them, it would have cut off the communication between our south and the man-of-war, and saved one hundred and odd hay boats that the Tories carried off to the Ministerial fleet, and sold them for their service. Well, when the quarter draft from the Militia upon *Long-Island* was made out, *Suffolk* County had the commanding officer of the regiment, Colonel *Smith*, in his full rank, with full pay. Now, if I know any thing about the arrangement of officers, the next in command ought to have been a Lieutenant-Colonel out of one of the three regiments of *King's* County, or the first or second in *Queen's;* but the first Colonel, *John Sands*, was appointed, and must take the rank and pay of Lieutenant-Colonel, and the Second Major of Colonel *Rampson's* regiment, in his full rank and pay, and *Benjamin Birdsall*, a

Lieutenant-Colonel, to take rank and pay with the Captains, under command of a Second Major. The arrangements of the officers in Colonel *Smith's* regiment appears to me as remarkable, almost, as the conduct was bad in the Field Officers in breaking up the regiment the manner in which they did. This appointment of Colonel *Smith's* regiment was noticed by some certain Field Officers who had been up to *Hampstead*, and being acquainted with me, I was fixed upon, some few days before the King's troops landed upon *Long-Island*, to go through with a number of men, on the south side, from *Rockaway* to *Huntingtown*, eighteen miles distance, to destroy or secure all the boats, and bring in all the fat cattle in the lines, to General *Greene*, and after, in his absence, General *Sullivan;* which I executed without favour or affection, (and among my neighbours and relations,) until the King's troops landed upon *Long-Island;* and then I was obliged to press six wagons and twelve horses among my nearest neighbours, to carry down the baggage of about two hundred of our troops that was sent for by express by General *Sullivan* to march within the lines; and as soon as we got down within the lines, I was sent by General *Sullivan* immediately up about thirty miles, with a small party of men, after seventy-odd fat cattle that we left collected together. I went and brought the cattle in safe, round the north side of the island. *Monday* night and *Tuesday* morning before day the engagement began, when I took my post upon the lines, and continued till *Thursday* afternoon and *Friday* morning, sun about an hour high. By General *Putnam's* orders I went over to *Long-Island* with six boats to fetch a number of horses and other things, until the Regulars came down, fired four shot upon two of the boats a little behind; and from that I brought up the rear of Colonel *Smith's* regiment, (sick men from *New-York* without money,) which would have been left had it not been for me; which I hope may be made manifest in your presence, the three field officers and myself face to face before you, which may right many other transactions that ought not to be left in darkness.

I am now joined in Colonel *Livingston's* regiment, where is about sixty-eight of Colonel *Smith's* men. I have left a wife and six children upon *Long-Island*, and all I have is under the command of the King's troops. It is not in my power to relieve them. I set out with heart and hand to risk my life in defence of our cause, and I am still willing to do it. The continuance of the war is promising so fair, that I will now offer myself at your service to engage in it so long as the war may continue. Place me in my rank, give me a chance to execute my conduct, and I doubt not but it may be said there is one man upon *Long-Island* and in *Queen's* County has taken up the cause of his country from first, and has continued in it firm and steadfast to the last, for the support and protection of his family, and to the honour and welfare of his country. I have taken up a considerable of time, though with pleasure. I cannot satisfy myself in letting you know enough. I have this to consider: I am here upon the main shore, and at present at a loss. Am I under pay that will support me, or am I not? If I am not under pay, it is time for me to look out. Well, I must go to work and provide me victuals and clothes; well, I shall labour discontented, work every day for low wages; my family is near to me; I am afraid they fare bad; a wife and children is hard to part with; well, if I attempt to go to see them I am taken up, confined, and perhaps sent away or massacred. Well, what station of life am I in? If I am engaged in the cause, my mind is fixed; I know what I have to do, and I know my subsistence; I am content; my mind is bent to promote the cause wherein I am engaged. But if a man's income is extraordinary high or too low, to moderately maintain him, it will too much draw his mind and attention from the business he is engaged in.

I have wrote a long translation which I make bold should came to your knowledge. I write but seldom; excuse me if I have in any part occasioned any insult upon your Honours; it is not what I mean to do; but you are the guardians of our rights, and to you, and you alone, I have to make my address. I wish you well, and that a perfect union among you may be and continue, to the honour and welfare of *America*, and that you may appoint such men in our State to lead and command, that will ever dispute and defend the *American* ground, inch by inch, over and over again, until a final defensive war may end, and remain to us all well, and for ever more continue.

From your humble servant, BENJAMIN BIRDSALL.

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### MEMORIAL AND PAROLE OF FREDERICK PHILIPS.

*To the honourable the Congress or Committee of Safety of the State of* NEW-YORK:

*The Memorial of* FREDERICK PHILIPS, *humbly sheweth:*

That on the 9th day of *August* last, your memorialist was, by order of his Excellency General *Washington*, taken into custody at his own house, and immediately sent prisoner from thence to *New-Rochelle*, where he was closely confined under guard for eleven days, and from thence removed to the State of *Connecticut*. A parole (a copy whereof is hereunto annexed) was presented to him, which he signed, and agreeable thereto has ever since been confined to this town and a small district round it. That your memorialist has thus been deprived of his liberty without any particular matter being alleged against him, or even having an opportunity of offering any thing in his own defence. He therefore cannot help thinking that General *Washington* must have been induced to take this step in consequence of some misrepresentations.

That your memorialist has already suffered great hardships and inconveniences, and if not permitted to return home before the severity of the winter sets in, must still suffer many more, which, in his advanced stage of life and infirm state of health, he is ill calculated to undergo; but that all the personal inconveniences he has felt, and is likely further to feel if not relieved, are far from making so deep an impression on his mind as the circumstance of being separated from his wife and numerous family, and thereby prevented from superintending his own affairs, particularly the education of his children, whose tender years require the most watchful attention of a parent's care.

Your memorialist therefore prays that your Honours will be pleased to take his case under consideration, and afford him relief, by restoring him again to his liberty; or if that cannot be granted at present, that he may be indulged with leave to reside at his own house, (within such limits as you should think fit to prescribe,) under a parole similar to that which he has already given.

All which is humbly submitted to your Honours' consideration.

FRED. PHILIPS.

Middletown, November 26, 1776.

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PAROLE.—I, the subscriber, being apprehended and sent by General *Washington* to the care of his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, in order to be kept safe, and being ordered by his Honour the Governour to reside within the limits of the town of *Middletown*, in *Connecticut*, upon my giving my parole,—I therefore do hereby engage and promise to the Governour and Company of the State of *Connecticut*, upon the honour, faith, and credit of a gentleman, faithfully to abide within the limits of said town of *Middletown*, until further orders shall be had from his Honour Governour *Trumbull* thereon; and in the mean time I engage and promise not to correspond, either directly or indirectly, in any shape whatever, with any person or persons unfriendly to these *American* States, and will abide such orders and directions as shall be given from time to time by the Committee of Inspection for said town, where I shall reside as aforesaid, as witness my hand. Dated at *Hartford*, *August* 28th, 1776.

N. B. Said party is granted to go to *Wethersfield* and *Durham*, as occasion may be.

FREDERICK PHILIPS.

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### HENRY WARD TO SPEAKER OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Providence, November 26, 1776.

SIR: By order of the General Assembly I transmit to your Honour the enclosed resolve.

I am also directed by his Honour the Governour to acquaint you that a privateer belonging to this place arrived here this morning, who took a light transport ship, being one of one hundred and thirty sail bound from *New-York* to *Great Britain* and the *West-Indies*, under convoy of three

ships of war, and which, without doubt, is the same fleet that we received information was taking on board a body of troops at *Staten-Island*.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your Honour's most obedient and most humble servant,

HENRY WARD.

Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

[Same to Council of *Massachusetts*.]

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RHODE-ISLAND ACT FOR APPOINTING A COMMITTEE TO TREAT ABOUT PAPER CURRENCY, 21 NOVEMBER, 1776.

At a General Assembly of the Governour and Company of the State of *Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations*, begun and holden in consequence of warrants issued by his Honour the Governour at *East-Greenwich*, within and for the State aforesaid, on *Thursday*, the twenty-first day of *November*, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six:

Whereas the General Court of the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, by a resolve of the 16th of this instant, *November*, have appointed a Committee to meet Committees from the General Assemblies of the States of *Connecticut*, *New-Hampshire*, and this State, at *Providence*, on the tenth day of *December* next, in case such Committees be by the said Assemblies appointed to hold a conference respecting further emissions of Paper Currency on the credit of any of the said States, also upon Treasures necessary for supporting the credit of the publick currencies thereof, &c.:

*It is therefore voted and resolved*, That the Honourable *William Bradford*, Esq., Colonel *Jonathan Arnold*, and *Henry Merchant*, Esquires, be, and they are hereby, appointed a Committee to meet the said Committee from the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, at the time and place and for the purposes in the aforesaid resolve mentioned: *Provided*, The States of *Connecticut* and *New-Hampshire* shall think proper to appoint Committees for the same purposes; and that the Secretary immediately transmit copies of this Resolve to the States of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, *Connecticut*, and *New-Hampshire*.

A true copy. Witness: HENRY WARD, *Secretary*.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Providence, November 26th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I think it my duty to transmit to you by express the enclosed copy of a letter I have this evening received from General *Lee*.

The ease with which the enemy may transport troops to any of the *United States* ought to excite us to the most vigorous efforts to make the necessary preparations to repel them wherever they may attempt a descent.

This State hath ordered a regiment to be immediately raised, to consist of six men in every hundred upon the alarm list, which will make about six hundred and eighty men; and are endeavouring to render the Militia more useful than it hath yet proved. But from the inability of the State, especially in its present exhausted circumstances, our principal dependence, under God, must be upon the neighbouring States. It gives me great satisfaction, that in case of such an event, we have the most perfect reliance upon the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay*.

I am, with great esteem and respect, your Honours' most obedient and most humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

Honourable General Court of the *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, November 26, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: The bearer, Major *Shaw*, has at length arrived here, with a few *Indians* inlisted into the Continental service. We are sorry he has met with no better success in this business; however, the few there are, we conceive, will be of this service if no other, to keep the tribes from whence they came in a state of amity.

The *Indians* when here were fond of returning back again to their families, but were informed that we had no power to grant them any such leave, but they must attend upon your Excellency; and as they made some objection to travelling so far on foot, a wagon and horses have been purchased for the sole purpose of conveying them along.

In the name and by order of the Council, I have the honour to be your most obedient, humble servant,

JERE. POWELL, *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, November 26, 1776.

*Major* FRANCIS SHAW:

You are hereby directed immediately to repair to Head-Quarters, at or near *New-York*, to his Excellency General *Washington*, with the *Indians* under your care, and make report to him of your proceedings respecting them, and take his further commands thereupon.

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WORCESTER (MASSACHUSETTS) COMMITTEES.

At a meeting of the Committee of Safety, &c., from a majority of the Towns in the County of *Worcester*, held by adjournment at the Court-House in said *Worcester*, *November* 26, 1776:

*Voted*, That the members inform the Convention what were the general sentiments of the inhabitants of their respective towns concerning a resolve of the House of Representatives on the 17th of *September* last, respecting the formation of a system of Government.

*Lancaster*, *Princeton*, *Hardwick*, *Oakham*, *Rutland*, *Paxton*, *Uxbridge*, *Shrewsbury*, *Harvard*, *Southborough*, *New-Braintree*, *Winchendon*, consented, subject to the approbation or rejection of the people.

*Oxford* dissented, by reason of unequal representation and brethren absent.

*Sutton*, *Bolton*, *Sturbridge*, *Holden*, *Northbridge*, dissented for unequal representation.

*Worcester* postponed acting on said resolve till the third *Monday* in *December* next, to have the voice of their brethren in the Army.

*Leicester* dissented, presuming the people were excluded the right of approbation or rejection.

*Dudley*, *Charlton*, objected to the present House.

*Petersham*, the same, and against any Council.

*Brookfield* consented, with right of approbation or rejection, and Government to be established by a future House.

*Mendon*, not to comply with said resolve.

*Spencer*, the same, the Court not being in a proper situation.

*Templeton*, *Fitchburg*, *Douglas*, objected to the present Court.

*Northborough*, *Upton*, *Westborough*, *Ashburnham*, had no resolve, nor acted thereon.

*Grafton*, did not act thereon.

*Westminster*, had no resolve, or acted thereon.

*Voted*, That a system of Government is necessary to be established in this State, so soon as it may be done with safety.

Whereas the honourable the Continental Congress have thought fit, with the consent, and for the safety, peace, and happiness of the *American* States, to declare them free and independent on the Crown of *Great Britain*, &c., and have recommended to said States the forming such systems of Government as may be most agreeable to their respective situations and circumstances: And whereas the present House of Representatives, to bring forward this important business, have asked the consent of the people to empower that body, with the Council, to form such a system of Government for this State: The Committee of Safety, &c., from a great majority of the towns in the County of *Worcester*, convened at the Court-House in said *Worcester*, on *Tuesday*, the 26th of *November*, 1776, for the purpose of reconciling the various sentiments of the inhabitants respecting said request, and preserving unanimity in the County; and also, considering the loose and disjointed state the people of the *Massachusetts-Bay* have been in for divers years past, in which time many errours have crept in and been supported with the remains of the late constitutions; that the evils are daily increasing, and in all probability will continue till a fixed and permanent form of Government be established: Therefore, to prevent (as much as in themselves) anarchy and confusion, and the undue influence or power of individuals in monopolizing incompatible offices

in the hands of particular persons on the one hand, and on the other to strengthen the hands of Government against an unnatural enemy, and lay a permanent foundation for safety, peace, and happiness, for this and succeeding generations; said Convention have come into the following votes, &c., with intention to lay the same before their respective towns for their consideration:

Whereas an act passed in the late General Court, making the representation of the State very unequal and unsafe, this Convention is of opinion that the present General Court is not the most suitable body to form a system of Government for this State; moreover the business being of the greatest importance, will require more time and closer attention than can be spared by a House of Representatives, from the ordinary and daily concerns of the State:

Therefore *Voted*, That a State Congress, chosen for the sole purpose of forming a Constitution of Government, is (in the opinion of this Convention) more eligible than an House of Representatives.

*Voted*, That it be recommended to our respective towns that they instruct their Representatives to exert their influence that writs be issued from the General Court, empowering and directing the towns to choose members to form a State Congress, by a mode of representation agreeable to the last charter, and as practised in the year 1775, for the purpose of forming a plan of Government, which, when formed, to be laid before the people for their inspection, approbation, rejection, or amendment, (if any they have to propose,) and when approved by the people, that said Congress solemnly establish the same, issue out writs for convening a legislative body agreeable to said Constitution, and dissolve.

*Voted*, That the proceedings of this Convention be submitted to the consideration of the other Counties in this State, and request the favour of their sentiments on the subject.

*Voted*, To publish the foregoing in the *Boston*, *Worcester*, and *Hartford* Newspapers, also in handbills.

By order of the Convention:

JOSEPH HENSHAW, *Chairman.*

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### SILAS DEANE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Paris, 27th November, 1776.

SIR: The bearer, Mr. *Rogers*, is a native of *Maryland*, whom I fortunately met with in the hotel I some months lodged in. He is in *Paris*, finishing his education, and by my advice accepted of the office of Aid-de-Camp to Monsieur *Du Coudray*, and accompanies him out to *America*. I have received many kindnesses from him, and, confident of his integrity, intrusted him with many things to relate to you *viva voce*, especially should my despatches fail. He has a general knowledge of the history of my proceedings, and what I have had at times to struggle with. As he speaks *French* tolerably, he will, I conceive, prove a valuable acquisition at a time when such numbers of foreigners are crowding to enter your service.

I am, wishing him a speedy and safe arrival, with the most profound respect for the honourable Congress, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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### SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 27th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In a former letter I mentioned a naval enterprise, which might at first appear romantick, but the more it is considered the less danger I shall be in of being taxed on that score. Admiral *Montague* lately returned from the Banks, where the fishermen have had a wretched season of it, in consequence of the *American* privateers. He left two small sloops-of-war there, of fourteen and sixteen guns. In common years they leave six or seven thousand of their labourers or fishermen there, as in a prison, through the winter, employed in taking of seals, repairing of boats, stages, &c.; these are unarmed, and ever dissatisfied to the last degree with their situation. Two frigates arriving early in *February*, would destroy the fishery, for one if not two years, and obtain an acquisition of a fine body of recruits for your Navy. I have conferred with some persons here on the subject, who highly approve the enterprise; but I submit it to your opinion, after urging despatch in whatever is done or attempted on that subject. The resolution of the Court of *Spain*, in the case of Captain *Lee*, at *Bilboa*, gives every encouragement to adventurers in these seas, where the prizes are valuable, and where you have constantly harbours at hand on the coast of *France* and *Spain* to repair to, and refit in, and where constant and certain intelligence can be had of the situation of the *British* ships of war, as well as of commerce. I need not add on a subject so plain, and at the same time so important, but will only remind you that the *Dutch* in the space of two or three years after their first revolt from *Spain*, attacked the *Spaniards* so successfully and unexpectedly in every quarter of the globe, that the treasures they obtained thereby enabled them to carry on the war. Let me repeat, that if you empower me, or any other person here, you may obtain any number of ships of war on credit from individuals, on paying interest five per cent. until paid. The King will probably have use for his; and besides, to let his go would be the same as a declaration of war, which, in form at least, will for some time be avoided.

I write on different subjects in different letters as they rise in my mind, and leave you to use as you judge best, my Sybil Leaves; and am, gentlemen, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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### AQUILA HALL TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 27th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As Captain *Bennett Mathews* has made application to your Honours for a Captain's place in one of the gondolas now building, and as Captain *Alexander Cowin* and Mr. *Archibald Buchanan* has one nearly ready, and wants a Captain to take charge of her; and as I am well acquainted with Captain *Mathews*, and know him to be a good seaman, and a sober man, beg leave to recommend him as a proper person for such a place, and shall take it as a favour if your Honours should think proper to give him a berth.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

AQUILA HALL.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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### THOMAS SMYTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Chestertown, November the 27th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have not yet received any salt for curing the beef and pork you gave me orders to purchase; and unless it arrives soon the season will be over before I begin to purchase any of those articles. There is a good deal of pork to sell in this quarter, though the owners ask a very high price. You'll please to hurry over the salt intended for me. Unless it arrives soon it will be needless to attempt any purchases here this fall.

I hope the *Defence* is safe arrived. I have been uneasy for her safety, as she has exceeded her proposed cruise.

I am, with much respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

THOS. SMYTH.

The honourable the Council of Safety, in *Annapolis*.

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### JAMES MURRAY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Cambridge, November 27th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As I have heretofore had the honour of an appointment from your Board to the command of a battalion of Militia of your State, permit me to return you thanks for that mark of your esteem.

I have filled that station as long as I find it convenient under its present regulations, and must therefore beg leave to resign.

Your obedient, humble servant,

JAMES MURRAY.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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### MEMORIAL FROM JOHN SERGEANT.

[Read November 27, 1776: Referred to the Committee to whom was committed the letter from Thomas Cushing, Esq.]:

*To the honourable Continental Congress: The Petition and Memorial of* JOHN SERGEANT, *Missionary to the Mohekunnuk Tribe of* INDIANS *at* STOCKBRIDGE, *humbly sheweth:*

That this tribe has been strictly connected with the *Six Nations*, the *Indians* in *Canada*, and more especially with

several of the Western nations, for more than a century past, and has been much respected by them.

That far from desiring to remain neuter in the dispute between *Great-Britain* and *America*, they have made themselves acquainted with the merits of the controversy, and have taken an active part in our favour, inlisting their young men in our Army, while their counsellors and sachems have carefully sent belts of wampum by their messengers to the *Six Nations*, to the *Canada Indians*, and to the *Shawanese*, on the *Ohio*, addressing in such terms as they judged would have the greatest tendency to attach them to the interests of the *United States*. As your petitioner was their missionary, they naturally resorted to him for advice and direction, and held all their councils at his house, which has occasioned an expense to him that was disproportionate to his circumstances; but which, if the honourable Congress should think he ought to bear, he will cheerfully submit to from his earnest desire to contribute his mite to the general cause in which *America* is engaged. He therefore humbly submits it to your wisdom, whether it would not be for the interest of *America* to preserve the attachment of an important tribe, which is so well affected towards us, and so extensively connected with the other nations around us, by making provision for his continuance among them as their missionary, as his salary from *England* is now cut off, and as they believe that the Congress have given them reason to expect it in the speech lately made to them by your Commissioners; and your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

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THE MEMORIAL OF MR. THOMAS DENEF.

[Read in Congress November 27, 1776: Referred to the Board of War.]

*To the honourable the Delegates of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *in Congress assembled:*

*The Memorial of Mr.* THOMAS DENEF, *humbly sheweth:*

That your memorialist is only two days in this country to meet Mr. *Romand de l'Isle*, whom he finds appointed a Captain of Artillery, and under whom he has served in *France*, and been since employed in *Martinico*. He humbly offers his services to the honourable Congress, and desirous of again serving under the command of the said Mr. *Romand de l'Isle*. Would take it as a particular mark of favour to be appointed his Lieutenant.

All which is humbly submitted to the consideration of the honourable Congress.

THOMAS DENEF.

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LANCASTER (PENNSYLVANIA) COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation, Inspection, and Correspondence, at the house of *Adam Reigart*, the 27th *November*, 1776:

Present, *William Atlee, Mathias Slough, Lodwick Lowman, Henry Dehuff, Christopher Crawford, John Miller, Adam Reigart. William Atlee* in the chair.

It being found difficult to provide Wagons to go with the Prisoners from hence to *Elizabeth-Town*, agreeable to the directions of the Council of Safety and Board of War, owing to the badness of the roads at this season of the year, the known scarceness and dearness of food for horses in the *Jerseys*, the Committee, that they may carry the orders received respecting the Prisoners into execution with expedition, as requested, find themselves under the necessity of offering such a price to the farmers as will enable them to undertake the journey; and therefore agree, that for every wagon and four horses and driver which shall go in the service shall be paid thirty shillings per day from *Lancaster* to *Elizabeth-Town*, where they are to deliver their loads, and from thence six days shall be allowed to return home.

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GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Burlington, 27th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have directed General *Williamson* to order all the Militia of the Counties of *Bergen, Essex, Morris, Somerset, Middlesex*, and *Sussex*, (having myself ordered that of *Hunterdon*,) immediately to march and join the Army under your command, and to continue in service for the defence of this State for a time not exceeding six weeks, to be computed from the time of their joining the said Army.

The Legislature of this State has made provision for raising four battalions, of eight companies each, and ninety men, to be inlisted till the first of *April*, which will be carried into execution with all possible despatch.

I can easily form some idea of the difficulties under which you labour, particularly of one for which the publick can make no allowance, because your prudence and fidelity to the cause will not suffer you to reveal it to the publick, an instance of magnanimity superiour, perhaps, to any that can be shown in battle. But depend upon it, my dear sir, the impartial world will do you ample justice before long. May God support you under that fatigue, both of body and mind, to which you must be constantly exposed.

I am, with sentiments of the greatest respect, your most obedient and most humble servant,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

P. S. The printed copy is what I issued some days ago to our Colonels, before I knew whether there would be a necessity for their marching.

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*An Act for the raising of four Battalions, consisting each of eight Companies of seventy-six Privates, one Drummer, one Fifer, four Corporals, and four Sergeants, and officered with one Captain, two Lieutenants, and one Ensign.*

The men to enter as Volunteers out of the Militia, to have a bounty of six dollars, and be entitled to one pair of shoes and one pair of stockings.

The four Battalions to form one Brigade, under Brigadier-General *Williamson*, and to continue in service until the 1st day of *April* next.

The men at liberty to inlist in any of the four Battalions to be raised in this State under the new establishment, and to serve during the war.

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GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON TO THE SEVERAL COLONELS IN NEW-JERSEY.

Burlington, November, 1776.

SIR: General *Howe*, after having been presented with the fairest opportunity to come to a general engagement with the brave troops of the *United States* at the *White-Plains*, thought proper to decline a battle, and suddenly retreated towards *New-York*. In his return thither he invested with a numerous army *Fort Washington*, and by the mere dint of numbers, possessed himself of that garrison with considerable slaughter on his side, reported to be equal to the number of prisoners he took in the fortress. This being the only thing of consequence effected by the *British* arms during a summer's campaign, (the *Americans* have had the advantage in almost every skirmish,) the enemy, despairing of conquest, seems determined to plunder; and, reduced to the greatest straits for want of forage and provisions, will, as there is reason to apprehend, endeavour to make an incursion into this State to supply those necessaries. To check their progress, General *Washington* (whose fame is deservedly above applause) has transported a considerable body of Continental troops to the eastern parts of this State, who, with the assistance of our Militia, will doubtless be able to give them such a reception as their rashness deserves.

As the war in which we are engaged is founded on the principles of self-defence and self-perservation, and to save ourselves and posterity from the most ignominious slavery, and is therefore, on the part of *America*, the most just and glorious, and warranted by the immutable law of God; as we have pledged our words and honour to support the cause with our lives and fortunes, and have now an opportunity to evince to the world that such assurances were not the inconsiderate effusions of the boasting bravo, but the cool deliberations of the determined hero, now glorying in being called out to manifest his valour and avenge the indignities offered to his injured country; as the eyes of all *Europe* are fixed on the brave *Americans*, as a people resolved, at all hazards, to maintain that independence which *British* justice and *British* cruelty compelled them to adopt; as we ought not to be unwilling to do for our descendants what our ancesters have done for us, nor can be so base as to surrender, without a struggle, that inestimable jewel, liberty, to a ruffian band of mercenaries, hired for our destruction, which may be so easily preserved by those vigorous efforts,

which it is in our power to make:—it is expected that the Militia of *New-Jersey* will not forfeit, by any unworthy conduct, the favourable sentiments entertained of their prowess; but that, ambitious of emulating the fortitude of their gallant brethren of *South-Carolina*, who have acquired immortal honour by repelling the enemy's attack on *Charlestown*, they will show, on this important occasion, a spirit becoming a people disdaining slavery, and ready to risk their lives in the cause of freedom, of virtue, and posterity. In full confidence of not being disappointed in those expectations, you are hereby directed to have the battalion under your command ready to march on the shortest notice.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Newark, November 27, 1776.

Sir: I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of the 21st and 24th, with their several enclosures. The execution of the resolves has been, and will be, attended to as far as in my power. I have wrote to General *Schuyler* to send down, as early as possible, the troops in the Northern Department from this and the State of *Pennsylvania*. The proposition for exchanging Mr. *Franklin* for General *Thompson*, I shall submit to General *Howe* as soon as circumstances will allow me.

I have nothing in particular to advise you of respecting the enemy, more than that they are advancing this way. Part of them have passed the *Passaick*, and I suppose the main body that they have on this side the *North River*, would have done the same before now, as they are coming on, had their progress not been retarded by the weather, which has been rainy for several days past. I have scouts and detachments constantly out to harass them and watch their motions, and to gain, if possible, intelligence of their designs.

Colonel *Miles*, who has been permitted to go to *Philadelphia* for a few days by General *Howe*, will deliver you this, and inform you of the distresses of our prisoners, and the necessity of effecting their exchange as far as we have prisoners to give in return. By a letter from the Board of War on the subject of an exchange, they mention that several of the prisoners in our hands have inlisted. It is a measure I think that cannot be justified, though the precedent is furnished on the side of the enemy; nor do I conceive it good in point of policy; but as it has been done, I shall leave it with Congress to order them to be returned or not as they shall judge fit.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Newark, November 27th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I last night received the favour of your letter of the 25th. My former letters were so full and explicit, as to the necessity of your marching as early as possible, that it is unnecessary to add more on that head. I confess I expected you would have been sooner in motion. The force here, when joined by yours, will not be adequate to any great opposition; at present it is weak, and it has been more owing to the badness of the weather that the enemy's progress has been checked, than any resistance we could make. They are now pushing this way; part of 'em have passed the *Passaic*. Their plan is not entirely unfolded, but I shall not be surprised if *Philadelphia* should turn out the object of their movement. The distress of the troops for want of clothes I feel much; but what can I do? Having formed an enterprise against *Rogers*, &c., I wish you may have succeeded.

I am, dear sir, with great esteem, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Lee*.

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COLONEL HARRISON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Newark, November 27th, 1776.

Dear General: The situation of affairs on this side *Hudson's* river requiring that we should have the assistance of the division under General *Lee*, his Excellency requests that you will mention to General *Scott* the expediency of his brigade's continuing in service with you, for fifteen or twenty days more than they first engaged for. The importance of the measure will be obvious to General *Scott*, and his Excellency is well assured that his exertions will be employed to influence his troops to stay. Many advantages will be derived from it. On the other hand, their departure at this time, when the weather is so favourable to the enemy's plans, may be followed with sundry bad and alarming consequences.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

Robert H. Harrison.

The Honourable Major-General *Heath*, at *Peekskill*.

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GOVERNOUR TRYON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 27th November, 1776.

My Lord: The enclosed plan of *Fort George*, [in the city of *New-York*,] with the works on the lower battery and the intermediate buildings, will exhibit a plat of ground which I esteem, upon a settlement of the present war, would be extremely advisable to be secured as Crown land.

The fort, with proper buildings, might contain the King's arsenal and armory; and when all the buildings and barracks now standing are demolished, a proper esplanade might be marked out for the soldiery, and a handsome range of barracks constructed for as many men as might be thought proper for a standing garrison.

The inhabitants who claim the property in the houses and lots in *Pearl* street and buildings adjoining, might probably be satisfied out of the Rebel tenements within the city, upon confiscation.

By this arrangement, your Lordship will observe, the soldier would be kept distinct from the citizen, and the commercial interest of the town not in the least injured, as no docks or wharves have ever been built where the line of works border on the *East* and *North River*. All the ground within the dotted black line, from *Whitehall* to the *North River*, is proposed to be reserved to the Crown for the purposes above-mentioned.

I am, with all possible respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,

Wm. Tryon.

Lord *George Germain*.

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GENERAL LEE TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL.

Camp Phillipsbourg, 27th November, 1776.

Sir: As the whole fate of *America* depends on the speedy completion of the new Army, all considerations ought undoubtedly to be postponed to this object. The officers (and indeed it must necessarily be so) are of opinion that nothing impedes the recruiting of the Army so much as the present rage for privateering; that unless this is in some measure checked, it is in vain to expect any success. I would therefore humbly refer to your consideration whether it is not expedient to lay a temporary embargo on privateers until the regiments of each State are completed. Our situation is so delicate and alarming, and the absolute necessity of the Army's being raised without delay so obvious, that you will excuse the liberty I take in proposing the only mode which occurs to me.

I am, with the greatest respect, your most obedient,

Charles Lee.

To the honourable the President of the Council of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

[The same to the Hon. *James Bowdoin*, President of the Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*; and to the Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of *Connecticut* State.]

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL SCOTT.

Peekskill, November 27th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I received your favour of yesterday's date late the last evening, and would have wrote you an answer, but had just received despatches from Head-Quarters, and an express being in waiting to go to that place, my time until midnight was taken up in completing my letters.

I now thank you for the intelligence you have given me. As to the report of an attack on yesterday, I rather think it to be without foundation, as the express who came from Head-Quarters heard nothing of it. I have received a

signification of his Excellency's approbation of the disposition of my division, and that he never meant that any troops should march from my post.

Our present situation will not allow me to send over any more troops at present, and I imagine that General *Lee's* division will very soon pass over. I shall order Captain *Treadwell* over with a field-piece, if the enemy should attempt to advance. You will secure the passages through the mountains, sending a regiment or two to reinforce Colonel *Huntington*. You will please to inform the inhabitants that every assistance shall be afforded them; and you are desired to prevent any abuses by the destruction of fences or property of any kind.

I wish your application to Convention may answer your expectations. Sad experience has taught me but little is to be expected from those whose time of inlistment is expired.

General *Clinton* will order two or three of his Light-Horse to attend you for the purpose of carrying expresses, &c.

I am, dear sir, with respect and esteem, your most humble servant,

W. Heath.

General *Scott*.

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ORDERS TO CAPTAIN TREADWELL.

Peekskill, November 27th, 1776.

Sir: Upon receipt hereof you are immediately to move over the river, with the three-pounder, and a proper number of men to work it, and join General *Scott's* brigade, where you will remain until further orders.

I am, sir, your humble servant, W. Heath.

Captain *Treadwell*.

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CAPTAIN SACKET TO ROBERT YATES.

Peekskill, 27th November, 1776.

Sir: By desire of Colonel *Livingston*, I have to inform you that Lieutenant *Ebenezer Mott*, who was appointed to our regiment, has declined serving. *Joshua Drake's* resignation, who was appointed Ensign to my company, Colonel *Livingston* informed me he had reported to you. I desired the Colonel to recommend some other person to you, to supply the place of Mr. *Drake*, but he told me any person I should think capable would be agreeable to him, and did not doubt a recommendation from me would be sufficient, as it was by his desire. I therefore take the liberty to mention to you Mr. *Gilbert Strang*, as a very fit person for an officer. His abilities render him capable of making a figure in military life, and I doubt not his exerting himself for his country's good. I should take it a particular favour to have him appointed ensign to my company, for which purpose he now waits upon you.

With due respect, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

Samuel Sacket, *Captain 4th Regiment*.

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PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT TO GENERAL HEATH.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York,
Fishkill, November the 27th, 1776.

Sir: I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed resolutions, respecting a party of Colonel *Bradley's* regiment who lately came to this place. Several of the members have taken the liberty to advise one of the Lieutenants to repair to *Peekskill*, with such of his men as are fit for duty. I presume he waits for a more formal command.

We have directed a physician here to take care of the sick until your directions are received. This small village is so crowded, that it is badly calculated for a hospital, and we fear the present mode of relieving the sick will be very expensive.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Pierre Van Cortlandt, *Vice President*.

The Honourable Major-General *Heath*.

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In Committee of Safety for the State of New York,
Fishkill, November 27th, 1776.

Whereas, this Convention is informed that about one hundred Soldiers, belonging to Colonel *Bradley's* regiment, from *Connecticut*, under the care of Lieutenant , are come to this place, without orders, some of whom are said to be sick; and application being made to this committee to provide a physician for them:

*Resolved*, That Doctor *Graham* be authorized to visit and take care of the said sick Soldiers for three days. That a letter be immediately despatched to General *Heath*, informing him of the above circumstances, and that he will give his directions for disposing of such of the men of the said Regiment now at this place as are in health, and for taking care of the sick.

Extract from the Minutes:

John McKesson, *Secretary*.

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GENERAL ST. CLAIR TO GENERAL GATES.

Esopus, November 27th, 1776.

Dear General: Your favour of the 25th I received last night by Mr. *Hughes*, and immediately sent an express to *New-Windsor* to stop the *Jersey* regiments that were gone on to that place, and for which I am setting out this moment. I shall not fail to do every thing in my power to inspirit the troops; but I doubt very much they will not easily be kept together. I hope to get them to General *Washington's* Army, and if they once come in sight of the enemy they will be satisfied.

A report prevails that there was an action near *Hackensack* on *Thursday* last, in which the enemy were worsted, with great loss on both sides. If we have kept our ground, 'twill raise the spirits of the troops.

I wish you an agreeable journey, and am, with the greatest esteem, dear General, your most obedient servant,

Ar. St. Clair.

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GENERAL GATES TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 6th December, 1776.]

Albany, 27th November, 1776.

Sir: I have the honour to request your Excellency to acquaint Congress that Colonel *Wigglesworth* returned the 17th instant to *Tyonderoga* with the flag of truce I sent by him to *Isle-au-Noi*. He brought the enclosed insolent paper, and three of our prisoners, one an Ensign (*Goodlove*) of Colonel *Dayton's* regiment, who was taken upon a scout to *Oswego* in *September* last.

Assured, on the information of Colonel *Wigglesworth*, that the enemy's fleet was disarmed and laid up, and their troops marched into winter quarters, and considering the miserable state of our magazine of provisions, I determined to move the Army by degrees towards *Albany*, to be ready to be marched thence into winter quarters, or be at hand to succour the southern Army, as occasion might require, having previously, by General *Schuyler's* orders, sent Brigadier-General *St. Clair*, with *De Haas's* and the First and Second *Jersey* regiments, to *Albany*. The following eight Continental regiments will be here in a day or two: *Bond's*, *Porter's*, *Bedel's*, *Stark's*, *Poor's*, *Greaton's*, and *Patterson's*. Vessels are providing for them here to transport them without delay to *New-Windsor*, and I shall propose to march them to General *Washington's* Army.

The ten Militia regiments under General *Bricket*, whose term of inlistment expires next *Saturday*, will march by the following routes to their respective States: *Wingate's* and *Wyman's*, from *New-Hampshire*, by the new road that leads from the foot of *Mount Independence* to *Number Four*; *Swift's* and *Mott's*, of *Connecticut*, go by *Skeensborough* and *Bennington*; *Brewer's*, *Willard's*, *Read's*, *Wigglesworth's*, *Wheelock's*, and *Woodbridge's*, march to this town, and go through the *Green Woods* to their State, provided the exigency of affairs to the southward does not make it unavoidably necessary to request their further service that way. I have that confidence in them to believe that, with the assistance of General *Bricket*, I shall be able to prevail upon most of them to embark for *New-Windsor*, provided the river is not closed with ice before they get here. The first of these are but just arrived at *Fort George*, all the boats on that lake having been hitherto employed in transporting the Continental regiments above-mentioned.

An express I have just received from *Tyonderoga*, acquaints me that *Lake Champlain* is closed with ice, as low as *Three-Mile Point*, so that all is secure in that quarter until the beginning of *May*.

As I doubt not but Congress will take proper measures to replace the regiments whose term of service expires the 31st *December* next, and which are now part of the garrison of *Tyonderoga*. The following are the regiments destined

for that service: *Wayne's*, *Wood's*, *Dayton's*, *Irwin's*, *Burrell's*, and *Whitcomb's*. *Dayton's* is engaged until *March*; *Burrell's* till *February*; and the rest until the last of *December*. I have fixed Colonel *Wayne* in the command at *Tyonderoga*. He is a capable, good officer, and has health and strength fit to encounter the inclemency of that cold inhospitable region.

General *Arnold*, who is now here, is anxious, after his very long absence, to see his family, and settle his publick accounts. Should the motions of the enemy make his presence necessary below, I know his zeal for the service will outweigh all other considerations, and induce him to take the route that leads to them.

I have this instant received an order from Major-General *Schuyler*, to embark with the eight Continental regiments above-mentioned for *New-Windsor*. The vessels are some of them ready, and two regiments will embark this day.

I am, sir, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

—

GENERAL ORDERS—NORTHERN ARMY.

Head-Quarters, November 6, 1776.

(Parole, *Franklin.*) (Countersign, *Lynch.*)

The General directs that each regiment and corps cut and fetch their own fire-wood for a few days, till the Assistant Deputy Quartermaster-General can collect a sufficient quantity to begin issuing that article in a proper and regular manner. Boats and axes will be furnished to those who need them for that purpose. In the mean time the guard at the wood-yard is to suffer no officer or soldier to take any wood, without producing a written order from the Assistant Deputy Quartermaster-General.

Second Lieutenant *Nathaniel Donnell* is appointed First Lieutenant of the company of *Pennsylvania* Artillery, vice Lieutenant *Willow*, resigned.

Second Lieutenant *Barr* to be Second Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Donnell*, advanced.

Mr. *A. Caldwell*, Conductor, to be Second Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Barr*, advanced.

*James Barr*, a soldier of Captain *Hayne's* company, in Colonel *Whitcomb's* regiment, tried by the General Court Martial, of which Lieutenant-Colonel *Craig* is President, on an appeal from a Regimental Court-Martial, for quitting his regiment without a discharge and enlisting in another regiment, is acquitted.

*Zebedee Harman*, Mate, *William Pownall*, Boatswain, *William Tripp* and *Nicholas Colbert*, Seamen, of the fleet, tried by the same General Court Martial for mutiny, wishing the enemy might come, and saying they would not fight against them on board the vessels, are also found guilty and sentenced—*Z. Harman*, Mate, to be broken and return to his former regiment, and there do private's duty; *Pownall* to receive seventy-eight lashes on his bare back and do duty as a private in his former regiment; *Tripp* and *Colbert* each to receive seventy-eight lashes on the bare back, and return to their duty on board. The General approves their proceedings, and orders the corporal punishment to be inflicted this afternoon; the criminals to be whipped from vessel to vessel, receiving a part of their punishment on board each.

Field Officer for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Major *De Hart*. Brigade Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Worthington*. Brigade Major, *Hunt*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 7, 1776.

(Parole, *Wilson.*) (Countersign, *Sherman.*)

The General returns his thanks to the officers and soldiers of the First *New-Jersey* Battalion, who remain with the Army, for the honour and publick spirit they showed in disdaining to follow the infamous example of their Colonel, and the deluded soldiers who followed him yesterday. The General would inform them, that the drums were beat by his order, in derision of the few who had the baseness to quit their post in this time of danger.

Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Major *Rhea*. Brigade Major, *Brown*.

Officer of the day on *Mount Independence*, Major *Sherburne*. Brigade Major, *Walker*.

The batteau guard to be increased to-morrow to one subaltern and twenty-one privates. They are to place sentries at the wood-yard as well as the boats.

Head-Quarters, November 8, 1776.

(Parole, *Gerry.*) (Countersign, *Chase.*)

The Majors of Brigade will be particularly careful that the weekly returns to-morrow are complete and correct, noting all alterations since the last return, all vacancies, and absences of officers, &c.

The Colonels of Militia will likewise deliver in to the Deputy Adjutant-General at orderly time to-morrow, exact returns of their corps.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Major *Butler*. Brigade Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Major *Cilley*. Brigade Major, *Howell*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 9, 1776.

(Parole, *Grafton.*) (Countersign, *Cumberland.*)

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Major *P. Frazier*. Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Field Officer of the day on *Mount Independence*, Major *Hale*. Brigade-Major, *Hunt*.

The following promotions are ordered to take place in Colonel *Poor's* Regiment:

Second Lieutenant *Nathaniel Mc Clintock*, Adjutant, vice Adjutant *Parsons*, dead. Ensign *Colcord*, Second Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Parsons*, dead. Sergeant *J. Meloon*, Ensign, vice Lieutenant *Colcord*, advanced. Second Lieutenant *J. Huntoon*, First Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Matthews*, cashiered. Ensign *Robert Pike*, Second Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Huntoon*, advanced. Sergeant-Major *Frost*, Ensign, vice Ensign *Pike*, advanced.

—

Head-Quarters, November 10, 1776.

(Parole, *Falmouth.*) (Countersign, *Norfolk.*)

A vein of prodigious fine black flint-stone being discovered upon *Mount Independence*, the General desires the commanding officers of regiments will make inquiry if there are any old countrymen in any of their corps who understand hammering of gun-flints. Upon such a person or persons being found, he or they are to be sent to the General at Head-Quarters.

The General Court-Martial now sitting are immediately to try the officers and soldiers accused of stealing and killing Mr. *Adams's* bullocks. Mr. *Adams* and Mr. *Dow*, with all other evidences, are to be summoned to attend the court.

Field Officer for *Ticonderoga* to-morrow, Major *Stacey*. Brigade Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Major *Loring*. Brigade Major, *Walker*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 11, 1776.

(Parole, *Roxbury.*) (Countersign, *Cambridge.*)

The following promotions are ordered to take place in the Second *Pennsylvania* Battalion, viz:

First Lieutenant *Samuel Moore*, Captain, vice Captain *Craig*, promoted. First Lieutenant *James Christie*, Captain, vice Captain *Butler*, promoted. Second Lieutenant *Ross Currie*, First Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Moore*, advanced. Second Lieutenant *John Craig*, First Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Christie*, advanced. Second Lieutenant *Henry Epple*, First Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Chilton*, resigned. Ensign *James Armstrong*, Second Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Currie*, advanced. Ensign *George Hoffner*, Second Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Craig*, advanced. Ensign *Marshall*, Second Lieutenant, vice Lieutenant *Epple*, advanced. Mr. *Abner Dunn*, Ensign, vice Ensign *Armstrong*, advanced. Mr. *James Otis*, Ensign, vice Ensign *Hoffner*, advanced.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Major *Rogers*. Brigade Major, *Brown*.

Field Officer on *Mount Independence*, Major *Moore*. Brigade Major, *Howell*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 12, 1776.

(Parole, *Hamilton.*) (Countersign, *Walker.*)

Lieutenant-Colonel *White*, Captain *Patterson*, Captain *Ross*, and Lieutenant *Gordon*, of Colonel *Dayton's* regiment, tried at a late General Court-Martial held at *Albany*, whereof Colonel *Van Schaack* was President, for being concerned in the embezzlement of certain effects belonging to Sir *John Johnson*, the court, after due examination, were

unanimously of opinion that the charge against the prisoners was malicious and groundless, and therefore acquit them with honour. His Excellency General *Washington* has approved the proceedings of the court-martial, and ordered this testimony of his approbation to be inserted in the general orders of the Northern Army.

No officer whatever of any corps is to recruit from the regiment commanded by Colonel *Dayton*.

Major *Hay*, Captain *Bush*, of the Sixth *Pennsylvania* Battalion, and Mr. *Sickles*, of the First *Jersey* Battalion, are appointed to settle the prices of the goods brought from *Canada*, that the regiments who received of said goods may be able to settle their accounts and payment of them.

The General Court-Martial of which Lieutenant-Colonel *Craig* was President, is dissolved.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Wayne*. Brigade Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Major *Sedgwick*. Brigade-Major.

—

Head-Quarters, November 13, 1776.

(P. , *Warwick*.) (Countersign, *Bristol*.)

The First Battalion of the *Pennsylvanians* and the First and Second of the *Jersey* Battalions, to be taken off duty and prepare to embark for *Fort George* as soon as the batteaus are arrived that will be appointed to carry them over the lake. The commanding officers of regiments are to be answerable for any damage that is done to any of the huts or buildings belonging to their respective corps. The troops that return home should be careful to preserve every thing that can in the least degree be useful to those who remain here.

Those corps which leave the Army are to return in all their ammunition to the Commissary of Artillery.

The guards are to be lessened agreeable to a detail given to the Majors of Brigade this day.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Wayne*. Brigade Major, *Brown*.

Field Officer on *Mount Independence*, Major *Sumner*. Brigade Major, *Walker*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 14, 1776.

(Parole, *Putnam*.) (Countersign, *York*.)

Colonel *DeHaas's* battalion and the First and Second *Jersey* Battalions to embark to-morrow morning, at sunrise, for *Fort George*. The General thanks all the officers and soldiers of those regiments now upon this ground, for their readiness in complying with his request to remain three weeks for the defence and security of this post after their term of service was expired. The General in a particular manner acknowledges the good services of Major *DeHart* and the officers and soldiers of the First *Jersey* Regiment, who had the honour and virtue not to follow their Colonel to winter quarters.

Colonel *Greaton's*, late Colonel *Bond's*, and Colonel *Porter's* regiment, to be ready to embark for *Fort George* to-morrow afternoon, provided there are then a sufficient number of batteaus to transport them over the lake.

Such artificers belonging to any of the corps going into winter quarters as are willing to remain at this post until the barracks, &c., are finished, are to be permitted to do it. Colonel *Baldwin*, Chief Engineer, will pay and discharge them when business so necessary to the publick is completed.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Whitcomb*; Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Phinney*; Brigade Major, *Hunt*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 15,1776.

(Parole, *Littleton*.) (Countersign, *Thomas*.)

Captain *Neilson's* company of Riflemen is to be joined to and do duty with the Fourth Battalion of *Pennsylvanians*, commanded by Colonel *Wayne*.

Colonel *Greaton's*, late Colonel *Bond's*, and Colonel *Porter's* regiments are not to march until further orders.

Colonel *Stark's*, *Poor's*, and *Reed's* regiments, will be ready to march to-morrow morning, at eight o'clock, to the landing at *Lake George*, where boats are provided to transport them over the lake.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow morning for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Woodbridge*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Wyngate*. Brigade Major, *Walker*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 16, 1776.

(Parole, *Chase*.) (Countersign, *Carroll*.)

Any non-commissioned officers or soldiers inlisted from the regiments who are engaged to serve until the last of *December*, are not to have furloughs before their present term of service is expired; but any who are inlisted from the ten regiments of Militia, whose term of service expires the last day of this month, shall immediately thereupon receive furloughs from the commanding officer of the regiment they engage to serve in for one month from the date of said furlough. This is to be a standing order not to be departed from.

A General Court-Martial, taken from the two brigades on the *Ticonderoga* side, to sit to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock, at the President's house, for the trial of such prisoners as shall be brought before us. President: Colonel *Wood*. Members: two Field Officers and ten Captains. An Adjutant and Orderly Sergeants from the two brigades to attend alternately.

Field Officer of the day to-morrow for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Dayton*; Brigade-Major, *Brown*.

Field Officer for *Mount Independence*, Colonel *Wyman*; Brigade-Major, First Brigade.

*After Orders.*—*James Witherspoon*, Esq., is appointed Major of Brigade to Brigadier-General *Maxwell*, and is to be obeyed as such.

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Head-Quarters, November 17, 1776.

(Parole, *Lynch*.) (Countersign, *Franklin*.)

Colonel *Greaton's*, late Colonel *Bond's*, and Colonel *Porter's* regiments are to march to-morrow morning to *Lake George*, where boats will be provided for their immediate embarkation.

Captain *Joseph Bloomfield* is appointed Deputy Judge-Advocate of this Army.

Colonel *Wood* being unwell, Lieutenant-Colonel *White* is appointed President of the General Court-Martial in his place.

Field Officer of the day for *Ticonderoga*, Colonel *Woodbridge*; Brigade-Major, *Ryan*.

Field Officer on the *Mount*, Colonel *Swift*; Brigade Major, *Walker*.

—

Head-Quarters, November 18, 1776.

(Parole, *The Congress*.) (Countersign, *Independence*.)

The following regiments are to hold themselves in readiness to march and embark at *Lake George* as soon as boats can be provided for that purpose:

First division: *Patterson's*, *Phinney's* and *Beadel's*.
Second division: *Read's* and *Wigglesworth's*.
Third division: *Wheelock's* and *Woodbridge's*.
Fourth division: *Brewer's* and *Willard's*.
Fifth division: *Swift's* and *Mott's*.

The sixth division, consisting of *Wingate's* and *Wyman's*, to march by the shortest and best road to the State of *New-Hampshire*.

Colonel *Anthony Wayne* will immediately take the command of the remaining regiments, Light Infantry, Artillery, Artificers, &c., which are to compose the garrisons of *Ticonderoga* and *Mount Independence*.

*Michael Ryan*, Esq., is appointed Brigade-Major for the garrisons of *Ticonderoga* and *Mount Independence*, and to be obeyed as such.

Colonel *Wayne* will immediately order Major *Persifer Frazier*, Captain *Thomas Moore*, and Captain *Bunner*, to appraise, on oath, all the articles of clothing in the garrison of *Ticonderoga*, belonging to the *United States*, and order the same to be delivered to *George Measam*, Esq., Commissary-General of Clothing, taking his receipt for the same, which is to be delivered to Colonel *Wayne*, to be by him sent to the Treasury Office in *Philadelphia*, pursuant to an order of Congress

The clerks of the different dry goods stores are to attend upon this occasion.

Captain *Talbot* and Lieutenant *Erwin* have permission to be absent from the regiment.

WILLIAM EDMISTON TO GENERAL GATES.

Albany, November 27, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I must request you will be so kind as to procure me leave to go to General *Howe*, on my own private affairs, and I will return at any specified time. I have the more reason to expect this indulgence, as I was not taken in arms, nor acting against the States of *America*, and more especially as the conduct of the King's Generals, viz: *Howe* and *Carleton*, has set so good an example, by suffering Generals *Thompson, Sullivan, Waterbury*, with numberless other officers, who were all taken in arms, not only to return to their own private affairs, but to remain there until an exchange can take place. These matters considering, I therefore flatter myself you will do every thing in your power to obtain my request; as you are very sensible that my interest is suffering, and that the legislative body of these Colonies cannot, nor do not, mean to levy war against individuals, but against the united body of the *British* nation.

I have the honour to be, dear sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

WILLIAM EDMISTON.

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HENRY QUACKENBOSS TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany, November 27th, 1776.

SIR: In consequence of a resolution of the Committee of Safety for the State of *New-York*, bearing date the 9th *October* last, I have purchased sundry goods agreeable to the enclosed bill of parcels, and shall be glad you favour me with the amount which accompanies the enclosed bill of parcels.

Your order respecting the delivery of said goods shall be punctually observed by your humble servant,

HENRY QUACKENBOSS.

Honourable President of the Convention for the State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL GATES.

Saratoga, November 27, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Colonel *Trumbull* delivered me your favour of yesterday's date. If the masters of sloops will not freely take down the troops, Colonel *Lewis* must make use of coercive measures to oblige them, for the service must not suffer through the ill-timed wilfulness of any person whatever.

Five hundred barrels of flour were still left at *Fort Edward* on the 24th, and I fear very little is gone since, as many of the wagons are come away, and none gone up. If the garrison of *Tyonderoga* suffer for want of a proper supply, the blame will fall on Colonel *Lewis*, as it is his business, not mine, to forward provisions.

As my presence is much more required to the northward than anywhere else, I cannot go down at present. As General Chevelier *de Fermois* will probably be up before I shall set out for *Philadelphia*, and as you are anxious to go with the troops, you will please to embark with the last of them.

I am, dear General, very sincerely, your most obedient humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Honourable General *Gates*.

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PROVIDENCE (RHODE-ISLAND) TOWN-MEETING.

At a town-meeting of the town of *Providence*, legally warned and assembled, on the 27th day of *November*, A. D. 1776, Colonel *Jabez Bowen* Moderator.

Whereas the General Assembly at their last session passed an act ordering a regiment of men to be immediately raised for the defence of the State, to consist of six men out of every hundred throughout the State able to bear arms, and directed that town-meetings should be called to carry said act into immediate execution; and this meeting being assembled for this purpose:

It is *Voted and Resolved*, That this town will immediately raise forty-three men, including officers, being their quota of the said regiment, pursuant to said act of Assembly.

And as an encouragement to the men immediately to inlist into said regiment:

It is *Voted and Resolved*, That every person who shall inlist himself as a private soldier into the said regiment pursuant to said act of Assembly, shall be allowed twenty dollars as a bounty, and that the Town Treasurer be directed and empowered to hire the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds for this purpose.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Newport, November 27th, 1776.

SIR: I sent an officer with my orders to take up and bring on board the fleet some deserters who inlisted out of the Army, and received their month's pay; and he took up seven at *Warwick*, and brought as far as the fulling mill, where a number of the inhabitants got together, and took the men away from him. The names of the men taken away are as follows: *John Joyce, John Allen, Benjamin Howard, Abel Bennet, George Burgess, Wm. Jafres*, and *Job Bridge*. And the following men have likewise deserted: *Benj. Weldale, Joseph Braymour, Arthur King, Deerfy Spraigue, Daniel Fones, Wm. Chadseg, David Retph*, and *William Jocklyn*.

I make no doubt but your Honour will give the necessary orders to have them taken up and sent on board the ships. If you will please to let me know if you will give orders for the above purpose, you will oblige your humble servant.

I send you by *Creetman* two officers in the service of *George* the Third, which you will order taken care of as you think fit.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Honourable *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Rhode-Island*, at *Providence*.

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*Narrative of Mr.* LAMONT'S *Observations during the time he was a prisoner in* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *viz: from the* 22*d of* SEPTEMBER *till the* 21*th of* NOVEMBER *last. Mr.* LAMONT *commanded a ship from* GLASGOW.

Upon the 6th of *November* two Continental men-of-war lay at *Newport, Rhode-Island;* the one carries thirty-six twelve and eighteen pounders; the other thirty-two nine and twelve pounders, nearly manned, with every thing else on board fit for the sea, which they were to scour of the *English* frigates. Between that place and *Providence*, I was told there were upwards of fifty privateers, of different force and burdens, but chiefly small. From *Plymouth* there are ten small privateers, and a brig called the *Independence*, of fourteen guns, belonging to the Province.

There sailed from *Boston*, in the months of *October* and *November*, at different times, about forty privateers, amongst which was the ship *Zachary Bailey*, formerly of *London*, now the *Boston*, of twenty-four guns; she sailed about the 1st of *November* upon her cruise, which was intended betwixt *Cape Finisterre* and *Madeira*. She took under her convoy the ship *Hope, Lumsdale* late master, who was taken with powder and stores for the *British* Army, and a large brig, both of which were loaded with fish and lumber for the *French West-Indies*. About this time arrived a sloop and brig, belonging to this Province, from *Cape Nichola Mole*, with molasses and rum, each of which had a *French* as well as *New-England* master on board, with several *French* officers for the Continental Army; and near this time also arrived a *French* sloop with warlike stores, and another at *Newbury;* these were cleared for the Island of *St. Peter*, as well as the other two.

About the 20th of *October* the *Boston*, a thirty gun frigate, came round from *Newbury* to *Boston*, to fit out under the command of Captain *McNeil;* she was navigated by thirty *English* sailors, whom they impressed for that service only; about one hundred *New-Englanders* embarked in this ship; the *French* officers bore some command, and one of their independent companies acted as marines. Soon after, her guns were shipped on board a sloop, and sent round to *Newbury*, to be put on board another Continental frigate finished there, to carry thirty-six guns, which is daily expected in: she fits out at *Boston*.

Out of *Newbury, Beverly, Salem*, and *Marblehead*, are several privateers upon a cruise, besides the *Massachusetts*, a Provincial brig of sixteen guns, six-pounders, commanded by a Captain *Souter*. At these places a great many others are fitting out, viz: at *Beverly*, the *Alfred*, formerly of

*Bristol*, to carry twenty guns; at *Salem*, a brig built for one *Campbell*, but seized, when launched, as *English* property; this brig is to carry sixteen six-pounders; with many other small privateers, sloops, and schooners, of eight, ten, and twelve guns. At *Boston*, a ship, formerly the *Britannia*, was burnt down to the wale, but now rebuilt, and is to carry thirty guns, which are not all procured; it was said she was to go to *France* to finish her outfit, and afterwards to cruise in a southern latitude for *Indiamen*. At this place are also the *Isaac*, formerly of *Liverpool;* she is to carry twenty-four guns, which are not yet procured; and the *Anna-Bella*, formerly of *Glasgow*, taken with troops; she carries eighteen six-pounders, and was ready for sea the 20th of *November*, with many other brigs, sloops, and schooners. There were also fitted for a voyage to *Virginia* and *France*, the ships formerly *Lord Howe* and *George of Glasgow*, the *Anna-Maria*, *Lady Juliana*, *Picarry*, *Earl of Errol*, and *Camden*, of *London;* and two others at *Salem*. The *Julius Cæsar*, of *London*, Captain *Uzald*, who, though she mounted ten iron guns, showed eighteen wooden ones, and had twenty-seven men, all ready to engage, struck to a force far inferiour without firing one gun; she is now fitting out as a privateer, to carry eighteen or twenty guns.

The Congress, when they issued commissions for privateers, made a law, that persons taken in prizes should have their private adventure restored them. This was observed to a great many taken at first, and still is by Continental and Provincial vessels; but this act was amended by leaving something discretionary to the captors, since which they generally find some way to avoid giving them any thing; and it was resolved in Council, and recommended to the Committees, to send all prisoners into the country, as far from any post road as possible, and there, such as cannot maintain themselves are made to work for their living. Mates of ships taken, and seamen, are not suffered to depart. They say they don't impress them into their service; it is true they don't lay violent hands upon them, and force them on board their vessels of war, but take a more effectual way, which is this: they pay them what wages are said to be due them, in their paper money, on which the poor fellows set no value, but, sailor-like, spend it as fast as possible. When this is gone, they must starve unless they enter on board their privateers, which are always ready to receive them. I don't doubt several enter before it comes to this extremity, but the greater part do not.

There is another six-and-thirty gun frigate building in *Piscataqua*, the finishing of which was retarded by the want of iron, but they have lately got a small supply from *Philadelphia*, and some ready manufactured, in the *Julius Cæsar*, from *London*. I was told there were also building upon the lakes two frigates to oppose General *Carleton* in the spring.

I was greatly mortified in attending their Court of Admiralty in *Salem*, at a trial, where a prize ship was claimed by some people in the country. The counsel for the privateer produced a register taken out in the name of *Lane, Son & Fraser, London*, in proof of her being *British* property. The counsel for the claimers affirmed that the register was only a sham one to prevent her being taken by *English* men-of-war, and that the property still rested in the claimers. The counsel for the privateer demanded to know how any such sham register could be procured, seeing that an oath was always made, that the persons named in the register were the sole owners thereof; to which the counsel for the claimers replied, that he could get the people in *England* to perjure themselves, or do any thing, for money. After long disputing, the ship was decreed to the claimers, and the cargo to the privateer.

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WILLIAM TUPPER TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Machias, November 27, 1776.

Honoured Gentlemen: The Committee of Safety for the County of *Cumberland*, in *Nova-Scotia*, have represented to us the extreme difficulties they have laboured under by means of their joining with Captain *Eddy's* party, and have very importunately requested all possible aid from us and every body able to afford them the least assistance. And though we do not altogether approve of Captain *Eddy's* going there in so loose a manner, and with so small a party, yet we are disposed to help them so far as we are able, and shall encourage all the men we can spare to go. The inhabitants of that unhappy country, upon the appearance of Captain *Eddy* were reduced to the shocking dilemma of being either plundered and butchered by their friends, or of incurring the highest displeasure of their own Government; the latter alternative they preferred, and now lie exposed to the rage of an abandoned Administration, of their wicked instrument. They also inform us that they have high expectations from our Court, and that Colonel *Shaw* will soon arrive to their assistance with a sufficient armament. We earnestly request your Honours, therefore, in your great compassion, to send them speedy relief.

We are, your Honours' very humble servants.

By order of the Committee:

Wm. Tupper, *Clerk*.

To the Honourable Council and House of Assembly of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, November 28th, 1776.

Gentlemen: Your favour of 7th *August* last, covering copy of yours of the 8th *July*, I received, though the original never came to hand. This letter also enclosed the Declaration of Independency, with instructions to make it known to this and the other Powers of *Europe*, and I received it the 7th instant, though the vessel that brought it had but thirty-eight days passage from *Salem*.

This letter was very far from relieving me, as it enclosed what had been circulated through *Europe* for two months before, and my pretending to inform this Court would be only a matter of form, in consequence of your orders, which were expressed in the style of any common affair. I certainly prefer, and must on all occasions use, simplicity of style as well as manners; but something is due to the dignity of old and powerful States, or, if you please, to their prejudices in favour of long-accustomed form and etiquette. And as the *United States of America*, by this introduce themselves among the established Powers, and rank with them, it must of course be expected that at the first introduction, or the announcing of it, some mode more formal, or, if I may say, respectful, would have been made use of, than simply two or three lines from the Committee of Congress, in a letter something more apparently authentick, not that either your power or the reality of your letter could be doubted. I mention this as something deserving of serious consideration, whether in your applications here and your powers and instructions of a publick nature, it is not always proper to use a seal? This is a very ancient custom in all publick and even private concerns, of any consequence; further, to keep a proper intercourse with *Europe*, it is by no means sufficient to write a single letter, and leave it to be forwarded when the Captain of the vessel thinks of it, or has nothing else to do; duplicates of every letter should be lodged in every port, in the hands of faithful and attentive persons, to be forwarded by the first conveyance to any part of *Europe*. Had this been practised since my leaving *America*, instead of receiving but two short letters from you, I might have had intelligence every month. Let me urge you, from the danger our affairs have been in of totally miscarrying for want of intelligence, to pay some attention to this in future. As the copy was dated the 8th *July*, I took occasion to observe that the honourable Congress had taken the earliest opportunity of informing this Court of the declaration of their independency, and that the variety of important affairs before Congress, with the critical situation of the armies in their neighbourhood, and the obstructions of their commerce, had prevented that intelligence which had been wished for, but the present serve to show the early and principal attention of the *United States* to this Court; and as their independency was now in form declared, the queries I had formerly put in consequence of my first instructions might now be resolved, and I hoped favourably. To this I was answered, unless *France*, by a publick acknowledgment of your independency, makes war on *Great Britain* in your favour, what service can such acknowledgment be of to the *United States?* You are known here; our ports are open and free for your commerce, and your ships are protected in them, and greater indulgences allowed than to any other nations. If *France* should be obliged to make war on *England*, it will be much more just and honourable, in the eyes

of the world, to make it on some other account; and if made at all, it is the same thing to the *United States of America*, and in one important view better for them to have it originate from any other cause, as *America* will be under the less immediate obligation. Further, *France* has alliances and cannot resolve a question which must perhaps involve her in a war, without previously consulting them; mean time the *United States* can receive the same succours and assistance from *France* without, as well as with, such an open acknowledgment, perhaps much more advantageously. To this and such like arguments I had the less to reply, as you informed me that articles for a proposed alliance with *France* were under consideration, and that I might soon expect them. I was further told that the *Swiss* Cantons, though in every respect free and independent States for several centuries, had not to this hour been acknowledged as such by any publick act, by any one Power in *Europe*, except *France*, and that neither the Revolution in the *United Provinces* or *Portugal*, had been attended with any such acknowledgment, though the Powers of *Europe* in both cases lent their aid. I replied that I could not urge a formal acknowledgment so long as the same ends could be obtained, and without the inconveniences hinted at; besides, as I daily expected further instructions, would reserve myself until their arrival.

The apprehensions of the *United States* negotiating has done us much damage, and the interview at *New-York* said to have been between a Commissioner of Congress and the two brothers, however politick the step in *America*, was made use of to our prejudice in *Europe*, at this Court in particular, as it has been for some time asserted by Lord *Stormont* and others, that a negotiation would take place, and as far as this is believed, so far our cause has suffered, and our friends staggered in their resolutions. My opinion is, that the House of *Bourbon*, in every branch, will be our friends; it is their interest to humble *Great Britain*.

I am again haunted with *Williamson*, who certainly has the confidence of some well-meaning people with you, and as certainly betrays it; for he is pimping into every corner of *France*, to see what is doing, under the pretence of being a zealous *American;* and every month or six weeks slips back to *London* with his budget, which he unlades at Lord *North's*. I dare not have him attacked as a spy, as he would in such case be immediately defended by Lord *Stormont*, and I might be troubled to prosecute; I can only, therefore, warn you, and all *Americans*, against him. Yesterday it was roundly affirmed at *Versailles* that a letter was received in *London* from *Philadelphia*, in which it was said I had wrote advising the Congress to negotiate, for that I could obtain no assistance from *Europe*. You can hardly conceive how dangerous even such reports are, and how prejudicial every step that looks like confirming them.

The importance of *America* in every point of view appears more and more striking to all *Europe*, but particularly to this kingdom. Enclosed I send you the size of masts and spars, with the price, which, if it will answer, may be a certain article of remittance, as may other naval stores; but I dare not contract with the Marine, as I have no powers therefor, and am unacquainted with the rate they were usually exported to *England*. A wide field is opening, as the *American* commerce is to be free, and I have had many applications from many parts on the subject, though few are disposed to venture until the close of this campaign, which, if it is not decisive against us, our wants will be supplied another season at as cheap a rate as ever, but I trust never more on the old terms of long credit.

I am well-nigh harassed to death with applications of officers to go out for *America*. Those I have engaged are, I trust, in general, of the best character; but that I should engage, or rather take from the hands of some leading men here, some one or two in a number not so accomplished, cannot be surprising, and may, considering my situation, be pardonable. But I have no suspicion of any such in my department of consequence.

I have been offered troops from *Germany* on the following general terms: Officers to recruit as for the service of *France*, and embark for *St. Domingo* from *Dunkirk*, and by altering their route land in the *American* States. The same has been proposed from *Switzerland*, to which I could give no encouragement, but submit it to your consideration in Congress, whether, if you can establish a credit, as I have before hinted, it would not be well to purchase at *Leghorn* five or six stout frigates, which might at once transport some companies of *Swiss*, a quantity of stores, and the whole be defended by the *Swiss* soldiers on their passage? Or if you prefer *Germans*, which I really do not, the vessels might go from *Dunkirk*.

I daily expect important advices from the north, respecting commerce at least, having sent to the King of *Prussia*, in consequence of a memorial he ordered his agent here to show me, and to propose some queries to me, a state of the *North American* commerce at large.

I have presented memorial after memorial here, until in my last I think I have exhausted the subject, so far as the present time, having in my last given the history of the controversy, obviated the objections made against us, and pointed out the consequences that must ensue to *France* and *Spain* if they permitted the Colonies to be subjugated by their old hereditary enemy. It consists of fifty pages, and was, after being translated, presented to his Majesty and his Ministers, and I was assured was favourably received and considered. I presented it about two weeks since, and whether it has hastened the preparations or not I cannot say. The Ministry were pleased to say that I had placed the whole in the most striking point of view, and they believed with great justice. I could wish to send you copies of these, but I have no assistant except occasionally, and the uncertainty of my situation will not permit my engaging for any thing certain to one who might deserve confidence, and those who are deserving are but few. I would advise in concerns in this and other Kingdoms, to have very little concern with natives of *Great Britain*, never if to be avoided, but prefer foreigners. It is more safe and more politick. I say foreigners, but all are foreigners alike in one sense—I except Messrs. *Delaps*, who are, though of *Irish* extract, born in *France*, and have their whole connections here.

Bread will be scarce before the next harvest. Flour is now twenty-two to twenty-three livres per cwt., and tobacco is as I have before mentioned. And I promise myself you will not let slip so favourable an opportunity of making remittances to advantage. In expectation of your sending over frigates to convoy your ships, and of your giving some instructions on what I have wrote you of operations in these seas, I design being at *Bordeaux* in *March*, when I shall be able to give you the needful directions in any such affair; but at any rate send out a number of blank commissions for privateers to be fitted out in *Europe* under your flag. The prizes must finally be brought to you for condemnation, and the principal advantage will remain with you.

I have wrote largely, and on many subjects, yet fear I have omitted something. If so, must when I write again recollect, on lesser subjects.

I wish I had here one of the best saddle horses of the *American* or *Rhode-Island* breed. A present of that kind would be money well laid out with a certain personage. Other curious *American* productions at this time would, though trifles in themselves, be of consequence, rightly timed and placed. I mentioned Mr. *Rittenhouse's* orrery in a former letter, and I think *Arnold's* collection of insects, &c., &c., but I submit any step of this kind to your mature judgment.

Mons. *Du Coudray* will be with you by the receipt of this, with stores complete for thirty thousand men. The extraordinary exertions of this gentleman, and his character, entitle him to much from the *United States*, and I hope the sum I have stipulated with him for, will not be considered extravagant, when you consider it is much less than is given in *Europe*.

Baron *De Kalb* I consider as an important acquisition, as are many other of the officers whose characters I may not stay to particularize, but refer you to Baron *De Kalb*, who speaks *English*, and to Mr. *Rogers*, who are generally acquainted with them. As to sea officers, they are not so easily obtained, yet some good ones may be had, and in particular two; one I have already mentioned, the other is quite his equal, with some advantages. He was First Lieutenant of a man-of-war round the world, when Captain *Cook* sailed that voyage, and has since had a ship, but wants to leave this for other service, where he may make a settlement and establish a family. These two officers would engage a number of younger ones. Should they embark I send herewith the plans of one of them for the burning of ships. I

submit it to the honourable Congress, who are sensible of the variety and magnitude of the objects before me, whether it is not of importance to despatch some one of its body to assist me or to take a part in his own immediate direction. I say some one of its body, as it will give dignity—rather support it in a proper manner, when you send persons known to possess your fullest confidence, and the advice and assistance of such a one in *Europe* would be of service to me, though he were, or I were, occasionally at *Madrid* or *Berlin*. Having obtained some knowledge of the language and an acquaintance with those in power here, as well as others, what abilities I have, which are ever devoted to my country, can be employed here to the best advantage at present; but I submit my thoughts to your determinations, and am, with great truth and sincerity,

SILAS DEANE.

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SUPPLIES OF MASTS AND OTHER TIMBERS FROM THE NORTH, NAMELY:

*Masts,*

| | |
|---|---|
| Of 29 palms,* at three thousand and thirty-eight livres, | 3,038 00 |
| Of 28 palms, at two thousand eight hundred and ninety-one livres, | 2,891 00 |
| Of 27 palms, at two thousand six hundred and twenty-seven livres, | 2,627 00 |
| Of 26 palms, at two thousand two hundred and forty-four livres, | 2,244 00 |
| Of 25 palms, at nineteen hundred and eleven livres, | 1,911 00 |
| Of 24 palms, at sixteen hundred and seventeen livres, | 1,617 00 |
| Of 23 palms, at thirteen hundred and sixty-three livres, | 1,363 00 |
| Of 22 palms, at eleven hundred and twenty-seven livres, | 1,127 00 |
| Of 21 palms, at nine hundred and thirty-one livres, | 931 00 |
| Of 20 palms, at six hundred and eighty-one livres, | 681 00 |
| Of 19 palms, at five hundred and thirty livres, | 530 00 |
| Of 18 palms, at three hundred and eighty livres, | 380 00 |
| Of 17 palms, at three hundred and thirty-three livres, | 333 00 |
| Of 16 palms, at one hundred and ninety-six livres, | 196 00 |
| Of 15 palms, at one hundred and fifty-two livres, | 152 00 |
| Of 14 palms, at one hundred and twenty-three livres, | 123 00 |
| Of 13 palms, at ninety-three livres, | 93 00 |

*Small Masts,*

| | |
|---|---|
| Of 12 palms, at seventy-eight livres, | 78 00 |
| Of 11 palms, at sixty-eight livres, | 68 00 |
| Of 10 palms, at fifty-nine livres, | 59 00 |
| Of 9 palms, at forty-nine livres, | 49 00 |
| Of 8 palms, at thirty-nine livres, | 39 00 |
| Of 7 palms, at twenty-nine livres, | 29 00 |

*Spars,*

| | |
|---|---|
| Of 5 to 6 palms, from forty-four to forty-eight feet, at six livres ten sols, | 6 10 |
| Idem, from thirty to forty feet, at five livres ten sols, | 5 10 |
| Idem, from three to four palms, at four livres, | 4 00 |
| Manches de gastes, at twenty-five sols, | 1 05 |
| Logs squared, from 12 to 18 inches thick, and 18 to 40 feet long, at 40*s.* the solid foot, | 2 00 |
| Side pieces or planks of different lengths and breadths, sought for at *Riga*, *Petersburg*, and *Wiburg*, from 5 to 2 inches thick, exclusively, forty sols the solid foot, | 2 00 |
| Small side-pieces, of 2 inches and under, of required lengths, | 1 16 |
| From *Dantzic*, *Hamburg*, and *Stetin*, thirty-four sols, | 1 14 |
| Planks of 9 feet and upwards by 14 to 16 lines thick, at 34*s.* the solid foot, | 1 14 |
| Planks of less than 9 feet, at 32*s.* the solid foot, | 1 12 |

The munitions which shall be destined for the *Mediterranean*, and sent to the port of *Toulon*, shall be paid for at the same price, with ten per cent. advance.

*Conditions.*

ART. 1ST. The masts, small masts, and spars, shall be obtained from *New-England*. They shall be well selected and of good dimensions; they shall be sound, well-proportioned, straight, free from large knots and plugs, as far as possible. They shall be stripped of their bark, and shall be as recently felled as it shall be possible to find them. The masts shall be sent of the length prescribed, without being cut or shortened.

ART. 2. The masts shall be three times as many feet long as they are palms thick in diameter at the large end; and the diameter shall be taken at one-sixth part of the proportional length of the mast from the large end, so that a mast 78 feet long, which must have 26 palms diameter, shall be taken and measured at 13 feet from the large end; they will have at the small end two-thirds of the diameter of the large end; thus the masts of 26 palms at the large end will be 17⅓ palms at the small end; and the diameter of the small end shall be taken and measured at three times as many feet from the large end as there shall be palms in thickness; that is to say, for a mast of 26 palms, the diameter of the small end shall be taken at 78 feet from the heel; and so for all the others.

ART. 3. If in the measurement of a mast the small diameter and the length of the mast are not proportionate to the large diameter found at the sixth part of the mast, the said mast shall be received only for the large diameter which shall be found proportionate to the length, and to the small diameter; and the excess of masts in palms in diameter at the small end, and the excess of feet in length shall be paid for according to the rate and the usages of the ports.

ART. 4. In masts of large dimensions, of 22 palms and upwards, the deficit of 5 to 6 feet in the length, and of 1 or 2 palms in the proportion of the diameter of the large to the small end, will not cause any reduction; provided always that in the total of the cargo there are not more than one-third of the large masts deficient in proportion.

ART. 5. The masts which shall be oval at the place where the diameter is taken, shall be measured according to the mean proportion of the largest diameter to the smallest.

ART. 6. Half palms over and above the palm of 13 lines shall be counted as entire palms; and nothing shall be counted under a half palm; so that a mast which shall be 18½ palms and upwards shall be received for 19; and being only 18 palms the small progression shall be observed for the feet according to the length.

ART. 7. It shall not be required to furnish masts of 25 palms and upwards, unless they shall be found of good quality, and if they be furnished exceeding 29 palms, they shall be paid for 350 livres for each palm over.

ART. 8. The masts and other munitions, as well as the ships which shall transport them, shall be exempt from all duties formally due; and all necessary passports shall be issued to this effect.

ART. 9. The masts and other munitions shall be proved, examined, and measured, by proper officers, according to the usage of the Navy, and in the manner prescribed by the regulations; and the said munitions which shall be found to be of good quality in the required proportions shall be received in the magazines and paid for at the above prices.

ART. 10. Those considered inferiour, but which shall be proper to be applied to various useful purposes in the ports, shall be received there with the reduction and at the appraisement which shall be fixed by the officers of the ports, it being well understood that if they be appraised below their value, the furnishers shall be at liberty to take them back and dispose of them as they may think proper.

ART. 11. All defective and absolutely useless munitions shall be rejected.

ART. 12. The four deniers per livre appropriated to the Navy pensioners, shall be chargeable to the furnishers, as well as the fees for receipts and examinations.

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CONVENTION BETWEEN SILAS DEANE AND VICOMTE DEMAUROY.

Nous soussignés, *Charles Louis*, Vicomte *de Mauroy*, Chevalier *du Rousseau de Fayol*, et *de Sonneville*, ont l'honneur de proposer leur service au très honorable Congrès des *Etats Unis de l'Amerique* aux conditions suivante.

*The palm is thirteen lines, making one inch one line.

Le Vicomte *de Mauroy*, sera fait major général de l'armée aux même appointement, prérogative et honneurs que les officiers *Americains* du même grade et il aura un supplement de traitement comme etranger, par lequel il s'en rapporte à la discretion des Etats.

Il luy sera fourny avant son depart de *France* une somme de douze mille livres, argent de *France*, la moitié à titre de gratification, et l'autre moitié comme une avance sur ces appointements, les dits appointement commançant à courir de ce jour.

Les sieurs Chevalier du *Rosseau de Fayal* et *de Sonneville* seront acceptés comme ses aides-de-camp, le premier avec rang de Lieutenant-Colonel, et le second avec le rang de Major, tous deux avec les appointement attribués à ces divers grades, les dits appointement commançant à courir de ce jour.

Il sera fourny à chaqu'un de ses aides-de-camp, avant leur départ, une somme de trois mille, ou au moins de deux mille quatre cent livres, argent de *France*, pour leur equipement, moitié à titre de gratification, moitié a compte sur leurs appointement.

Dans le cas ou les *Etats Americains Unis* ne ratifiroient pas en tout point le présent arrangement, que leur faix fut faite avec les *Anglois* à l'arrivée des susdits, ou que des pretexte possible les contraignient de revenir en *France* leur retour se fera sans difficulté, et les Etats leurs fourniront la somme necessaire pour la dépence de leur retour en *Europe*. A ses conditions les susdits dénominés promettent de servir les dits Etats avec tout le zele et la fidelité possible, de reconnoistre l'autorité du très honorable Congrès comme puissance légitime, et de luy obéir ainsy qu'aux chefs par luy commis, en tout ce qui leur sera commandé pour le service, la défence et la conservation de leur païs.

En foy de quoy nous avons signé le present. Fait à *Paris*, le vingt *Novembre*, mille sept cent soixante seize.

Vic'te Demauroy,
De Rousseau, *Ch. de Fayolle.*
De Sonneville.
Silas Deane, *Agent for the most honourable the Congress of the* United States of North America.

Received of *Silas Deane*, at *Paris*, *November* 26th, sixteen thousand eight hundred livres on account of the above.

Vic'te Demauroy.

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[translation.]

We, the undersigned, *Charles Louis Vicomte de Mauroy*, Chevalier *du Rousseau de Fayol*, and *de Sonneville*, have the honour to propose their service to the very honourable Congress of the *United States of America*, on the following conditions:

The Vicomte *de Mauroy* shall be made Major-General of the Army, with the same pay, prerogatives, and honours, as the *American* officers of the same rank, and he shall have in addition pay as a foreigner, which he leaves to the discretion of the States.

He shall be furnished before his departure from *France* with the sum of twelve thousand livres, money of *France*, one half thereof as a bounty, and the other half as an advance of his pay; the said pay commencing to run from this day.

Messrs. Chevalier *du Rosseau de Fayol* and *de Sonneville* shall be accepted as his Aids-de-camp, the former with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and the latter with the rank of Major, both with the pay apportioned to these ranks, the said pay commencing to run from this day.

There shall be furnished to each of his Aids-de-camp, before their departure, the sum of three thousand or, at least two thousand four hundred livres, money of *France*, for their equipment, one half as bounty the other half on account of their pay.

In case the *American United States* should not ratify in the whole the present agreement, [or] should they have made peace with the *English* on the arrival of the aforesaid persons, or should they, from any pretext possible, constrain them to return to *France*, their return shall be accomplished without difficulty, and the States shall furnish them the money necessary for the expenses of their return to *Europe*. On these conditions the aforesaid persons promise to serve the said States with all possible zeal and fidelity, to recognize the authority of the most honourable Congress as a power legitimate, and to obey it, as well as the officers by it appointed, in all that shall be ordered to them for the service, defense, and preservation of their country.

In faith whereof we have signed the present. Done at *Paris*, the twentieth *November*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.

Vicomte De Mauroy,
Du Rousseau, *Chevalier de* Fayolle.
De Sonneville.
Silas Deane, *Agent for the most honourable the Congress of the* United States of North-America.

Received of *Silas Deane*, at *Paris*, *November* 26th, sixteen thousand eight hundred livres, on account of the above.

Vicomte Demauroy.

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### maryland council of safety to the board of war.

In Council of Safety, Annapolis, November 28th, 1776.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 19th instant we have received, and in consequence thereof have given directions for marching the prisoners as soon as possible, in order that an exchange may take place. We have likewise ordered the accounts of expenses incurred to be furnished us, and you may depend upon their being transmitted to your Board immediately after we receive it.

We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants.

On behalf of the Council:

Dan. of S. Thos. Jenifer, *President.*

The honourable the Continental Board of War, at *Philadelphia.*

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### thomas sparrow to maryland council of safety.

Cambridge, November 28th, 1776.

Gentlemen: Major *Thomas Muse* was dead and buried before I reached *Cambridge*. I delivered the letter (which was directed to him) to the Committee. Captain *Joseph Daffen*, one of the Committee, has offered to act in that business, if you, gentlemen, should approve of him.

I have a great prospect of success, having had many good men for the service offered. Could do nothing, not having the money, nor knowing, if I had it, what to advance, the last proceedings of Convention not being in this County.

I am, with the greatest respect, your humble servant,

Thos. Sparrow.

The Council of Safety of *Maryland.*

—

### william harrison to maryland council of safety.

Georgetown, Kent County, 28th November, 1776.

Honourable Sir: I had the pleasure before I left our *American* camp, which was on the 19th instant, to receive a line from you, a favour which I am extremely sorry I could not before this acknowledge. At the time I received it, I could not procure the necessary materials for writing to you, ink and paper being then not to be had on any condition; and since that time I have been endeavouring to get to *Annapolis*, where I expected to have had the satisfaction of conversing with you on the situation of our Army, &c.; but I have been unexpectedly disappointed on that head, as I have not been able to lay my hands on Captain *Veazey's* papers, which concern the publick. They made my business to *Maryland*. They would have made my principal business to *Annapolis*, could I have received them in time from *Veazey's* father, who, through mistake, has got them. I wrote for them immediately on coming down, and Colonel *Veasey* wrote me in return that I should have them as soon as he received them from *Apoquimini*, where they were with his son's baggage; however, as the time for which I have leave of absence is nearly out, I must hasten back, though with the prospect of returning immediately, when I hope I shall get the papers, and wait on the Council with them.

The occurrences which we experienced before the 9th instant, from the date of my last to you, I make no doubt you have been well informed of; the principal one I need only mention to you, which was the battle at the *White-Plains*. In this affair, as in too many more of a similar

nature, our Generals showed not equal judgment to that of the enemy. We were badly disposed to receive the attack of the enemy's small-arms, and unfortunately much exposed to their artillery, which flanked us so heavily as to render the post tenable but a short time. The matter was ended by a confused and precipitate retreat on our part, with the loss of ninety men killed and wounded, including in the number four officers—Captains *Scott* and *Bracco* killed, Lieutenants *Waters* and *Goldsmith* wounded. Of the above number forty-six of our regiment. I forgot to say that Colonel *Smallwood* was wounded slightly.

Since the engagement of the *White-Plains*, you hear we have been unfortunate enough to lose *Fort Washington*, a capital stroke against us, in my opinion, as we shall soon find it very difficult to keep up a communication between the Northern and Southern Provinces. Had we been able to hold the fort during the winter, we certainly should have been able to stop the river in such a manner as to be impassable to shipping in the spring. We could also have built other forts on the *Jersey* side of the river, which would considerably aid and assist the forts we already have; but, alas! we must no longer think of holds and fortresses on the *North River*.

There are, I hear, various opinions respecting the taking *Fort Washington;* some think it was too easily surrendered, others say our men behaved well, and that it could not possibly be helped. I have not been where I could hear any thing respecting the order of our men at that place, the only intelligence I have is in a letter from an officer of our corps. He tells me that the greatest part of our men engaged the enemy one mile at least from the fort, at the stockade or rear line, (described in my last to you;) that while they were engaged there a considerable body of the enemy passed over the *Spiten Devil*, or *Harlaem* creek, and, by a quick movement, possessed themselves of all the passes between our men at the lines and the fort; the consequence was that they surrendered immediately. There were, I make no doubt, other movements of the enemy to the northward of the fort, as per newspapers, but he mentions to me nothing more. It seems the garrison consisted of upwards of two thousand men. I am surprised, then, that they would leave the fort at any rate. It appears to me to have been rashness to have left it at such a distance as they did. It requires little foresight to know, that as General *Howe* had his whole armament at hand, he would make a vigourous effort, if any at all; and as he was furnished with conveniences for passing *Harlaem* creek, was it to be thought that he would confine his attack to one place? However, I am undertaking to judge perhaps without having the truth of things. This I think very certain, that it would have taken five thousand instead of two thousand men to have defended, against General *Howe's* Army, the lines which it is said our men attempted to defend.

I am now on my way to camp. Where I shall find it God knows! If any thing worth your notice comes within my observation, I shall write you with pleasure.

I had the pleasure of seeing two of the honourable Commissioners from this Province at *Philadelphia*, Messrs. *Hanson* and *Chamberlaine;* but as I had made a resolution before I saw them not to engage again in the service, I had little conversation with them on the subject of appointments. I thank you kindly, sir, for the favourable opinion you have of me, expressed in your last. I wish it may ever be more in my power than it now is to confirm it.

I am, honourable sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. HARRISON.

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COLONEL WHIPPLE TO MESHECH WEARE.

Philadelphia, 28th November, 1776.

SIR: Enclosed you have a resolution which Congress wish may be executed as soon as possible. What quantity can be procured in *New-Hampshire* you are a much better judge of than I can be; but I am sure the Army will dispense with all that can be obtained. I could wish to be informed of the success of the resolution transmitted you some time ago for procuring clothing. I hope every exertion will be used to furnish the soldiers with these necessary articles.

Colonel *Bartlett* can inform you of the state of the Army when he passed through it; since which, I have no reason to think there has been any alteration for the better with respect to clothing. The disposition that the State that I have the honour to represent has hitherto discovered, leaves me no room to doubt that proper measures will be pursued to effect these purposes, as well as completing her quota of the new Army.

General *Howe* is on this side *Hudson's* river with eight or ten thousand. It's thought by some that he intends to march this way; if so, I flatter myself we shall give a good account of him, as proper dispositions are making for his reception.

Accounts from abroad are very favourable, though of such a nature that I am not at liberty to communicate them. We have nothing to do but to keep a sufficient Army in the field to oppose that of the enemy one campaign more, and it's over with them.

I am, with every sentiment of respect, your most obedient servant,

WM. WHIPPLE.

Honourable *Meshech Weare*, Esq.

P. S. My colleague is now confined with the small-pox, but is on the recovery, and I expect will be out in a very few days.

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Philadelphia, November 28, 1776.

At eleven o'clock this forenoon, a very large and general town meeting was held in the State-House yard. The members of the General Assembly and the Council of Safety were present, Mr. *Rittenhouse*, Vice President of the Council, being in the chair. The intelligence which has been received of the probability of General *Howe* having it in contemplation to invade this State, was laid before the citizens, and they were informed that the Congress requested the Militia of the City, and several of the Counties, and part of the Militia of each of the other Counties, to march into *New-Jersey;* the people expressed their cheerful approbation of the measure by the most unanimous acclamations of joy ever observed on any occasion, and the Militia are ordered to be reviewed to-morrow, at two o'clock in the afternoon. General *Mifflin* addressed his fellow-citizens in a spirited, animating, and affectionate address, which was received by them with marks of approbation which showed their esteem for, and confidence in, the General.

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ADDRESS TO THE ASSOCIATORS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The time is at last come in which the salvation of this country depends upon the exertions of the individuals of this State. The enemy have collected their strength, and are determined, if possible, to spend this winter in *Philadelphia*. For Heaven's sake let all disputes about frames of Government subside for the present, or we shall be obliged to receive a Government from the sword of a proud and successful enemy. The Congress, the Council of Safety, and the Generals of our Army, call us to arms. The Heights of *Charlestown* and the Plains of *Abraham*, made rich with the blood of our countrymen, call us to arms. The honour we have lost by the reduction of *Long-Island*, *New-York*, *Fort Washington*, and *Fort Lee*, calls us to arms. Let us recollect the many resolutions we have entered into to support our liberties with our lives and fortunes. The eyes of the whole world are upon us. All the freemen that are to exist in the world to the end of time are interested in the controversy; nay, God himself, although for wise and just reasons he delays our deliverance, is not indifferent to the struggle.

For God's sake, then, let us not dishonour our country, human nature, and our God, by a shameful surrender of our liberties. Let us remember that our enemies are now approaching upon that ground on which they can receive no protection from their ships, and on which, too, we have always anticipated success over them. What apology shall we make to our brethren in *Massachusetts-Bay*, *Virginia*, and *South-Carolina*, who have driven the royal banditti from their coasts, if we suffer them to get possession of the vitals of the continent? Such an event would render the name of a *Pennsylvanian* as infamous as that of an ancient *Cappadocian*. But there is more than infamy in the evils which now threaten us. Jails, dungeons, racks, and gibbets, are now before us. No age, sex, or character, can protect us from the insolence and rage of our wicked internal and

bloody-minded external enemies. Arise, then, my dear countrymen, and let us "play the man for the cities of our God." Our houses and our fields, the inheritance of our ancestors, or the dear-bought fruits of our own industry, call us to the field. Our wives, our children, our aged fathers and mothers, call us to the field. They now look up to us with weeping eyes for safety, and expect salvation only from the instrumentality of our swords. Come on, my dear countrymen! let us go forth in the strength of the God of armies to meet our enemies; and let the words of the inspired prophet sound perpetually in our ears, "Cursed is he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and keepeth back his sword from blood."

HAMPDEN.

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COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Burlington, New-Jersey, November 28th, 1776.

SIR: Near three months ago, I laid before the Committee of honourable Congress appointed to form and regulate the new Army, my intentions of relinquishing the office of Adjutant-General at the close of the campaign. The reasons I then assigned, and which I should intrude upon your time to repeat, appeared to me so weighty that I conceived it a duty to the publick and myself to represent them in the earliest and fullest manner.

As the season will not admit of further military operations, (unless the enemy should attempt an incursion into this Province to harass and distress us, in which case I shall most cheerfully devote myself to any further service,) I beg leave to enclose the commission, with the highest sense and warmest acknowledgments of the favour done me.

I am, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOS. REED.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM WOODBRIDGE, NEW-JERSEY, DATED NOVEMBER 28TH, 1776.

Having intelligence last evening that the enemy had advanced near the town of *Second River*, (four miles from *Newark*,) we were ordered to be under arms early this morning. About seven o'clock the retreat began, and after a very tedious march we arrived at this place at sunset. We hear the enemy were on their march towards the town soon after we left it; their numbers we do not exactly know. We are informed that there are seventeen regiments and thirty-six pieces of artillery; but with all this force they make their approaches very cautiously, and seem willing to wait till we evacuate a place rather than to drive us from it.

We march for *Brunswick* to-morrow, where we shall wait for the assistance we expect from this Province and *Pennsylvania*. If we receive none, or but a little, the horrours of war will, I fear, be transported nearer home than is consistent with the safety of *America*.

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GENERAL MERCER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Elizabeth-Town, 28th November, 1776.

SIR: Having understood that it is resolved by Congress to form a regiment, consisting of four battalions, to be furnished with officers of approved merit, I beg leave to recommend for preferment Lieutenants *Nathaniel Burwell* and *Mathew Smith*, of the First *Virginia* Regiment. They are of respectable families, have served ever since troops were raised in *Virginia*, and both as officers and gentlemen have on all occasions merited the regard of their superiours in command.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most humble servant,

HUGH MERCER.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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GENERAL MERCER TO LORD STIRLING.

MY LORD: Major *Ross* attended a *British* officer to their advanced guard, which is at the *Six-Mile Run* from *Brunswick*. About fifteen fires were at that place. The conversation tended to show the intention of the enemy is to proceed immediately to *Philadelphia*. General *Howe* joined the Army to-day. By two women who escaped from the enemy and came here to-day, it should seem that General *Howe* had a considerable reinforcement with him, and they talked of marching from *Bound-Brook*, as well as from *Brunswick*, by different roads. Mr. *Reid*, who conducted the *British* prisoners to General *Howe*, brought the officer with him, whom Mr. *Ross* conducted back to his camp.

I have the honour to be, your Lordship's obedient servant,

H. MERCER.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of *Stirling*, Brigadier-General.

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*Christian Hutman* left *Brunswick* yesterday afternoon, two o'clock. Was there but a few minutes. Saw the town was full of *British* troops. The *Hessians* he did not see. Was told they were in rear.

*William Hunt* was also there; went up one street and come down another; saw every house was full of red-coats; cannot tell their numbers; was informed that the *Hessians* were at *Bound-Brook*. Saw no cannon, but understood they were on other side the river.

*Nicholas Hooper* was also there at the same time, and says much the same.

*Betty Miller*, wife of *Jeremiah Miller*, of Colonel *Miles's* Second Battalion, says she left *Brunswick* yesterday afternoon; the *British* troops in *Brunswick*; *Hessians* on the other side—in the whole they said some six, eight, and others ten thousand; that General *Howe* arrived at *Brunswick* the day before yesterday; that they expected six thousand more to arrive yesterday evening; that they had intelligence of General *Lee's* approach with eighteen thousand; that a part of General *Howe's* Army was gone somewhere, in order to surround us; that they all talk that they will quarter this winter at *Philadelphia*; that General *Clinton* is sailed, some say to *Carolina*, others to *Philadelphia*; that their cannon are partly at the barracks and part on the other side of the bridge.

*Abram Sleight* was in *Brunswick* yesterday, till three o'clock, p. m. Numbers reported about eight thousand at and near that place; more between that and *Elizabeth-town*, to the amount of twenty thousand; that General *Howe* was arrived; that the Rebels should not quarter this winter at *Princetown* or *Trentown*, for that they would drive them out; that sixty days would be allowed for them to make their submission. He saw two field-pieces on the *George Road*; had no opportunity of seeing what was about the barracks.

*Major Hendrickson* says a ship loaded with rum, wine, sugar, and other stores belonging to the enemy, is drove on shore at *Deel Beach*, near *Shrewsbury*; that Colonel *Hendrickson* with his Militia have taken care of her and the cargo.

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EPHRAIM BLAINE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Kittaning, 28th November, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I find provisions will be very expensive to lay in at this post, the roads are so exceeding bad to it, and many waters in the way, will occasion great difficulty in laying in a sufficient quantity of flour, and there will be an additional expense of slaughter-houses, repair in the store house, stuff to hew out, and barrels to make. I have purchased a quantity of beef and pork, and am daily engaging flour.

The cash I received is far short from being sufficient to procure a stock of beef, pork, and flour. Have drawn an order in favour of Captain *John Boyd*, upon your Honour, for four thousand dollars, which please pay him; which sum he is to forward me by first opportunity; and am, honoured sir, with due respect, your most obedient and very humble servant,

EPH. BLAINE.

To *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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GOVERNOUR TRYON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 28th November, 1776.

MY LORD: It is with the most singular satisfaction I have the honour herewith to transmit to your Lordship copies of the Addresses of the City and County of *New-York*, and also of *King's* and *Queen's* County, to the King's Commissioners, testifying their wishes to return under the King's peace and Government.

The dissolution of the Committee of *Suffolk* County and the Committees of the several townships in the same, with the revocation of all their proceedings and orders under the Congress, was effected at my particular recommendation to them for that purpose; copies of all which are herewith transmitted. When the pressure of the Rebel Army is removed from this Province, I have the strongest expectations that a like spirit will be adopted through the Colony.

On my reviewing, the 4th instant, while with the Army, such part of the Militia of *Westchester* County as was within the protection of the King's Army, and which amounted to upwards of five hundred men, I found them impressed with a loyal disposition to Government; but from the vicinity of the Rebels, and the uncertainty of the Royal Army giving them continued support, I could not think it expedient at that time to invite them to take up arms, or to petition the King's Commissioners, as either measure at that period would on the removal of the troops bring down instant destruction to their properties and families; indeed, what with the conflagrations of the Rebels, and the marauding of both armies, the inhabitants of that country are reduced to great distress.

I must beg leave to offer my congratulations to your Lordship on the repeated and honourable achievements of the *British* and *Hessian* troops. Another campaign, pressed with equal vigour, I trust will restore tranquillity and union to the *British* empire.

I am, with all possible respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,

Wm. Tryon.

Lord *George Germain*.

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SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 28th November, 1776.

My Lord: I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches of 11th, 12th, and 21st *June*, four different letters of 22d *August*, enclosing one to Sir *Guy Carleton* of the same date, and his Majesty's warrant of 22d *June*, respecting appointments to vacancies in this Army; I received them by the *Perseus* and *Diamond*, on the 22d and 23d of *October*.

Truly sensible of the honour which the King's approbation reflects upon my past conduct, I humbly beg your Lordship may express to his Majesty the fullness of my gratitude for so flattering a mark of Royal condescension, with the strongest assurances that I shall invariably continue to exert my utmost abilities in the execution of his Majesty's commands, and for the interests of the service with which I am intrusted.

Give me leave at the same time to return my unfeigned thanks for your Lordship's extreme politeness in communicating this most acceptable testimony of his Majesty's pleasure.

I am, &c., W. Howe.

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INTERCEPTED LETTER TO SIR GREY COOPER.

New-York, October 28, 1776.

Sir: On the 25th of *September* I had the honour of writing you, merely from a sense of gratitude, as I am sensible I cannot communicate any thing material from here, and know you receive intelligence from the first and best source. Willing, however, to contribute what I can, I would say that I have lately enjoyed an opportunity of seeing and examining many refugees from divers parts of this extended Continent of *America*. From these persons, their letters and documents, it appears that the subjects of the new States in the *United Colonies* are already so harassed, fleeced, and pillaged, by an unremitting extortion and oppression, that they are weary and sick of independency. From arms being only trusted in the hands of desperadoes and their followers, and other circumstances of bondage, they are so completely controlled as not to be capable of exerting any effort of vigour whatever. That the new levies (eighty-eight battalions) cannot be raised, even with the aid of compulsion; that the Congress paper bills are debased beyond the rate of a hundred; that for some time past the Congress of *Philadelphia* has been very thin, and that the arch , Dr. *Franklin*, had lately eloped under a cloak of Plenipotentiary to *Versailles*. From these accounts it seems as if the tyranny now established was so perfect or violent that if left to itself must overturn. Consternation has seized the sea-coast on the approach of General *Burgoyne*, which strikes the sea-coast with terrour. Against all these and other circumstances of advantage, many obstacles and difficulties of various kinds and degrees are to be placed, which stubborn, perverse, and desperate leaders will not fail to improve on every occasion. Nevertheless, upon a deliberate view and consideration of the circumstances of *America*, in its latitude and longitude of real distress and misery without and within, I cannot hesitate in saying she must yield or be conquered. When the prospect from military action (which is fair and promising) opens, so as some judgment may be formed, I shall think seriously of returning to *London*, and of waiting upon you.

With the greatest respect.

Sir *Grey Cooper*.

P. S. The reduction of *Fort Washington*, and progress of the troops in *New-Jersey* with the Earl of *Cornwallis*, has struck *Pennsylvania* with terrour, and the guilty are fleeing from *Philadelphia*; of which you will receive ample and certain intelligence from others. I have received letters from Mr. *Stewart*, Collector of *New-London*, *September* 24th and 30th; and since, I have heard of him by an exchanged prisoner of distinction, who saw him well a fortnight ago. He leads a hermit's life, determined to wait the event; but never omits serving the captives in that Colony with discretion, where the shadow of liberty is not. Dr. *Franklin* is now said to have embarked from *Chester*, on the river *Delaware*, in a vessel of force, but poorly manned, destined for *Martinico*. He is said to have realized Congress paper into gold, amounting to thirty thousand pounds sterling. Congress paper has greatly sunk in nominal value since the King's troops entered *Jersey*, and in many places of that Province remote from the Army is not current at any rate. *Samuel* and *John Adams*, of *Boston*, are said to have embarked also from thence to *Martinico*.

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GENERAL SCOTT TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp at Haverstraw, 28th November, 1776.

My dear General: I think it my duty to convey to you every intelligence in my power. In doing this I gratify my own zeal in the glorious cause, and hope to commend myself to that opinion which I shall always wish to hold in the estimate of a gentleman so well attached to it as you are.

Since I had the honour of writing to you I received an answer to the letter I wrote to Colonel *Huntington*, to know of him whether he wanted any aid from me, informing me that he wanted none at present, as he expected Colonel *Tyler* back to him in a day or two.

Upon information that about ten tons of lead were lying at *Topan*, I wrote to Major *Clark*, desiring him to convey it by land to one *Smith's*, on the south side of *Verdridger Hook*, to which place I have sent flat-bottomed boats with a guard to bring it to the ferry, just above where I am quartered. I think I saw the boats returning this day a little before dinner; but, to my surprise, I have not yet had a report from the officer of the party of his doings. I intend to send it to you unless you should direct otherwise. I therefore beg your immediate direction.

I have received an answer to my despatches to our Convention, which have produced resolves, that however the merit of my brigade may be, do me personally infinitely more honour than my poor deserts could entitle me to. They have also thanked me for my offer to serve one month longer without pay, and have sent me fifteen hundred pounds, as a gratuity to my brigade, to induce them to continue so long in the service. Upon receipt of them I paraded the brigade, published the resolves of Convention, and endeavoured by a speech to animate them to close with the terms; and to remove all suspicions that my arguments proceeded from motives of interest, I closed all by offering my month's pay as a small pittance in addition to the gratuity given by the Convention to non-commissioned officers and soldiers. The brigade having been drawn up in a circle, I left them for near an hour to free consultation, and in the interim ordered them liquor, not to intoxicate, but merely to refresh them. On my return to the centre of the circle I addressed myself

to the officers, with an exhortation they would set an example to the men, and concluded with requesting those of them who chose to imitate my example to join me in the centre. Upon this, to my great satisfaction, all the field-officers but one, who pleaded indisposition, and all the other commissioned officers, except seven, joined me. I then directed the officers in their proper departments to furnish me with returns of the non-commissioned officers and privates willing to continue in the service, at twelve o'clock to-morrow. The result of the whole shall not fail to communicate.

But, sir, should the whole brigade continue, what shall I be enabled to do with them? They will be of little service unless reinforced by the Army or Militia. I am sorry that neither the promised field-piece and three Light-Horsemen are come. I want both much. Be pleased to inform General *Lee*, without loss of time, that *Cooper*, whom he sent with despatches to General *Washington*, has, with the despatches, fallen into the hands of the enemy, and is now confined in *Hackinsack*. The inhabitants of the lower parts of this County and the upper parts of *Bergen* County, are going to the enemy daily in great numbers—some carting for them, some going into their service, and others waiting on them for protections. The Tories insolent and numerous. These evils I might in a great measure prevent could I be reinforced.

We have accounts tolerably certain that the body of the enemy from *Hackinsack* downwards are about eight thousand; that the van of those have passed over *Pesaick*, at a fording place above *Acquacknock* Bridge; that our Army is increasing, lies posted on the west of *Newark*, near the mountains; that another body of the enemy have landed at *Amboy*, eight thousand; that Lord *Stirling* and General *Beall's* brigades had not yet joined General *Washington*, but that two southern brigades had joined him. I have constantly kept horsemen riding down towards the enemy to procure me intelligence; but I much want the Light-Horsemen for this purpose. Rest assured, sir, that I shall seek the best information and make it my business to give you repeated accounts of every thing material in my power to collect.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

Honourable Major-General *Heath*.

P. S. I this moment received the enclosed, and have therefore sent a written to Colonel *Tyler*, at *Tapan*, to remain there with his regiment till he receives my further directions.

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GENERAL SCOTT TO THE NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Camp at Haverstraw, November 28, 1776.

SIR: On receipt of your packet, with the fifteen hundred pounds, which I have not yet had time to count, I paraded the brigade, formed them into a circle, read the resolves of the honourable Committee of Safety to them, pressed them upon the men with some arguments of my own, concluded with an offer to add the small pittance of my month's pay to the generous gratuity of the Committee. I then left them some time for free deliberation; and on my return to them, with a design to pique the honour of my officers, pressed them, by a short exhortation, to set an example to the non-commissioned officers and privates, in discovering their resolution to continue with me in the service, by joining in the centre. The scheme had so far the desired effect, that all the field-officers but one, who pleaded indisposition, and all the other commissioned officers but five, and two Adjutants, joined me. I then charged them in their different departments to exert themselves with the non-commissioned officers and privates, and to make returns to me by twelve o'clock to-morrow. What the event will be I know not; but I shall communicate it without the loss of a moment to you. In the mean time I shall withhold the money till I receive your directions; I therefore do not send a receipt for it, because perhaps I shall be so mortified as to be obliged to return it with my own hands.

But supposing my whole brigade should resolve to continue in the service, how little will it avail! I have to guard the shore, and the passes through the mountains; and have not men to spare for scouts. I want Light-Horsemen to bring me intelligence of the enemy, and more troops to send to engage the enemy's Light-Horse and curb or punish the numerous Tories in the southern confines of this County and the northern parts of *Bergen* County. Those villains are extremely insolent; insult our few friends, assist our enemy in their rapine, cart for the enemy's Army, inlist in their service, and go to them for protection; in short, I must have immediate assistance from the Army or Militia, or I shall have nothing to comfort me but the sense of an ardent desire to do my country effectual service.

For further news, I have none encouraging. I have this afternoon had the uncomfortable information, that an express, sent by General *Lee* with despatches to General *Washington*, has fallen into the hands of the enemy with his dispatches, and is now in confinement. It is reported, and with grounds that induce my belief, that the enemy between *Hackensack* and *Acquacknock*, consisting of about eight thousand, are now in motion to the southward, and have passed a fording place above *Acquacknock* Bridge. It is also said that they have landed eight thousand at *Amboy*. General *Washington* is on the west side of *Newark*, near the mountains; his troops increased by a junction of Militia and two brigades from the southward; but that Lord *Stirling* and General *Beall* have not yet joined them. We have a good many friends still remaining at *Tupan*. They should by all means be protected. I expect daily to hear of something decisive. Be assured, sir, I shall not fail to convey every material intelligence.

Permit me, sir, to conclude with the most unfeigned acknowledgments to the honourable Committee for the unmerited honour they have done me by their resolves, which I shall be studious by my future conduct to make some better title; and to assure you, sir, that I am, with all imaginable respect, their and your most obedient servant,

JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

The Honourable Chairman Committee of Safety.

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COLONEL A. HAWKES HAY TO JOHN MCKESSON.

Haverstraw, November 28th, 1776.

SIR: I make bold to send you the enclosed account, and beg you will get it passed, and receive the money for me, and send it down by the first safe opportunity. I have often sent it to *Fishkill*, but never could find Mr. *Sands* there. The people who trusted Captain *Keas* with the necessaries are very impatient for their money, and I do assure you that it hurts the cause very much, and I cannot now purchase any provisions for the Army that pass through this place without advancing the cash. I must also trouble you to add for Captain *Keirs* what sum the Committee of Safety may think proper to allow him for his great trouble.

I am, dear sir, your very humble servant,

A. HAWKES HAY.

To *John McKesson*, Esq.

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Haverstraw, 15 June, 1776.

Captain *Karce* to *John Staples*, debtor, on account of Congress—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 hhds. Rum, 222 gallons, at 9s. 4d. | £103 | 12 0 |
| 67¾ gallons of Spirits, at 12s. | 40 | 13 0 |
| 5¾ do. of Gin, at 13s. | 3 | 14 9 |
| 7½ do. of Rum, of *Ja Waldron*, at 9s. 4s. | 3 | 10 0 |
| | 151 | 9 9 |
| To 1 case of Gin | 4 | 10 0 |
| | £155 | 19 9 |

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DR. The Convention of the State of *New-York*, to the Precinct of *Haverstraw*, in *Orange* County, for sundries supplied the Guards while the ships of war lay in the Bay of *Haverstraw* and *Nyack*, from the 12th *July* to the 21st *August*, 1776—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To *Samuel Yeomans*, for 2 Sheep, at 18s. | £1 | 16 | 0 |
| To *John Vander Voord*, for 4 do., at 19s. | 3 | 16 | 0 |
| To *Benjamin Benson*, for 2 do., at 18s. | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| To *Joseph D. Clark*, for 1 do., at 18s. | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| To *John Coe*, for half ton of Hay | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| To *Michael Vander Voord*, for half ton do. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| To the Widow *Noyelles*, for half ton do. | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| | £14 | 2 | 0 |
| To Potatoes | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| To 11¾ lbs. Butter, at 1s. | 0 | 11 | 9 |
| To 19 bushels and 1 peck Indian Corn, at 4s. | 3 | 17 | 0 |
| To 6 bushels and 1 peck of Oats, at 2s. 9d. | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| To 3 bushels Bran, at 1s. 4d. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| To 3 bushels of Salt of the Widow *Noyelles*, at 10s. | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| To *Abraham Fea*, for 162½ lbs. Mutton, at 3½d. | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| To *Theodorus Sneedeker*, 81½ lbs. Mutton, at 3½d. | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| | 10 | 15 | 8½ |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| To *Susanna Knapp*, for 40 meals Victuals, at 9*d*.. | 1 | 10 | 0 | | |
| To do., for 13 lbs. Mutton, at 3½*d*.... | 0 | 3 | 11½ | | |
| To do., for 12 lbs. Bread, at 2*d*..... | 0 | 2 | 0 | | |
| To do., for 1 Sheep, for Lieutenant *Van Houten's* party..... | 0 | 18 | 0 | | |
| To Boarding 5 of the Light-Horsemen 3 days.... | 1 | 13 | 9 | | |
| To Pasturing their horses, at 9*d*..... | 0 | 11 | 3 | | |
| To 136 meals of Victuals for Colonel *Hay's* party.. | 5 | 2 | 0 | | |
| To 121 lbs. Mutton, at 3½ of *Susanna Knapp*.... | 1 | 15 | 3½ | | |
| To 57 lbs. of Bread of do. do., at 2*d*..... | 0 | 9 | 6 | | |
| To *James De Clark*, 294 lbs. Beef, Hide and Tallow, at 4½..... | 5 | 10 | 3 | | |
| | | | | 17 | 16 0 |
| To do., 322 lbs. do. do., at 4½ | 6 | 0 | 9 | | |
| To do., for 346 lbs. do. do., at 4½ | 6 | 9 | 9 | | |
| To do., for 58 lbs. Beef, at 4*d*..... | 0 | 19 | 4 | | |
| To do., for 124 lbs. Beef, at 4*d*..... | 2 | 1 | 4 | | |
| To *Jeremiah Williams*, for 179 lbs. Beef, at 3*d*..... | 2 | 4 | 9 | | |
| To *Daniel Voorhis*, for sundries for Captain *Woodhull's* company..... | 1 | 12 | 0 | | |
| To do., for do. for Captain *Isaac Smith's* company..... | 3 | 18 | 10 | | |
| To *Harmanus Tallman*, for Captain *Woodhull's* company..... | 1 | 14 | 0 | | |
| To *Daniel Vorhis*, for Captain *Lent's* company.... | 2 | 15 | 4 | | |
| To do., for Captain *Bell's* company..... | 4 | 4 | 3 | | |
| To *James De Clark*, for Boarding men of *Johnson's* company..... | 0 | 12 | 6 | | |
| To *Harmanus Tallman*, for Colonel *Hay's* party.. | 5 | 8 | 8 | | |
| | | | | 30 | 1 6 |
| To *Daniel Vorhis*, for 10 cwt. Wheat Flour, 19s.. | | | | 9 | 10 0 |
| To do., for Lead and sundries..... | 2 | 12 | 8 | | |
| To the Widow *Noyelles*, for Pasture for Captain *Woodhull's* horses..... | 1 | 10 | 0 | | |
| To do., for Captain *Selleny's* company's horses..... | 1 | 17 | 6 | | |
| To *Paulus Vander Voord*, for a load of baggage to *Nyack*..... | 0 | 16 | 0 | | |
| To hiring of Horses of the Widow *Noyelles*..... | 1 | 12 | 0 | | |
| To *G. W. Kiers*, for Horse hire..... | 0 | 10 | 0 | | |
| To Cartage of Pork..... | 0 | 4 | 0 | | |
| To *John Staples'* account for Liquors..... | 155 | 19 | 9 | | |
| To the Widow *Noyelles*, for 10 lbs. Candles..... | 0 | 10 | 0 | | |
| | | | | 165 | 11 11 |
| To do., 14 lbs. Tallow, at 9*d*..... | 0 | 10 | 6 | | |
| To 31 lbs. Bacon, at 7*d*., of do..... | 0 | 18 | 1 | | |
| To 14 lbs. Lead, of do., at 6*d*..... | 3 | 10 | 0 | | |
| To 14 lbs. of do., *G. W. Kiers*..... | 0 | 7 | 0 | | |
| To 34 lbs. of Powder, of do., at 6s..... | 10 | 4 | 0 | | |
| To *Johannes Tallman*, for 60 lbs. Mutton, 3½..... | 0 | 19 | 8 | | |
| To do., for 16 Dinners for Captain *Moffett's* company..... | 0 | 16 | 0 | | |
| To *John Allison*, for the sick people..... | 6 | 14 | 6 | | |
| To charges on Burying..... | 0 | 16 | 0 | | |
| | | | | 24 | 15 9 |
| To 3 Boards, for a bread tray..... | 0 | 3 | 6 | | |
| To 1,000 Brick, at 30s., for oven ..... | 1 | 10 | 0 | | |
| To 6 bushels Lime, at 2s..... | 0 | 12 | 0 | | |
| To paid *Thomas Greffferts*, mason..... | 0 | 15 | 0 | | |
| To *John Wilson*, for 18 lbs. Mutton, at 3½..... | 0 | 5 | 3 | | |
| To Doctor *Osborn*, as per bill..... | 3 | 18 | 3 | | |
| To *Roleff Van Houten*, for 34 cwt. Wheat Flour, at 17s..... | 28 | 18 | 0 | | |
| To do., for 5½ cwt. Rye Meal, at 12s. | 3 | 3 | 0 | | |
| To do., for 2 cwt. fine Flour, at 19s.. | 1 | 18 | 0 | | |
| To do., for baking the Flour..... | 9 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | | | | 50 | 3 0 |
| To do., for carting Flour and Bread.. | 3 | 0 | 0 | | |
| To *John Ryder*, for 17 Dinners for Captain *Moffett's* company..... | 0 | 17 | 0 | | |
| To *George Bainson*, for 13 Dinners for do..... | 0 | 13 | 0 | | |
| To Colonel *Sherwood*, for 3,340 lbs. Beef..... | 55 | 13 | 4 | | |
| To *Philip Servant's* account for Victuals..... | 3 | 2 | 6 | | |
| To *John Vanderbilt*, 719 lbs. Wheat Bread, at 2½*d*. | 6 | 14 | 8 | | |
| 173 lbs. Rye ..... at 2*d*.. | 1 | 8 | 10 | | |
| To *Roleff Van Houten's* account for Boarding .. | 2 | 6 | 10 | | |
| To *Abraham Pew*, for 64 lbs. Bread..... | 0 | 9 | 0 | | |
| To *Resolved Van Houten*, for 3½ lbs. Butter, at 1*s*. | 0 | 3 | 6 | | |
| To *Roleff Van Houten*, for , at 4*d*..... | 2 | 11 | 8 | | |
| To do., for 13½ lbs. Butter, at 9*d*.. | 0 | 10 | 1½ | | |
| | | | | 77 | 9 5½ |
| To *James De Clark*, for a horse Express..... | 0 | 6 | 0 | | |
| To 66 lbs. Beef, of Colonel *Hay*, at 4*d*..... | 1 | 2 | 0 | | |
| To *Arian Underdonk*, for Bread and Butter for Colonel *Hay's* party..... | 0 | 14 | 0 | | |
| To *Jacob Polhemus*..... | 0 | 8 | 8 | | |
| To *John Waldron*, accounts..... | 3 | 7 | 0 | | |
| To *Sarah Underdonk*..... | 1 | 7 | 0 | | |
| To *Michell Cornelson*, 50½ lbs. Mutton, at 3½*d*.. | 0 | 14 | 8¾ | | |
| To 8 cwt. of Wheat Flour, of *Cornelius Van Horn*, at 18s..... | 7 | 4 | 0 | | |
| | | | | 15 | 3 4¾ |
| | | | | £423 | 8 8¾ |
| To *Paulus Vander Voord*, omitted..... | | | | 14 | 0 |

This is to certify that the above Account is just, and that I have in my possession vouchers for every article in this Account.

A. Hawkes Hay, *Commanding Officer.*

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GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fort Montgomery, November 28th, 1776.

Dear Sir: Colonel *Snyder's* regiment has left this garrison to-day, and Colonel *Humphrey's* regiment I expect will leave us next *Sunday*, as their times will then be out that they engaged for; and all the men that will be left at both *Fort Constitution* and this place will be but five companies of my regiment, and several of them say their time is out.

We are much in want of about thirty pounds of twenty-penny nails for to cover part of the barrack on the south side of the creek. If there is any of them in store at *Peekskill*, please to order that quantity to Major *Pawling*, who has promised me to send them up here.

I am, sir, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

James Clinton, *Brigadier-General.*

P. S. I expected to have seen you here before this time.

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FREDERICK ROORBACK TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

New-Windsor, November 28th, 1776.

Gentlemen: My request is to know whether the honourable house of Convention will let the house of Mr. *Barclay's*. I should be glad to know the conditions by the bearer, my son, as I want a place. I would have done myself the honour to have waited on the honourable House in person, but being indisposed, hope you will not take it ill I take this method. If the condition suits, I shall send an immediate answer.

I am, gentlemen, with the greatest respect, your very humble servant,

Frederick Roorback.

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MRS. MARGARET INGLIS TO JAMES DUANE.

New-Windsor, November 28, 1776.

Sir: The humanity you so eminently possess, I plead in excuse for the favour I am about to ask; which is to request you will exert your good offices, as far as you can with propriety, to procure leave from the honourable the Provincial Congress of this State for me to return to *New-York*, with my family and furniture, from which I have been absent near fourteen months, which has reduced me to great difficulty and distress, with three helpless infants, besides the pain of being separated from my husband in those distressing times when we have need of every friend to comfort us.

I am encouraged to make this application, as I have lately heard that several ladies that were in *Jersey* have been permitted to return to *New-York* with their families and furniture, particularly Mrs. *Antell* and Mrs. *Barrow*, which makes me flatter myself that I shall have the same indulgence, of which I, and I am confident Mr. *Inglis* will ever retain a grateful sense. Should leave be granted, of which I have the strongest hopes, I must also beg the permission of a sloop to carry myself and family from *New-Windsor*, under such restrictions as the honourable Congress shall approve.

As the winter is advancing fast, I must beg you will let me have your answer as soon as possible.

Please present my best compliments to Mrs. *Duane*.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very humble servant,

Margaret Inglis.

To the Honourable *James Duane*, Esq., at *Fishkill*.

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WILLIAM MILLER TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Harrison's Precinct, November ye 28th, 1776.

Gentlemen: As you verbally ordered me to get the records of this our County, and them secure in some safe place, I found at my return that *John Thomas*, Jr., Esq., had been so thoughtful of the security of the County, as to apply to General *Wister* for a guard, and go down to *New-Rochel* and take the records into his care, and give his receipt. Now, gentlemen, the records is at Mr. *Thomas's*, and at his risk, as he had no order. He, as well as I, desires some written order may be sent from your body respecting the said records, and you may depend it will be complied with.

A matter has lately turned up which I am a stranger to, and desire your advice; which is, in what manner an executor is to be qualified to take an estate into their hands and dispose of it, as there is no court of probates in this State; and as I have been appointed an executor to an estate which has much need of settling, would desire your directions as soon as conveniently you could give it; and in so doing you will do justice to the estate, and greatly oblige, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

Wm. Miller.

To Colonel *Pierre V. Cortlandt*, President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT TO GENERAL HEATH.

November 28th, 1776.

SIR: The Convention of this State, impressed with a sense of your politeness and attention to them, have directed me, in the strongest terms, to return their thanks for your several favours, the intelligence communicated, the anxiety you express for the better security of this State, and the success of our common cause, by obstructing *Hudson's* river, and preserving the important communication between the Eastern and Southern Governments. We have taken into consideration the plan suggested by Brigadier-General *Clinton* for obstructing the river opposite to *Pollepel's Island;* and conceiving it to be practicable, we are determined, with the permission of Congress, to proceed with the utmost vigour to carry it into effect. The assistance you so cheerfully and obligingly promise will be very essential, and we shall, from time to time, avail ourselves of it.

With great pleasure we received the resolution of his Excellency General *Washington.*

The necessity of securing the passes in the Highlands is so urgent, and the motions and designs of the enemy so mysterious and uncertain, that it would have given us infinite pain had the troops in your division been withdrawn. We entertain no doubt of his Excellency General *Washington's* attention to this great object; and trust that, at all events, a force will be maintained, both at the lower and the oblong pass, as well as on the western shore, sufficient to baffle any enterprise which may be formed by the enemy.

Nothing shall be wanting on our part to prevail on the troops of this State to continue in the service for one month longer. We have, upon this subject, agreed to the resolutions which we have the honour to transmit; and we are not without strong hopes that they will have their effect.

Many of our Militia have been furnished with arms and accoutrements belonging to the State; for the return of which the respective Colonels are answerable. To prevent the loss or embezzlement of those essential articles, which it is out of our power to replace, the utmost care is necessary. We have, therefore, enjoined Lieutenant-Colonel *Hardenburg*, by this opportunity, to deliver all the publick arms in the hands of his battalion at this place on the dismission of the Militia, and to communicate this injunction to such of the other Field Officers as are chargeable with publick arms; and we entreat you to give all the weight to this direction which may be proper to secure its efficacy.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant. By order of the Committee of Safety,

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice President.*

The Honourable Major-General *Heath.*

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *Hartford, November* 28th, 1776,—

Present, His Honour the Governour, His Honour the Deputy Governour, *Eliph't Dyer, William Williams, Titus Hosmer, Benjamin Huntington,* and *Thomas Seymour,* Esqs.

Agreed, on permitting Mr. *Irving,* a prisoner, taken by Commodore *Hopkins,* to go to Congress, on his parole, for his exchange or liberty to return to his family on parole, as the Congress shall see cause to order.

Voted, to assign the case of *Justus Miles,* a person inimical to the *United States of America,* to Mr. *Chapman Grant,* of *East-Windsor,* who is hereby authorized to keep and govern the said *Miles,* in such a manner as he thinks prudent, till further orders from the General Assembly or this Council.

Voted, to replace 4 cwt. and 3 quarters of Cannon Powder to Mr. *Titus Hosmer,* due to him for Powder supplied by him for use of the Lead Mines in *Middletown,* and to give an order on the Treasurer for the same. (Order drawn and delivered Mr. *Hosmer, November* 28th, 1776.)

Voted, that the list of Officers now appointed to fill up the vacancies of Field Officers, Captains, and Subalterns, occasioned by refusal of like officers in the eight Battalions to be raised in this State, for Continental service, be drawn off, fairly transcribed, and transmitted to Major-General *Spencer,* and that the Generals from this State, in the service, be desired and empowered, with the assistance of the Colonels, to arrange said Officers into Regiments and Companies; and in case any of said Officers shall decline to accept the offices to which they are appointed, that the General Officers aforesaid be desired to recommend other persons duly qualified to supply their places, and transmit such arrangement and recommendations to his Honour the Governour; and that they fill and deliver proper Commissions to such Officers as have accepted, or shall accept, the offices to which they have been or are appointed.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO COMMODORE HOPKINS.

Providence, November 28, 1776.

SIR: I received yours of yesterday by express. Am sorry to find by the contents that any of your officers have been obstructed in their duty in picking up the deserters from the ships. Shall use my endeavours to give all due assistance to the officers of the fleet in picking up their deserters. If the offenders can be found out, shall endeavour that they be brought to justice.

From, sir, your most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Commodore *Hopkins,* in *Newport.*

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COLONEL FRANCIS TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Dorchester, November y^e^ 28th, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIR: Permit me to request of you the favour of returning the honourable Board my most hearty thanks for the honour done me in appointing me Colonel of one of the new regiments now raising for the defence of these States. It will ever be my greatest solicitude to honor the station in which they are pleased to place me, and hope I may be so happy as to do real service to my country.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, your most humble servant,

EBEN'R FRANCIS.

To the Honourable the President of the Council Board.

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GENTLEMEN: I am under the disagreeable necessity of informing the honourable Board that the non-commissioned officers and privates in the regiment which I have the honour to command will not consent to continue in the present service upon the encouragement offered by the honourable House of this State.

I am, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

EBEN'R FRANCIS, *Colonel.*

To the honourable the Council of the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay.*

Dorchester, November 28th, 1776.

N. B. It appears by the report of the officers that the men will tarry upon the same encouragement given the Militia, and will not tarry any thing short of that.

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JOHN ADAMS TO JAMES WARREN.

Braintree, November 28th, 1776.

SIR: I had this moment, between two and three o'clock, the honour of your letter of this day's date, requiring my attendance on the honourable House of Representatives. Some particular circumstances render it inconvenient for me to set off this afternoon, but to-morrow morning I will do myself the honour of waiting on the honourable House.

Mean time I am your humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

Honourable *James Warren,* Esq.

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 29th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The several letters you will receive with this will give you some idea of the situation I have been in for some months past, though after all must refer you to Mr. *Rogers* to be particular upon some subjects. I should never have completed what I have but for the generous, the indefatigable and spirited exertions of Monsieur *Beaumarchais,* to whom the *United States* are on every account greatly indebted; more so than to any other person on this side the water. He is greatly in advance of stores, clothing, and the like, and therefore am confident you will make him the earliest and most ample remittances. He wrote you by

Mr. *McCrery*, and will write you again by this conveyance. A nephew of his, a young gentleman of family, education, and spirit, makes a voyage to *America* with Monsieur *Du Coudray*, and is ambitious of serving his first campaigns in your service. I recommend him, therefore, to your particular patronage and protection, as well on account of the great merits of his uncle as on that of his being a youth of spirit and genius; and just entering the world in a foreign country, he needs protection and advice paternal to countenance and encourage him. This I have confidently assured his uncle he will constantly receive from you, and am happy in knowing you will fulfill my engagements on that score, and in whatever department you may fix him, that you will recommend him to the patronage of some person on whom you may rely to act at once the friendly and the paternal part.

A particular account of the stores shipped may probably not be ready by this vessel, but may go by the next or some succeeding one, as several will sail after this on the same errand.

Let me by every letter urge on you the sending in season a quantity of tobacco, of rice, and of flour or wheat. These are articles which cannot fail, and are capital ones; lesser are not to be admitted. Twenty thousand hogsheads of tobacco are this instant wanted in *France*, besides the demand in other kingdoms.

I think Monsieur *Beaumarchais* wrote you under the firm of *Hortalez & Co.;* if so you will address him in the same style; but as I must probably remain here until the arrival of these articles, I can regulate that on the arrival of your despatches.

I have advised these stores being shipped for some of the *New-England* ports northeast of *New-Port* first, and if failing of making a port there to stand for the Capes of *Delaware*, or for *Charleston, South-Carolina*, as the most likely route to avoid interception. I cannot, in a letter, do full justice to Monsieur *Beaumarchais*, for his great address and assiduity in our cause. I can only say he appears to have undertaken it on great and liberal principles, and has in the pursuit made it his own. His interest and influence, which are great, have been exerted to the utmost in the cause of the *United States*, and I hope the consequences will equal his wishes.

I have the honour to be, &c., SILAS DEANE.

My most respectful compliments wait on the honourable Congress. You will doubtless oblige Mrs. *Trist* by telling her, her husband and Captain *Fowler* were in good health the middle of last month.

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 29th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have recommended several officers to your service, but none with greater pleasure, scarce any one with so much confidence of his answering great and valuable purposes, as the bearer, Colonel *Conway*, a native of *Ireland*, advanced in this service by his merit. His views are, of establishing himself and his growing family in *America*. Consequently he becomes our countryman, and engages on the most certain principles. This gentleman has seen much service. His principal department has been that of training and disciplining troops and preparing for action; and from his abilities, as well as from his long experience, is considered as one of the most skillful disciplinarians in *France*. Such an officer must be, I conceive, of very great service; and his generously confiding in the honourable Congress for such rank and appointments as they shall confer, entitles him still more to our immediate attention and notice. I have assured him of the most favourable reception, and am confident he will receive the same.

Colonel *Conway* brings with him some young officers of his own training, which know well the *English* language, and may be of immediate service in the same important department of discipline.

As Colonel *Conway* has been long in service, (though in prime of life,) I am confident you would not think it right he should rank under those who have served under him in this kingdom, which will not be the case if he fill the place of an Adjutant or Brigadier-General, for which I am well assured he is every way well qualified.

I have advanced him, as per receipt enclosed, towards his expenses and appointments or wages, and told him he may rely on your granting him one of the above ranks in the Continental forces. Should the honourable Congress have a new body of troops to form in any part of the Continent, this gentleman might take the direction of them to very great advantage, and may, I presume, be equally so in the station you may appoint him in the main Army.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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Williamsburg, November 29, 1776.

On *Tuesday* last the remains of our late amiable and beloved fellow-citizen, the Hon. *Peyton Randolph*, Esquire, were conveyed in a hearse to the College Chapel, attended by the worshipful brotherhood of Freemasons, both Houses of Assembly, a number of other gentlemen, and the inhabitants of this city. The body was received from the hearse by the gentlemen of the House of Delegates, who conveyed it to the family vault in the Chapel, after which an excellent oration was pronounced from the pulpit by the Rev. *Thomas Davis*, in honour of the deceased, and recommending it to the respectable audience to imitate his virtues. The oration being ended, the body was deposited in the vault, when every spectator payed their last tribute of tears to the memory of their departed and much-honoured friend; may we add, to whom he was a father, an able counsellor, and one of their firmest patriots. The remains of this worthy man were brought thither from *Philadelphia* by *Edmund Randolph*, Esq., at the earnest request of his uncle's afflicted and inconsolable widow.

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Williamsburg, November 29, 1776.

On *Tuesday* night an express arrived from Colonel *Christian*, with despatches to his Excellency, advising of his having returned with his Army from the *Cherokee* country, after concluding a treaty of peace with *Oucanastota* and three other chiefs, on the part of the whole nation, in their capital of *Chote*, the particulars of which are as follows, viz: All captives in their towns, white or black, to be delivered up; those belonging to *Virginia* by the 10th of *February*, at the *Long-Island*; and such as were taken from the States of *South-Carolina* and *Georgia*, at or near *Keowee*, as soon as possible; besides the horses, cattle, and property of every kind they have taken from the inhabitants, or their value, to be ascertained by Commissioners on both sides, who are to meet for that purpose at the *Long-Island*. No white people to be entertained by the *Cherokees*, after they are demanded to be delivered up to the States of *America*. All matters relating to lands, boundaries, trade, agents, and people residing amongst the *Cherokees*, alliances, marching armies through their country, and building forts therein, to be wholly submitted to the *Virginia* State, with any number of their own chiefs, not exceeding five, to determine. War to cease, and peace, harmony, and brotherly affection to take place. For the faithful performance of these articles, they agreed to deliver up fifteen hostages, such as Colonel *Christian* should demand of them; to be exchanged yearly for such others as the *Virginia* State may require to be put into their hands.

Colonel *Christian* thought proper, before he set out on his return home, to make an example of three towns under the influence of a chief called the *Dragon Canoe*, who was the principal cause of the war; and one other, called *Chilhowcy*, where a white prisoner of ours was lately burnt. These he utterly destroyed, but did no other damage to the *Indians*, whose perfidious conduct, on many occasions, might have justified a more rigorous chastisement. It is to be hoped, however, that the Colonel's humane treatment of the savages, when he had it so much in his power to distress them, will render abortive any future machinations of such incendiaries as *Stuart* and *Cameron* to stir them up to war against the *United States*.

Captain *Guest* arrived in town this week from Colonel *Christian's* camp, who, we are glad to learn, has fully made appear, by sundry depositions, his inviolable attachment to his country during his residence with the *Indians*.

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Williamsburg, November 29, 1776.

Three salt vessels, and a *French* brig from *Cape François*, with a valuable cargo of woolens, linens, and other dry goods,

besides salt, are safely arrived at *Hampton*. The Captain of the *French* vessel informs, that there are four frigates of his nation cruising off the Cape to protect the *American* trade; that upwards of twenty more *French* vessels, with large cargoes of goods, may be daily expected at different *American* ports; that a large fleet of men-of-war was shortly expected at the Cape, under the Duke *De Chartres*; and that the *French* Islands were full of troops, all which arrangements render it highly probable that we may soon hear some important news from that quarter.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 29th, 1776.

SIRS: I have this day, I believe, paid all the bills and advanced all the money for both Captains and hands for the schooner *Friendship* and the *Ninety-Two*. The sums are great indeed. They all promise they will sail to-morrow. I wish it may be the case. I have paid Captain *Kelty* thirty pounds, I believe for his own use and by his advice, and the scarcity of hands. I have got the mate of the prize snow to ship himself mate of the *Ninety-Two*, with one of the hands, and paid him the wages due, which was £32 13*s.* 4*d.* The bills brought in against every vessel, with the sailors' and captains' wages, is so very high that it really scares me every day the sums paid, and I see no way to shun it, nor do I see any chance of it growing better.

I have beef enough salted, and have the promise of pork; but what to do I know not, for the people have got to know that I have some salt which is yours, and they are threatening to put the laws down, and declare they will have the salt out. I never saw the people so desperate. I can hardly pass the streets; and you may as well reason with the wind. I cannot purchase a bushel for no person, for if any man gets more than two bushels they suspect him of making some unjust use of it. If they say much more about the salt, I will send some of it down to you. I propose to-morrow to send some more into every butcher's hand. I really wish the people had salt. Captain *Martin* will be loaded about *Wednesday*, I think; but if he sails *Monday* or *Tuesday* week, I shall think myself well off, for it is impossible to make the despatch I could wish.

I am desired to hold myself in readiness to march for *New-York* or *Jerseys Monday* or *Tuesday* next. If I must march, I really don't know what will become of your business, and a number of other people's; but, as my country calls, I suppose I ought to obey. As to getting more salt for you, I declare it is out of my power; nor do I think there is a man in town that would choose to put twenty bushels of salt in a warehouse at this time and it be known. I shall do my best for you.

From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

Honourable Council of Safety at *Annapolis*.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 29, 1776.

SIRS: Enclosed you have a charge, which I have paid for two hands on board the *Ninety-Two*. Please let the Captain have it.

Captain *Rogers* I have paid for *Mikell Mackenier* £1 4*s.* 10*d.* Please to charge him with it, and you will oblige me. He was taken by the constable. From

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

I paid for *Mikell Mackenier*, 28th of the month, £2 12*s.*, for his board. So that I have paid for him in the whole, £3 16*s.* 10*d.*

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

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CAPTAIN CONWAY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 29th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I take the pleasure to acquaint you of my safe arrival from *Martinico*, in the sloop *Molly*. Having a long passage, twenty-two days, up as high as *Point Look-Out*, as the winds keep to the north so long, I knew I could not get up the Bay soon. I thought I had better send the letters by express, having one of my sailors acquainted with the road. I shall lose no time and make the best of my way with the sloop up to *Annapolis*. Seed nothing to interrupt my passage at the Capes.

From your obedient and humble servant,

THOMAS CONWAY.

The honourable Council of Safety in *Annapolis, Maryland*.

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WARNER.

November 29, 1776.

SIR: We have sent Doctor *Smith* to take charge of the wounded men belonging to the *Fly*; and since the vessel is no longer in condition for prosecuting her cruise, you are to return with her into this port as quickly as you can, bringing with you the wounded men and the Surgeon now sent to take care of them.

We are, sir, your very humble servants.

Captain *Elisha Warner*.

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PETITION OF MAJOR LAMB TO CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

[Read 29 November, 1776.]

*To the honourable Congress of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

GENTLEMEN: Although the enemy have, contrary to my expectations, liberated me from the dreary horrours of a prison, and suffered me to return to my family and friends, I am still subject to their power and controul, liable to be called upon by them to surrender myself a prisoner whenever they please, and restrained by the sacred ties of honour from drawing my sword again in defence of my country till exchanged for some officer of theirs. Extremely anxious to be relieved from this truly painful and disagreeable situation, I waited on General *Washington* immediately after my arrival from *Quebeck*, earnestly soliciting his interest with your Honours for that purpose. But as I have not yet heard that such an event has taken place, owing I imagine to the critical situation of the two armies, I take the liberty to address your Honours on that subject, humbly requesting that I may be included in the next exchange of prisoners. And as I have unfortunately been prevented by the fate of war from taking up arms again this campaign, in support of the freedom and independence of the *American States*, and being conscious of having done no more than my duty in my former exertions for the publick good, I can have no claim to your Honours' particular attention; yet, as I have been formerly honoured with your approbation of my conduct, and a singular mark of your confidence, by an appointment to the chief command of the Artillery in the Northern Department, I flatter myself that I have not been neglected by your Honours in the new arrangement of the corps of Artillery.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of gratitude, duty, and respect, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN LAMB.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Brunswick, November 29th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I this morning received your favour of the 26th. Your letters to Governour *Trumbull* for a reinforcement of Militia were exceedingly proper, though I doubt much whether they can be obtained, as they have suffered many inconveniences in the course of the present campaign; nor was the application to Mr. *Bowdoin* for clothes, &c., less necessary. I am happy to hear the men discover so much readiness to engage in the service; and that there may be no objection for want of bounty money, I have directed the Paymaster-General to advance it to such of the Colonels as apply, and who are appointed and agreed to continue. I imagine you have settled with the Commissary a plan for being supplied with provisions on your march; that will be highly expedient; I will use my exertions.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO COLONEL TRUMBULL.

Brunswick, November 29th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: His Excellency received your favour of the 26th. The warrant which it enclosed has been properly

signed and delivered to the boy who brought it, that he may receive the amount of Colonel *Palfrey*, should he be coming this way. If he is not, and should still be at *Peekskill*, and you are there, I have directed the lad to deliver it to you.

I have nothing very particular to communicate to you. We left *Newark* yesterday morning, and in a little time after, the enemy entered; we arrived here.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

R. H. Harrison.

To Colonel *Joseph Trumbull*, Commissary-General of Provisions.

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ROBERT H. HARRISON TO COLONEL PALFREY.

New-Brunswick, November 29th, 1776.

Dear Sir: The critical situation of our affairs making it necessary that every measure should be adopted that can possibly facilitate the recruiting service and raising a new army, his Excellency is willing that you should advance, from time to time, to such Colonels as you know are appointed, and who agree to serve again, such sums of money as they may conceive to be necessary for paying the bounty of twenty dollars allowed by Congress to each private who shall inlist; keeping in view that they are not to go beyond the amount which the whole bounty to a regiment will be. You will make this known to the Colonels who are within the above description, and take their receipts for whatever money they obtain, on the back of which his Excellency will sign a warrant whenever you present them. This scheme is to expedite matters.

The enemy are now at *Newark*, if not advanced farther.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

R. H. Harrison.

To Lieutenant-Colonel *William Palfrey*, Paymaster-General.

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COLONEL TYLER TO GENERAL HEATH.

Tappan, November 29, 1776.

Dear General: I am here with my regiment, and have got away the stores agreeable to your Honour's orders. Major *Clark* is gone with his party this day. I have the orders this day from General *Scott* to tarry here till further orders. My regiment has not their baggage with them, nor their cooking utensils, which makes it very difficult to be here, but shall tarry until further orders. I believe the people in general that are friendly have got away their valuable effects. Should be glad your Honour would take the matter into your wise consideration, and give such orders as you think proper, which I shall be fond of executing.

Am in haste your humble servant,

John Tyler, *Colonel*.

To General *Heath*.

Have sent Ensign *Doramme*, who took three horses below the enemy's lines yesterday. The Ensign will acquaint your Honour about the affair. Thought proper to acquaint yourself concerning the horses, and send the officer.

J. T.

P. S. Purpose to keep a good look-out, &c. By the best information I can get, the enemy are making towards the southward.

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EBENEZER LOCKWOOD TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Pound-Ridge, November 29th, 1776.

Sir: These are to inform you that I have been at *Stamford* this day, and was informed by several gentlemen that might be depended on, that there is but a few of the enemy's ships up the Sound, and them but small ones, thought to have no troops on board of them; and they think the enemy will not land there this year, except it be to plunder off some of their stock that may be down on their necks of land.

There was landed from a brig and tender this day a number of men at *Greenwich*, a place about two miles below the post-road, near *Stamford*, where (as was supposed) they thought to have taken off a number of sheep, but they were disappointed, for some boys drove them off, while the inhabitants fired on the enemy. The enemy soon returned to their ships. The enemy got off only four poor calves, under the cover of their cannon. A poor bargain. The ships soon went up the Sound to the east, out of sight. The men, both old and young, came down in large numbers when they heard the cannon, and from several miles back, and seemed to be in high spirits. So on the whole I think things appear more favourable than I expected in this part. Mr. *Mills* is to set out to come to you on *Monday* next. I hope to be with you about the middle of next week.

From your humble servant,

Eben. Lockwood.

*Pierre V. Cortlandt*, Vice President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at the *Fishkills*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL SCOTT.

Peekskill, November 29th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have received your favour of yesterday's date, and thank you for the intelligence it contains.

The lead I would have forwarded to this place. I congratulate you on the success of your application to the honourable Convention, and the probability that many of your brigade will continue with you a month longer.

I would have Colonel *Tyler's* regiment continue at *Tappan* until the stores and provisions are all moved off; after which I think it would be best for him to return to his post, though I should be glad to hear from that quarter before he returns.

I imagine that ere this reaches you the field-piece and light-horsemen will have joined you. I must desire you to be particularly careful that the arms, accoutrements, ammunition, tents, tools, utensils, &c., which have been delivered to the several regiments of your brigade, belonging to the publick, are returned before the men are discharged. You will call upon the commanding officers of the several regiments to attend to this matter, as they are charged with them in the publick books.

I am, dear sir, with respect, your most humble servant,

W. Heath.

General *Scott*.

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CERTIFICATE OF DELEGATES OF TRYON COUNTY.

Fishkill, November 29th, 1776.

Whereas we are informed that it has been reported that Captain *McKean* and Lieutenant *French* had last summer discharged their company without any leave, order, or authority: We do hereby certify, that the above report is false and groundless; that the said company has been kept up in service; that we have lately seen the said officers and the company, and know, of our own knowledge, that the said company was in service on the 21st instant, when we were on our way to *Fishkill*. We do further certify, that the said Captain *McKean* and Lieutenant *French* are good and worthy officers, in our opinion. We further certify that Captain *Jacob Sober's* company is dispersed, which may probably have given rise to the report that Captain *McKean* had discharged his company.

John Moore,
Wm. Harper.

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DOCTOR CHAUNCEY GRAHAM TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fishkill, 29 November, 1776.

Much honoured good Sir: Though I had the pleasure of addressing you by a line on your late promotion to a Major-General, yet as I suppose my letter miscarried, I had not the honour of an answer, yet oft have inquired of your health and success, and have as often had the pleasing satisfaction to hear well of both. I should have done myself the honour to visit you before this time, had not a scene of multiplied business prevented.

I must now, dear sir, inform you that upwards of one hundred of the men under your command have fled hither from the Army in the *Jersey*, sixty-five of whom are sick, some dangerous, though but few, all at present unfit for duty. The Committee of Safety of this State have put them all under my care as a physician. Would therefore beg your direction and orders respecting them, which you may depend will be punctually obeyed. If any medicines can be spared, should be glad the enclosed may be sent as near as possible. I know you will excuse my freedom, and trust you will honour me with your commands, which will oblige

him who is, with affection and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant. Excuse haste.

CHAUNCEY GRAHAM.

Honourable *W. Heath*, Major-General.

P. S. If you know where my kinsman Dr. *Graham* is, you will advise in your next.

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J. TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, 29th November, 1776.

SIR: I arrived at this place on *Saturday* eve last, having at length the happiness to leave *Ticonderoga*, not with disgrace.

The troops who were ordered into winter quarters, are now embarking at this place for the assistance of General *Washington*, at the *Jerseys*. I shall attend them, and after that, perhaps come home.

General *Schuyler*, unaccountably to me, has been pleased to desire me to exchange offices with Colonel *Lewis*, Quartermaster-General. What his meaning is I am at a loss. He affects to flatter me with commendations, which I know not the meaning of. What should you think of the exchange?

My best respects attend my mother and the family, and every friend.

I am, sir, your dutiful and affectionate,

J. TRUMBULL.

Honourable *Jonathan Trumbull*.

*December* 2d. I embark to-morrow. J. T.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *Hartford*, *November* 29th, 1776: Present, his Honour the Governour, the Deputy Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *William Williams*, *Titus Hosmer*, *Benjamin Huntington*, *William Hillhouse*, *Thomas Seymour*, Esquires.

Voted, that his Honour the Governour be desired to give orders to the Commissaries that have been employed to purchase Clothing for the use of the soldiers from this State in the Continental Army, to forward such Clothing as they have provided, to the Army, and deliver the same to the Quartermaster-General, or his Assistant or Assistants, or some other proper persons appointed by the General Officers, taking proper receipts; and also that his Honour be desired to give orders to have the Rum and other refreshments provided for the soldiers of this State in the Army, forwarded towards the western parts of this State; and also that his Honour be desired to write General *Washington*, and desire him to advise with such General Officers from this State as are near him, and point out a plan by which the resolve for supplying the soldiers from this State with refreshments and clothing at prime cost, may be carried into execution.

*Wednesday*, *December* 4th, 1776.—Colonel *Dyer*, Colonel *Williams*, and Mr. *Wales*, attended to do business in the Council of Safety, &c.

*Thursday*, *December* 5th, 1776.—Colonel *Dyer*, Colonel *Williams*, Mr. *Wales*, and *Benjamin Huntington*, attended to do business in the Council of Safety, &c.

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JOSIAH WATERS TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

New-London, 29th November, 1776.

SIR: I wrote you a few days since, enclosing a letter from Captain *Prince*, as also a list of prisoners on board the *Whitty*, prison ship, at *New-York*. I have now the pleasure of acquainting you that a cartel is settled for said prisoners, the exchange to be upon, or as near as possible, the 10th day of *December* next, at *Huntington Bay*, on the north side of *Long-Island*.

This information I concluded would be acceptable to you and others the friends of those at present in captivity. A desire, therefore, in some measure to relieve their anxieties will, I presume, be admitted an apology for the freedom taken by, sir, their and your most humble servant,

JOSI. WATERS, Jun.

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New-London, November 29, 1776.

*Tuesday* night last, one *John Goggin*, late Boatswain of the bomb-brig, (who with three other prisoners lately broke out of *Windham* jail,) was found on board a brig in this harbour. He gives the following account of said prisoners, viz: That the night after breaking out of jail, they, with the help of one *Lewis*, who was taken in a prize vessel, stole a canoe near *Norwich* landing, with which they attempted to cross the *Sound* to *Long-Island*, but at the entrance of the race, near *Gull-Islands*, the canoe overset, when all of them except *Goggin* were drowned. Their names are: *Edward Sneyd*, (late commander of the bomb-brig,) *William Cook*, *John Russel*, and *Lewis*.

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JAMES JAUNCY, JUN., TO ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON.

Middletown, in Connecticut, November 29, 1776.

SIR: I use the privilege of our former acquaintance in addressing you on a subject with which you must be in some measure acquainted. It is now almost four months since I was taken, with several other gentlemen, and sent into this government. My father and mother are in the same situation, and at this place also, so that there is no one to take care of our furniture and other valuable effects, to the amount of several thousand pounds, which are at *Flatbush*, on *Long-Island*, and at *Horse-Neck*, *Westchester*. The case of our family is peculiarly hard, as I believe it is the only one of which all the individuals have been apprehended and restrained of their liberty for so long a time on a mere suspicion of being unfriendly, in support of which suspicion, also, no proof whatever has been adduced. Our case is also particular in another respect: before I was taken at *Westchester*, and as soon as I heard a party was in pursuit of me, I wrote to Mr. *Gouverneur Morris*, requesting him to inform me what was alleged against me, either with respect to my conduct in the office I held in the Colony or in my private capacity. His answer contained no intimation of any charge whatever; on the contrary, he informed me that he had communicated my letter to the Convention, that their attention at that time was entirely engrossed by several important matters which was then before them, and that as soon as they were despatched they would consider my requests, &c. I have, notwithstanding, been detained a prisoner ever since, without having any thing further in answer to what I alleged.

The favour, sir, I have now to ask of you is, that you would move the Convention that we may be allowed to return to our own homes. Our family have already suffered greatly by their removal, and they must do so more and more every day that they are detained. I flatter myself, sir, that you will, both from principles of humanity and justice, endeavour to effect our discharge, in which case I shall always properly acknowledge the obligation.

I have the honour to be, your most humble and obedient servant,

JAMES JAUNCY, Jun.

To *Robert R. Livingston*, or in his absence to *James Duane*, Esq.

I forgot to mention, that we understand that on our application being made to General *Washington* for our discharge, he answered that all matters of this sort were referred to the Provincial Convention.

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Saw-Pitts, (in Rye,) Connecticut, November 29, 1776.

When his Honour Governour *Trumbull* recommended it to the householders in the State of *Connecticut*, who are not obliged to do military duty, to form themselves into companies, choose their own officers, and equip themselves for the defence of these States, a number of aged gentlemen, in the first society in the town of *Waterbury*, imbodied themselves and nominated their own officers, who were honoured with commissions; and when the regiment of Militia to which they belong were ordered to *New-York*, agreeable to a late resolve of the General Assembly, this company was the first in the regiment that marched and reached the place of rendezvous. It is now at this place, and consists of twenty-four men; their ages, added together, are a thousand years. They are all married men, and when they came from home, left behind them their wives, with a hundred and forty-nine children and grand children. One of them is fifty-eight years of age, has had nineteen children and twelve grand children; fourteen of his own children are now living. A worthy example of patriotism. Let others go and do likewise

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN NEW-YORK.

This may inform all persons who have friends, prisoners of war, in *New-York*, that Major *Wells*, one of said prisoners, is come to *Connecticut*, on his parole, to collect hard money for the much-distressed and suffering officers and soldiers. The money and letters are to be left with Landlord *Betts*, of *Norwalk*, Captain *Benjamin*, of *Stratford*, Landlord *Beers*, of *New-Haven*, Mr. *Hezekiah Wyllys*, of *Hartford*, and at his own house in *Colchester;* and must be ready by the middle of *December*, with proper directions, and they will be carefully carried, and punctually delivered.

N. B. The letters must not be sealed, nor contain any politicks.

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MAJOR BATT TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GORHAM.

Fort Cumberland, Nova-Scotia, November 29, 1776.

Sir: Pursuant to your orders I marched at half an hour after five o'clock to attack the Rebels, with Captains *Branson* and *Pitcairn's* companies of Light Marines, Captain *Studholm*, Lieutenant *Bodawain*, Lieutenant *Starmar*, Lieutenant *Connor*, four sergeants, and sixty-four rank and file of our regiment. We took the right hand road, leaving *Danks* and *Gays'* houses on the left, and continued our route along the edge of the marsh, under the hill, which prevented our being seen or heard by the enemy. When there was sufficient daylight to enable us clearly to distinguish objects, we began to ascend the hill. In a short time the advanced guard heard the *Indians* talking at their wigwams, and finding we were wholly undiscovered, I detached Captain *Branson's* company to fall upon their right flank, and Captain *Pitcairn's* on their left, whilst I pressed forward in the centre with our detachment; but just as we reached the top of the hill I heard them beat to arms, on which the men gave a loud huzza and ran like lions. The villains fired at us from right and left of the road leading to *Eddy's* head-quarters, which we surrounded.

The Rebels who occupied the house darted out of it at our approach, and fired as they fled, leaving only a negro man behind, who beat the drum. We pursued, however, as fast as we could. The next house we entered was the rendezvous of their wretched committee, and owned by one *Gardiner;* this I burnt, with every Rebel's house and barn for six miles, including the whole *French* settlements at *Bloody Bridge;* every man belonging to which was this day in action against us. All the houses I destroyed contained the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, with numbers of spare arms; and the barns of the *French* were receptacles for quantities of salt provisions, flour, rice, and peas, besides grain of different kinds—circumstances which denoted mature ideas of war.

In sight of the *French* village of *Bloody Bridge* stands the settlement of *Jolly Cœur*, about a mile distant. After the men had taken a little refreshment, I intended to have crossed the marsh, and laid the other nursery of rebellion in ashes; but recollecting the superiority of the detachment under my command, and the correction the enemy had just received, I determined to return to the fort to give them time to reflect on their infamy and madness, to wait the operation of executive justice, and the offer of mercy and oblivion. Indeed, notwithstanding the resentment which their conduct as Rebels highly merits, I should not have added fire to the sword had they not introduced that calamity, by wickedly burning all the buildings near the fort.

Our regiment had one man killed and four wounded. The marines had one man wounded in the body; and when the doctor applied the bandage the ball fell out. The loss of the enemy cannot be ascertained. We did not search for their dead, the thickness of their cover rendering it exceedingly difficult to find them; but in the pursuit we saw two *Indians* and one white man, who had received the just wages of wanton and unprovoked rebellion.

The behaviour of officers and men was equal to the cause that inspired them, and the cheerfulness with which the marine light companies underwent the fatigue of the service deserves the highest encomium.

I have the honour to be, sir, with respect, your obedient and most humble servant,

Thomas Batt, *Major R. F. Americans.*

Lieutenant-Colonel *Gorham.*

HENRICUS GODET TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26 December.]

St. Eustatius, November 30th, 1776.

Sir: With this opportunity, I once more take the liberty in offering any services that may lay in my power, in contributing towards the establishment of a beneficial correspondency. With regard to your supplies, therefore, take the necessary steps, and I make no doubt but it will be agreeable. I have communicated a plan and every necessary step that may attend to an accomplishment, to Captain *Isaiah Robison*, who will be able to give a proper idea of matter.

I conclude, with much esteem, your most obedient servant,

Henricus Godet.

To *John Hancock*, Esq., *Philadelphia.*

P. S. For the want of money from your part, make affairs dull.

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MEMORIAL AND PETITION OF JOHN NOBLE TAYLOR.

[Referred to the Board of War, November 30, 1776.]

*To the honourable the Members of the Continental Congress of* America:

*The Memorial and Petition of* John Noble Taylor, *of the Island of* Bermuda, *Esquire, humbly sheweth:*

That your memorialist, designing to emigrate to the Continent of *America*, has (until he can withdraw a considerable interest from *England*) purchased a location contiguous to the banks of the Mississippi.

That your memorialist was last summer bound from hence, via *Antigua*, to *England*, in the brig the *Fanny*, of this island, previous to his intended emigration; but was interrupted on his voyage by an *American* privateer and carried to *Old Providence;* from whence, by permission of his Honour Governour *Cooke*, he returned to this island on the 10th of last month.

That your memorialist still wishes to go to *England*, as well to put his interest there on such a footing as to be speedily withdrawn from thence, as to furnish himself with some family and other necessaries.

Your memorialist therefore humbly petitions your Honours that he may be indulged with your permission, (ratified and granted to him by your passport at the foot hereof,) as well to go from hence to *England* and to return here from thence with his family, dependents, and baggage, as to proceed from hence to the river *Mississippi* with the same and a load of salt from *Turk's Island.*

And your memorialist and petitioner shall, as in duty bound, forever pray, &c.

John Noble Taylor.

We, whose names are hereunder written, do certify, that *John Noble Taylor*, Esquire, has been many years a resident of this island, and that the facts by him in this memorial stated, are literally true; as witness our hands.

Bermuda, 1 November, 1776.

| | |
|---|---|
| Henry Tucker, | Theodore Godet, |
| Richard Jennings, | Thomas Dickinson, |
| Jno. Jennings, | James Tucker, |
| Henry Tucker, | Wm. Hall, Sen., |
| John Moore, *Clk.*, | John Harvey, |
| | Sam'l Harvey. |

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WILLIAM AYLETT TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Williamsburg, November 26th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I received your very obliging favour of the 12th instant, but was much embarrassed at receiving no certain instructions whether to adopt the Continental ration or those confirmed by Congress in this State under the late contracts. I waited on the Governour and Council with my opinion in writing, and also on the General, which was in both instances approved, as you will observe by the enclosed papers. I therefore proceeded, as a number of people were attending, in consequence of my advertisement, from distant parts of the country, to receive proposals, by the *Virginia* ration; and indeed I was necessitated (as the season of the year for laying in provisions was so far advanced and some of the old contracts nearly out) to do something, but you will observe, by a copy of the contract here enclosed, that I have reserved to the Congress the power of directing any alteration they may think necessary. My plan and reasons

being fully expressed in one of the enclosed papers, to which I beg leave to refer, it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here. That part respecting laying in a sufficient stock of provisions for our five regiments, in the neighbourhood of *New-York*, I shall suspend (until next post) carrying into execution, taking it for granted I shall then hear further from you on the subject. I had some months ago engaged a hundred beeves and four hundred hogs, to be in readiness, lest I should not have it in my power to contract. These I have employed proper persons to barrel. The pork cost twenty shillings net, the beef two pence, and the salt for curing fifteen shillings per bushel, though I have engaged two thousand bushels at 12*s.* 6*d.*, which is not yet arrived but is hourly expected. I expected to have contracted at seven pence half-penny. Had I let the business to the lowest bidder, I believe I could have got it done at that rate for part of the regiments, but the great scarcity and high price of salt, and the apprehensions of a great demand for provisions, and the daily accounts received from the northward of our paper money declining in value, by its being exchanged for silver and gold, at from seventy-five to one hundred per cent. advance, has alarmed people here exceedingly, and upon the whole I thought it would not be sound policy to press hard to lessen the price of the ration, which I am certain I could not have succeeded in for all the troops, and that a disparity in the allowance would have operated to the disadvantage of the troops. I therefore, after much negotiation, opened my instructions to the contracting parties, cautioned them not to think of engaging but with firm resolution to comply punctually in every instance; and besides a bond taken of them, I have inserted a clause that may perpetually stare them in the face, that if they transgress in any instance, their bond, which is for fifty thousand pounds, shall be forfeited.

You will be pleased, sir, to lay these papers before the proper Board, and let me know how my conduct is approved of. I can only say, I have done for the best, and if my poor services meets with approbation, I shall esteem it the better of my reward.

I have no reason, from any offers that were made the day of contracting, to believe I could have obtained any contract for less than eight pence, as none of them were less than eight pence half-penny, until I showed my instructions; but I have other reasons to believe that one or two people would have taken each a single regiment at seven pence half-penny; but besides not liking the men so well, the expenses of wagonage (which will be saved by having the provisions at all the stations the property of one company) would have been greater than the saving a half-penny a ration on one or two regiments, besides the bad consequences to the troops, of being probably not so well fed.

I am, with great respect and esteem, dear sir, your obliged and affectionate humble servant,

WILLIAM AYLETT.

To *Richard Henry Lee*, Esquire, in Congress, *Philadelphia*.

Since writing the above have made a contract, a copy of which is here enclosed, for a hundred thousand pounds weight of bacon, at five pence per pound, two pence under what our navy agents have contracted at, and have despatched a proper person to purchase hogs for a thousand barrels pork, which, with the nine regiments contracted for, and the *Eastern-Shore* regiment about to be contarcted for, will, except fresh provisions, complete the preparation for fifteen regiments complete, together with a quantity beef, I have had barrels; but we must have money for this. My office was upwards of two thousand pounds in debt before the last supply came, after paying which I could only get four thousand pounds towards all these engagements, and you know, sir, this is the season for laying in supplies, and without money nothing can be done. I wish I had received a power for engaging provisions for the Eastern Army. I think the continent would have saved greatly by it, from the accounts I have of the high prices to the northward and eastward.

—

In Council, Williamsburg, November 22d, 1776.

Colonel *Aylett*, the Deputy Commissary of the Continental Army, having represented to the Board the impracticability of supplying the Troops with such Rations as are prescribed by Congress, which besides, if they could be procured, would not be likely to give that satisfaction to the Troops here, which may be expected from the Rations which have been usual, and which it is supposed may be furnished as cheap as the former:

*Ordered*, That the Governour be requested to write to our Delegates in Congress, stating the substance of the above representation, enclosing an account of the Rations allowed by this State, and recommending the adoption thereof for the Continental Troops serving in this country.

A copy. ARCH'D BLAIR, *Clerk*.

—

*Articles of Agreement this day entered into between* W. AYLETT, *D. C. G. for the Continental Troops in* VIRGINIA, *and* GEO. PURDIE, *of* ISLE WIGHT *County, witnesseth:*

That *Geo. Purdie* agrees to furnish the said *Aylett* with one hundred thousand pounds weight of good merchantable bacon, well cured and smoked, delivered at *Smithfield*, or some convenient landing on *James River*, one half of which to be delivered in *April*, the balance in *May* next; but if it should be inconvenient to said *Aylett* to receive it before, the whole is to be delivered in *May*, for which the said *Aylett* agrees to pay the said *Purdie* five pence per pound current money on the delivery. Witness our hands this 27th *November*, 1776.

W. AYLETT, *D. C. G.*
GEO. PURDIE.

—

*Terms upon which the following Continental Troops in* VIRGINIA *are to be Victualed the ensuing year, to end the first day of* DECEMBER, 1777.

The Second Regiment to commence the first day of *December* next. The Seventh ditto, except so many of them as are or may be stationed at *York*, until the 20th day of *February*, to commence the said first day of *December* next, and after the said 20th day of *February*, the whole are to fall into this contract, or sooner if they are removed from *York* before.

The Eighth Regiment to commence the said first day of *December* next, unless ordered to the northward. The six regiments about to be raised on Continental establishment in this Commonwealth, to commence as soon as the whole, or any part of them, are raised.

The troops to be fed two days in each week with bacon, two days with salted beef or pork, at least one half of the former, and three days with fresh beef, or other fresh provision, for every week during the continuance of this contract, at the following rates, to wit: Bacon, fourteen ounces per ration; beef or pork, either salted or fresh, one pound and a quarter per ration; mutton, one pound per ration; and one pound and a quarter of flour, or one and a half pound of sifted meal.

Butter to be provided for the sick, at eight ounces per ration, at which rate it is to be issued whenever it is convenient to the contractors to supply it, and the troops to demand it instead of the other rations.

Sugar, molasses, rice, coffee, and some wine, to be provided for the sick, and to be issued in lieu of other rations; so that the contractors be no losers by it, when ordered by the Surgeon or commanding officer.

Peas, beans, and potatoes, to be issued three times in each week, instead, or in part of flour, so long as they can be had, at the rate of two and a half bushels of peas or beans to one hundred pounds of flour, or one and a half pounds of potatoes instead of a ration of flour, if the commanding officer requires it, or vegetables in lieu thereof, so as that the contractors shall be no losers by it, (meaning the vegetables.)

Vinegar, one gill per man per week, to be issued on drawing days, in the same manner with other provisions.

Salt, one gill per man per week.

The provisions to be all good in kind; a council of officers, appointed by the commanding officer, judging it otherwise, it is to be thrown upon the hands of the contractors.

The provisions when once carried to any particular station where troops are quartered, for their particular use at that station, by order of the commanding officer, and it becomes necessary to remove them from thence, the contractors are to have the use of publick wagons, agreeable to a resolve of Congress.

The troops ordered to the south side of *James River*, not exceeding two regiments, are to be fed by Messrs. *Baker* and *Hardy*, under a former contract, till the first day of *March* next.

This contract not to extend to the *Eastern Shores*, or beyond the *Blue Ridge* of Mountains, unless it be agreeable to the contractors.

If the afore-mentioned troops, or any part of them, are ordered out of this State of *Virginia*, the contractors are to continue to supply them on their march through, or into any of the *United States*, until they meet with a proper Continental Commissary, to whom they are to resign the supplying of them, and the contractors are to be found wagons for carrying such quantities of provisions as the commanding officer shall direct.

If upon the removal of any of the afore-mentioned troops from any station where provisions are laid in, to any other station where provisions are also laid in, by any of the contractors included in this agreement, it is to be at the option of the commanding officer, whether any or how much provision shall be removed from one station to the other, or if to any other place, the commanding officer shall direct from what station the provision shall be carried, to save as far as may be the expense of wagonage.

If upon the removal of any of the afore-mentioned troops out of this State, or beyond the Mountains, or to the *Eastern Shore*, a larger quantity of provisions are left on hand than the commanding officer may judge necessary for those that remain, the contractors are to deliver such supernumerary provisions as are sound and merchantable to the Commissary-General, who is to pay the same what they cost, with all reasonable expenses.

If the honourable Continental Congress should disapprove of the ration herein contracted for, or direct any other kind of rations, this contract to be void, if the contractors do not choose to supply the rations that they may direct, and they are to have their provisions taken off their hands, with all reasonable expenses, as conditioned for in a foregoing article.

No excuse to be admitted for any breach of these articles, but an absolute forfeiture of their bonds to be taken for their compliance, except it should only be for a few days, and proceeding from some unforeseen accident.

The contractors to be furnished with such sums of money as may, from time to time, be necessary for the carrying on of their business. *Joseph Hawkins*, *James Barbour*, *George Pickett*, *John Craig*, *Henry Field*, *William Robertson*, *Richard Hardy*, and *James Grigsby*, do hereby agree with *William Aylett*, Deputy Commissary-General in *Virginia*, to furnish the troops mentioned in the foregoing instrument of writing, agreeable to the terms therein expressed, according to the true sense and meaning thereof, and for which they have given bond for their performance. And for which the said *William Aylett* hath agreed to pay them eight pence per ration, *Virginia* currency.

In witness whereof, the parties aforesaid have subscribed their names, this 23d day of *November*, 1776.

It is further agreed, that the necessary provision for the Army shall be at the risk of the contractors, except taken by the enemy in the field of battle or in garrison.

William Aylett, *D. C. G.*,
Jos. Hawkins, H. Field, Jun.,
Jas. Barbour, James Grigsby,
John Craig, William Robertson,
Geo. Pickett, Richard Hardy.
The firm, Hawkins, Fields, Hardy & Co.

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King William, November 30th, 1776.

Dear Sir: Since writing the letter that encloses this, I have received your favour by our Attorney-General, with my account enclosed, and am glad to hear that the Continental officers are to be saved the trouble and expense of attending at *Philadelphia* to settle this account. I imagine the Commissioners will receive full instructions in what manner to proceed, and whether they are minutely to examine all the innumerable little provision-vouchers that I have already audited and settled, or only to examine my receipts, and see that the accounts are properly stated, and sums of money I have received properly accounted for. Examining and settling the accounts with the various Commissioners and contractors being principally the duties of my office, I presume that it will be taken for granted I have faithfully executed that part of my duty, for a reëxamining every provision return will employ a great deal of time, and I could have no interest in permitting impositions to take place, unless I had entered into a wicked combination with the commissaries or contractors, and under that idea no settlement would be ever final. I have all the accounts of the respective contractors fairly stated, with the number of rations issued each day, to whom, and by whose order, and double receipts to every sum of money paid, to be lodged with the accounts and vouchers to be sent to Congress, and the other to remain in my own hands. I wish you, sir, to have this matter of reëxamining the vouchers or provision returns, clearly expressed in the instructions sent to the Commissioners, as it will be a prodigious saving of time in settling my accounts; for unless I can be confided in, in respect to auditing those accounts that I have no other interest in than to see that they are honestly and fairly stated, I am a very unnecessary officer; for if the Commissioners are to reëxamine them, they might as well do it in the first instance, and save the expense of a Deputy Commissary-General; however, if it is thought necessary, I have all the returns properly arranged and numbered, and will most cheerfully go through with it, but it will take up a great deal of time. I have supposed that producing these accounts, with proper receipts for payment, would be as much as would be required of me; but it may not be amiss to reëxamine part of them, to see that I have attentively discharged the trust reposed in me; but the face of every account will show this, as there are none of them but will show the most exact scrutiny having been bestowed on them, from a number of corrections to each.

*Dunmore* has not yet made his appearance here, though our Governour and Council are taking every precaution to give him, if he comes, a proper reception. Many detachments of the Militia are already in *Williamsburg*, and I am come up to send a hundred men from this County, who are to march on *Monday* next. Our recruiting business is like to be retarded for the want of money. It will be well to send a sufficient sum for this purpose, for laying in a sufficient store of provisions as soon as possible. It certainly would be a great saving to the Continent to lay in a large quantity of provisions of pork and beef here, though it is almost too late now to procure beef on low terms.

I am, respectfully, dear sir, your obliged and affectionate,
W. Aylett.

To *Richard Henry Lee*, Esq.

I would apologize for the abundance of trouble I have given you, but when publick interest or private friendship is the motive, I know apology is unnecessary.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 30th, 1776.

Sirs: I have a large parcel of powder, that Captain *Martin* brought in, that he says is for *Philadelphia*. Please let me know what I am to do with it. I shall have all the flour for Captain *Martin* delivered this day from the mills. I would be glad to know if I ought to continue the mills grinding for me, as it is some disadvantage to let them engage with other people. There are several prize vessels here. Will you want any of them? The prize schooner has some rum on board. I will give ten shillings per gallon for it all, if you can or will sell it. Please write me on this matter; the powder in particular.

From your humble servant,
Jesse Hollingsworth.

The honourable Council of Safety, at *Annapolis*.

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STEPHEN STEWARD TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November the 30th, 1776.

Gentlemen: I have enclosed you Mr. *Graham's* letter. You will see by it I desired him to inquire of Mr. *Forbes* how much beef and pork he could purchase, and at what price. I only got Mr. *Graham's* letter yesterday. I could not answer it before you had seen it. Now I shall be obliged to you to write me whether I shall engage Mr. *Forbes* to purchase a quantity for the Province. I would

have waited on you but am very unwell with the rheumatism. If it is agreeable to you I will send some salt, and get somebody to take care of the beef. I mean to pay Mr. *Forbes* five per cent. for the trouble of buying and paying for the beef and pork. I hope the guns are delivered the Captain of the Province brigs. Did not choose to deliver the small guns from the brigs till they were sold. The *Jenifer* lays ready rigged, and no Captain nor sailors. Its a pity your fine vessels should be lying by the walls. I wish the Province would sell the schooner to me; I would give £1,500 for her. If you want to see me for any thing please to write me, and I will come up. I shall be much obliged to you if you will get one of your clerks to buy one hundred pounds of tallow, or what they can get, and send down by the vessel that brought the guns.

I am, your most obedient servant,

STEPHEN STEWARD.

To the honourable Council of Safety.

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WILLIAM RUMSEY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

November 30th, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: Were I to consider my business, which is difficult to transact, that I must load a sloop for sea before the frost, and not an article of her cargo purchased, I am afraid it would be an insufficient reason for my not appearing before your honourable Board, because private ought to give way to publick concerns.

If your Honours are acquainted, I have large quantities of wheat at different creeks in our bay, to be brought up and carried across to *Appomattox* for merchants in *Philadelphia;* that from the difficulty of procuring craft and wagons, no person but myself can superintend these affairs. It will serve probably as an apology for my not attending.

The levy court will come on the middle of *December*. If I am absent a number of poor must suffer, especially as Colonel *Veazey* and Captain *Hyland* will be at *Annapolis*, and perhaps other Magistrates detained at home by sickness, bad weather, or other accidents.

But there may be an attack on the *Delaware*. If I leave the County it may be said, "He has shielded himself in the Council of Safety."

If depredations should be made by the enemy on that neighbouring State, from the vicinity, interest, and generosity of the battalion in which I am engaged, they will certainly march to their assistance, and will as assuredly expect my presence. In our present situation we want rather hearts than heads, while your Honours are at the helm.

These last reasons have more weight with me than any other; indeed, it gives me pain to decline any appointment of the Convention, or so polite an invitation from your Honours, which, if it were not for the above cogent objections, would be a mandate to your Honours' most obedient, humble servant,

WM. RUMSEY.

The honourable Council of Safety for *Maryland*.

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THOMAS BOND TO BENJAMIN RUMSEY.

At an Election held at the *Upper Cross Roads, November* the 30th, 1776. *Benjamin Amos*, Captain; *Joshua Amos*, First Lieutenant; *Abraham Williams*, Second Lieutenant; *Joseph Hitchcock*, Ensign.

Judges, present: *Charles Baker, Moses Johnson, Joseph Jones.*

SIR: The above gentlemen being chosen by the company, I would take the liberty of recommending them to be as fit to fill these stations as any in the company.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

THOS. BOND.

To Colonel *Benjamin Rumsey.*

November the 30, 1776.

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GENTLEMEN: I hereby desire that the commissions may issue agreeable to the choice of the people. As I was an Ensign in the company before the officers that belonged to it went to the camp, and have now made choice of me as their First Lieutenant, I am glad to serve them.

I am, yours,

JOSHUA AMOS.

To the Committee of *Harford* County.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, November 30th, 1776.

SIRS: Captain *John Carey* is in want of a mate, as he informs me. There is a good-looking young man that came mate of a prize schooner taken by Captain *Cook*, that is willing immediately to enter with Captain *Cary* as mate, but Captain *Cook* will not release him without your orders. So would have you write him. I have done all in my power to get him, but it don't seem satisfactory to Captain *Cook*. As I have wrote you so often this way I add no more.

From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

He has a boy, apprentice to himself, which he expects with him. Please name it to Captain *Cook*. I have applied to Captain *Cook* in person. He says he must have your instructions. Has not seen Mr. *Nicholson*, the Judge of the Court of Admiralty, as yet, nor do I think Mr. *Nicholson* will undertake in this case. So please to be full in the matter.

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December 1st, 1776.

SIR: If you can spare Captain *Cary* the mate of your prize schooner, and a boy that is his apprentice, the Council will be much obliged by your doing it.

I am, &c.

Captain *Cook*.

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SAMUEL CHASE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, Saturday morning, November 30th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By a resolve of Congress of the 12th of *October*, 1775, "Each Captain and other commissioned officer, while in the recruiting service of this Continent or on their march to join the Army, shall be allowed two dollars and two thirds per week for their subsistence; and that the men who inlist shall each of them, whilst in quarters, be allowed one dollar per week, and one dollar and one third of a dollar when on their march to join the Army for the same purpose."

The resolves enclosed will show the allowance by Congress for recruiting. I have given you this trouble on a presumption that the allowances by Congress were unknown at the time recruiting orders issued in our State.

I am directed by Congress to call your immediate attention to their request some time ago to our Convention, to make inquiry of some *Nanticoke Indians*, which the Six Nations allege came into our State, and have not since been heard of, and they express fears for their safety. Be pleased to inquire of Mr. *Duvall* for the letter from Congress on this subject, and take effectual measures for a speedy inquiry. I should imagine the Committee for *Dorset* County could make the proper inquiry.

Congress have not heard from General *Washington* since the 27th, when he was at *Newark*. Young *Bradford* writes that our Army left *Newark* on the 26th, in the morning, and were at *Brunswick* yesterday.

I am, gentlemen, with respect, your most obedient servant,

SAM'L CHASE.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis*.

The enclosed letter was delivered to me open. Our troops are perishing for the want of shoes and stockings. Can't you send some for the use of our friends?

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COLONEL HAUSSEGGER TO RICHARD PETERS.

Branch Creek Powder-Mill, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: I arrived here yesterday, about four o'clock. I found good convenience for the men to live in for some time, until barracks can be built. The guard and wagons are not yet arrived, on account of the bad road. This powder magazine is very small; it will soon be full.

I am just going to *Readingtown*, to see to get ten thousand feet of board to finish the barrack. Mr. *Pew*, the clerk of this work, is also to set out to get the scantling, &c. Sir, please to order Mr. *Towers* to send one dozen axes, spades, shovels, grubbing-axes, four hand-saws, two augers, six gimlets, kettles, dishes and spoons. If you please to order Captain *Woolpert* he will get the other articles.

A guard is here very necessary—if you please to order Captain *Wolpert* with the remainder of his company. So soon as an opportunity, one wagon sent here. I enclose you the draft of the barracks as are to be built immediately.

Sir, I remain by remembrance, many compliments to the rest of the gentlemen of the honourable Board. Sir, your very humble servant,

NICHL. HAUSSEGGER, *Colonel.*

To *Richard Peters*, Esq., Secretary of the War Office at *Philadephia.*

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE LANCASTER COMMITTEE.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, November 30, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: It is highly expedient that the prisoners in your barracks be forwarded as fast as possible to the *Jersey*, in order for an exchange. The account received by Congress and intimated to this Board, of the situation of our men, prisoners at *New-York*, demands the utmost exertion to get them out of the hands of our enemy. We hope therefore you will send them off as fast as possible, in such manner as you shall think most expedient.

By order of Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President.*

To the Hon. Committee of *Lancaster* County.

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First Division with Captain *Henry*, returned 15th *December*, 1776.

Wagons.

*John Mandebachs*, (*Lancaster,*) 15 days, at 30*s*. - £22 10 0 came in *Sunday* morning.

*Philips Bushong*, (*Lampiter,*) 15½ days, at 30*s*. - 23 5 0 came in *Saturday* noon, and went home with his horses, and returned *Sunday* morning.

*Benjamin Bowman*, (*Lampiter;*) came in *Friday* morning, went home with his horses, and returned *Sunday* morning.

*Abraham Longenecker*, (*Lampiter;*) came in *Friday* morning, went home with his horses, and returned *Sunday* morning.

*Christian Frick*, (*Manheim,*) 16 days, - - - 24 0 0 came in *Saturday* morning, went home with his horses, and returned *Sunday* morning.

*John Leib*, (*Manheim.*) 16 days, - - - - - 24 0 0 came in *Saturday* morning, went home with his horses, and returned *Sunday* morning.

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TO THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Would to God I had the eloquence of *Cicero* and the powers of *Demosthenes!* Would to God I possessed those irresistible abilities which in former ages animated the multitude in the cause of virtue, and spurred them on to noble deeds, which have bid defiance to oblivion, pierced through the gloom of ages, and triumphed over tottering towers and cities mouldered into dust! Freely would I exert all the force of reason, and all the influence of language, on this pressing, this important occasion. I would address you, my dear countrymen!—I do now address you, by all you hold most dear, to exert yourselves to the uttermost in this trying crisis of your affairs. What have you done? You have solemnly declared that you will not submit to be hewers of wood and drawers of water to any nation under Heaven. You have solemnly declared you will not, but through extreme necessity, yield up the fruits of your labour to the imperious hand of the spoiler. If you mean any thing by these declarations, why not exert yourselves in the determinate hour? Can any truth be more certain than this, that it is in your power by one manly effort, to cut off, or at least repel and disable, the enemies of your peace? and by that means leave your country free; leave your darling offspring free; and have your memories embalmed by the immortal blessings of a grateful posterity. Rouse, then, yourselves, ye noble spirits! Now, if ever, show yourselves to be worthy of that honour and happiness which is designed for you, if you have but the virtue to lay hold upon it. Should you now yield yourselves up to fruitless despair, or, by an ignominious lassitude, suffer your exulting enemy to cry Victory! Victory! what must be your miserable lot! You will be the objects of scorn and reproach! You will be a hissing amongst the nations, and the despised of the world. He is an *American*, he dare not be free, will be a proverb translated into every language. But this is not all: You will see your cities laid waste, or, if preserved, not preserved for your use, but for the use of those who toiled not in the building. Those apartments wherein you have long enjoyed all the endearing sweets of domestick happiness, will become confused scenes of the riot and debauchery of unlicensed strangers—and, shocking thought! your wives and daughters may perhaps be compelled to administer to their unruly joy! These are not the creatures of an over-heated imagination; they are but too probable realities; they are evils which you will yourselves be instrumental in realizing, if you do not now exert every possible effort to ward them off. Be not deceived; you are on the brink of a precipice; the abyss is dark and deep; an abyss of unfathomable woe! But your virtue, and your virtue only, can erect a wall of defence so firm and stable that the powers of Hell shall not prevail against it! Away, then, with all petty contests. Step forth like men—you must know, you must feel, that your cause is good. It is founded in virtue. It is founded in the common rights of mankind. Let it be supported, then, in such a manner as such a cause deserves.

Be not dismayed; your enemies are far from being invincible! What as yet are their great exploits? What their boasted triumph? They have never repulsed you with equal numbers on equal ground; they are not able to do it. If you have lost some men in this contest, they have lost more. Your resources are at hand; theirs at a great distance. Stir up yourselves, then, and chase these plunderers from your beloved country. Then, and not till then, can you call that beloved country your own. More need not be said; circumstances speak for themselves, and every incentive that called forth the spirit of heroism in every age now calls upon you—calls aloud upon you. Obey the sacred voice, and be forever free.

EPAMINONDAS.

Philadelphia, November 30, 1776.

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LANCASTER (PENNSYLVANIA) COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation, Inspection, and Correspondence, at the house of *Adam Riegart*, the 30th *November*, 1776,—

Present: *William Atlee, Edward Shippen, Lodwick Lowman, Michael Musser, Christopher Crawford, John Miller, William Bowsman, George Moore, Adam Reigart, Matthias Slough, Jacob Kriegh, Andrew Graff, Sebt. Graff. William Atlee* in the chair.

The Officers appointed to guard the Prisoners to the *Jerseys* for exchange, represent that this severe season of the year, some liquor of some kind, either rum or whisky, is necessary for the men. It is therefore considered and agreed that they be allowed half a pint a man per day, which the officer will provide for before he sets off, and carry with the baggage-wagon, to deal out to the men. Also, that the wagoner, after their provision is out, eat with and draw provisions with the guard at the publick expense.

The Prisoners represent to the Committee that the allowance of half a ration for a woman, and half a ration for a child, agreeable to their former allowance, will not be sufficient for them on their march, and pray the sentiments of the Committee whether some further allowance ought not to be made to them. They say that heretofore many of the single men who worked with the inhabitants suffered their provisions to go to their rooms in the Barracks, which enabled the women and children to subsist, but as they shall now every one have occasion for their rations, the women and children must suffer. The Committee taking their request into consideration, are of opinion, that the honourable the Congress will not censure them for requesting Mr. *Simons*, the agent for the contractor, to increase the allowance for the women and children during their march, in manner following, to wit: By allowing the women a full ration, and for the children half a ration, and direct the Chairman to request that allowance be made them, and to charge the addition to the States.

There being a great number of wagons necessary to transport the baggage of the prisoners and the women and children, and the distance being so great that the wagoners cannot

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carry a sufficient quantity of fodder to last them to the end of their journey, and at the same time carry a proper load, it is the opinion of the Committee, that persons be appointed to go forward to provide feed for the wagoners, that they may not be detained by the way, and to superintend the different brigades and parties of wagons, as their wagon-master, on the march; and *Frederick Sheffer* is appointed to that service, he agreeing to execute it to the best of his abilities, and to find his own horse, and provide himself and horse in all provisions necessary at his own expense, at the rate of fifteen shillings per day; which it is agreed shall be allowed him for his trouble, services, and expenses, during this service.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Brunswick, Saturday, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: I have been honoured with your favour of the 26th, and with its enclosures, by which I perceive the measures that have been adopted for forwarding a reinforcement of Militia. Their arrival is much to be wished; the situation of our affairs being truly alarming, and such as demands the earliest aids. As General *Mifflin's* presence may have a happy influence on the disposition and temper of many of the Associators, I shall not direct his return so long as he can be done without, and till it becomes indispensably necessary.

On *Thursday* morning I left *Newark*, and arrived here yesterday, with the troops that were there. It was the opinion of all the Generals who were with me, that a retreat to this place was requisite and founded in necessity, as our force was by no means sufficient to make a stand against the enemy, much superiour in number, with the least probability of success, and whose advanced guards were entering the town by the time our rear got out. It was the wish of all to have remained there longer, and to have halted before we came thus far; but upon due consideration of our strength, the circumstances attending the inlistment of a great part of our little force, and the frequent advices that the enemy were embarking, or about to embark another detachment for *Staten-Island*, with a view of landing at *Amboy* to coöperate with this, which seemed to be confirmed by the information of some persons who came from the island, that they were collecting and impressing all the wagons they could find, it was judged necessary to proceed till we came here, not only to prevent their bringing a force to act upon our front and rear, but also that we might be more convenient to oppose any troops they might land at *South-Amboy*, which many conjectured to be an object they had in view. This conjecture, too, had probability, and some advices to support it.

I hoped we should have met with large and early succours by this time; but as yet no great number of the Militia of this State has come in, nor have I much reason to expect that any considerable aid will be derived from the Counties which lie beyond this river, and in which the enemy are. Their situation will prevent it in a great measure from those parts where they are, provided the inclinations of the people were good. Added to this, I have no assurances that more than a very few of the troops composing the Flying-Camp will remain after the time of their engagement is out; so far from it, I am told that some of General *Ewing's* brigade, who stand engaged to the 1st of *January*, are now going away. If those go whose service expires this day, our force will be reduced to a mere handful.

From intelligence received this morning, one division of the enemy was advanced last night as far as *Elizabethtown*, and that some of their Quartermasters had proceeded about four or five miles on this side to provide barns, &c., for their accommodation. Other accounts say another division, composed of *Hessians*, are on the road through *Springfield*, and are reported to have reached that place last night. I do not know how far their views extend, but I doubt not they mean to push every advantage resulting from the small number and state of our troops. I early began to forward part of the stores from this place towards *Philadelphia*. Many are gone, the rest we are removing, and hope to secure.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

P. S. I have wrote to Governour *Livingston*, who is exerting himself to throw in every assistance, and to have guards placed at the ferries to prevent the return of the soldiers who are not discharged.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Head-Quarters, Brunswick, 30th November, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of the 18th, 19th, and 23d instant, which, from the unsettled situation of our affairs, I have not been able to answer before.

That of the 18th encloses a list of stores taken in the *Hancock and Adams*, Continental ship, and carried into *Dartmouth*, *New-England*, with a resolve of Congress to deliver the muskets, powder, lead, and flints, to my order. As the other articles of the cargo will be full as useful to the Army as those included in the resolve, I would advise that directions be given to have the whole cargo removed from *Dartmouth* to some secure place in the neighbourhood of *Philadelphia*, and there deposited till called for. It is by no means proper that so great a quantity of military stores should be lodged with the Army, especially at present, as we know not to-day where we shall be obliged to remove to-morrow, and that will in all probability be the case while the enemy continue with a light army on this side the *North River*.

In answer to that part of yours of the 19th, in which you ask my advice as to the propriety of inlisting prisoners of war, I would just observe, that in my opinion it is neither consistent with the rules of war, nor politick. Nor can I think that because our enemies have committed an unjustifiable action by enticing, and in some instances intimidating, our men into their service, we ought to follow their example. Before I had the honour of yours on this subject, I had determined to remonstrate to General *Howe* on this head. As to those few who have already inlisted, I would not have them again withdrawn and sent in, because they might be subjected to punishment, but I would have the practice discontinued in future. If you will revert to the capitulation of *St. John's* and *Chamblée*, you will find an express stipulation against the inlisting the prisoners taken there.

I remarked that the inlistment of prisoners was not a politick step; my reason is this, that in time of danger I have always observed such persons most backward, for fear, I suppose, of falling into the hands of their former masters, from whom they expect no mercy; and this fear they are apt to communicate to their fellow-soldiers. They are also most ready to desert when an action is expected, hoping by carrying intelligence to secure their peace.

I met Captain *Hesketh* on the road, and as the situation of his family did not admit of delay, I permitted him to go immediately to *New-York*, not having the least doubt but General *Howe* will make a return of any officer of equal rank who shall be required.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

Honourable Board of War.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON.

Head-Quarters, Brunswick, 30th November, 1776.

SIR: I have the pleasure and honour of acknowledging the receipt of yours of the 27th. General *Williamson* gives me small encouragement to hope for much assistance from the Militia of this State; indeed, some of the Counties, if they were willing, are intimidated from coming in, as the enemy have possession of the country. I hope the four regiments to be raised to serve till the 1st of *April* will be quickly full, as more dependence is to be put upon them than common Militia. The time of General *Heard's* brigade of Flying-Camp men, for this State, and that of General *Beall's*, from *Maryland*, expires this day; so that the Army will by that means suffer a very considerable diminution. But what is still worse, although most of the *Pennsylvanians* are inlisted till the 1st of *January*, I am informed that they are deserting in great numbers. I therefore entreat that you would, without loss of time, give orders to the officers of Militia on the roads and the ferries over *Delaware*, to take up and secure every soldier that has not a regular discharge or pass. In order to effect this, proper guards should be immediately posted.

I thank you most sincerely for your feelings for me at this time and upon this occasion. I will not, however, despair, but look forward with a hope that such reinforcements will

yet arrive to my assistance as will enable me to prevent our common enemy from making much further progress.

I am, with every sentiment of respect and esteem, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To Governour *Livingston, New-Jersey.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ADJUTANT-GENERAL REED.

Brunswick, November 30th, 1776.

Dear Sir: The enclosed was put into my hands by an express from the *White-Plains*. Having no idea of its being a private letter, much less suspecting the tendency of the correspondence, I opened it, as I had done all other letters to you, from the same place and *Peekskill*, upon the business of your office, I conceived and found them to be.

This, as it is the truth, must be my excuse for seeing the contents of a letter which neither inclination or intention would have prompted me to.

I thank you for the trouble and fatigue you have undergone in your journey to *Burlington*, and sincerely wish that your labours may be crowned with the desired success. My best respects to Mrs. *Reed*.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To *Joseph Reed*, Esq., Adjutant-General, *Burlington*.

P. S. The petition referred to I keep.

*Weekly Return of the First Regiment of Foot in the Continental services, commanded by Colonel* Edward Hand.

| COMPANIES. | Commissioned Officers. | | | | Staff Officers. | | Non-Commissioned Officers. | | Rank and File. | | | | Wanting to complete. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Colonel. | Lieutenant Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Third Lieutenants. | Chaplain. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Surgeon. | Mate. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Privates. |
| Vacant | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Miller | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Chambers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Green | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Parr | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Harris | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Grier | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Hamilton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Captain Holliday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vacants | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 15 | 216 | 40 | 52 | 22 | 4 | 364 | 5 | 3 | 356 |

N. B. Colonel *Chambers* and Captain *Parrish* absent; Lieutenant *M'Connell* on command; Lieutenant *Matron* sick, absent; Captain *Smith* resigned; 7 Sergeants sick, absent; 32 recruits without arms.

Brunswick, *November* 30, 1776.

Edw'd Hand, *Colonel.*

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, November 30, 1776.

My Lord: The service in which I have been employed since the departure of Captain *Balfour*, with advice of the reduction of *New-York*, would not allow of an earlier time to send an account to your Lordship of the progress made from that period.

The very strong positions the enemy had taken on this island, and fortified with incredible labour, determined me to get upon their principal communication with *Connecticut*, with a view of forcing them to quit the strong holds in the neighbourhood of *King's Bridge*, and, if possible, to bring them to action.

All previous arrangements being made, the Army embarked on the 12th of *October*, in flat-boats and other craft, and pressing through the dangerous navigation of *Hell-Gate*, in a very thick fog, landed on *Frog's Neck*, near the town of *West-Chester*, about nine in the morning, the *Carrysfort* frigate being placed to cover the descent. The presence of Lord *Howe*, the activity of Commodore *Hotham*, most of the Captains of the fleet, and of the Navy officers in general, were infinitely conducive to the King's service in this difficult movement; only one artillery boat was overset, having three six-pounders on board, which were lost, and three men drowned.

Lieutenant-General Earl *Percy* remained with two brigades of *British*, and one of the *Hessians*, in the lines near *Haerlem*, to cover *New-York*.

The Army remained in this situation until the stores and provisions could be brought up, and three battalions of *Hessians* drawn from *Staten-Island*, which, together with some bad weather intervening, occasioned a delay of five days.

On the 18th, several corps reëmbarked in flat-boats, and passing round *Frog's Neck*, landed on *Pell's Point*, at the mouth of *Hutchinson's River;* after which the main body crossed the mouth of that river to the same place, advanced immediately, and laid that night upon their arms, with the left upon a creek opposite to *East-Chester*, and the right near to *Rochelle*.

On the march to this ground, a skirmish ensued with a small party of the enemy posted to defend a narrow causeway, who were pursued for a mile, when a considerable body appearing in front behind stone-walls and in woods, some companies of Light-Infantry and a part of the Chasseurs were detached to dislodge them, which they did effectually. Lieutenant-Colonel *Musgrave*, commanding the First Battalion of Light-Infantry, and Captain *Evelyn*, of the Fourth Regiment, were both wounded; the latter is since dead, and much to be regretted as a gallant officer, but Lieutenant-Colonel *Musgrave* is in a fair way of recovery. Three soldiers were killed and twenty wounded. The enemy's loss upon this occasion was a Lieutenant-Colonel killed, a Major wounded, and about ninety men killed and wounded.

The part of the Sixteenth Light Dragoons that arrived with Lieutenant-Colonel *Harcourt* on the 3d instant, (one transport being still missing,) and the whole of the Seventeenth Light-Dragoons, joined the Army on the 20th.

On the 21st, the right and centre of the Army moved to a position about two miles to the northward of *Rochelle*, on the road to the *White-Plains*, leaving Lieutenant-General *Heister*, with two brigades of *Hessians* and one of *British*, to occupy the former ground. Lieutenant-Colonel *Rogers*, with his corps of Rangers, was detached to take possession of *Mamaroneck*, where the carelessness of his sentries exposed him to a surprise from a large body of the enemy, by which he lost a few men killed or taken; nevertheless, by a spirited exertion, he obliged them to retreat, leaving behind them some prisoners, and several killed and wounded.

The Sixth Brigade, commanded by Brigadier *Agnew*, was moved the 22d to sustain the post of *Mamaroneck*. On the same day, Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen*, with the second division of *Hessians* and regiment of *Waldeckers*, having arrived the 18th at *New-York*, landed at *Rochelle*, was ordered to remain there to cover the disembarkation of stores and provisions.

Upon the movement of the Army to *Frog's Neck*, the enemy detached a corps to *White-Plains*, and quitted their position about *King's Bridge* with some precipitation, leaving two thousand men for the defence of *Fort Washington*, extending their force behind the *Bronx*, from *Valentine's Hill* to *White-Plains*, in detached camps, every where intrenched; their left by this means covering an upper communication with *Connecticut*, as well as the road along the *North River*, it was judged expedient to move to *White-Plains*, and endeavour to bring them to an action.

Lieutenant-General *Heister*, with his corps, having orders to join on the march, the Army moved in two columns on the 25th, and took a position with the *Bronx* in front, the right of the line being at the distance of four miles from the *White-Plains;* upon which the Rebels immediately quitted their detached camps between *King's Bridge* and *White-Plains*, assembling their whole force at the latter place, behind intrenchments that had been thrown up by the advanced corps. The Army marched by the right in two columns towards *White-Plains* early on the 28th, Lieutenant-General *Clinton* leading the right, and Lieutenant-General *Heister* the left column. Before noon all the enemy's advanced parties were drove back to their works by the

Light-Infantry and Chasseurs, and the Army formed with the right upon the road from *Mamaroneck* to the *White-Plains*, about a mile from the centre of their lines, and the left to the *Brunx*, near the same distance from the right flank of their intrenchments. A corps of the enemy was formed on a commanding ground, separated from the right flank of their intrenchments by the *Brunx*, which also, by changing its course nearly at right angles, separated this corps in front from the left of the King's Army. Colonel *Raille*, who commanded a brigade of *Hessians* on the left, observing this position of the enemy, and seeing a height on the other side of the *Brunx* unoccupied by them, from whence their flank might be galled, took possession of it with great alacrity, to the approbation of Lieutenant-General *Heister*, who was acquainted with this movement by Sir *William Erskine*. Upon viewing the situation, orders were given for a battalion of *Hessians* to pass the *Brunx* and attack this detached corps, supported by the Second Brigade of *British*, under the command of Brigadier-General *Leslie*, and the *Hessian* Grenadiers sent from the right commanded by Colonel *Donop*; giving directions at the same time for Colonel *Raille* to charge the enemy's flank as the *Hessian* battalion advanced to them in front; but there being some difficulty in passing the *Brunx*, the Twenty-Eighth and Thirty-Fifth Regiments, who were the first to support, passed it in a place most practicable, and formed on the opposite side, though under the enemy's fire, with the greatest steadiness; ascended the steep hill in defiance to all opposition, and rushing on the enemy, routed and drove them back from their works. These two battalions were closely supported by the Fifth and Forty-Ninth Regiments, who showed the same zeal to distinguish themselves; the *Hessian* Grenadiers also coming up, and passing the *Brunx*, ascended the height with the greatest alacrity and in the best order. This material post being gained, the *Hessian* Grenadiers were ordered forward upon the heights within cannon-shot of the intrenchments, the *Brunx* from its winding course being still between them and the enemy's right flank; the Second Brigade of *British* formed in the rear of the *Hessian* Grenadiers, and the two brigades of *Hessians* on the left of the Second Brigade, with their left upon the road leading from *Terry-Town* to *White-Plains*. The right and centre of the Army did not remove from their ground. In this position the troops lay upon their arms that night, and with very little alteration encamped next day. The officers and men of the *British* and *Hessian* Artillery deserve much commendation for their active services on this occasion.

The killed, wounded, and prisoners taken from the enemy during the course of this day is said to be not less than two hundred and fifty. The loss of his Majesty's troops and allies was small, as your Lordship will observe by the general return, considering the strength of the ground from whence the enemy was forced; though the loss of Lieutenant-Colonel *Carr*, of the Thirty-Fifth Regiment, who died the next day of his wounds, is much to be lamented.

The enemy drew back their encampment on the night of the 28th; and observing their lines next morning much strengthened by additional works, the designed attack upon them was deferred; and the Fourth Brigade, left with Lord *Percy*, with two battalions of the Sixth Brigade, were ordered to join the Army. These battalions having joined on the 30th, in the afternoon, a disposition was made for the attack next day; but the night and morning proving very wet it was postponed. In the mean time the Rebels having intelligence by a deserter of their danger, most prudently evacuated their camp in the night of the 1st of *November*, after setting fire to all the houses in and near their lines, most of which were consumed, and retired with their main force towards *North-Castle*, leaving a strong rear guard upon the heights and in the woods, for one mile back from their intrenchments, the possession of which was immediately taken, and the *Hessian* Grenadiers remained upon the ground. All these motions plainly indicating the enemy's design to avoid coming to action, I did not think the driving their rear guard further back an object of the least consequence.

Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen* being ordered on the 28th of *October* to leave the regiment of *Waldeck* at *Rochelle*, and to move with the six battalions of *Hessians* of his corps towards *King's Bridge*, took post at *Mile Square* and *Valentine's Hill*, and on the 2d of *November* encamped on the Island of *New-York*, near to *King's Bridge*; the enemy quitting the heights of *Fordham* upon his approach retired to *Fort Washington*. The Army was ordered on the 3d to provide three days' forage; and the next day Major-General *Grant* marched with the Fourth Brigade to *Mile Square* and *Valentine's Hill*; the Sixth Brigade to a bridge over the *Brunx*, in *West-Chester*, near *De Lancey's Mills*; and the *Waldeck* regiment took post at another, three miles above the former, on the same river. On the 6th the Army encamped at *Dobbs's Ferry*, upon the *North River*. When this movement was made the Rebels came down from their strong holds, burning what they had not before destroyed at *White-Plains*, and distressing the inhabitants by small parties in a most wanton degree. The park of Artillery moved to *King's Bridge* on the 7th, under a strong escort, with a detachment of Chasseurs, to join Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen*. Four battalions of Light Infantry, and the remainder of the Chasseurs, with four field-pieces, took post next day on the communication to *King's Bridge*. On the 10th a brigade of *Hessians* was sent as a reinforcement to Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen*. On the 12th the Army marched in two columns towards *King's Bridge*, and encamped the day following upon the heights of *Fordham*, forming a line with the right to the *Brunx*, upon the *West-Chester* road, and the left to the *North River*.

During the continuance of the Army at *Dobbs's Ferry* the enemy sent a large detachment over the *North River*, by *King's Ferry*, to *Jersey*, and were employed in intrenching at *Croton Bridge* and *White-Plains*, and building barracks at those places, and at *Peek's Kill*, near the foot of the Highlands, for their winter habitations. Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen* had for some days established his post on the *York* side of *King's Bridge*, within cannon-shot of *Fort Washington*, which was covered by very strong ground, and exceeding difficult of access; but the importance of this post, which, with *Fort Lee* on the opposite shore of *Jersey*, kept the enemy in command of the navigation of the *North River*, while it barred the communication with *York* by land, made the possession of it absolutely necessary. Preparations were therefore made for a general attack, and thirty flat-boats, under the direction of Captains *Wilkinson* and *Molloy*, passed up the *North River* on the night of the 14th, undiscovered by the enemy. Every thing being prepared, and the attack fixed for the morning of the 16th, Lieutenant-Colonel *Patterson*, Adjutant-General, was sent the 15th to summon the commanding officer to surrender, and to warn him of the consequences that must attend a general attack; to which he replied, he would defend himself to the last extremity. Four attacks were determined upon, the first under the command of Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen* against the enemy's left, on the side of *King's Bridge*, in two columns, formed by detachments from the *Hessians* of his corps, the brigade of *Raille*, and regiment of *Waldeck*. The second by the First and Second Battalions of Light Infantry, and two battalions of Guards, under the command of Brigadier-General *Mathew*, to land by *Haerlem* creek upon the enemy's right, from thirty flat-boats; which attack was to be supported by the First and Second Grenadiers and Thirty-Third Regiment, under the command of Lord *Cornwallis*. The third attack, intended as a feint, by the Forty-Second Regiment, to be embarked in batteaus in a creek opposite to Colonel *Morris's* house, and upon the left of the enemy's lines towards *New-York*. The fourth by Lord *Percy*, with the corps under his command, on *York-Island*, to assault the right flank of the enemy's intrenchments on that side.

The field artillery and batteries being properly disposed for the three attacks on the side of *King's Bridge* and *Haerlem* creek, Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen* moved forward about noon, but having a very thick wood to pass, in which the enemy was very advantageously posted, it was some time before he could penetrate; from which difficulties his corps was for a considerable time exposed to the fire of three pieces of cannon. As soon as this attack began the Light Infantry moved, and landed under a brisk fire, before and after they had quitted the boats, from a party of the Rebels posted behind rocks and trees; however, by getting up a very steep, uneven mountain, with their usual activity, they soon dispersed the enemy. The Guards, followed by the Grenadiers and Thirty-Third, landed without any loss. Intelligence in the mean time being received that Lord *Percy*

had carried an advanced work, orders were sent Lieutenant-Colonel *Stirling*, commanding the Forty-Second Regiment, to endeavour to land, and for two battalions of the Second Brigade to support him. Upon which he immediatly advanced in his boats through a heavy fire, with great perseverance, and forcing his way up a steep height, which was well defended by a body of the Rebels, he gained the summit, took one hundred and seventy prisoners, and penetrating across the island, facilitated Lord *Percy's* success against the enemy's lines opposed to him, which his Lordship passed.

Colonel *Raille*, who led the right column of Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen's* attack, having, after a considerable opposition, forced the enemy from their strong holds, pushed forward to their advanced works, and lodged his column within one hundred yards of the fort, from whence he summoned them to surrender, upon which they readily desired to treat.

Lieutenant-General *Knyphausen's* column having more impediments to encounter in passing through the wood, could not join the right column until they had got up to the fort. The enemy upon his appearance, surrendered prisoners of war, to the number of two thousand seven hundred, including officers, besides the prisoners made by the Forty-Second Regiment. The enemy had three officers and fifty men killed, and six officers and ninety men wounded, in the different attacks.

*Fort Lee* being the next object for the entire command of the *North River*, and a ready road to penetrate into *Jersey*, an addition of boats under the command of Captain *Phipps* was sent by the Admiral to *King's Bridge*, in the night of the 17th, without being discovered by the enemy. The first division for embarkation landed next day, at eight o'clock in the morning, about seven miles above the fort, while the second division marched up the east side of the river, by which movement the whole corps, as per margin,* were landed, with their cannon, by ten o'clock, under the command of Lieutenant-General Earl *Cornwallis*. The seamen distinguished themselves remarkably upon this occasion, by their readiness to drag the cannon up a rocky narrow road, for near half a mile to the top of a precipice, which bounds the shore for some miles on the west side.

Lord *Cornwallis* immediately began his march, and had not the enemy at *Fort Lee* been apprised of his moving towards them by a countryman, after he had proceeded some distance, he would have surrounded two thousand men at the fort, who escaped in the utmost confusion, leaving all their artillery and a large quantity of stores and provisions, their tents standing, and kettle upon the fire. His Lordship encamped that night near the fort, making use of the enemy's tents.

The next day Major-General *Vaughan*, with the Light Infantry and *British* Grenadiers, was detached to the new bridge upon *Hackinsac* river, and a detachment of the Sixteenth Dragoons, under the command of Colonel *Harcourt*, was sent over to *Fort Lee*. This detachment, with some companies of Light Infantry, scoured the country on the 22d, as far as *Pisaick* river, and found the enemy had abandoned all the intermediate country, their advanced guard being at *Aquakinunc*. On the 24th, the Second and Fourth Brigades of *British*, and one battalion of the Seventy-First Regiment, joined his Lordship, who, leaving the Second Brigade at *Fort Lee*, advanced with the main body on the 25th to the new bridge. On the enemy retiring from *Newark*, as his Lordship approached, he took possession of that place on the 28th, and is now following them, retreating towards *Brunswick*.

I cannot too highly acknowledge the active services of Lieutenant-General *Clinton* on every occasion, the support I have at all times received from the other General Officers, and the zealous ardour of all ranks whatsoever, during the course of this campaign.

The *Hessian* troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Generals *Heister* and *Knyphausen*, have also exhibited every good disposition to promote his Majesty's interests, and justly merit my acknowledgment of their services.

I have the honour to be, &c., &c.,

W. Howe.

* First and second battalions of Light Infantry, two companies of Chasseurs, two battalions of *British* and two ditto of *Hessian* Grenadiers, two battalions of Guards, Thirty-Third and Forty-Second Regiments.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 30th November, 1776.

My Lord: The troops being upon the eve of going into winter cantonments, I trouble your Lordship with this separate letter respecting the succeeding operation of the present campaign, and with some particulars relative to the next.

Lieutenant-Generals *Clinton* and Lord *Percy* are under orders to sail with the first fair wind to take possession of *Rhode-Island*, having a force exceeding six thousand rank and file, which I judge to be sufficient for the operation; and although the expedition may miscarry, from the late season of the year, yet, on account of the great importance of the object, I have hazarded the consequences of a disappointment from that cause, not doubting of success if the weather proves tolerably favourable. In this opinion I am strengthened by the cheerfulness with which it is undertaken by the two Generals to be employed, and from the little preparation the enemy has made to defend it, by the latest intelligence received.

In consequence of my expectation that Lord *Cornwallis* will shortly be in possession of *East Jersey*, I propose to quarter a large body of troops in that district, without which we should be under much difficulty to find covering, forage, and supplies of fresh provisions for the Army. The plan of the enemy, by their publick orders, is to destroy all species of forage and stock as they retire before his Majesty's troops, which I am hopeful they will not have time to accomplish; and their further design seems to be, to retreat behind the *Rariton* river, or perhaps behind the *Delaware*, to cover *Philadelphia*.

By the best information from the northward, I learn the Army from *Canada* was obliged, by the severity of the weather, to repass the lake from *Crown-Point* on the 5th instant, from which event, and a consideration of the difficulties that Army must meet with before it reaches *Albany* in the course of next campaign, it is reasonable to conclude this will not be effected earlier than the month of *September*. In that persuasion, I would humbly mention my ideas for the operations of the next campaign, with the force they may require, in order, if possible, to finish the war in one year, by an extensive and vigorous exertion of his Majesty's arms.

1st. An offensive Army of ten thousand rank and file, to act on the side of *Rhode-Island*, by taking possession of *Providence*, penetrating from thence into the country towards *Boston*, and, if possible, to reduce that town; two thousand men to be left for the defence of *Rhode-Island*, and for making small incursions, under the protection of the shipping, upon the coast of *Connecticut*. This Army to be commanded by Lieutenant-General *Clinton*.

2d. An offensive Army in the Province of *New-York*, to move up the *North River* to *Albany*, to consist of not less than ten thousand men, and five thousand for the defence of *New-York* and adjacent posts.

3d. A defensive Army of eight thousand men to cover *Jersey*, and to keep the Southern Army in check, by giving a jealousy to *Philadelphia*, which I would propose to attack in autumn, as well as *Virginia*, provided the success of other operations will admit of an adequate force to be sent against that Province.

*South-Carolina* and *Georgia* must be the objects for winter. But to complete this plan, not less than ten ships-of-the-line will be absolutely requisite, and a reinforcement of troops to the amount of fifteen thousand rank and file, which I should hope may be had from *Russia*, or from *Hanover*, and other *German* States, particularly some *Hanoverian* Chasseurs, who, I am well informed, are exceeding good troops.

By this calculation, the Army in the southern district would consist of thirty-five thousand effective men, to oppose fifty thousand that the *American* Congress has voted for the service of next campaign.

The enemy, though much depressed at the success of his Majesty's arms, are encouraged by the strongest assurances from their leaders of procuring assistance from foreign Powers, for which end it is understood that Dr. *Franklin* is gone to *France*, to solicit aid from that Court. I do not presume to point out a way of counteracting him; but were that effected, and the force I have mentioned sent out, it would strike such terrour through the country that little

resistance would be made to the progress of his Majesty's arms in the Provinces of *New-England*, *New-York*, the *Jerseys*, and *Pennsylvania*, after the junction of the Northern and Southern Armies.

As the Army must, at all events, be much divided in the ensuing campaign, I beg leave earnestly to solicit your Lordship for an additional battalion of Artillery, for the good effects of which I can be responsible from the great terrour of the enemy on all past occasions where the Artillery has appeared. A few light six and three-pounders will also be wanted on this plan of operations.

I beg leave, at the same time, to request an additional number of officers to the Guards, who, when complete, have only three to one hundred men, whereas in some companies there are only two; and although the men behave with great spirit, yet the temptations of plunder are so great that it is not in the power of a few officers to keep the men under restraint.

The date of the King's warrant for my appointments to vacant commissions being on the 22d of *June*, and superseding the authority given in your Lordship's letter of the 12th of said month, I shall not presume to post to any vacancies that may happen in the detachment of Guards; neither would it be in any degree essential to the interests of his Majesty's service that I should exercise this power, since the number of officers would not be thereby augmented.

The remount and additional horses for the Light Dragoons I hope may be sent out early, as the good services they have performed this campaign, and the dread the enemy have of them, has been fully experienced upon every occasion. I therefore beg leave to request that three hundred horses, with saddles and accoutrements, may be sent out in *March* for this service, and I could wish to have them from *Ireland*, as more hardy and more accustomed to get over fences than the horses from *England*.

Colonel *Prescot*, commanding at *St. Augustine*, has requested to have the rank of Brigadier-General upon the *American* service, and knowing him to be a worthy, good officer, I beg leave to recommend him to his Majesty's favour.

I also beg leave to recommend Dr. *Morris*, physician, who has served this and the last campaign to general satisfaction and with great credit to himself, to be Inspector of the Hospitals of this Army. As it must be much divided in the course of this winter and the next campaign, I apprehend such an appointment in his favour will be for the interest of his Majesty's service.

I am, &c., W. Howe.

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PROCLAMATION BY LORD HOWE.

*By* Richard *Viscount* Howe, *of the Kingdom of* Ireland, *and* William Howe, *Esq., General of his Majesty's Forces in* America, *the King's Commissioners for restoring peace to his Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in* North America, *&c.:*

*Proclamation.*

Whereas, by our Declarations of the 14th of *July*, and 19th of *September* last, in pursuance of his Majesty's most gracious intentions towards his subjects in the Colonies or Provinces of *New-Hampshire*, *Massachusetts-Bay*, *Rhode-Island*, *Connecticut*, *New-York*, *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, the three lower Counties on *Delaware*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *North-Carolina*, *South-Carolina*, and *Georgia*, all persons speedily returning to their just allegiance were promised a free and general pardon, and were invited to accept not only the blessings of peace, but a secure enjoyment of their liberties and properties, upon the true principles of the Constitution: And whereas, notwithstanding the said declarations, and the example of many who have availed themselves of the assurances therein made, several bodies of armed men, in open contempt of his Majesty's proffered clemency, do still continue their opposition to the establishment of legal government and peace; and divers other ill-disposed persons, pursuing their own ambitious purposes in the exercise of a lawless influence and power, are using fresh endeavours, by various arts and misrepresentations, to alienate the confidence and affection of his Majesty's subjects; to defeat every plan of reconciliation, and to prolong the unnatural war between *Great Britain* and her Colonies: Now, in order to the more effectual accomplishment of his Majesty's most gracious intentions, and the speedy restoration of the publick tranquillity; and duly considering the expediency of limiting the time within which such pardon as aforesaid shall be granted, and of specifying the terms upon which only the same shall and may be obtained: We do, in his Majesty's name, and by virtue of the powers committed to us, hereby charge and command all persons whatsoever, who are assembled together in arms against his Majesty's government, to disband themselves and return to their dwellings, there to remain in a peaceable and quiet manner; and we also charge and command all such other persons as are assembled together under the name of General or Provincial Congresses, Committees, Conventions, or other associations, by whatever name or names known and distinguished, or who, under the colour of any authority from any such Congress, Committee, Convention, and other association, take upon them to issue or execute any orders for levying money, raising troops, fitting out armed ships and vessels, imprisoning, or otherwise molesting his Majesty's subjects, to desist and cease from all such treasonable actings and doings, and to relinquish all such usurped power and authority, so that peace may be restored, a speedy remission of past offences quiet the apprehensions of the guilty, and all the inhabitants of the said Colonies be enabled to reap the benefit of his Majesty's paternal goodness in the preservation of their property, the restoration of their commerce, and the security of their most valuable rights, under the just and moderate authority of the Crown and Parliament of *Great Britain:* And we do hereby declare, and make known to all men, that every person, who within sixty days from the day of the date hereof, shall appear before the Governour, or Lieutenant-Governour, or Commander-in-Chief, in any of his Majesty's Colonies or Provinces aforesaid, or before the General or Commanding Officer of his Majesty's forces in *America*, or any other officer in his Majesty's service having the command of any detachment or parties of his Majesty's forces there, or before the Admiral or Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's fleets, or any other officer commanding any of his Majesty's ships of war, or any armed vessel in his Majesty's service, within any of the ports, havens, creeks, or upon the coasts of *America*, and shall claim the benefit of this Proclamation, and at the same time testify his obedience to the laws, by subscribing a declaration in the words following: "I, *A. B.*, do promise and declare, that I will remain in a peaceable obedience to his Majesty, and will not take up arms, nor encourage others to take up arms, in opposition to his authority," shall and may obtain a full and free pardon of all treasons and misprisions of treasons, by him heretofore committed or done, and of all forfeitures, attainders, and penalties for the same; and upon producing to us, or to either of us, a certificate of such his appearance and declaration, shall and may have and receive such pardon made and passed to him in due form.

Given at *New-York*, this thirtieth day of *November*, 1776.

Howe.
W. Howe.

By command of their Excellencies:

Henry Strachey.

[It was remarked, as extraordinary, that the oath in this Proclamation says not a word about Parliament, or Legislative authority, which was the cause of the war; but that it requires purely an implicit submission to the King, and to him alone.]—*Rem.*

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER RECEIVED IN LONDON, DATED NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 30, 1776.

Our Army moulders away amazingly; many die by the sword, many by sickness, brought on by the bad provisions we have had from *Ireland;* others by the inclemency of the weather; and I am afraid great numbers will not see the winter over. This climate, and such provisions as we have, (for the Provincials clear the country as they go of all kinds of necessaries of life,) agree with none but those who are inured to hardships, and are brought up with the most ordinary food. I wish Government would look after the contractors, for without we are supplied with wholesome necessaries of life, it cannot be expected we shall long fight their battles.

GENERAL SCOTT TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Camp at Haverstraw, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: By express last evening from General *Heath*, I received an extract of a letter from Head-Quarters to him, dated 27th instant, in which it is mentioned that your Excellency is assured of my exertions to influence my troops to continue in service with General *Heath* fifteen or twenty days longer.

You have doubtless, sir, been apprised by that gentleman of the reason of my coming hither. But lest it should be otherwise, give me leave to mention, that an application to him, by Colonel *Hay*, of this place, a gentleman uncommonly spirited in the publick cause, representing the exposed state of this part of the country by reason of the vicinity of the enemy, and the great number of Tories between this and the enemy's Army, he thought proper to consult with his Brigadiers on the subject, who advised him to throw a body of troops across the river. This measure being approved by him, he inquired what troops should be sent, upon which I offered my service with my brigade. On the 25th, in the evening, I received my orders for crossing, "to cover the stores on this side the river, and to prevent the advances of the enemy into the passes of the Highlands, should they attempt it." Early in the morning I moved, and arrived here about the middle of the day; and on inquiry found Colonel *Hays's* fears too well grounded. Therefore, after making the necessary disposition of the troops, and on considering that the few remaining days of service would put it out of my power to answer the end for which I came, I immediately wrote a most pressing letter to our Convention, requesting them to conjure the troops, in the strongest terms, to continue one month longer in the service, and to offer them a gratuity to induce them to do it. However, before my letter had reached the Convention, they had taken up the subject, as you will see by No. 1, enclosed, which came to hand yesterday. The Convention, however, on receipt of my letter, came to the resolves, No. 2. Upon receipt of them I paraded the brigade, formed them into a circle, and from the centre published the two sets of resolves, and in the best and most animated manner I could, urged a compliance with them. I then retired and left them to free consultation; and on my return, desired the officers, who chose to continue with me in the service, to join me in the centre, at the same time offering my month's pay to the non-commissioned and privates, as a further encouragement to them to follow the example of their leaders. All the commissioned officers present, except five Captains and subs and two Adjutants, immediately joined me. This circumstance gave me flattering hopes; but, alas, sir, I have been deceived; for upon ordering the officers to bring me in returns of those who are willing to continue, which they have done, I am convinced that I cannot retain thirty. However, I shall immediately put the passage of the letter above alluded to into brigade orders, hoping that your Excellency's application, and the short term you propose, may have the desired effect.

You will be waited upon, sir, by some of my officers with their abstracts. I am sorry to inform that the detention of their pay has been made a great handle by the leaders of the opposition. I therefore earnestly beseech your Excellency to despatch the warrants, as the men will wait till the officers return, and they are directed to ride night and day.

I take the liberty to enclose the abstracts for myself and Major *Fish*, on which I beg your Excellency's warrant.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, } Fishkill, November 25th, 1776. }

Whereas the period of service of the brigade of Militia of this State, under the command of Brigadier-General *Scott*, as well as that of the detachment of Militia stationed in the Forts in the Highlands, commanded by Colonel *Snyder*, will soon expire; and whereas, from the invasion of this State in different parts, and the measures necessary for its protection and security, an unavoidable delay has been occasioned in the inlisting and raising the four Battalions of troops in this State for the Continental service; and whereas our merciless enemy, who have laid waste with unrelenting fury such parts of this State as unhappily became a prey to their vengeance and rapacity, have been encouraged by a season uncommonly favourable, and the hopes of the diminution of the Continental forces and the Militia, on account of the expiration of their times of service, to protract their military operations, and to proceed in spreading ruin and desolation throughout such parts of this injured country as they find defenceless and open to their barbarous incursions; and the further services of the said brigade and detachment of Militia being from these important considerations indispensable; and forasmuch as, from the present motions of the enemy, it is highly probable that all the Militia of this State will speedily be called forth into actual service; this Committee of Safety do therefore

*Resolve*, That in their opinion the said Brigade and Detachment of Militia ought to continue in service until the last day of *December* next, on the same pay and rations which have been hitherto provided for them, unless, from the situation of the enemy, they can be sooner discharged with safety.

And this Committee are persuaded that when they seriously reflect on the situation of their bleeding country, the miseries to which their friends and their families must be exposed by the further progress of their inhuman enemy, and the disgrace of deserting the service at so critical a period; when they consider that their retiring can procure them but a few days of ease, inglorious in the enjoyment and bitter in reflection, since it must invite their inveterate foes to pursue and seek them out in their very retirement; when they remember the righteous cause in which they are engaged, in common with a whole Continent, and the inestimable value of the blessings of freedom and security, for which they contend; and when, finally, they contemplate the glory which must be acquired in bravely defending their country against the hand of tyranny and oppression, their fathers, their families, their relations, and their friends, from rapine, plunder, and slaughter, and their females from indignities worse than death;—from motives so powerful; from every argument of interest, honour, duty, and self-preservation, as well as experience of their courage and patriotism, this Committee entertain not the least doubt but that the officers and privates of the said Brigade and Detachment will, with the utmost cheerfulness and alacrity, comply with this resolve, and continue to exert and distinguish themselves as brave, steady, and virtuous citizens and soldiers, and thus recommend themselves to the protection of Heaven and the regard and gratitude of their distressed country.

*Ordered*, That copies of this Resolution be immediately transmitted to General *James Clinton* and General *Scott*, and that the same be published at the head of every Regiment in General *Scott's* Brigade, and of every Company of the Detachment commanded by Colonel *Snyder*.

Extract from the Minutes:

JOHN MCKESSON, *Secretary*.

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In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, } Fishkill, November 27, 1776. }

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Representatives of this State be given to Brigadier-General *Scott* for his patriotick offer of continuing in service for the space of one month without pay, in order to stop the ravage of a cruel enemy.

*Resolved*, That Brigadier-General *Scott* be authorized and requested to continue in service for the space of one month, and that he be entitled to the same appointments with the other Brigadiers-General in the Continental service.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Representatives of this State be given to the Officers and Men of General *Scott's* Brigade for the spirit, alacrity, and perseverance which they have exercised in defence of their injured and invaded country.

*Resolved*, That the sum of £1,500 be given as a gratuity to the Non-commissioned Officers and Privates inlisted in this State, who at present compose General *Scott's* Brigade; and General *Scott* and the Colonels of the *New-York* Regiments in his Brigade are requested to dispose of the same in such a manner as they shall deem most equitable and advancive of the publick interest.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer of this State transmit the

said sum of £1,500 to General *Scott*, taking his receipt for the same.

Extract from the Minutes:

JOHN MCKESSON, *Secretary*.

GENERAL SCOTT TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Camp at Haverstraw, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: Since I had the honour of writing to you last, I have had a return of those in my brigade willing to continue a month in the service, their number too trifling to be mentioned.

Having, however, received last night an extract (a copy of which is enclosed) from a letter from Head-Quarters to General *Heath*, I put it in brigade orders this day, with some arguments for a compliance, which I fear will prove ineffectual, as I am informed Lieutenant-Colonel *Hardenbergh* and some of his men are already gone off, and many others of the brigade are in a state of motion. I have also taken care to put out in orders what I thought necessary for securing the supplies furnished to my brigades by the State. I hope the Colonels will attend to them. I expect to be at *Fishkill* on *Monday* night; for I am sure nothing less than an almighty power will hold my brigade.

I have this day wrote to General *Washington* an account of the steps taken by the Convention and myself to detain the brigade a little longer in the service. This I thought necessary for the justification of both. I am told with certainty, that two brigades from the other side are to cross immediately. I therefore most sincerely regret the obstinacy of my soldiers. A body of four or five thousand men to fall on the enemy's rear, would probably, while General *Washington*, who is confidently reported to be fifteen thousand strong, engaged them in front, night probably do signal service, especially if the following account be true, which I had from a Major *Clark*, who had a command of a party to cover the removal of the stores from *Tapan*, which is completed, and he now on his way to join General *Washington's* Army. It is safe for him in his march to take a detour. He is now on it. His letter to me is dated yesterday, at the *New-City*, at the Court-House. He says, "two persons, who made their escape from the enemy yesterday, one of whom was taken at *Fort Washington*, the other at *Fort Lee*, bring certain intelligence, that upwards of ten thousand of the enemy embarked under the command of General *Clinton* last *Sunday*, on board their transports, and sailed, the place of their destination not known, said to be *Carolina* or *Rhode-Island*, (query, if not to Capes of *Delaware*;) seven thousand remain at *Hackensack* and *Fort Lee*, under command of Lord *Cornwallis*, who is ordered to *England* immediately. *Dunmore* already gone. General *Howe* remains at present in *New-York*. A great number of the enemy were killed at *Fort Washington*, chiefly *Hessians*. Doctor *Pell* confirms this, who came to my quarters yesterday from *Fort Lee*."

The embarkation we have had an account of from different quarters. I begin now to credit it. I am well informed that the enemy are moved so far down that *Hackinsack* is guarded by Tories, of which this country is full, whose insolence I would have undertaken to correct, had I been able to continue in the service.

If I should collect any further intelligence, I shall, I suppose, be the bearer of it in person.

I have the honour to be, sir, yours and the Convention's most obedient servant,

JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

The honourable the Chairman of the Committee of Safety for the State of *New-York*.

*Extract referred to—Letter dated 27th instant.*

"His Excellency requests that you will mention to General *Scott* the expediency of his brigade's continuing in service with you, [meaning General *Heath*,] for fifteen or twenty days more than they engaged for. The importance of the measure will be obvious to General *Scott*, and his Excellency is well assured that his exertions will be employed to influence his troops to stay. Many advantages will be derived from it. On the other hand, their departure at this time, when the weather is so favourable to the enemy's plans, may be attended with sundry bad and alarming consequences."

HENRY WISNER TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT AND WILLIAM DUER.

Goshen, 30th of November, 1776.

SIR: When I got near home, I found that several of my neighbours had collected a drove of cattle together, amounting to some more than four hundred and fifty, which they had sold for the use of the *American* Army, and are to drive them to some place in *Jersey*, there to be salted for the use of the Flying-Camp.

And as it is so uncertain where our enemy will stop, or where the beef may be kept safe in *New-Jersey*, I have taken the liberty to suggest to you, whether it will not be best to have them killed and salted in some proper places on this side the Highlands. I have also made bold to advise that they be not drove any farther till I may hear from you on the subject. I am informed the *British* troops were near *Newark* day before yesterday. If you should be of my opinion, you had best to send immediately.

Write to *Stephen Gilberd*, who will be with the drove at *Gerrit Miller's*, in *Smith's Clove*.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

HENRY WISNER.

To *Pierre Cortlandt* and *William Duer*, Esqs.

GENERAL SPENCER TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp at North-Castle, 30th November, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have sent under guard to receive your direction and further determination, two prisoners, taken on suspicion of unfriendliness to these States, viz: Captain *Benjamin Vermillia* and *John Vermillia*. For particulars relative to them, I refer your Honour to the account given in the enclosed papers; and am, with great respect and esteem, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JO. SPENCER.

P. S. *December* 5, 1776.—Having delayed sending the above persons until this time, I have sent to your care a number of others also, with the above. Three of them was taken yesterday by a scouting party, viz: *Thomas Ellis*, *Benjamin Booth*, and *William Patterson*. They owned they had joined the enemy. I suppose were going home on a mischievous design. There is a number of others I conclude will likewise be sent forward with these. They are all supposed to be so very dangerous to these States as renders it very needful to confine them. Suppose they will all be sent forward to the Convention of this State, but that is submitted to your wisdom. I received intelligence yesterday from General *Wooster*, that he had discovered about seventy sail of men-of-war and transports off *Merrimack* and *New-Rochelle*, standing to the eastward with a fair wind. Their destination is uncertain, probably for *Newport*, as they keep under the *Long-Island* shore. In consequence of General *Lee's* desire, I have ordered the regiment commanded by the late Colonels *Seldon* and *Gay*, consisting of four hundred men, to march this day to join your command. J. S.

GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, November ye 30th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I received yours last night, dated the 27th, from *Newark*. You complain of my not being in motion sooner. I do assure you that I have done all in my power, and shall explain my difficulties when we have both leisure. I did not succeed with *Rogers*, and merely owing to the timidity or caution of the enemy, who contracted themselves into a compact body very suddenly. I am in hopes I shall be able to render you more service than had I moved sooner. I think I shall enter the Province of *Jersey* with four thousand firm and willing troops, who will make a very important diversion. Had I stirred sooner, I should have only led an inferior number of unwilling. The day after to-morrow we shall pass the river, when I shall be glad to receive your instructions; but I could wish you would bind me as little as possible, not from any opinion, I do assure you, of my own parts, but from a persuasion that detached Generals cannot have too great latitude, unless they are very incompetent indeed.

Adieu, my dear sir. Yours, most affectionately,

CHARLES LEE.

His Excellency General *Washington*, *Elizabeth-Town*.

P. S. I have just been speaking with General *Heath*,

the strictness of whose instructions a good deal distress me.* I could have replaced the few I require, by men who are able to do stationary duty, but not to make expeditious marches. My numbers will in consequence be fewer than I promised.

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GENERAL LEE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Camp Croton Pond, November 30, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The affairs of *America* are in a more alarming situation every day. The enemy have passed the *Passaic;* unless, therefore, the *New-England* Provinces exert themselves not only vigorously, but essentially, we are lost. General *Washington* has ordered me with the Continental troops over the river. This measure may be necessary for the safety of the *Jerseys*, or perhaps even for *Philadelphia*, but the hardships that the men must encounter at this season of the year will, I apprehend, prevent very considerably, if not entirely, the recruiting the new Army; and unless an Army is formed, and immediately, you must submit to the yoke prepared. If this Army cannot be formed in the mode proposed, by volunteers, which at best is a very bad mode, it follows that some other must be adopted. The scheme that I would propose is what ought to have pointed itself out at first; it is that which all countries have adopted; for when the soldiers of a community are composed of volunteers, war becomes quite a distinct profession. The arms of a Republic gets into the hands of its worst members. Volunteers being composed in general of the most idle, vicious, and dissolute part of every society, the usual catastrophe is, that they become the tools of some General more artful than the rest, and finally turn the arms put into their hands for the defence of their country, against their country's bosom. This has and must be the fate of every people who have not wisdom enough to make, and virtue enough to submit to, laws which oblige every citizen to serve in his turn as a soldier. It may be answered that your Militia is established on this principle. But your Militia, from the incompetency of their officers, or some other vice in its constitution, manifestly does not answer the purposes. I would therefore take the liberty to propose, as the Army will probably not be raised by volunteers, and as an Army so composed is at best a very dangerous remedy, that you should fill your regiments by drafts from your Militia. Let every seventh man be obliged to serve in the regular regiments for one year, and you will have an Army immediately, excellent in all respects, formidable against the external enemy, and less dangerous to their fellow-citizens.

I hope to God your Governments have energy sufficient to accomplish the point; and I hope your gentlemen of the first distinction and property have patriotism to lead the way in submitting to so necessary and wholesome a regulation. If you have not, there are only two things left to your choice: either to call in the troops of *France* and *Spain*, or submit unconditionally to the tyranny of *Britain*. If your gentlemen lead the way in cheerfully obeying the summons of their country, I am myself persuaded the people will cheerfully follow. For God's sake, sir, convince them of the necessity. Suffer not a spark of whatever virtue amongst you to be latent. Now is the time to call it all into action.

In this pious work, that God Almighty may assist you, is the most fervent prayer of one who is, dear sir, most truly yours,

CHARLES LEE.

To the Honourable *James Bowdoin.*

N. B. Our want of blankets and stores is every day more crying. I would be much obliged to you, as this scheme will be applicable to *New-Hampshire*, to send them a copy.

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EXAMINATION OF TWO DESERTERS FROM NEW-YORK.

Peekskill, November 30th, 1776.

*William Doning* and *John Beaver*, both of the Third Battalion, *Pennsylvanians*, were taken at *Fort Washington* 16th instant, and escaped from *New-York* the 22d, testify that the enemy are making a large embarkation of troops, as is reported, for *Carolina*. That a number of cannon, twenty-four-pounders and downwards, were moved down to the wharves. That thirteen large transports and frigates hauled off on the 27th, and that the soldiers said they had troops on board, and that they saw troops, and frequently heard them march by the *French* Church, in which they were confined. That two brigades, to wit: one of *British* and one *Hessians*, were to remain at *Fort Washington* this winter, and one brigade in the city. That there were five or six thousand men in the *Jerseys*. That the talk was that they should be reinforced the next spring by a body of *Russian* troops, when they will give us a sweat, &c.

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COURT MARTIAL.

At a General Court Martial, held at the house of *John Mandvel*, on *Saturday*, the 30th of *November*, anno Domini 1776. Present: Colonel *Ward*, President; Colonel *Hammon*, Major *Woods*, Captain *Nuting*, Captain *Moss*, Captain *Reynolds*, Captain *Scott*, Captain *Sumney*, Captain *Brown*, Captain *Perce*, Captain *Hunter*, Captain *Barlow*, Captain *Pain*. Captain *Godwin*, Judge-Advocate. President and members sworn.

*Francis Looly*, prisoner, brought before this court on a charge for sleeping on his post. The charge being read to the prisoner, pleads guilty. The court taking the matter into mature deliberation, and from several circumstances appearing to this court, are of opinion that the prisoner is incapable of being any service to the *United States*, in the capacity of a soldier, by reason of his nonage and other inabilities, do order that he be fined the sum of ten shillings, *New-York* currency, and be dismissed from the service.

T. WARD, *President.*

The General approves the sentence, and remits the fine.

W. HEATH.

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*November* 30th.—Just before dinner General *Sullivan* arrived at General *Heath's* quarters; and in the afternoon General *Lee* arrived. He called at the door, when General *Heath* waiting upon him, requested him to alight; he asked if he could have a cup of tea, and was answered that he should have a good one. Upon coming into the house, before he sat down, he wished to speak in private, which being instantly granted, he told General *Heath* that, in a military view, or, to use his own words exactly, "In point of law, you are right; but in point of policy, I think you are wrong. I am going into the *Jerseys* for the salvation of *America;* I wish to take with me a larger force than I now have, and request you to order two thousand of your men to march with me." General *Heath* answered that he could not spare that number. He was then asked to order one thousand; to which he replied, that the business might as well be brought to a point at once—that not a single man should march from the post by *his* order. General *Lee* replied, that he would then order them himself. He was answered, that there was a wide difference between the two; that General *Lee* was acknowledged by General *Heath* to be his senior; but, as he had received positive written instructions from him who was superior to both, he would not *himself* break those orders: If General *Lee* was disposed to countenect them, its being done by him could not be imputed to any other person; and that he knew the Commander-in-Chief did not intend any of the troops should be removed from that post, having expressed it not only in his instructions, but also in a letter just received from him. On the letter being shown to General *Lee*, he observed, "The Commander-in-Chief is now at a distance, and does not know what is necessary here so well as I do;" asked if he might be favoured with the return book of the division. Major *Huntington*, the Deputy Adjutant-General, was directed to hand it. General *Lee* ran his eye over it, and said, "I will take *Prescott's* and *Wyllis's* regiments;" and turning to Major *Huntington*, said, "You will order those two regiments to march early to-morrow morning to join me." General *Heath* turning to the Major, said: "Issue such orders at your peril!" and then turning to General *Lee*, addressed him: "Sir, if you come to this post, and mean to issue orders here, which will break those positive ones which I have received, I pray you to do it completely yourself, and through your own Deputy Adjutant-General, who is present, and not draw me, or any of my family, in as partners in the guilt." General *Lee* replied, "It is right. Colonel *Scammel*, do you issue the order;" which he did, and *Huntington* communicated it to the regiments, who were now posted at the gorge of the mountains, near *Robinson's* bridge, afterwards called the *Continental Village*. Matters carried thus far, General *Heath* turned to General *Lee* again: "Sir, I have one more request to make, and that is, that you will be pleased to give me a certificate, that you exercise command at this post, and do order from it *Prescott's* and *Wyllis's* regiments." *Lee* replied, "I do not know that I will comply with your request." General *Clinton*, who was present, observed, "General *Lee*, you cannot refuse a request so reasonable." Upon which General *Lee* wrote as follows:

"PEEK'S KILL, *December* 1st, 1776.

"For the satisfaction of General *Heath*, and at his request, I do certify that I am commanding officer at this present writing, in this post, and that I have, in that capacity, ordered *Prescott's* and *Wyllis's* regiments to march.

"CHARLES LEE, *Major-General.*"

General *Lee*, stepping out on the piazza, observed to an officer: "General *Heath* is right." Early the next morning the regiments moved from their cantonment towards *Peekskill;* but before they had reached it, General *Lee*, now ready to pass into the *Jerseys*, rode up to General *Heath's* door, and calling him, observed, "Upon further consideration, I have concluded not to take the two regiments with me—you may order them to return to their former post." General *Lee* took with him into the *Jerseys* some as good troops as any in the service; but many of them were so destitute of shoes, that the blood left on the rugged, frozen ground, in many places, marked the route they had taken; and a considerable number, unable to march, were left at *Peekskill.—Heath.*

JOHN McKESSON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fishkill, November 30th, 11 o'clock, P. M.

SIR: I have been so unfortunate as not to obtain General *Scott's* letter received this morning, from the gentleman to whom it was then committed, and therefore the extracts referred to in the enclosed resolutions are not transmitted by this conveyance. General *Scott* in that letter mentions his want of Light-Horse to bring him intelligence, and earnestly desires more aid of Militia or otherwise, that might enable him to prevent the disaffected from aiding the enemy, curb their rapine, and protect our friends in *Orangetown* and parts adjacent from insults, &c.

In the recess of the Committee of Safety, I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient and humble servant, JOHN McKESSON, *Secretary.*

To the Honourable Major-General *Heath.*

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RESOLVES OF CONVENTION OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, } Fishkill, November 30th, 1776. }

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Cuyler* and Mr. *Duer* be authorized and requested to employ such and so many persons as they shall think fit to purchase and collect three hundred Felling Axes; that they have power to impress the same where there is more than one in a family, paying the full value, or offering to return the same on or before the first day of *January* next; and that they advance such sums of money as they shall think necessary for the purpose, which this Committee will repay; that the Axes so obtained be delivered to General *George Clinton,* or his agent, taking a receipt therefor as so many Axes delivered into the Continental store.

*Resolved,* That the persons so employed set out on this business immediately, and return all the Axes they shall obtain this day to General *George Clinton,* or his agent, at *New-Windsor,* by seven o'clock on *Sunday* morning, or as soon after as possible; that in order to compensate their extraordinary fatigue, one shilling will be paid to each agent for every Axe delivered, over and above his wages and expense of carriage.

*Resolved,* That *John Teller, John Elmendorph, Jeremiah Clarke,* and *Nicholas Brewer,* Junior, be appointed agents to collect within one week as many Boats, Scows, and Craft as are fit for carrying Stone; that they have power to hire or impress the same, Ferry Boats excepted, permitting the owner of every Boat with sails to put one hand on board if he shall choose it, giving a receipt therefor, which receipt shall describe the Boat and specify the hire agreed for; that they be delivered to General *George Clinton,* or his agent, at *New-Windsor,* with all possible despatch; that on such delivery to General *Clinton,* they be respectively appraised by three reputable freeholders, and a similar receipt taken therefor by the persons delivering the same.

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Gilbert Livingston* cause the Spars and Timber purchased by the Secret Committee to be immediately rafted to *New-Windsor,* and delivered to General *George Clinton,* or his order, and that a receipt be taken therefor.

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Gilbert Livingston* be empowered to cause three tons of Iron, of one inch and a half and one inch and three-quarters thick, an equal quantity of each, or such other quantities and sizes of Iron as General *Clinton* may direct, to be delivered at *New-Windsor* as soon as possible.

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Cuyler,* Mr. *Contine,* and Colonel *Allison,* be a Committee to supply such further necessaries as General *George Clinton* may apply for, in order to perfect the obstructions of *Hudson's* River; that they be empowered to draw on the Treasurer for a sum not exceeding four hundred Pounds to defray the expenses thereof.

*Resolved,* That all the Troops of this State who are not, by the terms of their inlistment, confined to particular Counties, except those in the Counties of *Charlotte, Tryon, Cumberland,* and *Gloucester,* be ordered down to *Fort Constitution,* and be annexed to General *George Clinton's* Brigade, till the 1st day of *January* next, and that Letters be written to the Chairman of the County Committees, where the Troops are under their direction, requesting them to enforce this Resolution.

*Resolved,* That the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning to oppose the invasion of the enemy on the west side of *Hudson's* River, and that Brigadier-General *George Clinton* issue orders accordingly; and that they march for this purpose on receiving the orders of Major-General *Heath,* provided such orders shall be given within one month.

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Mechin* be authorized and requested to alter and fix the Chain intended for the obstruction of *Hudson's* River in such manner and at such place as he may think best calculated to answer the purpose for which it was intended; and that this Committee will advance the money necessary to defray the expense thereof.

*Resolved,* That a copy of such parts of General *Scott's* Letter of the 29th instant as relates to the present situation of his Brigade and that part of the country, be sent to Major-General *Heath,* and that General *Heath* be requested to give such relief to General *Scott* as the particular circumstances of that part of the country may require.

Extract from the Minutes:

ROB'T BENSON, *Secretary.*

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DR. GRAHAM TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fishkill, 30 November, 1776.

MUCH HONOURED GOOD SIR: I wrote you yesterday that I had sixty-five invalids of your men under my care in this place, per order of the Committee of Safety of this State. I am now at the Barracks, where they lie. The Captain and one Lieutenant are now of the number, which in the whole now amount to eighty-five. You will be good enough to send me your orders. I think sundry of them had better be sent home.

I am, dear sir, your much obliged humble servant to command,

CHAUNCEY GRAHAM.

Honourable *W. Heath,* Major-General.

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COLONEL VAN SCHAICK TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Albany, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: We having accidentally met, agreed to address a few lines to the Convention, begging they would take in consideration the necessity of allowing colours to the battalions raised in this State during the war, as we cannot hear that any provision is made for them by Congress; we would also beg leave to suggest to you that we are at a loss to know where we shall furnish ourselves with drums and fifes. As we conceive both these matters to be of some importance, inasmuch that we may appear at least as respectable as our neighbours, we beg your answer, with the sense of Convention upon the subject.

We are, most respectfully, sir, your very humble servants,

GOOSE VAN SCHAICK,
PHILIP CORTLANDT,
PETER GANSEVOORT.

To *Peter R. Livingston,* Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York.*

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JOHN LANSING, JUN., TO JAMES DUANE.

Saratoga, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: I find my name on the list of officers for the new levies as a Lieutenant. As it is to you and Mr. *Yates* I can only be indebted for this appointment, I beg leave to tender you my best and sincerest acknowledgments for your kind intervention in my favour; and though I shall decline accepting the commission, as General *Schuyler* has been pleased to honour me with the office of Secretary, yet I shall ever retain the most grateful sense of this, as well as the many other obligations you have repeatedly laid me under.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN LANSING, Jun.

To the Honourable *James Duane,* Esq.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 7 December, 1776.]

Hartford, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: I am now to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 15th instant, and the enclosed resolve, which will be attended to in this State.

The General Assembly, in their sessions in *October* last, appointed *John Lawrence*, Esq., of *Hartford*, Treasurer of this State, Commissioner of the Continental Loan Office to be opened and kept here, pursuant to a resolve of Congress; and I have now to request that the proper loan bills may be sent him by this express, that he may enter upon the execution of his office; and also that the twenty thousand dollars to be advanced to this State by order of the Committee of Congress for supplying the Army with clothing may, to save the hazard and expense of transportation, be ordered to be paid out of the first money he may receive in said office. And as we have already sent to the Northern Army clothing nearly to the amount of that sum, and have purchased and are purchasing other large quantities, I take the liberty to request the sum to be advanced and paid us on this account may be increased to thirty or forty thousand dollars, if the state of the Continental Treasury will permit.

I also beg leave to inform that the General Assembly, pursuant to another resolve of Congress, have appointed Mr. *Epaphras Bull*, of *Hartford*, Commissary of Prisoners of War in this State.

As the extensive sea-coast of this State, whilst the enemy are in possession of *Long-Island* and *New-York* Island, are eminently exposed to their descents and ravages, which may greatly disable us from affording assistance to the Army in men and provisions, I am directed by the General Assembly to apply to Congress, and request that two battalions of Continental troops may be stationed at proper places in the towns on our sea-coast, to protect them from sudden invasions. When it is considered that every man in this State, capable to bear arms, and liable to Militia duty, has from time to time in the summer past, been called to assist the Army, to the great prejudice of the State, and that our sea-coast hath hitherto been fortified and defended at our own great expense, when the neighbouring States, not in a greater danger of an attack than we now are, and for a considerable time past have been, were covered and defended by Continental troops, I flatter myself our request will appear neither premature nor unreasonable.

At this advanced season there is great reason to fear the new Army will not be raised in time, before the term of service of the present Army expires. To prevent the inconvenience that may be apprehended should this event take place, the General Assembly, on General *Washington's* request, have ordered four battalions immediately to be inlisted in this State, to join the Army, and serve under his command, until the 15th day of *March* next. The utmost care will be taken to have them inlisted, equipped, and upon the ground, before the dissolution of the present Army takes place.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient, humble servant,

JONTH. TRUMBULL.

His Excellency President *Hancock*.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Hartford, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your several favours of 6th, 7th, 10th, and 17th instant, and for the intelligence they contain. By the non-appearance of the enemy on ours or the *Rhode-Island* coast, gives us great hopes that for this winter we may remain quiet in this quarter, though it becomes us always to be vigilant. It equally affords me the most sensible satisfaction to hear that our losses are less than were at first feared, particularly those of *Monday*, mentioned in yours of the 6th, and wish the losses of the enemy, and among the rest of a Colonel *Carr*, might induce them to desist from the further prosecution of so unjust a war. Your conjecture of General *Howe's* intention to make an excursion on the *Jersey* side, before he goes into winter quarters, is undoubtedly well founded. May all his designs to distress us prove abortive.

Impressed with the critical situation the Army must be in at the departure of the new levies, I have laid the matter before the Assembly, with your own observations on that head. They have, from the necessity of the case, notwithstanding our late exertions, and the repeated drafts made upon us, ordered four battalions to be raised and marched, as soon as may be, until the fifteenth of *March* next; in mean time, every nerve shall be strained to engage and forward our quota of the new Army. To this purpose every encouragement and measure is taking here, and flatter myself what has been done will not interfere with the general service. Am fully sensible that the applications of the Militia for repeated dismissions, must have given you much trouble and concern; but hope in future you will be relieved in those respects. The Militia are certainly a respectable body of men; but without constant employ, they will grow impatient; but have no doubt every reasonable allowance will be made in their favour. The advance pay of twenty shillings, over and above what was allowed by Congress, which you made mention of, has been since reconsidered. The wages of the troops must at least be similar, and if any further are made them in that way, it should be general, and by order of Congress, for the reasons you mention.

The loss of *Fort Washington*, with so many of our brave men, is indeed a most unfortunate event. But though we are to consider and improve this, and like disappointments, as the just chastisement of Heaven for our many transgressions, yet are we by no means to despair—we are in this way to be prepared for help and deliverance. This intelligence is forwarded to Governour *Cooke* and the *Massachusetts* State, according to your desire.

I shall immediately forward all the clothing and blankets that are or can be obtained. The utmost pains are taking to furnish these and every other supply in our power for the distressed troops, for whom we most sensibly feel.

To prevent any impositions, and to encourage our own troops in future, our State has undertaken to furnish and deliver them all kinds of refreshments, not found by the Commissary-General, at prime cost. To carry this into execution we suppose a general store must be provided, a Receiver-General appointed, as also proper persons (perhaps the Paymasters) in each battalion, to receive and issue for such battalion, and some general plan formed that these supplies may be considered as under the care and protection of the Army; also pass through such hands as shall stand accountable, and at same time the pay secured and stopped from the troops in hands of the Paymaster for use of this State. I have stated the same thing to the General Officers from this State, and desired them to consult your Excellency, and obtain the proper directions for effecting the undertaking, and advise me of it, that when these stores arrive we may know how and where to apply.

I am, with great truth and esteem, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JONTH. TRUMBULL.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL LEE.

Hartford, November 30th, 1776.

SIR: Your favours of the 21st and 22d instant, were duly received, and now answer, that for the reasons and events you mention, do fully concur in the sentiment, that we must very much, if not altogether, depend upon ourselves on this side the river for preventing the enemy from penetrating this way. In this view of the matter, the Assembly have ordered four battalions for march as soon as possible, properly equipped and furnished, to continue till the 15th of *March* next; in mean time our quota of regulars will be raising and forwarding. The most effectual measures have been taken to engage officers of the stamp you mention; much certainly depends upon it, and flatter myself there will be no further cause of complaint upon that head. The forming of officers, as well as men, is a work of time.

We have the highest sense of your zeal, vigilance and labor, for our common safety and prosperity; and in turn assure you of every reasonable exertion to aid your endeavours; we have consequently ordered a considerable supply of clothing, blankets, &c., immediately to be forwarded, and are determined, with a due dependence upon the divine Disposer of events, notwithstanding our late disappointments, and the additional loss of the fort by your name, to maintain our cause to the last extremity.

I am, with great esteem and regard, your most obedient, humble servant,

JONTH. TRUMBULL.

The Honourable Major-General *Lee*.

DR. TURNER TO GENERAL SPENCER.

Stamford, 30th November, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIR: We are in a most crowded situation, with the sick of the Army swarming as if there was no end to them for several days past, and continue so to do. I most earnestly recommend it to your Honour to grant discharges for the persons hereafter named, and to point out some method whereby many others may get their discharges without troubling your Honour any further at such distance from this place, their friends constantly soliciting certificates, and think it a great burden that they have to go so far, as to camp and back, before the discharges can be completed. There is not less than six or seven hundred invalids now in town, and I dare say not one quarter of them, if they were now in camp, would be of any further service this campaign.

*Colonel Sergeant's.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Zac. Goldsmith, | Joshua Hubbard, | Abel Blood, |
| James Linsey, | James Churchill, | John Edmund, |
| Jo. Trobes, | Benj. Leonard, | Samuel Fletcher. |
| Edward Master, | Simeon Blood, | |

*Colonel Glover's.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jesse Snow, | Benj. Craft, | John Thompson, |
| Sam. Thompson, | John Ritchway, | Allen Richardson, |
| Philip Craw, | Wm. Parsons, | Enos Wilkins. |
| Jo. Ober, | Jho. Morse, | |

*Colonel Prescott's.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amos Brooks, | Jed'h Felt, | Chelpy Perkins. |

*Colonel Lippit's.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Benoni Bates, | Amos Wood. |

*Colonel Ward's.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Louden Benton, | Ammi Kembal, | Wm. Rice. |
| Jo. Clark, | | |

*Colonel Huntington's.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elisha Case, | Jacob Bennet, | David Mitchell, |
| Belcher Starkweather, | Eleazer Scott, | Nathaniel Martin. |

*Colonel Tyler's.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Israel Geer, | Nathan Tinker, | Eleazer Allen, |
| Robert Dunbar, | Simeon Saunders, | John Rundall, |
| Jere. Wright, | Ezekiel Huntly, | Abner Huntly, |
| David Palmer, | John Hambleton, | Wm. Chandler, |
| Eli Crosby, | Silas Wood, | Elnathan Hurd, |
| Aholiab Branch, | Samuel Heth, | John Cole, |
| Lemuel Waterman, | John Gold, | Zeb. Miner, |
| Elisha Fanning, | James Shipman, | Amos Miner. |
| Philip Allen, | | |

*Colonel Willys's.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Daniel Goodsill, | Isaac Case, | Elijah Risley, |
| John Stillwil, | Ebenezer Isom, | Cornelius Dunham, |
| John Row, | John Roberts, | Serg't Whitney. |

*Colonel Selden's.*

Benj. Billings.

*Colonel Chester's,*

John Curtis.

I am, sir, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

PH. TURNER.

To the Hon. *Joseph Spencer*, Esq., Major-General.

North-Castle, 2d December, 1776.

The within-named persons are discharged from further service in the Continental Army this campaign.

By order of Major-General Spencer:

WM. PECK, *Aid-de-Camp.*

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Providence, November 30, 1776.

Captain *West*, in the privateer *Joseph*, has taken a transport ship that left *New-York* in company with one hundred and thirty sail, all in ballast, bound to *Europe*, under convoy of three men-of-war. Captain *West* has also taken a *Guineaman* that had been captured by a *Philadelphia* privateer, and twice retaken by the enemy. The privateer that first took her, it is said, found a large sum of money on board, which was secured.

Captain *Hacker*, of the sloop *Providence*, in the service of the *United States*, in company with the ship *Alfred*, has taken a ship from *England*, bound to *Quebeck*, with twelve thousand suits of clothing, four thousand stands of arms, a quantity of powder, and other warlike stores, also a brig from *England*, bound to *Halifax*, laden with provisions, &c., to the amount of six thousand pounds sterling. The brig is arrived at a safe port, and the ship was left in company with the *Alfred*.

STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS MARTINDALE AND GEORGE M'CREE.

In justice to Captain *Samuel Tucker*, of the *Hancock*, in return for his civilities, we do hereby certify, that on the 29th day of *October* last we was taken in the brig *Lively*, bound from *Air* to *Newfoundland*, by the *Hancock*, in the Continental service, and brought into this port on the 13th current. That Captain *Samuel Tucker*, commander of the *Hancock*, allowed us to remain on board the *Lively* till her arrival here, where we was treated with all manner of civilities and good usage. Mr. *Tucker* he not only give liberty for Mr. *McCree*, the master, mate and hands of the *Lively* to take all their clothes and private adventures, &c., for their own particular account, but after some of the sailors had been robbed of some goods and clothes by his people, which were missing for some days, he was at the pains to search for the goods, &c., which he found and delivered, and such part as could not be found, he generously paid the full price for out of his own pocket. He likewise has been at all manner of pains since we arrived, to introduce us to such gentlemen as could be of any service to us, and has done every thing in his power to make matters as easy and agreeable to us as possible in our present situation.

Given under our hands, as witness our subscriptions, at *Boston*, this 30th day of *November*, 1776.

Commander of the *Lively*, NICHOLAS MARTINDALE.
Owner of her cargo, GEORGE MCCREE.

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

November 30th, 1776.

SIR: We have the honour to enclose you, by order of the General Assembly of this State, the petition and plan of Messrs. *Fanuiel* and others, *French* gentlemen, together with the proceedings of the Assembly thereon, and to recommend them to the immediate notice of the honourable Congress, as the Assembly are of opinion, that the plan of those gentlemen may be adopted and improved by the Congress to the great benefit of the *United States*. They hope the Congress will take the matter into speedy consideration, as the gentlemen have been here upon considerable expense, waiting the success of their application, and seem desirous of entering into their service.

Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the honourable Continental Congress.

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DANIEL SARGENT TO ELLIS GRAY.

Newburyport, November 30, 1776.

SIR: I received your favour by Mr. *Spear*, and have bought about one hundred and fifty hogsheads merchantable fish for eleven pounds, and eleven pounds eleven shillings a hogshead, which hope will be agreeable. You will please to send me orders what to do with it, and send the money as soon as you can, as the privateer is in, and the people will want their money.

From your humble servant,

DANIEL SARGENT.

Mr. *Ellis Gray*.

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MEETING OF COMMITTEES OF CUMBERLAND AND GLOUCESTER, NEW-YORK.

Putney, October 23d, 1776.

Agreeable to the Resolves of the Provincial Congress of the State of *New-York*, the Committees of the Counties of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* did meet, and proceeded and appointed, and do recommend to the honourable Congress of the State of *New-York* the names of the following gentlemen to be commissioned in the Ranging Companies, under the command of Major *Joab Hoisington*, who were sworn to the faithful discharge of their respective offices, agreeable to the above resolves, *October* 23d, 1776.

Before me:

JAMES CLAY, *Chairman of the Committee.*

*Benjamin Wait*, Captain; *Elisha Hawley*, *Zebulon Lyon*, Lieutenants.

*Abner Seelye*, Captain, in the room of Captain *Day*, who has resigned; *Benjamin Whitney*, *Jehial Robbins*, Lieutenants.

*John Strong*, Captain; *Medad Benton*, *John Barns*, Lieutenants.

*Joseph Hatch*, Captain; *Simon Stevens*, *Amos Chamblen*, Lieutenants.

JAMES CLAY, *Chairman*.

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JAMES CLAY TO SUB-COMMITTEE OF TOWN OF PUTNEY.

Putney, September y^e^ 26, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Colonel *Williams* has earnestly requested me to call the County Committee and the Field Officers together, in order to procure arms for those that ha'nt got none, which the County Committee have already done in their instructions to our Delegates; and Colonel *Marsh* informs me that he was like to get a grant of money from the Provincial Congress sufficient to procure three hundred arms for the benefit of the County, and should have got them, had it not been for that letter which Mr. *Philps* and some others did prevail upon the Committee to send to *New-York*, together with some other informations they have received, which made them believe that we were a going to revolt from them; since which, they will do nothing for us until they can be assured that we have no such intent.

Now, by the advice of a number of the members of the County Committee, I earnestly request that you would call your town together, that you may know their minds as a body, or as individuals, whether they intend to revolt from the State of *New-York* or not: and be pleased to send the proceedings of your town to *Westminster* by your County Committee, at their next sitting, on the first *Tuesday* of *November* next, that the County Committee may be able to send to the Provincial Congress the minds of the inhabitants of this County in this important affair.

I beseech of you, and of every member of this community, to act candidly and uprightly in an affair of such importance as this is, at this critical time. Your compliance with the above request will greatly oblige a number of the County Committee, and your humble servant,

JAMES CLAY, *Chairman*.

To the Sub-Committee in the Town of *Putney*.

P. S. I sent a letter to the Sub-Committee of every town in the County, desiring them to meet as above-said and make returns, and but five towns met.

JAMES CLAY, *Chairman of the County Committee*.

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HERTFORD COMMITTEE TO JAMES CLAY.

Hertford, October 29th, 1776.

SIR: Agreeable to your request of *September* 26th, 1776, we have called the town together to know their minds relative to the separation from the State of *New-York*. We find the major part for a separation on the principle of first applying to the State of *New-York* for it before it be carried to the Continental Congress.

AARON WILLARD,
WILLIAM GALLUP,
PAUL SPOONER,
*Committee of said town of Hertford*.

To Capt. *James Clay*, Chairman of the County Committee at *Westminster*.

—

STATEMENT OF JAMES CLAY.

Mr. *James Clay*, Chairman of the Committee of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester*, informs, that Major *Hoisington*, on *Wednesday*, the 31st day of *July*, called at the informant's house and read a resolve of Convention of the State of *New-York*, respecting the raising a number of Rangers in said Counties, and requested said *Clay* to send out citations to the Committee of *Cumberland* County, to meet those of *Gloucester*, the *Tuesday* following, at *Windsor;* and that he, said *Hoisington*, would warn the Committee of *Gloucester* to meet him at that time and place; to which said informant objected, observing there being twenty-two towns in *Cumberland* County, and many of them remote from the place of meeting, together with the great distance from *Gloucester*, rendered it in a manner impracticable to collect the Committees of the two Counties in so short a time. Said *Clay* demanded the resolves, or a copy of them, as he had not been furnished with any instructions from Convention relative to the affair; which said *Hoisington* refused, and urged said *Clay* to call the Committee, representing the pressing necessity, in such terms as prevailed on said *Clay* to comply with his request. Accordingly the Committee were called, and met at *Windsor* aforesaid, there being nine members of *Cumberland* and one of *Gloucester*. Said *Clay* refused proceeding on business, there not being a majority of members of the Counties, as said *Clay* was informed that a quorum of each Committee was necessary to transact this business, in conformity with the resolve of Convention, which resolve Major *Hoisington* then read, but refused to let the same lie on the table; said *Hoisington* at same time insisted a majority was not necessary. After the greatest part of a day's debate, in which said *Hoisington* took a great share, it was resolved to proceed on business. The members then present chose the said *Clay* Chairman of the Committee, and proceeded to appoint the officers, as is more at large in transactions of said Committee. That next morning said *Hoisington* insisted on said *Clay's* signing the warrants for the officers appointed the evening preceding, which said *Clay* complied with, but did not swear said officers, as he, the said *Clay*, did not know it was necessary. *Hoisington* having kept the resolution of Convention in his possession, said *Clay* heard it read once only during the sitting of the Committee. Mr. *Clay* further informs, that he asked Major *Hoisington*, who was to govern this affair or order those men out on duty? Said *Hoisington* answered, he had the ordering of them himself, and that he was under no control, but ordered them as he thought best; and that since the signing the warrants, said *Hoisington* had never applied for any instructions from said Committee, nor did said *Clay* ever understand that the Rangers were under the command of the Committee.

JAMES CLAY, *Chairman*.

—

MAJOR HOISINGTON'S EXAMINATION.

Being asked why he refused giving Mr. *Clay* a copy of the resolves, denies his ever refusing Mr. *Clay* the resolves, or a copy of them, and that he never refused letting said resolves lie on the table. That his reason for insisting on the Committee being called together so speedily was to expedite the raising of the Rangers, knowing the alarming situation the frontiers were in. That the Committee regulated their own affairs, and if his opinion was erroneous relative to a majority not being necessary, the Committee might have overruled it. That Mr. *Clay* asked what post the Rangers should occupy, and who had the direction of the places they were to be stationed. That Major *Hoisington* answered that Congress had left that matter with him, and that Mr. *Clay* asked no other question relative to that affair, and that he does not recollect the substance of what passed between him and Major *Joel Marsh*, and that Mr. *Marsh's* not accepting of his commission rendered him a person not interested; consequently the discourse which passed between them was immaterial.

—

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN HATCH.

Captain *Hatch*, of Major *Hoisington's* detachment of Rangers, saith, that he never received any orders from Major *Hoisington* to raise men on any other terms than those prescribed by Convention. That the Major observed to him at the same time, if he wanted two or three men to fill up his company, he imagined there would be no risk in inlisting them for six months, as they could be replaced before the expiration of that time. Captain *Hatch* further declares, he has no men in his company inlisted for any shorter term than that directed by Convention; and the inlistment to which his men have subscribed is as follows:

"We, whose names are under written, do acknowledge to have voluntarily inlisted ourselves under Captain *Joseph Hatch*, who is raising a number of Rangers for the defence of the Counties of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester*, of whom *Joab Hoisington*, Esq., is Commander-in-Chief."

Captain *Hatch* further declares, that his men understood by said inlistment that they were not to march out of said Counties, nor to be stationed elsewhere; that the Counties of *Charlotte*, *Ulster*, *Orange*, and *Tryon*, were inserted in the above-mentioned inlistment, which were erased by order of the Major on Captain *Hatch* informing him he could not inlist men under such rules. At the same time the said Rangers consider themselves bound in duty, as friends to

*America*, to go to the assistance of any invaded part of *Charlotte* County, in like manner as the Militia, and to return to their former station as soon as said invasion or imminent danger is over. And further, as Captain *Hatch* inlisted those men to remain in the Counties of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* only, he is well apprised his men will not serve on any other terms than is above mentioned; that as soon as the apparent danger of those Counties does subside, they are immediately to be discharged. That the whole of his company were inlisted on the above-mentioned terms, and that Major *Hoisington* explained the circumstance in the manner above related. Captain *Hatch* understood from several of the Committee, that the Rangers were not to march out of the two Counties. This information was given in presence of Major *Hoisington*.

—

EXAMINATION OF LIEUTENANT LYONS.

Lieutenant *Lyons*, of Major *Hoisington's* detachment, being examined, saith, that Major *Hoisington* encouraged the inlisting of men for a limited time, and that all that passed between him and the Major on that subject was in presence of Major *Joel Marsh*, and that the informant inlisted thereon four men for six months, in consequence of the direction from the Major. That he cannot recollect what further passed, it being some time ago.

—

CERTIFICATE OF ELISHA HAWLEY.

These may certify, that I, *Elisha Hawley*, Lieutenant of a Ranging company, promise *Christopher Hall* shall be dismissed from the service by the 1st of *March* next.

ELISHA HAWLEY.

Witness: LEMUEL SMITH.

August 12th, 1776.

These may certify, I saw *Christopher Hall* receive forty shillings bounty, for the seven months, and no more.

Test: LEM'L SMITH.

—

CERTIFICATE OF JACOB KENT.

This certifies, that at the desire of the Committees of the County of *Gloucester* and sundry of the Committees of *New-Hampshire*, *Jacob Bayley*, Esq., did detain a large number of men he had engaged to make a road to *Canada*, after he desisted from that work, which was the first part of *July*, until some time in *September*, as guards, building forts, and scouting parties, which we thought was at that time absolutely necessary, because at that time we could not expect any other help.

JACOB KENT, *Chairman pro tem.*

—

MESHECH WEARE TO COLONEL JACOB BAYLEY.

Colony of New-Hampshire,
In Council of Safety, July 18, 1776.

*To Colonel* JACOB BAYLEY:

The Committee are in expectation that you will accomplish your desire of keeping in Continental pay, by order of General *Washington*, the sixty men employed by you to clear a road to *Canada;* and as you have thought fit to desist working on said road, that you employ them as scouting parties to guard the County. But if you should be directed to disband them, you are hereby empowered to inlist fifty men, to be under the pay of this Colony, until the first of *December* next, unless sooner discharged, and see that the men fairly choose a Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign, to command them; said company, if raised, to take orders from time to time from yourself, Colonel *John Hurd*, and Colonel *Charles Johnston*, to direct their conduct. Said men to receive thirty shillings bounty and forty shillings per month wages.

By order of the Committee. I am, sir, your most humble servant,

M. WEARE, *Chairman.*

—

OATH TAKEN BY THE OFFICERS OF HOISINGTON'S RANGERS.

You and each of you solemnly swear, that you will faithfully discharge the trust reposed in you as officers in the Ranging companies under the command of Major *Joab Hoisington*, and that you will make a true and just return of your doings agreeable to the resolves of the Provincial Congress, which has now been read to you: So help you God.

Sworn *October* 22, 1776.

JAMES CLAY, *Chairman.*

—

AFFIDAVIT OF JOEL MARSH.

*Cumberland, ss:*

*Joel Marsh*, being duly sworn, saith, that soon after Major *Hoisington's* arrival from *New-York* with his commission, he, the deponent, waited on said *Hoisington*, being appointed a Captain under him. When in conversation he observed to said *Hoisington*, that he did not choose to take a commission because he thought it would be very difficult to raise men for an unlimited term; on which *Hoisington* answered, it would not be difficult, as he would as soon inlist some until next *March* as not, and give them forty shillings bounty; that by that time perhaps the war would be at an end, and the surplus of the bounty would remain to the officers; that if men were wanted after that he could raise others; and that he would risk the consequences. The deponent further saith he saw *John Strong*, a Captain in the Rangers, inlist a man until next *March*, or about that time, as near as he can recollect, and that he is credibly informed that many of said Rangers are inlisted on the same plan. And further saith not the deponent.

Sworn before me in *Hertford*, 14th *November*, 1776.

SIMON STEVENS, *Justice of Peace.*

—

AFFIDAVIT OF SERGEANT MASON.

Sergeant *Elisha Mason*, of Major *Hoisington's* detachment of Rangers, being duly sworn, saith, that he inlisted in Captain *Waite's* company to serve till the first of *March* next, as a Sergeant, and that he has inlisted one man for the same term. That Major *Hoisington* told him it was not material if some of the men were inlisted till the first of *March*, it being a dangerous time, and that they were immediately wanted, and that he thought others might be recruited in their stead; and that Major *Hoisington* assured him that he should be discharged at that time. That he asked the Major concerning billeting money; who told him there was none allowed the soldiers; that he (the Major) would supply them with provisions, which caused an uneasiness among the soldiers. That the next day after their march the Major told them the subsistence money belonged to them, and if they would give him that which was due to them for subsistence from the time they inlisted till they marched, together with that which would become due to them, he would supply them with provisions, camp-kettles, &c., during the service. That upon this Captain *Waite* told the men that bonds should be drawn and signed for the faithful performance, to which they agreed. That he saw a written paper given by Lieutenant *Hawley* to *Christopher Hall*, a private in Captain *Waite's* company, purporting that he should be discharged the service some time in *March* next.

ELIJAH MASON.

Sworn before me *November* 15, 1776.

SIMON STEVENS, *Justice of the Peace.*

—

DECLARATION BY JACOB KENT AND OTHERS.

Newbury, November 18, 1776.

We, whose names are underwritten, under the solemnity of an oath, declare, that on the sixth day of *August* last, at a meeting of the Committees of both Counties in *Windsor*, and Major *Hoisington* being requested the resolves of Congress, he gave them to the Chairman, who ordered the Clerk to read them. That being done, a motion was made whether they should proceed to appoint the officers; on which debates arose, whether they could without there being a majority of the Committees of both Counties; on which they desired the resolves to be read; and they were, several times; and Major *Hoisington* did not debar the Committee, or any other person present, in our hearing, the perusal of the resolves.

JACOB KENT,
JOHN STRONG,
ELISHA HAWLEY,
} *Committee.*

AFFIDAVIT OF LIEUTENANT WHITNEY.

Lieutenant *Benjamin Whitney* being duly sworn, saith, that he was present at the time the Committees of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* Counties met at *Windsor*, in order to appoint the officers to the Ranging companies in said Counties, when he heard Captain *Clay*, Chairman of the said Committees, desire Major *Hoisington* to let the resolves of Convention, relative to raising said Rangers, lie upon the table for persual; upon which said *Hoisington* took up said resolves, and turned away without giving an answer, as this deponent recollects; and further saith not.

BENJAMIN WHITNEY.

Sworn before me, this 20th day of *November*, 1776.

JOHN SESSIONS.

—

STATEMENT OF JAMES CLAY.

Westminster, 21st November, 1776.

*James Clay*, Esq., informs, that on the 7th day of *August* last, *Heman Allen*, Doctor *Fay*, and Colonel *Marsh*, came as a Committee from the other side of the *Green Mountains* to *Windsor*, when the Committees of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* were sitting at that place, and begged to be admitted before the Committees. Soon after they were admitted, and read several papers, some of which ascertain the boundaries they proposed for a new State, and invited the Committees to sign a paper they had prepared. Mr. *Allen*, at same time, told this informant that he had consulted with several members of the Continental Congress, who advised them to collect the sense of the people on the subject. That the informant asked said *Allen* if he supposed the Continental Congress would take up the affair at this time, in case the people did sign; that said *Allen* answered No, but that some members of Congress advised them to petition, for if we submitted to the mode of Government now forming in the State of *New-York*, we should be tied so that we could not get off in a future day.

JAMES CLAY.

—

AFFIDAVIT OF LIEUTENANT WHITNEY.

Under the solemnity of an oath, I declare, that at the time when I heard Captain *Clay* ask Major *Hoisington* for the resolves of the Congress, after his reading them over, was at a publick house, an hour before the Committee formed, in order to transact business; and it is more likely than not that he did not hear Captain *Clay*, as said *Clay* spoke very low, and Major *Hoisington* was on the opposite side of the table, and turning round. Further declare, that the Clerk gave me my inlistment, which was his own handwriting, and Major *Hoisington* sent a copy of the resolves of Congress to *Westminster*.

BENJAMIN WHITNEY, *Lieutenant*.

*November* 21*st*, 1776, sworn before me:

SIMON STEVENS, *Justice of the Peace*.

—

MAJOR HOISINGTON TO CAPTAIN DAY.

Newbury, September 19, 1776.

SIR: I have received positive orders for Captain *Waite's* company to go with Colonel *Barret* on *Crown-Point* road, from General *Yates*, owing entirely to a wrong representation of both the footing on which we are raised, as well as our neglect of publick service; and to convince him of his errour, I have sent him the resolves of the Congress, and a letter setting forth our present situation and services; likewise, wrote to him, that if one of these companies of Rangers, raised and ordered to reconnoitre the woods, must go and work at roads, that yours must do it. But my determination was, and still is, that not one of them ever shall; therefore, notwithstanding my order for you to go on that road, sent by Captain *Waite*, these are to desire and order you not to go, but prepare to march to this place as quick as possible.

These from yours to serve, JOAB HOISINGTON.

To Captain *Elkanah Day*, at *Westminster*.

—

CAPTAIN DAY'S AFFIDAVIT.

Captain *Clay*, Chairman of the County Committee, at the town-house in *Windsor*, being met to appoint officers for Major *Joab Hoisington's* department of Rangers, on the 6th of *August*, 1776. Captain *Clay* desired Major *Hoisington* to introduce the business. He then took out his papers, read his commission; likewise, read his orders and instructions from the honourable the Provincial Congress. After some conversation, said *Clay* desired said *Hoisington* to let his orders and instructions lay on the table for further perusal, but the Major seemed not inclined; said they belonged to him; and accordingly, as it appeared to me, with some temper, put up his orders, &c., walked from the table. Captain *Clay* likewise, after the Committee had proceeded to choose him, the said *Clay*, Chairman, objected, and said he did not see the propriety of proceeding to business without a quorum. Mr. *Hoisington*, as I remember, urged going on business, and said he did not look upon it absolutely necessary that a full quorum should be together, but that they might proceed, and do the business with propriety, with the members then present; and likewise, that any assistance that I lent Major *Hoisington*, by drawing any recruiting orders for the officers, &c., was in a private capacity, and not as Clerk, or as a member of the Committee, and at his especial instance and request.

ELKANAH DAY.

Sworn before me, this 21st day of *November*.

JOHN SESSIONS.

—

AFFIDAVIT OF CAPTAIN WAITE AND OTHERS.

Windsor, November 29, 1776.

We, whose names are underwritten, under the solemnity of an oath, declare, that at the time of the appointment of officers in *Windsor*, that Major *Hoisington* read the resolves of Congress, and gave them to others, who read them over several times; and Major *Hoisington* seemed desirous to lead the people into the knowledge of what the Congress had done for the country, and the nature of the service expected of the Rangers immediately under his instruction.

BENJ. WAITE, BENJ. BISHOP,
ELISHA HAWLEY, REUBEN DEAN.
WILL'M HUNTER,

Windsor, November 29th, A. D. 1776.

Whereas Major *Hoisington* requests of me, as Chairman of the Committee of *Windsor*, to administer the oath of Almighty God to the within-named subscribers, wherein, by strict examination, they acknowledge this to be the truth, the whole truth.

NATH'L STONE,
*Chairman of the Committee of Windsor.*

—

AFFIDAVIT OF CAPTAIN WAITE AND OTHERS.

Windsor, November 30th, 1776.

Whereas Major *Hoisington* requested of me, as Chairman of the Committee of *Windsor*, to administer the oath of Almighty God to the within named subscribers, *Benjamin Wait* and *Elisha Hawley*, wherein, by strict examination, they acknowledge this to be the truth, the whole truth.

NATH'L STONE,
*Chairman of the Committee of Windsor.*

Newbury, November 20th, 1776.

We, whose names are underwritten, under the solemnity of an oath, declare, that after the appointment of the officers at *Windsor*, that Major *Hoisington* requested of the Committee an inlistment, with the warrants, and the Clerk of the Committee drew some, and gave them to the officers appointed.

BENJ'N WAIT, *Captain*,
ELISHA HAWLEY,
JOHN STRONG.

—

JOHN SESSIONS TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

GENTLEMEN: I here exhibit to your Honours an account of the expenditure of the money sent from Convention to defray the charges of your Committee, who were employed to inquire into the state of the Ranging companies in *Cumberland* and *Gloucester*, &c.; is as follows, viz:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| My own expense in going to *Cumberland* and returning to Convention, - - - - - - - - - - - - | £2 | 0 | 0 |
| Expenses of Committee at *Westminster* and *Hanover*, collecting information, &c., - - - | 17 | 15 | 8 |
| Paid an express for going to *Albany*, - - - - | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid a man for collecting papers relative to a new State, - - - - - - - - - - - - | 2 | 2 | 0 |

Paid to Esquires *Tayler* and *Bleeker*, - - - 10 5 6
Paid to Esquire *Stevens*, - - - - - - - - 8 3 2

£45 6 4

Equal to one hundred and fifty-one dollars and one tenth.

Now remains in my hands (excepting a tenth) forty-nine dollars. Your Honours will please to direct how said money shall be disposed of.

From your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN SESSIONS,
*Chairman of the above Committee.*

To the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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LIST OF MAJOR HOISINGTON'S OFFICERS.

Names of the commissioned officers under the command of Major *Joab Hoisington*, appointed and recommended by the Committee of Safety for the Counties of *Gloucester* and *Cumberland*, are as follows, viz:

*Benjamin Wait*, Captain. *Joseph Hatch*, Captain.
*John Strong*, Captain. Dr. *Elkanah Day*, Captain.
*Elisha Hawley*....1st Lieutenant in Captain *Wait's* Company.
*Zebulon Lyon*.....2d Lieutenant in said Company.
*Eldad Benton*.....1st Lieutenant in Captain *Strong's* Company.
*John Barnes*.....2d Lieutenant in said Company.
*Simeon Stevens*...1st Lieutenant in Captain *Hatch's* Company.
*Amos Chamberlain* .2d Lieutenant in do.
*Nathaniel Whitney*.1st Lieutenant in Captain *Day's* Company.
*Jehiel Robbins*.....2d Lieutenant in do.

A true list, examined by me:

JAMES CLAY, *Chairman.*

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*A Muster Roll of Captain* BENJAMIN WAIT'S *Company of Rangers, under the command of Major* JOAB HOISINGTON. *September* 14, 1776.

| Men's names. | When inlisted. | First month's wages. |
|---|---|---|
| Captain Benjamin Wait | August 6th, 1776. | £8 0 |
| Lieutenant Elisha Hawley | do. 6, do. | 5 8 |
| Lieutenant Zebulon Lyon | do. 6, do. | 5 8 |
| Sergeant Wm. Hunter | do. 8, do. | 2 8 |
| Sergeant Sam'l Messer | do. 16, do. | 2 8 |
| Sergeant Elijah Mason | do. 7, do. | 2 8 |
| Corporal Matthew Hammond | do. 7, do. | 2 4 |
| Corporal Bezaleel Gleason | do. 23, do. | 2 4 |
| Corporal Phineas Saunders | do. 7, do. | 2 4 |
| Samuel Stone | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| Solomon Emmons | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| Simon Athorn | do. 9, do. | 2 0 |
| Ezekiel Hawley | do. 9, do. | 2 0 |
| John Heath | do. 9, do. | 2 0 |
| Jonathan Cady | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Elisha Flowers | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Eldad Hubbard | do. 19, do. | 2 0 |
| Asa Smead | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| Matthew Miller | do. 27, do. | 2 0 |
| Joseph Haynes | do. 30, do. | 2 0 |
| Israel Olmstead | do. 30, do. | 2 0 |
| Ebenezer Hempstead | do. 30, do. | 2 0 |
| Jonathan Hamman | do. 8, do. | 2 0 |
| David Hunter | do. 8, do. | 2 0 |
| John Billings | do. 10, do. | 2 0 |
| Christopher Hall | do. 12, do. | 2 0 |
| Lemuel Colton | do. 12, do. | 2 0 |
| Lott Hodgman | do. 13, do. | 2 0 |
| Thomas Hunter | do. 3, do. | 2 0 |
| Moses Whipple | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Phinehas Newton | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Jacob Hall | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Eleazer Leeland | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Oliver Williams | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| John Killam | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| Aden Dyke | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| James Sanderson | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| James Call, Jun. | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| John Watkins | do. 12, do. | 2 0 |
| Sylvester Buggley | do. 27, do. | 2 0 |
| John Lowren | do. 12, do. | 2 0 |
| Nathaniel Abbot | do. 19, do. | 2 0 |
| Bliss Hoisington | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| James Call | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| Asa Call | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| William Anibal | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Isaac Hoisington | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| Zebina Curtiss | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| Benjamin Tumalek | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Peal Sump | do. 17, do. | 2 0 |
| Wilde Willard | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| Lot Whitcomb | Sept'br 11, do. | 2 0 |
| John Newton | do. 11, do. | 2 0 |
| Nathaniel Page | do. 11, do. | 2 0 |
| Asa Chedel, Jun. | do. 11, do. | 2 0 |
| Thomas Freeman | do. 11, do. | 2 0 |
| Benjamin Cox | do. 11, do. | 2 0 |
| Timothy Knox | August 17, do. | 2 0 |
| Phinehas Powers | do. 25, do. | 2 0 |
| Ebenezer Howard | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| | | £134 12 |

*A Muster Roll of Captain* JOHN STRONG'S *Company of Rangers, under the command of Major* JOAB HOISINGTON.

| Men's names. | When inlisted. | First month's wages. |
|---|---|---|
| Captain John Strong | August 6th, 1776. | £8 0 |
| Lieutenant Eldad Benton | do. 13, do. | 5 8 |
| Lieutenant John Barnes | do. 13, do. | 5 8 |
| Sergeant Eleazer Andrews | do. 6, do. | 2 8 |
| Sergeant James Harwood | do. 14, do. | 2 8 |
| Sergeant Ephraim Patterson | do. 14, do. | 2 8 |
| Corporal Ebenezer Call | do. 15, do. | 2 4 |
| Corporal Samuel Root | do. 14, do. | 2 4 |
| Corporal Elisha Smawley | do. 16, do. | 2 4 |
| Andrew Powers | do. 7, do. | 2 0 |
| Ignatius Sprague | do. 15, do. | 2 0 |
| James Cady | do. 15, do. | 2 0 |
| Abijah Lamphield | do. 15, do. | 2 0 |
| Luke Lamphield | do. 15, do. | 2 0 |
| Thomas Richardson | do. 17, do. | 2 0 |
| Phinehas Rust | do. 17, do. | 2 0 |
| Oliver Rust | do. 17, do. | 2 0 |
| William Freeman | do. 21, do. | 2 0 |
| Seth Foard | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Thomas Davies | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Levi Andrews | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Noah Foard | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Rich'd Young | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Hezekiah Foard | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Samuel Crook | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Seeber Beebe | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Paul Foard | do. 14, do. | 2 0 |
| Thomas Gragg | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| Hezekiah Fuller | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| Andrew McAlister | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| John Sawyer | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| John Sawyer, Jun. | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| David Arwin | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| Enos Sawyer | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| Isaac Gragg | do. 22, do. | 2 0 |
| Seth Johnson | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| James Smawley | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| James Waterman | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Jeremiah Percival | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Elisha Brown | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| John Crary | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| John Lovejoy | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Jonathan Benton | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Joseph Havens | do. 16, do. | 2 0 |
| Elisha Waterman | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| William Evans | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| Elisha Kent | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| John Stockbridge | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| Amos Kent | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| Micah Parson | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| David Write | do. 18, do. | 2 0 |
| Robert Simpson | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Oliver Hand | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Will'm Martin | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Joshua Young | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Jesse Young | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Caleb Young | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| Ephraim Root | do. 23, do. | 2 0 |
| John Sambourn | do. 29, do. | 2 0 |
| David Weeks | do. 29, do. | 2 0 |
| Amos Palmer | do. 30, do. | 2 0 |
| Joshua Clark | Sept'br 11, do. | 2 0 |
| Andrew Lovejoy | August 16, do. | 2 0 |

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COMMITTEE FOR ARRANGING RANK OF OFFICERS OF NEW-YORK TROOPS.

Fishkill, November 15, 1776.

At a meeting of the Committee of Arrangement for the State of *New-York:* Present, *Rob't Yates*, (Chairman,) *James Duane, Charles De Witt, John Jay, Robert Harper, William Duer, Jacob Cuyler, Lewis Graham.*

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the state and rank of the Officers who served in the year 1775, and in the present year, directed their Chairman to make out a rank roll of all the Officers who have or do now serve in the State of *New-York*, and then adjourned until the next day.

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November 16, 1776.

Present as before, except Mr. *Jay*.

A rank roll, according to order, was produced by the said Chairman, and carefully compared with the papers from whence the same was taken, and thereupon proceeded to the appointment of the Officers on the New Arrangement, having a due regard to the recommendations which the members have received from the General Officers in the Southern and Northern Armies, as follows:

| | *In* 1775. | *In* 1776. |
|---|---|---|
| Goose Van Schaick, Esq., Col. | 2d Col. | Colonel. |
| Philip Van Cortlandt, Esq., Col. | 4th Lt. Col. | 4th Lieutenant-Colonel. |
| Peter Gansevoort, Esq., Col. | 2d Major. | Lieutenant-Colonel to Goose Van Schaick. |
| Henry B. Livingston, Esq., Col. | 4th Capt. | Lt. Col. in the 2d Battalion. |

| | *In* 1775. | *In* 1776. |
|---|---|---|
| Fred'k Weisenfels, Esq., Lt. Col. | 1st Capt. | Lieut. Col. in 3d Battalion. |
| Marinus Willett, Esq., Lt. Col. | 5th Capt. | |
| Cornelius Van Dyck, Esq., Lt. Colonel | 6th Capt. | Col. of the draft of Militia of County of *Albany*. |
| John Huibert, Esq., Lt. Col. | 11th Capt. | |
| William Goforth, Esq., Major | 13th Capt. | Appointed a Major in Col. Dubois's regiment. |
| Christopher P. Yates, Esq., Maj. | 14th Capt. | |
| Robert Cochran, Esq., Major | | |
| Benjamin Ledyard, Esq., Major. | 33d Capt. | 2d Capt. in 1st Battalion. |

They next proceeded to the appointment of Captains, in the following order:

| | *Rank in* 1775. | *In* 1776. |
|---|---|---|
| John Johnson | 9th Capt. | 1st Captain in the 1st Battalion. |
| John Grennel | | |
| Joseph McCraken | 26th Capt. | 1st Capt. in Col. V. Schaick's Reg't. |
| John Graham | 34th Capt. | 3d Capt. in Col. Nicholson's Reg't. |
| Samuel Sacket | 8th 1st Lieut. | Appointed a Captain in *Canada* by General Montgomery. |
| John Davis | 11th 1st Lt. | 3d Captain in the 2d Battalion. |
| Andrew Fink | 14th 1st Lt. | Capt. in Col. V. Schaick's Regiment. |
| Elias Van Bunshooten | 15th 1st Lt. | 2d Capt. in Col. Dubois's Regiment. |
| Charles Graham | 16th 1st Lt. | |
| Aaron Austin | 17th 1st Lt. | 2d 1st Lieut. in Dubois's Regiment. |
| Samuel T. Pell | 20th 1st Lt. | A volunteer in the service. |
| Elijah Hunter | 24th 1st Lt. | Captain. |
| Benjamin Pelton | 25th 1st Lt. | 7th Captain in the 3d Battalion. |
| Thomas De Witt | 27th 1st Lt. | 3d Captain in Dubois's Regiment. |
| Cornelius T. Jansen | 35th 1st Lt. | 8th Captain in the same Regiment. |
| Benj. Hicks | He is 4th Capt. in Col. V. Schaick's Reg't. | |
| David Van Ness | 6th Captain in the same Regiment. | |
| John Wiley | 4th Captain in the 1st Battalion. | |
| William Jackson | | |
| Ab'm Swartwout | | |
| Sam'l Van Veghten | 2d Captain in the 4th Battalion. | |
| John H. Wendell | 3d Captain in the said Battalion. | |
| Gerrit Veeder | 6th Captain in the said Battalion. | |
| Richard Platt | 1st 2d Lieut. | 6th Captain in Dubois's Regiment. |
| Nathan Strong | 1st 1st Lieut. | in the 3d Battalion. |
| Jonathan Hallet | 2d 1st Lieut. | in the 3d Battalion. |
| Benj. Walker | 3d 1st Lieut. | in the 1st Battalion. |
| Edward Lownsberry | 3d 1st Lieut. | in the 3d Battalion. |
| Henry Tiebout | 7th 1st Lieut. | in the 1st Battalion. |
| Israel Smith | 4th 1st Lieut. | in the 2d Battalion. |
| Jonathan Titus | 8th 1st Lieut. | in the 2d Battalion. |
| James Gregg | 1st 1st Lieut. | in Dubois's Regiment. |
| John Houston | 17th 2d Lt. | |

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## *List of Officers of the late Colonel* McDougall's *Regiment, who served in* Canada, *and are not provided for.*

Captain Marinus Willet; a good officer.
Captain William Goforth; esteemed a very good officer.
First Lieutenant Aaron Aorson, of Captain Cheesman's; esteemed a very good officer.
First Lieutenant Jonathan Piercy, of Captain Quackenboss's; esteemed a very good officer.
First Lieut'nt Matthias Clarke, of Lyon's; esteemed a very good officer.
Second Lieutenant Ranald S. McDougall, of Goforth's; esteemed a brave officer—made prisoner in Canada.
Second Lieutenant John Houston, of Cheesman's; esteemed as a brave, vigilant, active officer, by General Arnold.
Second Lieutenant Daniel Gano, of Varick's; a good officer.
Second Lieutenant Garret Van Waggenen, of Quackenboss's; esteemed a good officer—made prisoner on Long-Island.
Second Lieut. Nicholas Van Rensselaer, of Graham's; Van Schaick's; esteemed as a brave, good officer.

Captain *Varick's* compliments. Agreeable to promise, he sends Mr. *Duane* a list of such *New-York* Officers as are not provided for, with the characters they sustained in their Regiments, as he has been repeatedly informed.

Monday morning, October 28, 1776.

For Mr. *Duane*.

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## *A List of the Officers who served in* Canada *last winter, in Colonel* Clinton's *Regiment.*

Lieutenant-Colonel, John Nicholson;* Major, Louis Dubois.

*Captains.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jacobus S. Bruyn, | David Dubois, | Ezekiel Cooper,* |
| Robert Johnston,* | Elias Van Buntschooten, | Thomas De Witt. |

*First Lieutenants.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cornelius Jansen, | James Gregg, | William Martin.* |
| Philip B. Bevier, | Albert Pawling, | |

*Second Lieutenants.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Evans Wherry,* | Nathaniel Conklin, | Henry Dodge. |
| Thomas Nicholson,* | Henry Vandenburgh, | |

Samuel Cooke, Surgeon; John R. Stephenson, Mate; William Belknap, Quartermaster.*

Those marked thus *, are provided for by a new Regiment raised in Canada.

Richard Platt, First Lieutenant, lately in McDougall's Regiment, recommended.

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## *A List of Officers who served in the late campaign in* Canada, *with their proper rank, according to the first arrangement—*Lewis Dubois's *Arrangement.*

*Field-Officers:* Lewis Dubois, Colonel; Jacobus Bruyn, Lieutenant-Colonel; William Goforth, Major.

*Captains.*

Marinus Willett.....2d in First Regiment.
William Goforth.....4th in First Regiment.
Lewis Dubois.....4th in Third Regiment.
Jacobus Bruyn.....7th in do. do.
David Palmer.....10th in Fourth Regiment.

*First Lieutenants.*

William Gilleylen.....2d in First Regiment.
David Dubois.....2d in Third Regiment.
Samuel Sackett.....2d in Fourth Regiment.
Elias Van Bunschooten.....4th in Third Regiment.
Aaron Aorson.....5th in First Regiment.
Samuel Pell.....5th in Fourth Regiment.
Thomas De Witt.....7th in Third Regiment.
Jonathan Pearse.....8th in First Regiment.
Cornelius T. Jansen.....9th in Third Regiment.
Matthias Clark.....10th in First Regiment.

*Second Lieutenants.*

Richard Platt.....1st in First Regiment.
James Gregg.....2d in Third Regiment.
John Houston.....5th in First Regiment.
Isaac VanWert.....5th in Fourth Regiment.
Daniel Gano.....6th in First Regiment.
Albert Pawling.....7th in Third Regiment.
Garrit H. Van Wagenen.....8th in First Regiment.
Philip D. Bevier.....10th in Third Regiment.
William Matthewman.....10th in Fourth Regiment.
James Dow.....appointed at St. John's.

*Captains.*

| | |
|---|---|
| David Dubois, 1st; | Philip D. Bevier, 5th; |
| Elias Van Bunschooten, 2d; | Richard Platt, 6th; |
| Thomas De Witt, 3d; | Albert Pawling, 7th; |
| Isaiah Wool, 4th; | Cornelius T. Jansen, 8th. |

*First Lieutenants.*

| | |
|---|---|
| James Gregg, 1st; | Gerrit Van Wagenen, 5th; |
| Aaron Aorson, 2d; | Henry Vandenburgh, 6th; |
| Jonathan Pearse, 3d; | Nathaniel Conklin, 7th; |
| Evans Wherry, 4th; | Henry Dodge, 8th. |

Second Lieutenant Daniel Gano, 1st.

Isaiah Wool, Lieutenant Fireworker, Captain Lamb's Company of Artillery.

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## *General* Montgomery's *Arrangement.*

Officers of Third Regiment of New-Yorkers that were promoted:

Lewis Dubois.....appointed Major November 25, 1775.
Jacobus Bruyn.....appointed 1st Captain Nov. 25, 1775.
David Dubois.....appointed Captain Nov. 25, 1775.
Elias Van Bunschooten.....appointed Captain Nov. 25, 1775.
Thomas De Witt.....appointed Captain Nov. 25, 1775.

Samuel Sacket, Lieutenant in Fourth Regiment, appointed Captain November 25th, 1775.

Isaiah Wool, of Captain Lamb's Company of Artillery, appointed Captain-Lieutenant thereof, November 25th, 1775.

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## *List of the Officers' names of the* New-York *Troops.*

No Field Officers.

Rev. Israel Evans, Chaplain; Andrew Taylor, Adjutant, (a good officer;) Mr. Curtis, Surgeon.

1.

John Johnson, Captain; a careful officer, but, in the opinion of his brother officers, unfit for a field officer.
Leonard Bleecker, 1st Lieutenant; not so careful or attentive as might be wished.
Theodorus Fowler, 2d Lieutenant; a tolerable officer.
Gilbert Livingston, Ensign; a young officer.

2.

Benjamin Ledyard, Captain; a good officer, fit for the Majority.
James H. Hughes, 1st Lieutenant; capable of making a good officer, but young and inattentive.
William Dunn, 2d Lieutenant; a sober officer, but rather too old.
William Munday, Ensign; a good Ensign.

3.

David Lyon, Captain; a tolerable officer.
Benjamin Walker, 1st Lieutenant; a sensible, active officer, fit to take charge of a company.
Cornelius Becker, 2d Lieutenant; too heavy and inactive for an officer.
James Bonnel, Ensign; will make a 2d Lieutenant.

4.

John Wiley, Captain; a good officer if he will continue.
John Johnson, 1st Lieutenant; a tolerable officer, but sickly.
Henry Dow Trip, 2d Lieutenant; too heavy and illiterate for an officer.
Samuel Young, Ensign; of too rough a make for an officer, better qualified for the Navy than the Army.

5.

Ezekiel Hyatt, Captain; wanting authority to make a good officer. He has deceived the Convention in inlisting the men for six and twelve months, instead of doing it for the war.
Caleb Hobby, 1st Lieutenant; Joseph Delport, 2d Lieutenant; Isaac Pienier, Ensign. These three wish to decline the service. They will be of no loss to it.

6.

Cornelius Steenrod, Captain; has committed the like deception with Captain Hyatt.
Isaac Titus, 1st Lieutenant; Benjamin Jones, Ensign. These two are unfit for the service.

7.

William A. Forbus, Captain; wishes to decline the service.
Henry Trebout, 1st Lieutenant; a good officer, fit to take charge of a company.
James Fairly, Ensign; the oldest in the regiment, fit for 2d Lieutenant.

8.

Thomas Lefoy, 1st Lieutenant; entitled to be second; oldest now in the regiment; a good officer.

*

William Tapp, 2d Lieutenant; a good officer, fit for 1st Lieutenant.
Hugh McConnel, Ensign; too careless and trifling for the service.
Lieutenant John Huston, a Lieutenant of my regiment last year; a brave, careful officer, well qualified to take charge of a company.
William Glenny, a Sergeant; will make an Ensign; a man of good education.

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*A list of the Officers in the Second* NEW-YORK *Regiment raised in the Colony of* NEW-YORK, *for the defence thereof, in the Continental service.*

James Clinton, Colonel; promoted August 9th to Brigadier-General.
Henry B. Livingston, Lieutenant-Colonel. Peter Schuyler, Major.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Captain Daniel Griffing. | 5th Capt. John Belknap; middling. |
| 1st Lieutenant Benj. Marvin. | 1st Lieut. Zachariah Hasbrouck. |
| 2d Lieutenant Nathaniel Norton. | 2d Lieut. Henry Pawling; good. |
| Ensign Jacob Conklin. | Ensign David Hunter; indifferent. |
| 2d Capt. James Rosekrans; good. | 6th Capt. Ab'm Swartwout; good. |
| 1st Lieutenant Thomas Lee; good. | 1st Lieut. Simeon Tryon; good. |
| 2d Lt. Dan. Lawrence, indifferent. | 2d Lieutenant Eli Parsons. |
| Ensign Henry Swartwout; do. | Ensign Gilbert Livingston appointed September 1st. |
| 3d Captain John Davis. | 7th Capt. Increase Childs; mid'g. |
| 1st Lieutenant William Havens. | 1st Lieutenant John Lloyd; good. |
| 2d Lieutenant Edward Conklin. | 2d Lieut. Sam'l Dodge; indifferent. |
| Ensign Silvanus Conklin. | Ensign John Ponderson; do. |
| 4th Capt. William Jackson; good. | 8th Captain Daniel Roe. |
| 1st Lieut. Israel Smith, appointed Paymaster; good. | 1st Lieutenant Jonathan Titus. |
| | 2d Lieutenant George Smith. |
| 2d Lt. Peter Elsworth; indifferent. | Ensign Benjamin Titus. |
| Ensign Isaac A. Rosa; do. | |
| Adjutant Judah Harlow. | Doctor, Petrus Tappan; good. |
| Quartermaster Nehemiah Carpenter; good. | Mate, Van de Linden. |

*Note.*—The officers of the 1st, 3d, and 8th companies, I am not much acquainted with them, but I believe they are good officers.

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General.*

I understand that *Childs's* Company, part of *Rosekrans's* and *Swartwout's* Company, are inlisted during the pleasure of the Congress. *Jackson's* and *Belknap's* only for a year, but they may all claim the same.

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*List of the Officers' names of the Third Regiment of* NEW-YORK *Continental Forces, commanded by Colonel* RUDOLPHUS RITZEMA.

No Chaplain.
Field Officers: Rudolphus Ritzema.....Colonel.
Frederick Weisenfels.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Andrew Billings.....Major.
Staff Officers: Jonathan Hallett.....Adjutant.
Robert Provost.....Quartermaster.
Kinslock Woodruff.....Surgeon.
Daniel Minima.....Mate.

*First Company.*

Daniel Deubon, Captain; a good officer, but inactive, and had better quit the service.
Nathan Strong, First Lieutenant; a very good officer.
James Miller, Second Lieutenant; an excellent officer, and would make a very good Captain, to which office we recommend him.
Cadmil Moore, Ensign; sickly.

*Second Company.*

Abraham Riker, Captain; a good officer, but inactive, of a sickly constitution, and had better quit the service.
Jonathan Hallett, First Lieutenant; a very excellent officer; is Adjutant of the Regiment, and will make a very good Captain, to which office we recommend him.
Daniel Pelton, Second Lieutenant; an active officer, but wants solidity; absented himself without cause twice.
Jonathan Holmes, Ensign; a very indifferent officer.

*Third Company.*

Cornelius Hardenburgh, Captain; cashiered by a general court-martial for defrauding his men.
Edward Lounsberry, First Lieutenant; an excellent officer; would make a very good Captain, and we recommend him as such.
Charles Newkirk, Second Lieutenant; a good officer.
Jeremiah Clark, Ensign; a good officer.

*Fourth Company.*

Jonathan P. Horton, Captain; a very indifferent officer, and had best be discontinued.
Joseph Youngs, First Lieutenant; a very low-lived fellow.
Isaac Sherwood, Second Lieutenant; a good officer.
James Brundage, Ensign; indifferent.

*Fifth Company.*

David Hobby, Captain; a bad officer, and at present under an arrest, and will in all probability be cashiered.
James Miller, First Lieutenant; a bad officer.
Peter Benedict, Second Lieutenant; a very good officer.
Caleb Lawrence, Ensign; indifferent.

*Sixth Company.*

Amos Hutchings, Captain; of a low turn, and had better be dismissed the service.
Patten Jackson, First Lieutenant; may be continued.
Robert Wood, Second Lieutenant; a good officer.
John Johnson, Ensign; a good officer.

*Seventh Company.*

Benjamin Pelton, Captain; an excellent officer.
Elihu Marshall, Second Lieutenant; a good officer; will make a good Adjutant.
Thomas Cole, Ensign; very indifferent.
David Baldwin, First Lieutenant; a very indifferent officer; the oldest Lieutenant in the regiment, and acting Captain to Pearce's company, who is dismissed the service.

*Eighth Company.*

Nathan Pearce, Captain; dismissed the service by General Washington.
John Dusenberry, First Lieutenant; a bad officer.
Zephaniah Platt, Second Lieutenant; a good officer.
Josiah Thornton, Ensign; dismissed the service; a very bad officer.

SIR: Well knowing the importance of good officers in a corps and army, and how much we stand in need of a change in this respect, as we have been called upon (at the least the Colonel has) by his Excellency the General to give the characters of the officers of our regiment, that such as are fit may be continued in, and those that are unfit may be dismissed the service, we have, notwithstanding the delicacy of the subject, readily complied with it, and do hereby declare upon honour, that the characters we have wrote above opposite to the officers' names in our regiment is, to the best of our judgment, true. That we have done it impartially, without favour, fear, or affection, and that those gentlemen whom we have recommended to captaincies are well qualified to execute them. We farther declare that the underwritten Sergeants are qualified for subalterns' commissions.

We are, sir, respectfully, your humble servants,
RUD. RITZEMA, *Colonel.*
FRED'K WEISSENFELS, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*
ANDREW BILLINGS, *Major.*

*Sergeants recommended to Subalterns' Commissions.*

*Peter Sacket*, Sergeant-Major; will make a very good Adjutant or a good Ensign. *Levy Dewitt*, a good Quartermaster, Quartermaster *Provost* being appointed Paymaster to the regiment, and can't hold but one commission.

*Andrew White, Thomas Bushfield, Peter Dolson, William Nothingham, Timothy Smith, T. Jerrick Beekman, Joseph Hanning.*

Ensign *Weissenfels*, of Colonel *Nicholson's* regiment, we shall be happy in having him removed to the regiment. Lieutenant *Houghston* and Lieutenant *Pearce*, of General *McDougall's* first regiment, will make very good Captains; are excellent officers, and unprovided for.

To Brigadier-General *McDougall*, Present.

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*Arrangement of Officers of Colonel* VAN SCHAICK'S *Regiment.*

Lieutenant-Colonel.....Peter Gansevoort, Jun.
Colonel.....Goose Van Schaick.
Major.....Eleazer Curtis, Connecticut.

Joseph McKraken; not fit to be a Major, (v. g.).1st Captain.
John Barns, (bad).....2d First Lieutenant.
Luther Bissel, (dead).....8th Second Lieutenant.
John McClung, (bad).....2d Ensign.

James Van Rensalaer,.....2d Captain.
Ebenezer Hill, (bad).....5th First Lieutenant.
James Clark, (bad).....2d Second Lieutenant.

Andrew Fink, (v. g.).....3d Captain.
Henry Deffendorff, (middling).....3d First Lieutenant.
Tobias Van Veghten, (v. g.).....1st Second Lieutenant.
John Denny, (v. g.).....3d Ensign.

Benjamin Hicks, (v. g.).....4th Captain,
Guy Young, (bad).....1st First Lieutenant.
Manning Van D. Heyden, (indifferent).....4th Second Lieutenant
Jonathan Brown, (indifferent).....4th Ensign.

Job Wright, (b.).....5th Captain.
Holtham Dunham, (indifferent).....6th First Lieutenant.
George Sythes, (good Adjutant, very good)....5th Second Lieutenant.
Palmer, (indifferent).....5th Ensign.

David Van Ness,(good).....6th Captain.
Peter T. Vosburgh, (indifferent).....7th First Lieutenant.
John T. Van Ess, (indifferent).....6th Second Lieutenant.
Nicholas Kettle, (scoundrel).....6th Ensign.

Robert Edmunston (bad).....7th Captain.
Michael Ryan, (indifferent).....8th First Lieutenant.
Ch. Conyn, (good).....7th Second Lieutenant.

Moses Martin, (middling).....8th Captain.
Chas. Parsons, (good).....4th First Lieutenant.
William Moulton, (bad).....3d Second Lieutenant.
Thomas Hoit, (bad).....1st Ensign.

Peter B. Tears, (g.).....Adjutant.
Henry Van Woert, (good).....Quartermaster.
Budd, (bad).....Surgeon.

*Arrangement of the Officers of Colonel* VAN SCHAICK'S *Regiment, in the year* 1776.

Goose Van Schaick.....Colonel.
Peter Gansevoort.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Peter B. Tears.....Adjutant.
Henry Van Woert.....Quartermaster.
Budd.....Surgeon.

Captains: Joseph McKracken, Andrew Fink, Benjamin Hicks, David Van Ness.
First Lieutenants: Charles Parsons.
Second Lieutenants: Tobias Van Veghten, Nanning V. D. Heyden, George Sythes, Philip Conyn.
Ensign: John Denny.

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*The following is a catalogue of the names of the Officers belonging to Colonel* LASHER'S *Regiment.*

*Field Officers.*

Colonel John Lasher; a good officer, and ought to be promoted, for he has lost his all, his four houses being burnt.
Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Stockholm.
Major James Abeel.

*Commissioned Officers.*

Capt. Abr'm Van Dyck; prisoner.
Lieut. Parsons.
Lieut. Brevoort.

Capt. Beekman.
Lieut. Sickles; a very good officer.
Lieut. Lawrence.

Capt. Banker; a very good officer.
Lieut. Beekman.
Lieut. Hoagland; prisoner.

Capt. Dickson.
Lieut. Fortin.
Lieut. Troup, prisoner.

Capt. Dickerson.
Lieut. Warner.
Lieut. Mesier.

Capt. Wm. Wilcox; good officer.
Lieut. R. Shurman; good officer.
Lieut. Edw'd Dunscomb; prisoner.

Capt. Van Zandt.
Lieut. Johnson.
Lieut. Stymetz.

Capt. Wright; an exceeding good officer.
Lieut. North.
Lieut. Hicks.

No Captain.
Lieut. Vreedenburgh.
Lieutenant Codwise; an active and assiduous officer.

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*List of Colonel* MALCOM'S *Officers.*

*Field Officers.*

Colonel William Malcom; an exceeding good officer.
Lieutenant-Colonel Stoutenburgh; sickly.
Major James Almer; a good officer.

*Commissioned Officers.*

Captain J. Wool.
Lieutenant H. Rutgers.

Captain Jon. Blake.
Lieutenant Jos. Cheesman.
Lieut. James Black.

No Captain.
Lieutenant Foght.
Lieutenant Bowen.

No Captain.
Lieutenant J. Fish.
Lieutenant J. Thompson.

Captain Brasher.
Lieutenant Moffatt.
Lieutenant Coles.

Captain Smith.
Lieutenant Nevens.
Lieutenant Myers.

Captain Edward Meeks.
Lieutenant Elliott.

Captain J. Meeks.
Lieutenant S. Fleming.
Lieutenant I. Sandford.

Captain Mitchel.
Lieutenant Cornwall.
Lieutenant Lawrence.

Captain Stewart.
No Lieutenant.

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*Colonel* LASHER'S *Regiment.*

Captain Wright, Captain Beekman, Captain Banker, Captain Wilcox.
Lieutenant Ralph Thurman, Lieutenants Robert Troup and Dunscomb, Lieutenant Ethan Sickles; all good officers.
Lieutenant-Colonel Hulbert, of Colonel Samuel Drake's regiment, a good officer.
Captain Deane, a good officer.

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*Colonel* RITZEMA'S *Regiment.*

James Miller, 2d Lieutenant, 1st company,
Jonathan Hallet, 1st Lieutenant, 2d company,
Edw'd Lounsberry, 1st Lieutenant, 3d company,
} Captains.
Nathan Strong, 1st Lieutenant; a very good officer.
Elihu Marshal, 2d Lieutenant, a very good officer, Adjutant.
Zeph'a Platt, 2d Lieutenant; a good officer.
Robert Wood, 2d do. do. do.
Peter Benedict, 2d do. do. do.
Isaac Sherwood, 2d do. do. do.
Cha's Newkirk, 2d do. do. do.
Jeremiah Clark, Ensign, do. do.

Captain *Wright*, late of Colonel *Lasher's* regiment, in my brigade, has distinguished himself as much by his cool, intrepid spirit, as by his zealous attachment to the *American* cause, and his modest, discreet, and prudent behaviour. I strongly recommend him as a man who will do honour to his country in the rank of Captain in the new establishment.

JNO. MORIN SCOTT.

*Officers for the four Continental Regiments of* NEW-YORK.

*First.*

Alexander McDougall, Colonel, Rudolphus Ritzema, Lieutenant-Colonel, Donald Campbell, Major; John Brogden, Adjutant.

1.
Benjamin Ledger, Captain.
James Jarvis, 1st Lieutenant.
Hughes, 2d Lieutenant.

6.
John Johnson, (ap.) Captain.
William Brown, 1st Lieutenant.
Abraham Brasher, Jr., 2d Lieut.

2.
John Quackenbush, Captain.
Jonathan Pearcy, 1st Lieutenant.
James Campbell, 2d Lieutenant.

7.
Marinus Willet, (ap.) Captain.
William Gilliland, 1st Lieutenant.
Leonard Bleecker, 2d Lieutenant.

3.
Jacob Cheesman, (ap.) Captain.
Aaron Austin, 1st Lieutenant.
John Houston, 2d Lieutenant.

8.
Abr'm A. Van Wyck, (ap.) Capt.
William Leary, 1st Lieutenant.
John Beeckman, 2d Lieutenant.

4.
Fred'k Van Weisenfels, (ap.) Capt.
John Alex. McDougal, 1st Lieut.
Stephen Steel, (ap.) 2d Lieutenant.

9.
Richard Van Varck, Captain.
David Van Horne, 1st Lieutenant.
Daniel Gano, 2d Lieutenant.

5.
Gershom Mott, Captain.
Pelton, 1st Lieutenant.
Timothy Hughes, 2d Lieutenant.

10.
William Goforth, Captain.
James W. Pane, 1st Lieutenant.
Parker McDougal, 2d Lieutenant.

John L. Linn, Surgeon.

*Third.*

James Clinton, (ap.) Colonel; Edward Flemming, (ap.) Lieutenant-Colonel; Cornelius D. Wynkoop, (ap.) Major; George Slossen, (ap.) Adjutant; James Hamilton, Quartermaster.

1.
Daniel Griffen, (ap.) Captain.
Benjamin Marvin, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Nathaniel Norton, 2d Lieutenant.

6.
John Grinnell, (ap.) Captain.
Wm. Phelps, Jun., (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Philip Conklin, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

2.
John Hulbert, (ap.) Captain.
John Davis, (ap.) 1st Lieutenant.
William Havens, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

7.
Andrew Billings, Captain.
Ezekiel Cooper, 1st Lieutenant.
John Langdon, 2d Lieutenant.

3.
John Nicholson, Captain.
Isaac Belknapp, 1st Lieutenant.
David Dubois, 2d Lieutenant.

8.
Daniel Denton, (ap.) Captain.
Baltazer De Hart, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Jonas Bellows, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

4.
Elias Hasbrouck, (ap.) Captain.
Cornelius T. Jansen, 1st Lieut.
Albert Pawling, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

9.
Lewis Dubois, (ap.) Captain.
Elias Van Bunshooten, 1st Lieut.
Cornelius Adriance, (ap.) 2d Lt.

5.
Jacobus S. Bruyn, (ap.) Captain.
Thomas De Witt, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
James Gregg, 2d Lieutenant.

10.
Robert Johnson, Captain.
Martinus Goetchius, 1st Lieut.
Philip Du Bois Bevier, (ap.) 2d Lt.

Samuel Cooke, Surgeon.

*Fourth.*

James Holmes, (ap.) Colonel; Philip Cortlandt, (ap.) Lieutenant-Colonel; Barnabas Tuthill, (ap.) Major; Benjamin Chapman, Quartermaster.

1.
Henry B. Livingston, (ap.) Capt.
Jacob Thomas, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Roswell Wilcox, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

6.
Nathaniel Woodard, Captain.
Abraham Ricker, 1st Lieutenant.
Morris Hazard, 2d Lieutenant.

2.
Daniel Mills, (ap.) Captain.
Elijah Hunter, 1st Lieutenant.
John Bayley, 2d Lieutenant.

7.
John R. Livingston, (ap.) Capt.
Leonard Ten Broeck, (ap.) 1st Lt.
Andries Heermanse, (ap.) 2d Lt.

3.
Jonathan Platt, (ap.) Captain.
David Dan, (ap.) 1st Lieutenant.
Manning Bull, 2d Lieutenant.

8.
Henry G. Livingston, (ap.) Capt.
Samuel Van Veghten, 1st Lieut.
Wm. Matthewman, (ap.) 2d Lt.

4.
Ambrose Horton, (ap.) Captain.
David Palmer, 1st Lieutenant.
Samuel Tredwell Pell, 2d Lieut.

9.
Jacobus Wynkoop, (ap.) Captain.
Anthony Welph, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Thomas Lefoy, 2d Lieutenant.

5.
Rufus Herrick, Captain.
Charles Graham, 1st Lieutenant.
Jesse Thompson, 2d Lieutenant.

10.
Joseph Benedict, Jun., Captain.
Samuel Sackett, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
William Wilcox, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

Ebenezer Haviland, Surgeon; Isaac Smith, Surgeon's Mate.

*Second.*

Myndert Roseboom, (ap.) Colonel; Gosen Van Schaick, (ap.) Lieutenant-Colonel; *Lucas Van Veghten, Major; Barent J. Ten Eyck, (ap.) Adjutant; John W. Wendell, (ap.) Quartermaster.

1.
*Peter Yates, (ap.) Captain.
Henry Van Veghten, (ap.) 1st Lt.
Gideon King, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

6.
John Frey, (ap.) Captain.
Anth'y Van Veghten, (ap.) 1st Lt.
Matthew Warmood, (ap.) 2d Lt.

2.
Stephen T. Schuyler, (ap.) Capt.
Barent Roseboom, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Direk Hansen, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

7.
Joseph McCracken, Captain.
Moses Martin, 1st Lieutenant.
John Barns, 2d Lieutenant.

3.
Peter B. Roman, (ap.) Captain.
Myndert A. Wemple, (ap.) 1st Lt.
Jellis A. Fonda, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

8.
Joel Pratt, (ap.) Captain.
Benjamin Chattenden, (ap.) 1st Lt.
Israel Spencer, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

4.
John Fisher, (ap.) Captain.
Benjamin Evans, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Joseph Fitch, (ap.) 2d Lieut.

9.
Hezekiah Baldwin, Captain.
Nath'l Rowley, 1st Lieutenant.
Roswell Beeby, 2d Lieutenant.

5.
Corn's Van Dyck, (ap.) Captain.
Corn's Van Slyck, (ap.) 1st Lieut.
Guy Young, (ap.) 2d Lieutenant.

10.
Elisha Benedict, Captain.
Samuel Fletcher, 1st Lieutenant.
Alexander Brink, 2d Lieutenant.

John Williams, Surgeon.

*The eldest officer of Lucas Van Veghten and Peter Yates is to be Major, and the other Captain.

One company of Artillery, consisting of one hundred men, including officers, to be drafted out of the within list, and that *John Lamb* be appointed an additional officer, to have the command of that company: *John Lamb*, Captain; *Thomas Ivers*, Captain-Lieutenant; *John Crane*, 1st Lieutenant; *Martin Johnson*, 2d Lieutenant.

If any Captain in *Albany* County should refuse the service, that vacancy to be filled up from *Cumberland* County, who have given up their nomination in favour of *Elisha Benedict*.

—

*Second or Albany Regiment.*

Goose Van Schaick, Colonel.....in the room of Myndert Roseboom.
Peter Yates, Lieutenant-Colonel...in the room of Goose Van Schaick.
Peter Gansevoort, Jun., Major....in the room of Lucas Van Veghten.

1.
John Fisher, Captain.
Benj. Evans, Lieutenant.
Jos. Fitch, do.

2.
Corn's Van Dyck, Captain.
Corn's Van Slyck, Lieutenant.
Guy Young, do.

3.
Barent J. Ten Eyck, Captain, in the room of Peter Trooman.
Dirck Hansen, Lieutenant.
John G. Lansing, do.

4.
John Fry, Captain.
Anthony Van Veghten, Lieut.
Matthew Warmood, do.

5.
George White, Captain, in room of Stephen J. Schuyler.
Jervis Mudge, Lieutenant.
Eleazer Grant, do.

6.
Hezekiah Baldwin, Captain.
Nath'l Rowley, Lieutenant.
Roswell Beeby, do.

7.
Joseph McCracken, Captain.
Moses Martin, Lieutenant.
John Barns, do.

8.
Elisha Benedict, Captain.
Wm. McCune, Lieutenant.
Alex'r Brink, do.

9.
John Graham, Captain, in the room of Peter Yates.
Gideon King, Lieutenant.
Nicholas Van Rensselaer, do.

10.
Joel Pratt, Captain.
Benj. Chittenden, Lieutenant.
Israel Spencer, do.

Henry Van Woerdt.....Quartermaster.
John Tillman.....Adjutant.
Stephen McCrea.....Surgeon.

—

*A List of the Officers of the four Battalions raised in the State of* NEW-YORK *in the year* 1776, *for the defence of the said State.*

*First Battalion.*

Captains: John Johnson, Benj. Ledyard, John Wiley.
First Lieutenants: Leonard Bleecker, James H. Hughes, Benj. Walker, Henry Tiebout, Tho's Lefoy.
Second Lieutenant: Wm. Tapp.
Ensigns: Gilbert R. G. Livingston, Wm. Munday, James Bonnel, James Fairly.
Andrew Taylor, Adjutant. Mr. Curtis, Surgeon.

*Second Battalion.*

Henry B. Livingston.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Captains: John Davis, Wm. Jackson, Ab'm Swartwout.
First Lieutenants: Wm. Havens—a man of honor, but very illiterate, but a submissive officer; Israel Smith, Simeon Tryon, John Lloyd, Jonathan Titus.
Second Lieutenants: Nathan'l Norton—the same as Wm. Havens; Edward Conklin, Henry Pawling, George Smith.
Ensigns: Sylvanus Conklin, Gilbert Ja's Livingston.
Judah Harlow, Adjutant. Petrus Tappen, Surgeon.
Nehemiah Carpenter, Quartermaster. Van De Linde, Surgeon's Mate.

*Third Battalion.*

Fred'k Weisenfels.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Captain: Benj. Pelton.
First Lieutenants: Nathan Strong, Jonathan Hallet, Edward Lounsberry, Patten Jackson.
Second Lieutenants: James Miller, Cha's Newkirk, Isaac Sherwood, Peter Benedict, Robert Wood, Elihu Marshall.
Ensigns: Jeremiah Clarke, John Johnson.
Jonathan Hallet, Adjutant. Hunlock Woodruff, Surgeon.
Rob't Provost, Quartermaster. Dan'l Wemina, do. Mate.

*Fourth Battalion.*

Philip Van Cortlandt.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Captains: Sam'l Van Veghten, John H. Wendell, Gerrit Veeder.
First Lieutenants: Jno. Hooghkerk, Jno. C. Ten Broeck, Adiel Sherwood, Barent Staats Salisberry.
Second Lieutenants: John Ball, Jno. Welch, Levi Stockwell, Isaac Bogert.
Ensigns: Jno. Ostrander, Wm. Scudder.
Teunis Van Waganen, Adjutant. Haviland, Surgeon.
Tho's Williams, Quartermaster. George Graham, Surgeon's Mate.

—

In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York* for arranging the Officers of the four Battalions directed to be raised in this State by the General Congress, and for executing their Resolutions relative thereto:

Captain *Platt* requests of this Committee that his son, *Zephaniah Platt*, may be omitted in the present arrangement, as his private affairs render his continuance at home indispensable.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Platt's* request though as his son is recommended as a good officer, they wish it had been convenient to him to have continued in the service.

21 November, 1776.

—

WILLIAM HARPER TO COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS: If there should be a vacancy for a Lieutenant in Captain *McKen's* company, I would recommend *Joseph Harper*, who has served under said *McKen* this last campaign, at his own expense, as a volunteer, on purpose to qualify himself for the same, and is capable of inlisting a number of men, and would be very agreeable to Captain *McKean* and Lieutenant *French*. But if there cannot be a provision made there, I would request some other place.

From, gentlemen, your humble servant.

WM. HARPER.

—

LEONARD GANSEVOORT TO ROBERT YATES.

DEAR SIR: Mr. *Jacob John Lansing* being anxious to inlist into the Army of the *United States*, if he could be provided for as an officer, this desire has been signified to General *Schuyler* by Mr. *Philip Van Rensselaer*, who informs me that the General begged him to request me to recommend him to your Committee; and as Mr. *Cuyler* and yourself are as well acquainted with Mr. *Lansing* as myself, I presume it is needless for me to mention his qualifications.

Mr. *Henry Van Veghten* also mentions to me that he would with alacrity enter the service if he could be suitably appointed.

Messrs. *Leonard Gansevoort*, Jun., and *John Tob's Ten Eyck*, have also requested me to transmit you their names as Regimental Paymasters. The former has been recommended to Congress some time ago by Colonel *Van Schaick* to that post for his regiment.

I am, most respectfully, your and the Committee's most obedient and very humble servant,

LEONARD GANSEVOORT.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq.

—

ROBERT YATES TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Fishkill, November 28th, 1776.

SIR: The Committee of Arrangement have been informed by the members of *Tryon* County that Captain *McKeen* and his Lieutenants, *Ebenezer French*, *Albert Vander Werke*, and *Gerrit Pottmom*, instead of having discharged his company are still in service, and at the same time recommended those officers as well qualified to continue in service. Without relying, however, too much on recommendations which probably may be partial or interested, the Committee have directed me to apply to you for further information. If they are officers with qualifications such as Congress requires by their late resolves, the Committee will, without hesitation, place them on the present establishment; and the more so, as the County of *Tryon* may probably conceive that it has not been sufficiently noticed. The Committee, as soon as they can complete the arrangement, will furnish you with a copy.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest esteem, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ROB'T YATES, *Chairman*.

—

J. A. MAGEE TO ROBERT YATES.

Fishkill, November 29th, 1776.

SIR: I would presume to recommend my brother *Peter Magee* for an officer in the new recruits, now a Second Lieutenant in the Army at *Fort Constitution*, in the company of one Mr. *Bently*, and in the regiment whereof *Henry V. Rensselaer*, Esq., is Major. I would choose, sir, to refer to Major *Van Rensselaer* and Major *Peter Schuyler*.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

J. A. MAGEE.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Arrangement.

Meeting of the Committee of Arrangement, *December* 6th, 1776:

*Resignations.*

Captain Samuel Veghten, (Goose Van Schaick.)
Captain Garret Veder, (Goose Van Schaick.)
Captain John Johnson.
Captain Richard Platt.
Captain Elijah Hunter.
Lieutenant-Colonel Hulbert.
Lieutenant James M. Hughes.
Lieutenant John Johnson.
Ensign Joshua Drake, (Captain Sackett's company.)
Ensign Joseph Hanning.

*Recommendations.*

Abraham Ricker.
Captain Copp, (Capt. Vascifell.)
Captain McKean, (the Continental Delegates.)
Theodorias Fowler.
John Brogden.
Lieutenant Hugh McClennan.
Lieutenant John Nicholls.
Lieut. French, (Tryon County Delegates.)
Lieut. Peter Magee, (Lieutenant of Militia No. 1.)
Jeremiah Lansingh.

*Ensigns.*

——— (Ph. Livingston, Esq.)
Gilbert Strang, (Captain Sacket.)
George Deniston Grey, (Cy. Gen. Clinton.)
James Barret, Sergeant-Major of McDougal's, (by Captain Johnson.)
Moore, (Tryon.)
Simon Cryger.
Paymaster Provost.
Leonard Gansevoort, Junior.
John Tob's Ten Eyck.

—

In Committee of Arrangement, Fishkill, December 12, 1776.

Present: *Robert Harper*, Chairman *pro tem.*, Colonel *Duer*, Mr. *Duane*, Colonel *De Witt*.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Abraham Ricker* and Captain *John Copp* be appointed Captains in one of the four Battalions of this State; also that *Thomas McKane* be appointed a Captain in the same.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Hulbert* has informed Colonel *Duer* and Mr. *Duane* that he had resigned, and would not any longer continue in service.

A Letter from *Nathaniel Hazard*, *December* 9th, 1776, informing of the resignation of Mr. *John Gunnel*; and of Mr. *Slaus Hobart's* recommendation of *Nathaniel Platt* for a Captaincy.

A Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel *Hulbert*, *December* 9th, 1776, informing the Committee of his resignation, at the same time recommending *Benjamin Marvin* as an officer of merit, for a Lieutenancy.

A Letter from Captain *John Johnson*, *November* 17th, 1776, recommending Lieutenant *John Johnson* for a Captain of Marines, and Sergeant-Major *James Barret* as worthy of a commission.

A Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel *Weisenfels*, of *December* 2d, 1776, informing of the resignations of Captains *John Johnson*, *Richard Platt*, Brigade-Major, and *Elijah Hunter*; also Lieutenants *James M. Hughes* and *John Johnson*; recommending Captains *Copp*, *Gershom Mott*, *John Brogden*, and Lieutenants *Hugh McClellan* and *John Nicolls*; also *Simon Crygier* for an Ensign.

A Letter from *Jelles Fonda*, of 22d *November*, recommending Captain *McKane*, First Lieutenant *Ebenezer French*, Second Lieutenant *Albert Van Dewarka*, *Garret Pottman*, and Major *Robert Cochran*, which last he says would choose to be in service as a Ranger.

A Letter from *Samuel Sackett*, Captain, of 27th *November*, informing of the resignation of Lieutenant *Ebenezer Mott*, *Joshua Drake*, Ensign; also recommending Mr. *Gilbert Strang* as a very fit person for an officer; requesting that he may be appointed Ensign to his Company.

A Certificate from Messrs. *William Harper* and *John Moore*, of the 29th *November*, recommending Captain *McKane* and Lieutenant *French* as good and worthy officers; also of the dismission of Captain *Scban's* Company.

A Letter from Rev. *John Mason*, *November* 26, 1776, requesting a Chaplaincy in one of our Battalions.

A Letter from *Ja. Cuyler*, Esq., 9th *December*, informing that Mr. *Valkenburgh*, who was left out of the arrangement on declining to serve, is now willing to continue in service, and recommending him as a good officer; also that Mr. *Samuel Thorn* will accept; and that Mr. *Henry Devandorph*, who was mentioned to us as indifferent, has done some extraordinary services, for which he recommends him for a good officer.

A Letter from Colonel *P. Gansevoort*, of the 3d *December* last, recommending *Henry Colbraith* and *McClannen* for Ensigns. He has sent them out to recruit.

A Note from General *James Clinton* of the 6th *December* instant, recommending *George Dennison* for an Ensign in Captain *Gregg's* Company.

A Letter from *James Magee*, of 29th *November*, 1776, recommending his brother, Second Lieutenant *Peter Magee*, for an appointment on the new establishment.

A Letter from Surgeon *Benjamin Curtis*, of *November* 3d, 1776, wherein he resigns his office.

A Letter from *Robert Provost*, *December* 7th, instant, appointed a Paymaster by General *Washington*, requesting to be continued.

A Letter from Major *Benjamin Ledyard*, *December* 12th, recommending *Theodosius Fowler* as First Lieutenant to Captain *Walker*.

A Letter from General *James Clinton*, of *December* 2d, 1776, recommending Captain *Rosecrans* and Lieutenant *Lee*.

A Letter from Colonel *Van Schaick*, *December* 5th, enclosing the resignation of Captains *Samuel Van Veghten* and *Garret Veeder*; also of Second Lieutenants *John Lansing* and *Bartholomew Van Valkenburgh*; and of Ensigns *John Vernon*, *John J. Ten Eyck*, *Abraham G. Lansing*, and *Peter S. Schuyler*. The Colonel informs that Major *Christopher P. Yates*, First Lieutenant *John Hooghkirk*, Second Lieutenant *Abraham Hardenburgh*, Second Lieutenant *William Scudder*, Second Lieutenant *John Ostrander*, First Lieutenant *Adire Sherwood*, and Ensign *Peter J. Hoogeboom*, had returned him no answer.

Lieutenant *Cornelius Bicker*, recommended by Captain *Anthony Rutgers*, *December* 14th, to be provided for in the new arrangement.

*Ezekiel Cooper* went First Lieutenant with Captain *Billings* to *Canada*; when the Regiment was discharged at *Montreal*, was appointed Captain by General *Montgomery*, served at *Quebeck* last winter, was appointed Captain this spring, and now serves on the *Mohawk* river.

—

In Committee of Arrangements, Fishkill, December 14th, 1776.

Present: *Robert Harper*, Chairman, Mr. *Duane*, Mr. *Jay*, Colonel *Duer*, Colonel *De Witt*.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Abraham Ricker* be, and he is hereby, appointed Captain in the First Company of the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Cortlandt*, in the room of Captain *John Johnson*, who has resigned; and that a copy of this Resolve, with his Instructions, be immediately sent him by the Chairman, together with the names of his subaltern officers.

*Resolved*, That Recruiting Instructions be immediately given to Captain *John Copp*, for inlisting a Company in Colonel *Van Schaick's* Regiment, and that this Committee pledge themselves that he shall be placed in such rank on the Continental establishment as he is entitled to from his former commission.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Robert McKane* be, and he is hereby, appointed Captain of a Company in Colonel *Van Schaick's* Regiment; and that this Committee pledge themselves that he shall be placed in such rank on the Continental establishment as he is entitled to from his former commission.

*Resolved unanimously*, That *Jacob Morris*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Major to the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *Amos Hutchins*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain of a Company in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment; and that a copy of this Resolve, his Instructions, together with the names of his subaltern officers, be immediately sent him by the Chairman.

*Resolved*, That *James Stewart*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain in the Regiment of Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *Philip Duboise Bevier*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *Brinton Payne*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain in the Regiment of Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *William J. Smith*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *Henry Godwin*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *Samuel English* be, and he is hereby, appointed a Second Lieutenant in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Edward Weaver*, Gent., be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Thomas Lewis*, Gent., be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Henry J. Vanderbergh*, Gent., be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Nathaniel Birdsall*, Gent., be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Jacobus Sleght*, Gent., be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Thompson*, late a Sergeant in Colonel *Humphrey's* Regiment, be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Henry Duboise*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed Adjutant to the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *John McClaughery* be, and he is hereby, appointed Quartermaster to Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Albert Pawling*, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed Aid-Major to the Regiment of Colonel *Duboise*, with the pay of a Major in the Continental service, and with the rank he is entitled to by his former commission in Colonel *Duboise's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That Recruiting Instructions be sent to the respective Captains and Ensigns above appointed, and that a copy of the Resolution appointing each of them respectively be endorsed on their respective Instructions.

*Resolved*, That application be made to the Convention for an advance of the sum of , out of the Treasury of this State, towards the bounty for recruiting the said Regiment.

*Resolved*, That Doctor *John Coats* be appointed Surgeon to the said Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Dennis Tappen* be, and he is hereby, appointed Paymaster to said Regiment.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *De Witt* be requested to transmit to Major *Pawling* the resolution of his appointment, and to inform him that it is the earnest wish of the Committee of Arrangement that he may accept the same.

*Resolved*, That *Henry Pawling*, who is appointed a First Lieutenant in Colonel *Gansevoort's* Regiment, be removed to the Regiment to be raised and appointed by Colonel *Duboise*, and that he hold the same rank there that he was entitled to by a former commission.

A Letter from General *George Clinton*, of this date, recommending Lieutenant *Lawrence* to an appointment on the New Arrangement:

*Resolved*, That Lieutenant *Andrew Lawrence* be, and he is hereby, appointed a Lieutenant in the Regiment of Colonel *Duboise*.

A Letter from *John McKesson*, Esq., recommending Mr. *Alexander McArthur* and Mr. *John I. Myers* to appointments on the New Arrangement.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Alexander McArthur* be, and he is hereby, appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Regiment of Colonel *Duboise*.

*Resolved*, That *Simon Crygier* be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Cortlandt*, and in Captain *Jonathan Hallet's* Company.

—

In Committee of Arrangement, Fishkill, December 18th, 1776.

Present: *Rob't Harpur*, Chairman *pro tem.*, Colonel *Duer*, Colonel *De Witt*.

*Jacobus A. Rosa*, Ensign, now of Captain *Jackson's* Company, in the late Regiment of General *James Clinton*, recommended by said General as an Ensign in Captain *Israel Smith's* Company of Colonel *Livingston's* Regiment, and Second Lieutenant *Peter Elsworth* in the room of Lieutenant *Lee*, should he resign. First Lieutenant *Lee* also recommended by the General to a commission, preserving his rank, in any of the new Regiments.

A Letter received from Captain *Ben. Walker*, requesting that, as he is unwell, Subalterns may be appointed immediately, and clothing given to his men.

General *J. Clinton* recommends *Andrew Harkness*, a Sergeant in Captain *Jackson's* Company, for an Ensigncy; said *Harkness* is a good penman and arithmetician.

The General informs, that *John McClaugery* would suit an Ensigncy better than the Quartermastership he is now appointed to the 14th instant; and that the present Quartermaster, *Jeremiah Carpenter*, in the said Regiment, will accept, and in the General's opinion is much better qualified.

—

In Committee of Arrangement, Fishkill, December 20th, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Josiah Bagley* be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Ganscvoort*.

Mr. *Ganscvoort* recommends *Silas Grey* as a good officer and is worthy the notice of the Committee; that Colonel *Gansevoort* would be happy in having him appointed a Second Lieutenant in his Battalion.

*Memorandum.*—*John Houston*, now the 8th Captain in Colonel *Ganscvoort's*, was a Second Lieutenant last year. *Jonathan Pearcy*, now First Lieutenant in First Company of said Regiment, was a First Lieutenant last year, and returned from *Canada* in *June* last.

Agreeable to the proposal sent to Captain *Rosecrans*, of his choosing whether he should go into Colonel *Duboise's* or *Livingston's* Regiment, he has chosen the former.

*Resolved*, That he continue in Colonel *Dubois's* Regiment.

*Resolved*, That *Henry Swartwout*, *Edward Weaver*, *John McClaughrey*, *Jacobus Sleght*, *Henry J. Vanderberg*, *Nathaniel Birdsall*, and *Thomas Lewis*, be, and they are hereby appointed, Ensigns in the regiment commanded by Colonel *Dubois*.

—

*Colonel* DUBOY'S *Officers on the New Arrangement.*

*Captains.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jacobus Rosecrans, | Philip Dubois Bevier, | Wm. I. Smith, |
| Amos Hutchins, | Brinton Payne, | Harry Godwin. |
| James Stewart, | | |

*Second Lieutenants.*

Samuel English.....Alex'r McArthur.

*Ensigns.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Henry Swartwout, | Henry J. Vanderberg, | Thompson, |
| Edward Weaver, | Nath'l Birdsall, | John McClaughery. |
| Tho's Lewis, | Jacobus Sleght, | |

Henry Dubois.....Adjutant.
Nehemiah Carpenter.....Quartermaster.

—

*Resignations of Officers received by the Committee of Arrangement from the day of to the 14th day of December, inclusive.*

| *Van Schaick's.* | *Cortlandt's.* | *Livingston's.* |
|---|---|---|
| Garret Veder, Captain, | Richard Platt, | Lieut. Colonel Hulbert. |
| Samuel Van Veghten, | Elijah Hunter, | |
| John Lansingh, Junior, 1st Lieutenant, | John Johnston, | |
| John Verner, Ensign, | James M. Hughes, 1st Lieutenant, | |
| John J. Ten Eyck, | John Johnson, 2d Lieut. | |
| Abraham G. Lansingh, | | |
| Peter J. Schuyler. | | |

*December 22d*, 1776.—Colonel *Duboys* requests that the Rev. *John Mason* be appointed a Chaplain to his Regiment.

*December 23d*, 1776.—*Resolved*, That *Samuel Lewis* be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in Captain *Abraham Swartwout's* Company and Colonel *Gansevoort's* Regiment.

*December 23d*, 1776.—*Resolved*, That Lieutenant *Thomas Lee* be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Duboys*.

*December 23d*, 1776.—*Resolved*, That the following be, agreeable to the request of Colonel *Duboys*, the rank roll of his Regiment; and that the Officers do hold their respective ranks in the Continental establishment, agreeable to their former commissions:

| | |
|---|---|
| Jacobus Rosecrans, 1st Captain, | Captain, resigned, |
| Henry Dodge, 1st Lieutenant, | Henry Vanderberg, 1st Lieutenant, |
| Samuel Dodge, 2d Lieutenant, | James Betts, 2d Lieutenant, |
| Henry Swartwout, Ensign. | Henry J. Vanderberg, Ensign. |
| Amos Hutchins, Captain, | William I. Smith, Captain. |
| Patton Jackson, 1st Lieutenant, | |
| John Forman, 2d Lieutenant, | |
| Edward Weaver, Ensign. | |

James Stewart, Captain, Henry Godwin, Captain,
John Burnet, 1st Lieutenant, Andrew Lawrence, 1st Lieutenant,
Alexander McArthur, 2d Lieuten't, Ebenezer Mott, 2d Lieutenant,
John McCloughery, Ensign. Thomas Lewis, Ensign.
Philip Duboys Bevier, Captain, Thomas Lee, Captain,
Thomas Brinkley, 1st Lieutenant, Henry Pauling, 1st Lieutenant,
Samuel English, 2d Lieutenant, Nathaniel Birdsall, 2d Lieutenant,
Jacobus Sleght, Ensign. Thomas Beyux, Ensign.

*Memorandum.*—Colonel *Duboys* requests that the same sum be granted him as was to the other Colonels. He has drawn £1,500 already of that sum, and wants £1,500 more immediately.

*December 24th.*—Second Lieutenant *Daniel Lawrence* applies for to be taken as an officer in the New Arrangement. He entered a Second Lieutenant in *Rosecrans's* Company last *February;* was a Lieutenant of the Militia before; can be recommended by General *J. Clinton.* Mr. *McNeal* recommends as a stout, good officer. Mr. *Sackett* knows him, as also Mr. *Gilbert Livingston.*

*28th.—Resolved,* That *Barent J. Ten Eyck,* Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Goose Van Schaick.*

*30th.—Resolved,* That *Jeremiah C. Muller,* Gent., be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Van Schaick.*

*Memorandum.—Jonathan Piercy* was the eldest First Lieutenant in the first four Regiments, and then said to be the first man to be preferred to a company.

*January 1st.*—Mr. *Timothy Smith,* of *Goshen,* (an Ensign,) resigns. He will recommend an Ensign in his stead if agreeable.

*January 2d,* 1777.—Mr. *Harpur* proposes the following Resolve for the approbation of the Committee of Arrangement, viz: That First Lieutenant *Jonathan Piercy,* who was the eldest Lieutenant in the first four Regiments of this State, be, and he is hereby, appointed a Captain, in the room of Captain *Brinton Payne,* of Colonel *Duboys's* Regiment, who has resigned; and that he, the said *Piercy,* shall preserve the rank he is entitled to from his former commission.

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Christopher Hutton* be, and he is hereby, appointed an Ensign in the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Gansevoort,* and in Captain *Henry Tiebout's* Company.

*January 1st,* 1777.—*Timothy Smith,* Ensign, told the Chairman he had declined serving, and *Joshua Hubbard,* a good-looking young fellow, desires to be put in his room; said *Hubbard* was a Corporal in Captain *Chas. Graham's* Company, and from *Suffolk* County.

Captain *Jacob Wright* recommended by General *Scott* as an excellent officer for a Captain on the New Arrangement.

*Timothy Hughs, Nath'l Henry,* Lieutenants in Colonel *Nicholson's* Regiment, also Lieutenant *Guy Young,* for Lieutenants; and *Jonathan Brown, Francis Shaw,* and *Bennet,* for Ensigns, recommended by Colonel *Van Schaick.*

*Jeremiah Lansing* recommended for a Paymaster to Colonel *Gansevoort's* Regiment, or any other, by the President, General *Ten Broeck.*

Captain *Dan'l Griffin,* 1st Captain in *J. Clinton's* Regiment, recommended for Lieutenant-Colonel to Colonel *Livingston's* Regiment. He is before Lieutenant-Colonel *Hulbert* in rank. He and *Benjamin Marvin* petitioned the Convention on the 23d *December,* 1774.

Sergeant *Will'm Erskin* recommended by Captain *Godwin* as an excellent fellow for an Ensign, and requests him for his company.

Doctor *Wm. Mead* recommended to Colonel *Cortlandt's* Regiment by Mr. *Jay,* Captain *Pell,* and others, as a good Surgeon. He has lodged a certificate of his examination by Doctor *Bard* with the Convention, by the hands of Mr. *Tompkins.*

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## DEBATES IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND HOUSE OF COMMONS ON MEASURES RELATING TO AMERICA, DURING THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT COMMENCING ON THURSDAY, THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1776.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, October 31st, 1776.

The King came to the House of Peers, and opened the session with the following Speech to both Houses:

"*My Lords and Gentlemen:*

"Nothing could have afforded me so much satisfaction as to have been able to inform you, at the opening of this session, that the troubles which have so long distracted my Colonies in *North America* were at an end; and that my unhappy people, recovered from their delusion, had delivered themselves from the oppression of their leaders, and returned to their duty. But so daring and desperate is the spirit of those leaders, whose object has always been dominion and power, that they have now openly renounced all allegiance to the Crown, and all political connection with this country: they have rejected, with circumstances of indignity and insult, the means of conciliation held out to them under the authority of our commission, and have presumed to set up their rebellious Confederacies for independent States. If their treason be suffered to take root, much mischief must grow from it, to the safety of my loyal Colonies, to the commerce of my Kingdoms, and indeed to the present system of all *Europe.* One great advantage, however, will be derived from the object of the Rebels being openly avowed and clearly understood: we shall have unanimity at home, founded in the general conviction of the justice and necessity of our measures.

"I am happy to inform you, that by the blessing of Divine Providence on the good conduct and valour of my officers and forces by sea and land, and on the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in my service, *Canada* is recovered; and although, from unavoidable delays, the operations at *New-York* could not begin before the month of *August,* the success in that Province has been so important as to give the strongest hopes of the most decisive good consequences; but, notwithstanding this fair prospect, we must, at all events, prepare for another campaign.

"I continue to receive assurances of amity from the several Courts of *Europe,* and am using my utmost endeavours to conciliate unhappy differences between two neighbouring Powers; and I still hope, that all misunderstandings may be removed, and *Europe* continue to enjoy the inestimable blessings of peace. I think, nevertheless, that in the present situation of affairs, it is expedient that we should be in a respectable state of defence at home.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

"I will order the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. It is matter of real concern to me, that the important considerations which I have stated to you, must necessarily be followed by great expense. I doubt not, however, but that my faithful Commons will readily and cheerfully grant me such supplies as the maintenance of the honour of my Crown, the vindication of the just rights of Parliament, and the publick welfare, shall be found to require.

"*My Lords and Gentlemen:*

"In this arduous contest, I can have no other object but to promote the true interests of all my subjects. No people ever enjoyed more happiness, or lived under a milder Government, than those now revolted Provinces. The improvements in every art of which they boast, declare it; their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think sufficient to enable them to make head against the whole power of the mother country, are irrefragable proofs of it. My desire is to restore to them the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every *British* subject, which they have fatally and desperately exchanged for all the calamities of war, and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs."

DEBATE ON THE LORDS' ADDRESS OF THANKS.

His Majesty having retired,

The Earl of CARLISLE said, that he rose with great reluctance, knowing his own incapacity, either to take the lead on so important an occasion, the most so this country ever before experienced, or to pay that just tribute of thanks due to the gracious speech from the Throne, a speech, he would venture to affirm, replete with the strongest marks of sound policy, royal wisdom, and paternal tenderness, for the prosperity, happiness, and freedom of all his subjects. His Lordship observed, that the nation had been brought into its present critical and dangerous situation, by the arts of designing, ambitious men; and he could not, while he lamented the influence the leaders in *America* had over their deluded, infatuated brethren, help remarking, that the present daring and open hostilities commenced, abetted, and avowed, which preceded their declaration of independency, would never have happened, if that disobedient, traitorous spirit had not been fomented, nourished, and strengthened by a set of men in this country, who, deserting its interests, shamefully sacrificed them to their personal views of faction and ambition. He said, the ground taken on this occasion became dangerous in proportion to its plausibility; for it was, indeed, hardly conceivable, that the people of *America*, who owed so many obligations to the parent State, who were at once bound to it by every tie of gratitude and interest, and every bond of union which nature and affection could render sacred, would ever break and cancel them all without any real provocation: but the event had proved the contrary; and as the noble Lords on the other side of the House founded their opposition on the idea, that *America* never did aim at independency, he trusted now that the question had totally altered its nature, the consequence of such alteration would be an unanimity as complete, as he was assured it would be decisive, in restoring peace to this distracted and divided Empire.

His Lordship commented on several parts of the speech from the Throne, particularly on the zeal and bravery of the King's troops, the recovery of *Canada*, and the late success on *Long-Island*. He spoke with warmth upon the insolence of the Rebels (as he called them) in refusing to treat with the Commissioners appointed by his Majesty. He bestowed several harsh expressions on the conduct and behaviour of the Congress; spoke of the necessity of vigorously exerting ourselves in the course of the ensuing campaign, in order to repair the repeated injuries, and to heal the wounds the constitution and interests of this country have received from its base and unnatural children; and concluded with assuring their Lordships, that he did not entertain a single doubt but that ample reparation would be obtained, and that the whole would in the end terminate to the mutual happiness and advantage of both countries.

His Lordship then moved an Address to the King.

Earl FAUCONBERG seconded the motion. His Lordship observed, that the question between *Great Britain* and *America* was changed; the original one, relative to taxation, no longer existing. The alternative was now, whether we should forever relinquish *America*, and submit to the consequences which must inevitably ensue, from our giving up all future pretensions to a superiority over that country? or, considering the great and important stake for which we are contending, make one vigorous effort to bring its deluded inhabitants back to a proper sense of their duty? He was for the latter.

The Marquis of ROCKINGHAM condemned, in very strong terms, the contents of the speech, which he treated as the speech of the Minister. He remarked on the following passage in the speech: "No people ever enjoyed greater happiness, or lived under a milder government, than those now revolted Provinces, the improvements in every art of which they boast declared it; their number, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think sufficient to make head against the whole power of the mother country, are irrefragable proofs of it." This passage, his Lordship contended, was a virtual censure of the present Administration, and pointed out the impolicy of forcing such a people into rebellion. It proved, beyond question, the great advantages of a mild Government, and the evils resulting from a cruel and oppressive one. He presumed that Ministers would hardly pretend to say, that it was the present system of measures under which this people throve, and rose to that pitch of opulence and strength, they themselves had given so lively and apt a description of; if it was not, but that it evidently impeded instead of augmenting this state of domestick prosperity, it followed of course, that *America* owed its greatness to a system of mild Government; and that a direct deviation, or total abandonment of that system, was what gave occasion to the present cruel and unnatural civil war. He said, whatever colour might be now given to the present state of affairs, taxation was the original cause; and he still continued to think, as he had always declared himself, that the only sure constitutional taxes which could or ought to be drawn from the Colonies, would be the monopoly of their trade; and the other great advantages drawn from their constitutional dependency and connection with the parent State; and though the right were clearly on our side, nay, even that there were some degree of necessity for exercising it, yet when the real disposition of the people came to be known, their resources, strength, and numbers, came to be revealed, and the enormous expense of prosecuting such an expensive war, at so great a distance, was properly considered; motives of expediency in the first instance, and considerations of the possible impracticability of such an attempt, united, would induce him for one to consent to any reasonable terms of accommodation. What, said his Lordship, do Ministers tell us this day? They come forward, and, through the medium of the speech, write a panegyrick on their own conduct. I will put the whole of their defence on this short issue, without entering into particulars: I will leave the decision with themselves. I ask them, in the whole course of their extensive reading, knowledge, experience, or to the utmost stretch of their belief, whether they ever heard, or can now be persuaded to think, that a whole people, so numerous, and living under so many different forms of Government, though members of the same political body, ever unanimously confederated to join in a revolt, under a mild, wise, and equitable administration of publick affairs relative to *America*? His Lordship arraigned besides the principle on which the measures have been all along conducted and supported, that of unconditional submission. He said, the idea was abhorrent to the subjects of this free Government; that *Englishmen*, whatever their local situation may be, know no obedience to any thing but the laws; and that when the protection of the laws was taken away in several instances, particularly by the Capture Act, when they were declared open enemies, and put out of the *King's* peace, it was impossible for them to do otherwise than they did. If they declared themselves independent, it was long after they were declared enemies; and for his part he could not possibly see what degree of obedience was due, where publick protection was openly withdrawn.

His Lordship then moved an amendment to the Address.

The Duke of MANCHESTER drew a parallel between the present state of the *British* empire, and that of ancient *Rome* in its decline. He observed, in one, as the other, the mere forms of the constitution were preserved long after every effort of despotism and arbitrary power were felt in their fullest extent. Imperial *Rome* oppressed her provinces and dependencies, like *Britain*; her subjects bowed under the yoke of the most insupportable oppression, like that endeavoured to be inflicted on our colonists; and he did not hesitate to foretell, that as in one instance the distant subjects of that proud, overbearing mistress of the universe, by the injustice and severity of her government, forced her provinces to resist her lawless power; so in the other, this country had alienated the obedience and affection of her *American* subjects, which would bring on a dismemberment of the empire, and probably terminate in a total dissolution of this Government.

His Grace remarked on that passage in the speech (the whole of which he imputed to the Minister) relative to assurances of amity, said to be received from the several courts of *Europe*, in a very pointed manner. He said, it contained the most improbable information that could be well conceived, unless we supposed, that the framers of the speech, and those who advised the present naval armaments, thought differently on the same day; or were not the same persons; for if assurances were given, and that they were to be depended on, why have recourse to that mode of

manning our Navy, a press, which was known to be fraught with so many hardships and inconveniences, and which should never be resorted to, but in seasons of difficulty and danger? If, on the other hand, those assurances of amity were not to be relied on, why deceive the publick and Parliament in so gross and flagrant a manner? Why delude them into a dangerous repose? Why tell them, on the eve of a rupture, that we were in a state of perfect tranquillity? But his Grace insisted, that we ought not, in the present situation of affairs, to trust either to assurances, however strong, or reasons however plausible, when facts were so evidently against them. He had, he said, the most undoubted information, that whatever those assurances might be, they ought not to be relied on; a matter having come to his own knowledge, or at least it came so well authenticated, that he was perfectly satisfied of its being indisputably true. He would just mention it for the present, presuming, if it were false it would be contradicted, in which case he would quote his authority; if it were not, then it would remain at least a strong circumstantial contradiction to that part of the address. The fact was, that a gentleman, on whose veracity he could depend, assured him, that he had been at *Havre-de-Grace* some short time since, where he saw a vessel publickly loading with fire-arms and other military stores for the use of the Provincials. If, in the language of the speech, the *Americans* were to be esteemed Rebels, and if rebels in arms were to be looked upon as open enemies, the fact now alluded to was an irrefragable proof, that *France* was in the first stage of open enmity with *Great Britain*.

His Grace then contradicted the substantial information of the speech on another ground. He said, that it was now no secret, that a fleet had lately sailed from *Cadiz*, with a considerable body of land forces on board. This armament must be destined to carry on hostilities against us in some part of the western world, or for *South America*, or to be employed against the *Portuguese*. Supposing the former not to be the case, no doubt could be entertained of the latter, which came exactly to the same point; because, if *Portugal* were attacked, *Britain* must consequently be involved in a war, unless we broke our engagements with *Portugal*, and sacrificed our dearest interests to the blind rage of making a conquest of our fellow-subjects in *America*. We were bound by treaty, he insisted, to support and defend *Portugal*; our interests, as well as our solemn engagements, compelled us to it. The difference was therefore very little, whether *France* or *Spain* broke with us openly, or in this roundabout, indirect manner, the consequences would be the same: we should in the end find ourselves engaged in a war with the united force of the House of *Bourbon*. *Portugal* had already given us the highest instance in their power of their friendship; they had forbid the Provincials from entering their ports. Had *France* or *Spain* done so? The contrary was notorious. If, then, taking the question in either light, as an attack of *Spain* on our ally, or the open encouragement given to our subjects now in arms against us, he wished to know from Administration what requisitions had been made on our part, to bring the Courts of *Versailles* and *Madrid* to an explanation on those very important points; what was the effect of those requisitions; and what we had now finally, at so critical a period, to depend on? His Grace concluded by observing that no reliance was to be had at any time on the pacifick assurances of those courts, much less when their conduct contradicted them; that therefore a tame acquiescence in whatever measures they might think proper to adopt, or an immediate war with those Powers, was inevitable, which, considering the present distracted and almost exhausted state of this country, threatened no less than its total ruin. He had foreseen this from the beginning; he had often foretold it. He was in future determined to lament it in silence, as all further efforts, he perceived, would be in vain; however, as the last attempt, he very readily joined in the amendment moved by his noble friend [the Marquis of *Rockingham*.] The speech was no more than a recommendation of the same ruinous system of measures, which had brought us into our present perilous and tremendous situation. If the amendment was agreed to, it would give the House time to consider and devise some means of averting the innumerable dangers with which we were now surrounded; the first salutary and effectual step to which would, in his opinion, be the appointing a committee to inquire into the state of the nation, in order to discover the source of our present calamities, and to devise remedies the best suited to their cure and removal.

Lord CARDIFF [Lord *Mountstuart*] declared the Colonists to be exceedingly ungrateful. He said, from their first emigration from this country they had manifested a most disloyal and republican spirit; in proportion to the favours we had heaped upon them, the protection we had afforded, the encouragement we had given them in free ports, bounties and premiums, and the blood and treasure we had spilt and lavished in their service, they had been disobedient, turbulent, and ungrateful; that our strength and finances had been wasted in defending and covering them from a dangerous and superior enemy during the late war, to a degree, he feared, that would not shortly, if ever, be recovered; and now the return we met with was, to be involved in a bloody, expensive contest, on the issue of which the dearest interests of this country were staked, perhaps its very exsitence as a great commercial and maritime Power. He trusted, however, such being the provocations on our part, and such the unparalleled baseness on theirs, that the spirit of the *British* nation would be roused, so as to take the necessary measures for their effectual chastisement. He could not, he said, agree with the amendment proposed by the noble Marquis, for many cogent reasons; but for none more than that it brought matters forward which, at least for the present, formed no part of the question. If Ministers had neglected their duty; if they suffered themselves to be deceived; if they misled Parliament; those might be all proper objects of inquiry at a suitable and convenient season. That was not the subject of the present Address. The only matter now under discussion, or worthy of debate, was, What is the present state and condition of our Colonies? What are the resolution and final determination of our subjects in *America*? Have not they declared themselves an independent State? Are not they in arms in support of that independency? Have not they pulled off the mask, and avowed themselves open enemies? The question of taxation alluded to by the noble Marquis is now totally lost, or buried in an obstinate and loud appeal to arms. They no longer think it necessary to conceal their real sentiments; they have put us to defiance, and the event must inevitably be the full assertion of our legislative authority over them, or submitting to forever relinquish it. Should the latter be the case, then farewell to the importance of this country. The state of *Europe*, he observed, had undergone an almost total change since the first establishment of those Colonies. Several considerable acquisitions of territory had been made by the great States, who may be supposed to be the rivals of our power and greatness. The wealth and additional strength which we have hitherto derived from our Colonies have enabled us to retain our consequence and superiority in the grand *European* system. What, then, would be the probable effect, merely on consideration of self-preservation, but that, stripped of so ample a support, we should dwindle so as, in the first instance, to lose our importance in that system, and, in the end, to become a Province of the first ambitious Power who might think proper to attack us? For instance: *France*, our natural rival and enemy, is a vast, extensive, opulent country, full of inhabitants, fertile in soil, rich in native produce, and rendered more so by the industry of its people; it is compact in itself; its strength is easily collected; how, then, can it be expected that *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, inferiour in every respect, and divided and broken by seas, could withstand so formidable a Power, if those sources of wealth and strength derived from our Colonies were to be cut off, which must be the case should we tamely permit *America* to remain independent.

This, his Lordship presumed, was the true point on which the deliberations of this day would turn. It fairly included this short question: Whether, by foregoing our superiority over *America*, we were at the same time willing to take such a resolution, with all the consequences now described, which he contended must follow? He said, besides this grand, this leading inducement to a vigorous exertion of our whole strength, there were many collateral circumstances which gave him hopes that the general impressions of despondency attempted to be made by the noble Marquis and the noble Duke who spoke last, were ill-founded, and were neither supported by fact or probability. He said, the deluded people of *America* had been inflamed, misled, and hurried on by their leaders; that the late success of his

Majesty's forces on *Long-Island*, and the events which might reasonably be expected in consequence of that success, gave the most rational ground to expect that his Majesty's subjects in *America* would recollect themselves, and return to their duty; and such of them as all along retained their loyalty, be emancipated from the cruel oppressions they had sustained for their attachment to the mother country; which would create such an additional strength as not only to rescue the Province of *New-York* from under the dominion of its merciless oppressors, but likewise to establish a civil Government in that Province, and from thence extend, by its influence and example, the blessings of peace, law, and liberty, to its several neighbouring Colonies; which would, in time, he hoped, by that means be communicated to the whole Continent. He said he felt as strongly as any Lord in the House for the miseries of war; he always thought it should be the last resource; yet while he lamented its ravages, it was a consolation to him that its temporary effects might be productive of a restoration of Government; since nothing else was capable of bringing back the people to their duty: one part, he trusted, would return from motives of loyalty and inclination; the other from finding they had no protection but what might be derived from a restoration of peace, and a submission to the constitutional supremacy of the parent State. He was every way satisfied that this would be the event of the ensuing campaign, if determined on with unanimity here, and carried on with vigour there. He did not, however, according to the language of the amendment, expect, much less wish, that the people of *America* should yield to an abject or servile submission. It was not, he dared to say, the wish of Administration, nor of any noble Lord in that House. It was, however, now become indispensably necessary to the interests, nay, to the very existence of the *British* empire, that the supremacy of this Legislature should be maintained and asserted in its full extent. When that point was once fully established, he doubted not but the people of *America* would receive every satisfaction and security for every just grievance they may have felt, and every right they may be entitled to enjoy as *British* subjects. Fully convinced of the justice of the cause, and of the propriety of the measures recommended in the speech, he must, he said, differ from the amendment proposed, and give an affirmative to the address now moved.

The Earl of DERBY spoke warmly in favour of the speech, and against *America*, which, he said, had entered into the most horrid and unprovoked rebellion ever known in the annals of this or any other country. He insisted that they had an equitable as well as a legal right to contribute towards the national burden incurred during the late war on their account: first, on the constitutional right the parent State had to regulate, controul, and give law to all its dependencies, which inherent right especially included the power of taxation; secondly, because one-half the publick debt was incurred in defending and protecting them. He complimented such of his noble auditory as always looked upon the disobedience and resistance made to the laws enacted in support of the exercise of our constitutional superiority over *America*, as a strong indication, if not a substantial avowal, of their intended independency. He observed, that such being the fact, now no longer to be controverted, he was astonished that any noble Lord, who declared himself a friend to *Britain*, could possibly hesitate about agreeing with the address, as the measures it was meant to sanctify were the only means to save the *British* empire from certain ruin and destruction. His Lordship lamented the factious spirit, both here and in *America*, which had been the cause of the present melancholy state of publick affairs; and hoped, as the only means of reparation left, that those who had unhappily fomented the present disturbances, that those who had, by the strongest reiterated assurances, pledged themselves to the nation that *America* only wished for a constitutional dependency, not to deny or throw off the supreme legislative power of the Parliament of *Great Britain*, would now candidly confess their errour, and prove themselves only mistaken, not intentionally wrong.

The Earl of RADNOR made several observations on the sentiments delivered by the last noble Lord but one, [Lord *Cardiff*.] He said that he could not agree with the proposed address or amendment, neither of them coming up to his ideas. The noble Lord [Lord *Cardiff*] asserted that the people of *America* were tainted with principles of republicanism in general, and had always showed a spirit of disobedience. He denied that either of those assertions were strictly just. The charge of republicanism was never even attempted to be made against any but the Northern Colonies, and there, he believed, with great injustice. And the charge of disobedience was still worse founded; for he believed, if the history of the Colonies was impartially considered and fairly decided on, from their first establishment, it would be found that no subjects had ever exhibited stronger proofs of duty, attachment, obedience, and affection for the parent State. If, indeed, the same spirit which compelled the first settlers to fly from the ecclesiastical and civil persecution and oppression of a tyrant was a spirit of republicanism, he trusted that spirit would never be extinct, either there or here; for if it should, then despotism would triumph, and nothing would be left for the Prince on the throne but to possess himself of the liberties of the people thus deserted and surrendered. He repeated his disapprobation of the address and amendment, and said he should not vote for either.

The Duke of RICHMOND arraigned the conduct of Administration in relation to the affairs of *America*; and described what he called the tremendous and awful situation this great empire was reduced to, the whole of which he attributed to a want of wisdom in Ministers, as well as a want of virtue in Parliament. His Grace mentioned the several measures adopted by the King's servants against that country, and reminded their Lordships, that the consequences from the beginning to the very close of the last session, were exactly, nay, almost literally foretold by those who disapproved of them; that there was something very remarkable, however, in this combination of cause and effect; for while Opposition predicted the probable operation those coercive laws would produce, they did not neglect to remind Ministers, that they supposed those laws were expressly enacted for that purpose; if so, though such a conduct might well serve to impeach the justice of the measures, it proved in some degree, that they were not so much the effect of ignorance as design. *America* had the alternative to submit, or to abide the event of resistance; the several oppressive laws spoke that language; and as *America* refused to accede to terms of unconditional submission, she was of course compelled to declare herself independent. In that point of view, Ministers had been successful, and gained what they secretly wished for, though they did not dare to openly avow it; they put all on the issue of a trial of strength between the parties, in which struggle they flatter themselves they shall prevail. Such, certainly, was the express intention of the Capture Act; nothing less could be expected: this law was passed in order to put the Colonies to the test; it was meant to produce submission or independency; the former, in that stage of controversy, was not expected; independency was looked for; and Ministers, in one instance at least, were not disappointed. To prove the truth of what he now asserted, he gave a short history of the Capture Act; he showed, that the King's speech, on the opening of the preceding session, promised that Commissioners should be sent out to treat with the *Americans;* that when this promise came to be fulfilled by Ministers, the farce was still kept up in the Capture Act, though nothing more than a bare power to receive submissions, and grant pardons, was expressed: yet trifling, absurd, and insidious, as this must appear, Ministers were resolved, that no good consequence should arise, for though the Royal word was pledged in *October*, and the law was passed the next month, no attempt was made to fulfill it on the part of Administration for full seven months after. This brought strongly into his mind a passage in a modern writer [Mr. *Gibbon*] who has written on the causes of the decline of the *Roman* Empire; where, speaking of the Christians, and the persecutions they suffered under some of the *Roman* Emperors, he says, "they were thus driven from the protection of the law." His Grace commented very pointedly on that passage in the King's speech, which says, "that his desire is to restore to them [the people of *America*] the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every *British* subject." This, he said, was a palpable fallacy; and could be only introduced into the speech by the Minister, in order to mislead the people of this country, and to incense them against their fellow-subjects in *America;* and he expressed his astonishment at the temerity of those who thus dared to

put such a sentence in the mouth of their Sovereign. It was absurd to the last degree; it was known to be directly repugnant to the express constitutional system of government established in this country, to that power of commercial control lodged in the seat of empire; and that great commercial law, the act of navigation, which withheld several great advantages from our dependencies in *Ireland* and *America;* consequently, it was a vile imposition to suppose, that either the Sovereign could or would restore to *America* the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every *British* subject, because such a promised enjoyment was no less false in contemplation than it was totally impracticable in the execution. His Grace next lamented the extreme degeneracy of Government; he boldly affirmed, that it was carried on solely through the means of bribery and corruption; that all test of publick conduct was laid aside, which depended upon freedom of thought, or freedom of acting. The indiscriminate support Ministers received, to whatever measures they thought proper to propose, though ever so ruinous and destructive, furnished daily proofs of it; and what, from a total disregard which prevailed among publick men, to the interests of the nation, and the innumerable modes of corruption, long established, with the new ones daily devised and discovered, he was in his conscience satisfied, that nothing but the personal virtue of the Sovereign prevented this country from a total loss of liberty. Like *Sweden*, it was ripe for the event; and he begged leave once more to give the most solemn testimony, to declare from the bottom of his heart, that nothing but the virtue of the Sovereign on the throne prevented this country from being at present under the dominion of arbitrary power.

His Grace, after testifying his high esteem for the Generals *Howe* and *Carleton*, with both of whom he had served, men equally deserving in their private characters, as of high merit in their respective professions, lamented the fatal effects of the war, with the conduct of which they are entrusted. From their known temper and disposition he should have conceived the most favourable hopes, if their hands had not been fettered by Ministers, nay, indeed, if they had not been actually prevented from taking any measures but such as the laws of war prescribed. This was a melancholy consideration, when we reflected, that every life lost on either side was a diminution of that strength which ought to be preserved, and which should be only employed against our natural and foreign enemies. This led his Grace to that part of the speech, which says, "I still hope that all misunderstandings may be removed, and *Europe* continue to enjoy the blessings of peace; I think it nevertheless necessary, that we should be in a respectable state of defence at home." This, he said, however artfully and plausibly disguised, with a view of answering a double purpose of holding out peace at the present, and preparing us for another interpretation, should the event make it necessary, was a most alarming piece of information. If any explanation was wanting, the press-warrants lately issued would serve as the best comment; they justified our apprehensions; they confirmed our fears, and the more so, when we recollected, that the greatest part of our only sure bulwark and national defence, our Navy, was on the other side of the *Atlantick*. He observed, that Ministers had been silent through inattention, or not being able to stand, on this very critical and trying occasion, the test of inquiry. It was no secret, he said, that *France* and *Spain* had been some time arming; that the disputes between *Spain* and *Portugal* were notorious, and the publick declarations of a Minister, in high favour at Court, and influence in the Cabinet, relative to the intended conduct of this country, should a rupture be the consequence of those disputes, made this disagreement a matter of very serious consideration, particularly as the passage in the speech, which alludes to that important affair, says only, "I hope, &c., that all misunderstandings may be removed." On the other hand, if the repeated accounts be true, that an open commerce is carried on between *France* and our Colonies; if the latter, in return for their native commodities, are supplied with military stores, will not this, if not discontinued on their part, be looked upon as an avowal of the cause of *America*? So that in either event, whether *Portugal* is attacked, or the Colonists are openly assisted and supported by *France*, a rupture with the united force of the House of *Bourbon* seems inevitable. From these important facts, and obvious deductions, his Grace took occasion to expatiate on the dangerous predicament this country now stood in, a probable rupture with *France* and *Spain*, a civil war with our Colonies, our only national defence at the mercy this instant of our natural enemies, an accumulating debt, divided councils, and a distracted people on the verge of political despair. In such a dire and calamitous situation, he recommended a reconciliation with our Colonists upon any terms. He thought it would be much better to have them as friends than enemies, though we should be under the necessity of acknowledging them as so many independent States. He concluded his speech with protesting, that he did not believe that any measures that could now be adopted, would ever reconcile the people of *America* to our Government; the attempt, in his opinion, was impracticable. Though a change of Administration, and a change of measures in consequence thereof, should take place, he had no expectation that for his part either, or both, would produce any good consequence. A noble Lord, early in the debate, [Lord *Cardiff*,] had supposed, that this country would not support its rank, as a great *European* Power, without the Colonies: his Grace strongly doubted the truth of this reasoning. *Britain* had cut as conspicuous a figure, as she has done since, in the time of the Protectorate, before the Colonies were any addition to the strength or opulence of this country. Be that as it may, if the task of conquest was impracticable, as he believed it was, it would be better to retain our native strength than waste it to no purpose. In such a train of impending evils, as surrounded us on every side, he could only venture to pronounce one certain truth, that he was satisfied the country was ruined, he feared the nation was undone.

The Earl of Sandwich said, the speech recommended measures so wisely framed, and so peculiarly well suited to the present situation of affairs, that he should not have troubled their Lordships, had not the noble Duke, who spoke last, alluded to some matters which, as connected with the office at which he had the honour to preside, he looked upon himself particularly called upon to explain. The noble Duke asserted, that the greatest part of our force was on the other side of the *Atlantick*, and that we were left defenceless at home. The first of these assertions was not founded in fact; for out of twenty-eight thousand seamen, with one of the most formidable fleets this country ever beheld, fifteen thousand, including the marines who were doing duty on shore, as well as on board the ships-of-war, and two line-of-battle-ships, were only on the other side of the *Atlantick*: and as to the other assertion, that we were left in a defenceless state at home, it was equally ill-founded; for we had a naval force at this instant ready for sea, allowing that the Courts of *Versailles* and *Madrid* had any hostile intentions towards us, which he was persuaded they had not, fully sufficient for our defence and protection. We had the most ample and unreserved assurances from those courts, of their pacifick and friendly dispositions. If they should turn out otherwise, we are prepared for the worst. He said, he looked upon it to be his duty, as an official man, to take care, that the Navy, which was our only national defence, should be in the best condition in his power. He was happy to inform their Lordships, that it was so, and he was determined that this kingdom should be prepared for any event that might happen. He should not follow the amendment made by the noble Marquis, it took in so many different matters, little relative to the present subject of debate; but while it recommended a retrospective inquiry into the conduct of others, he could not, now he was up, help declaring, that the true cause of this civil war we are engaged in, was the bad policy of those, who, by their advice, power, influence, and official situations, laid a foundation for it, by the repeal of the Stamp Act. He had often said so, and would avow it with his last breath. As a friend to his country, he must dissent from the extraordinary proposition made by the noble Duke who spoke last, "recommending a reconciliation with *America* upon any terms, even upon grounds of admitting their independency." As an *Englishman*, and a friend to his country, he could not endure the thought; he would never consent to subscribe to a doctrine so derogatory to the honour, so disgraceful to the character, and so destructive to the interests of this country. He would risk every thing sooner than accede to it; he would hazard every drop of blood, and the last shilling of the national treasure, sooner than *Britain* should

be set at defiance, bullied, and dictated to by her ungrateful and undutiful children, her disobedient and rebellious subjects. He alluded to a passage in the last-mentioned noble Duke's speech, in which he protested, that he did not believe either a change of men or measures, in consequence of it, would effect a reconciliation, so as to bring *America* back to her former disposition. He believed his Grace, for he was certain that the resentments of *America* were not directed against any particular set of men; he was convinced that they despised their supposed friends, as well as their pretended enemies; and that their intentions were uniformly from the beginning to render themselves independent of the parent State.

The Duke of Richmond, mistaking his Lordship's words, desired that he might be permitted to explain himself. He supposed that the last noble Lord imputed to him the following words: "Though there should be a change of men, there will be no change of measures." He therefore begged to be understood, that he neither meant, nor made use of any such expression. He thought it necessary, for he was certain, if there was a change of men, there would be a change of measures. For his part, he did not wish to take any official part in any such change, for the reason before assigned; because he was morally certain that all attempts to recover *America* would be in vain; the moment was passed, that country was now irretrievably lost.

The Earl of Sandwich appealed to their Lordships' recollection, if the noble Duke had not totally misstated his words and misconceived his meaning, and wished to be set right, whether he had done more than repeat the words in the manner now explained by his Grace, as an argument to prove, that nothing now remained but to exert the force of this country to the fullest extent, in reducing *America* to a proper state of legal and constitutional dependence.

The Duke of Grafton prefaced his particular sentiments of the measures chalked out in the speech, in the strongest disapprobation of the conduct of Administration from the beginning. He pledged himself to the House, and to the publick, that while he had a leg to stand on, he would come down, day after day, to express the most marked abhorrence of the measures hitherto pursued, and meant to be adhered to, in respect to *America*. He condemned, in terms equally explicit and unreserved, the measures which had compelled *America* to declare herself independent, though he was sorry for it, and thought she acted extremely wrong in so doing. He said, Ministers had not only effected this part of their scheme, by a set of the most cruel, oppressive, destructive, and impolitick laws, that were ever devised by a deliberate assembly, but they had likewise brought themselves into a situation which had been often predicted by those on this side of the House; he intended by this expression, he said, no particular distinction of party; he meant only the noble Lords with whom he voted in the course of the last session on *American* affairs. Those predictions Ministers affected to disbelieve; though the experience of that day, the very speech delivered from the throne, proved this truth; and when other circumstances came to be revealed, their veracity could not be questioned, they were beyond the reach of doubt, much less of naked contradiction. He was justified, from an authority which could not be disputed, to aver, that four ships of the line, with a considerable number of land forces on board, had lately sailed from *Cadiz;* that another fleet of seven men of war of the line, with a body of at least ten thousand land forces, were preparing to follow them; that the *French* had been for some months busily employed in making very formidable naval preparations; the consequence of which was, that a strong squadron of men-of-war were now lying at *Brest*, completely fitted and manned, waiting only for orders to proceed to the place of its intended destination. His Grace attributed our present alarming situation to a want of proper information: it was, he contended, the great cause of all our misfortunes. Parliament was led blindfolded; they assented to every thing Ministers proposed; they reposed an unlimited confidence in their assurances; and though, perhaps, from the same spirit of obstinacy and infatuation, they should wilfully continue to persist in errour, they must acknowledge that they were grossly, and, he believed wilfully deceived. He reminded Ministers, how often, and with what confidence, the last year, when the possible, if not probable, interference of foreign Powers was suggested, as a strong ground of expediency for us to relax in our claims on *America*, and to adopt conciliatory measures, they pledged themselves to Parliament that no impediment or obstruction was to be dreaded from that quarter; that our Court daily received the most full and satisfactory assurances, assurances that might be safely relied on, of the pacifick disposition of both *France* and *Spain;* yet all of a sudden press-warrants are issued, while, if the speech may be depended on, such a precaution is unnecessary. Two days before the meeting of Parliament, the substance of the speech is flatly contradicted, the assurances are no longer to be relied on; the noble Lord who presides at the Admiralty tells you that it became necessary to prepare for the worst. Does his Lordship mean to amuse us, by telling us that our present armament was only meant to put us in a state of defence, confessing by that assertion, at the same time, that, before the steps now taken, the nation was not in a proper state of defence, contrary to the repeated assurances that his Lordship had given to this House that it was?

The Earl of Sandwich (to explain) insisted that he never meant to say that the nation was not in a state of defence previous to the preparations now going on, for he was certain that we were all along prepared; what he meant to say was, that as a dispute subsisted between *Spain* and *Portugal*, which might call for our interference, as well as mediation, if pushed to extremities, he thought it his duty to prepare for the worst, in order to give our mediation the proper effect.

The Duke of Grafton replied to this explanation by observing, that although every thing asserted by the noble Lord had been literally true, he begged leave to differ from him in thinking that our home defence could be looked upon as complete, while we solely depended on our Navy. Adverse winds and a thousand accidents fleets were liable to, pointed out the necessity of auxiliary assistance, such as a strong military force, should an enemy by chance, or any other means, effect a landing. A strong instance of the truth of this observation had, he begged leave to remind their Lordships, happened during the late war, when Sir *Edward Hawke* was wind-bound in *Torbay*, so as not to be able to prevent *Conflans* from invading some part of these kingdoms, though he was apprised of his intention. At the critical instant Providence interposed, and the wind suddenly changing, Sir *Edward* was enabled to proceed to sea, and meet the enemy at the very moment they had cleared the land, by which fortunate circumstance he was enabled to engage them, and defeating them, prevented an invasion which might have been productive of the worst consequences. His Grace concluded therefore, in answer to the noble Earl's general argument in support of the measures of Administration, allowing every one of his Lordship's assertions to be founded in fact, and to carry with them the effect they were wished to produce, that a powerful naval force was not sufficient alone for home defence; that the silence of the other members of the Cabinet had the most unfavourable appearance; and as the noble Lord seemed to trust so much to the respectable state of the Navy previous to the press, he would be glad to have a specifick answer to this question: Was the naval force a few days since a sufficient defence against that now fitting out and ready to sail from *Brest?* Because, if it was not, then Parliament had been designedly misled, the nation had been grossly and criminally deceived, Ministers had trusted the safety of the kingdom to an inferiour force, and had by so doing given Parliament official information that was not to be relied on. Such, then, being the state of publick affairs respecting both *America* and the unfavourable dispositions, if not the direct hostile intentions, of foreign Powers, the love he bore his country, his respect for his sovereign, his duty as a member of that House, forbid him to approve of an address so big with mischief, and so much calculated to lull the nation into a fatal security, while its dearest interests, its very existence, were on the eve of being ultimately decided upon. On the contrary, he would most earnestly recommend, at this alarming crisis, to suspend all further proceedings, in order that the House might resolve itself into a Committee, to inquire into the state of the nation, to learn the true causes which have occasioned the revolt of our *American* subjects, to discover their authors, and to devise the best measures for rescuing the nation from the innumerable perils with which it is at this present instant surrounded.

The Earl of SANDWICH said, he could give a direct answer to the question now proposed; he could assure the House from his own certain knowledge, that before any late preparation was made on our part, we had a naval force sufficient to cope with any now at *Brest*, fitting out there, or preparing to depart. The armament alluded to was but a small one, consisting only of six ships of the line; but if it had been greater, we were sufficiently prepared. In answer to something suggested by the Duke of *Grafton*, relative to the real motives of the armament, whether it was or was not occasioned by the disputes subsisting between *Spain* and *Portugal*, he said it was not; but as *France* had thought proper to augment her Navy, he thought it his duty to agree with his brethren in office, not entirely to trust to assurances. Assurances were on some occasions to be firmly relied on, when they were accompanied with appearances that bore a full and unequivocal testimony of their truth; when they were not, they became an object of serious attention, and called for suitable measures from those whose business it was to watch them. As to the expense objected to by the noble Duke, however prudent it might be to attend to it in some situations, in others it became an object of no concern. An early and timely preparation on our part would have the effect of substantial economy; it would probably be the last expense; for, by incurring it in time, it might, perhaps, prevent a much greater.

The Duke of RICHMOND again rose; he begged to state the question on a larger ground than it was propounded by the noble Duke who spoke last but one. He observed, that the noble Lord who undertook the defence of Administration, had confessed that the *French* were fitting out a fleet at *Brest;* that in consequence of that armament, not on account of the dispute between *Spain* and *Portugal*, his Lordship, with the rest of the Cabinet Ministers, had advised his Majesty to make the present proposed naval augmentation. He should, therefore, be glad to know, if the preparations in the ports of *France* were of a long standing, or whether they came only to the knowledge of Administration within a few days; and if they were of a long standing, how came Administration to defer taking the necessary measures earlier? He again reprehended Ministers very severely on this silence, which if longer persisted in, he should impute to the most unbecoming and criminal contempt, or to their inability of giving a satisfactory answer.

Lord Viscount WEYMOUTH said, the absence of two Cabinet Ministers [Lords *Gower* and *Suffolk*] was the occasion of that silence on the part of Administration which had been improperly imputed to a reluctance or inability to give satisfaction to the House. He defended the speech from the several objections made to it; and said, he particularly rose to explain a matter which had been unwarrantably pressed on the noble Earl who spoke last on the same side. The noble Duke who spoke before him proposed the following dilemma: Either Administration knew of the armament fitting out at *Brest*, or they did not; if they did, and failed so much in their duty as not to take the necessary steps to meet and counteract, then we were blamable; if they did not, they were still more censurable for neglecting so indispensable a part of their duty. Now, in his opinion, without admitting either conclusion, the matter might be cleared up, and Ministers, instead of incurring any just censure, would be found to have acted perfectly consistent and judiciously; for they knew that the preparations were going on; and they resolved to keep pace with them. In answer, therefore, to the charge, why did you not arm earlier? it is enough to say, that notice was received of the armaments going on in *France;* that Administration availed themselves of that information; that the ships intended for service were fitted for sea; and that when the moment arrived in which it was prudent for this country to make her real intentions known, orders were given for a press, the ships were ready to receive the men, and as soon as the number of seamen necessary to proceed to sea are procured, it is only to ship them, and the business will be completed. He congratulated the nation on the address, and the expedition with which the whole was executed; and was glad to find, though nothing of the kind was intended, that the secrecy with which the whole was conducted should make the transaction pass unobserved in general, and should have, in particular, escaped the eagle and observant eyes of the noble Lords on the other side of the House, who, by their total ignorance of the precautions and preparations his Majesty's servants had wisely been making, showed their vigilance and activity, while it demonstrated the prudence that accompanied that vigilance which could effect its purposes without creating an alarm either at home or abroad. It was no secret to great numbers, that the nation was not only prepared, but earlier prepared than was expected by those who might think they would have an interest and advantage in being beforehand with us, and thereby taking us by surprise.

The Duke of RICHMOND returned to the question put to the first Lord of the Admiralty by the noble Duke in the blue ribbon, [the Duke of *Grafton.*] He said, his Lordship had artfully evaded giving a direct answer to the question proposed to him. He had answered, that the naval force of this country, before the press-warrants were issued, was superiour to the armament then fitting out at *Brest.* He begged leave to put the question upon a more general ground. Is the naval force of *Britain*, now ready to proceed to sea, sufficient for home defence, and for the necessary defence of the empire, supposing that *France* and *Spain* should break with us, either by abetting *America*, or in case of an attack upon *Portugal?* This, his Grace said, was a question that could not be evaded or answered in the affirmative, without a professed design to mislead the House and impose on the nation.

The Earl of SANDWICH answered, that our fleet was in prime condition; that the complements of our ships were nearly made up; and, that we could fit out a fleet at a short notice nearly equal to all the Powers of *Europe*.

The Lord WYCOMBE [Earl of *Shelburne*] said he was astonished that the House could continue to submit coolly to the contempt with which Administration had treated it, both in the speech, and the manner in which the speech was defended in the course of the evening. The speech, he said, was a piece of metaphysical refinement, framed with a purposed design to impose; the defence made to continue the imposition, was nothing more than a string of sophisms, no less wretched in their texture, than insolent in their tenour. He said, he was no great metaphysician, but still he knew enough of the science of metaphysics to see and detect the manifest falsehoods, clothed in the semblance of truth, particularly when the garment was so thin, or the disguise so gross and ill-suited, that further confidence would be madness, and remaining in errour would be the effect of the most senseless stupidity.

Such being the contents of the speech, the manifest intention of its framers, and the shameful conduct of its defenders, he begged the indulgence of the House, while he briefly delivered his sentiments on those several points. As the first part of his engagement, he proceeded to consider the speech paragraph by paragraph. In the execution of this task, he trusted he should prove, that it was fraught with a mixture of the most unqualified absurdity, treachery, cruelty, hypocrisy, and deceit. The very opening of it was manifestly fallacious; for how was it possible to expect unanimity at home in support of the prosecution of a war, the original object of which was professedly to enslave three millions of *British* born subjects? How could Ministers dare to call for unanimity from those whom they had so repeatedly insulted, betrayed, and deceived? and the imputation of unanimity was still more absurd, when it was looked for from those who had so often predicted, nay literally foretold them every circumstance which had happened in the course of this cruel and bloody business to the present instant; and had frequently, during the last session of Parliament, faithfully described the present awful and alarming state of this country, both in regard of her subjects in *America*, and her home security. His Lordship observed, that the first paragraph contained many specious falsehoods, as well as those he had just remarked on. It charged the *Americans* with "rejecting the means of conciliation held out to them under the authority of our commission, with circumstances of indignity and insult." This his Lordship contended was no less untrue, than plausibly and artfully stated. For the pretended means of conciliation alluded to, were held back so long, the commission not being made out, nor the Commissioners sent till about the middle of *May*, that the people of *America*, if the Commissioners were armed with powers sufficient to hold out fair and solid means of conciliation, were fully justified in declaring themselves independent,

from the most obvious motives of self preservation; but when these pretended means of conciliation held out nothing but a naked offer of pardon, on the terms of unconditional submission, the hitherto unparalleled effrontery of Ministers, who could thus dare to deceive their Sovereign, could now be only equalled by the political blindness and tame servility of those who could submit, or swallow such gross deviations in point of fact, and misrepresentations in argument and conclusion. Every opprobrious charge which could tend to inflame the people of this country against their fellow-subjects in *America* was stuffed into the speech, and had been copied and improved on by the friends of Administration, particularly two or three of the noble Lords, who spoke early in the debate. They have been represented daring, desperate, traitorous, insolent, ungrateful, and rebellious. These, he said, were strong charges, and they required suitable proofs. For his part, whatever the speech may have decided, or however eager the supporters of the speech might have been to improve on the pattern or doctrines therein laid down, he could never be persuaded to deem people taking up arms in defence of their property, their privileges, and unalienable rights, Rebels; if such doctrines had prevailed at the time of the Revolution, their lordships would not then probably be sitting in that House. If resisting a lawful authority, though perhaps not a rightful authority, be the essence of treason, the Whigs at the Revolution were rank Rebels, in the sense the speech used the term. King James the II. was their lawful King! It is true, he endeavoured to trample, and in some instances, did invade their rights; but still, if a resistance of lawful authority constituted an act of treason in every possible event, the Whigs in 1688, and the Provincials now in arms, may be deemed Rebels. It was an opinion he never could accede to; he would always continue to think that both were a constitutional resistance to a power originally legal, but which, by an unconstitutional exercise of it, had degenerated into the most oppressive stages of an usurped arbitrary power. He said, while he gave his opinion so explicitly on the sufferings of *America*, he would wish to be understood, that he never meant this country should relinquish its right of commercial controul and regulation over that; on the contrary, he always thought, that that power of regulating the trade of the Colonies, was the very essence of the political connection subsisting between both countries; that even if this regulatory power was defined in its most full and extensive sense, and acknowledged on the part of the Colonies, yet something more might be still expected; the national debt, under which the people of this country now groan, is truly and equitably the debt of every individual in the whole empire, whether in *Asia*, *America*, or nearer home. But until the *Americans* had full satisfaction on the question of taxation, and ample reparation for the attack on their charters, till the exclusive right of taxing themselves, and the most solemn security was given them for their colonial privileges, derived through their respective legislative assemblies, it was in vain to talk of conciliation. It was possible extirpation might follow from the means of conciliation held out to them, but he was certain, notwithstanding what may have been held out in the speech, conciliation never would. These, he said, were his general sentiments relative to that species of dependency *America* owes of right to the parent State. It might not meet the approbation of a great number of persons on the other side of the *Atlantick*. That, however, did by no means influence his opinion; it had been the same from the beginning. He did not now take it up, because our affairs in that country wore at present a more favourable aspect than at any time during the last session; for he expressed himself precisely in similar terms, at the time that *America* was flushed with success, when they had every foot of *Canada* in their possession, the town of *Quebeck* excepted. He referred to the pamphlet written by Dr. *Price*, at the end of which a speech was printed in his name, which he owned was authentick.

The second paragraph in the speech was another metaphysical refinement equally ill supported in fact or argument; if it contained any substantial truth, it was, that the same violent oppressive measures were determined to be pursued; that we must prepare for another campaign, and that the foreign mercenaries had executed, with a bloody alacrity, the horrid purposes of their paymasters, by butchering our fellow-subjects in cold blood. It was a very proper and timely eulogium in return for a faithful discharge of their duty, and, he presumed, was intended to operate as a powerful stimulative to perseverance in the same commendable line of conduct.

On the third paragraph he likewise commented; and insisted, that it was fraught with the most gross and notorious falsehoods; no assurances of amity were, or could be, received; and if they were received, and could be depended on, why arm? why put the nation to so monstrous an expense? why despatch your press-gangs in every quarter of the town? why let loose so many bands of ruffians to enter by force into people's dwellings, to drag the unhappy master of a numerous family from them, aboard a tender, where perhaps the first account they hear of him is, that he died of grief and vexation, or of the cruel usage and bad treatment he received before or during his passage to, or being aboard at the *Nore*. His Lordship, however, was proud to find, that by the spirited conduct of the Lord Mayor of *London* (Mr. *Sawbridge*) a stop had been put to those horrid outrages within the limits of his jurisdiction. He had refused to back press-warrants, though it was insinuated by those that applied, on his refusal, that the request was merely complimentary, for that the press would be carried into the city. He said, if any proof were wanting of the unpopularity of the present barbarous war, that honest Magistrate's conduct, as expressing the sentiments of the inhabitants of the first city in the empire, perhaps in the world, was the most irrefragable and conclusive. If, upon any other occasion, the most distant prospect of a foreign war was only so much as talked of, the citizens of *London* would be the foremost and most conspicuous in expressing their zeal for chastising our foreign enemies; but when it was known that the present threatened rupture is corrected, or more properly speaking, is a consequence of an unnatural proscription of three millions of their fellow-subjects, the spirit of the nation is bowed down and enfeebled, their hearts, as well as their countenances, are frozen, and they even remain in a kind of political stupour, scarcely venturing to decide in their own hearts, whether a vigorous resistance against our foreign enemies may not be the means of ensuring evils, no less to be avoided, than even defeat from the hands of our natural foes, that of forging chains for our *American* brethren, as the leading measure in due season to the riveting them on ourselves. His Lordship assured the noble Earl, [Lord *Sandwich*,] who supposed that he went over to the Continent to seek intelligence, that he was misinformed or mistaken in his conjectures. It was true that he did go to *France* towards the latter end of the summer, but with no such intention as the noble Earl was pleased to impute. He was in *Britanny*, and in several parts of the sea-coast, where he received every mark of politeness, hospitality, and kindness, that was in the power of the inhabitants of the country to bestow; it was, he said, the native disposition of the nobility and gentry of *France*, to conduct themselves in that manner towards all strangers of rank, or worthy of note. He was certain that there was not one of their Lordships present, if in his situation, who would not have had a reception equally kind, friendly, and respectful. It would ill become him, therefore, if he had learned any thing, through such a confidential medium, to disclose it. He trusted he was incapable of acting in such a manner; but whatever wit there might be in the noble Earl's insinuation, there was nothing in it solid, or relative to the present subject of debate; for without stirring out of *England*, without looking for official information, every body had repeatedly heard that *Spain* and *Portugal* were seemingly on the eve of a rupture, relative to a dispute of boundaries of territory in the *Brazils*, which, in its consequences, was likely to involve *Britain* in a war; that *Spain* and *France* had been arming for some months; that a formidable fleet is now fitting out at *Brest;* that the *French* and *Spanish* ports were rendered asylums and places of safety to the *American* privateers, both in *Europe* and the *West-Indies;* that warlike stores were daily transported both in *French* and *American* bottoms, openly, from almost every port in *France;* that the latter Court had, as often as applied to, positively refused to forbid or prohibit *American* trading vessels or ships of war from entering their ports; and that, to complete the whole, a person from the Congress, if not two or three, were now in a publick character at the Court of *Versailles;* not perhaps received with the formalities of an Envoy Extraordinary, to agree upon specifick articles,

but most certainly armed with all the efficient powers of a person treating on the part of an independent State, on certain preliminary conditions, leading to engagements of a most consequential and important nature. These being incontrovertible facts, daily repeated in the publick papers, and known universally to every person who spent a single hour's consideration, or bestowed the least degree of attention on the subject, he looked upon himself fully satisfied in flatly contradicting the passage alluded to, and solemnly affirming that we do not continue to receive assurances of amity from the several Courts of *Europe*, or that receiving them, it was a gross imposition on Parliament, to even insinuate that they were to be relied or depended on. His Lordship turned with great indignation on the Cabinet Ministers; said, it was very lucky for such of them as were absent; for surely, in the present situation of affairs, they must cut a very awkward figure: but he was astonished how the noble Viscount could so forget, as to say, that we had been preparing for some months, when the contrary was well known to every clerk and store-keeper in the several dock-yards; nay, a most curious circumstance was generally reported, and believed to be true, which was, that the speech, as first manufactured, was obliged to be altered two days before its final revision; such being the information Ministers had of the disposition of foreign courts on the *Thursday* night or *Friday* morning previous to the issuing the press-warrants. He reprehended the noble Lord whose province it was to procure the necessary information, in very severe terms. He said, when he had the honour of occupying the same post, he spared no pains or expense to be fully, timely, and minutely informed. He was apprised of every step taken by *France*, in relation to the purchase and intended conquest of *Corsica*, from its very commencement. While that matter was in agitation, he kept it continually in his mind, and often thought of it on his pillow; and though he was left alone, and deserted by all his colleagues in office, and brethren in Cabinet, he had the conscious pleasure in recollecting that he had done his duty, and that nothing could be fairly imputed to his neglect or inattention.

On the concluding paragraph of the speech, his Lordship was also severe. He said it was a compound of the most glaring hypocrisy and deceit, unless attempting to rob the people of *America* of their property, by laying taxes without their consent or approbation, or stripping them of their charters, the only legal foundation of their legislative and personal privileges, as a proof "that no people ever enjoyed more happiness under a milder Government," or unless, since the resistance to this mild Government, the sending over an Army of blood-thirsty foreign mercenaries to cut their throats, as the first step "to restore them the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every *British* subject," be a truism, he could not discover the most distant semblance of truth throughout the whole sentence. His Lordship concluded with calling on the Cabinet Ministers present, to declare whether they had applied to the Court of *Versailles* on any of the leading points now mentioned; whether they were disavowed, mitigated, or explained by that Court; whether, on the other hand, they were openly avowed, or replied to in such a manner as to give us to understand that they would, when their armaments were rendered more forward. These, his Lordship insisted, were matters that called for so many explicit answers: that until explanations were had on them substantially, or in detail, it was impossible that their Lordships could, with safety, proceed, much less vote the present address, which might, or might not be true, taking the matter in the most favourable light. In fine, it was absurd, it was an insult on common sense, to talk of "assurances of amity from foreign Powers," while some of those Powers were, at least hitherto, known to secretly abet, and, in some instances, openly countenance, nourish, and support, our subjects now resisting our authority in *America*.

The Lord Osborne said he was far from approving the conduct of Administration; he was satisfied that they justly incurred censure in several parts of it; yet he could by no means agree with the amendment, as it held out investigation and inquiry at the instant that the fullest exertion of the Naval and Military strength of *Great Britain* was called for, as well for our own protection, as to bring back our subjects in *America* into a constitutional acknowledgment of the superiority of this country as the parent and governing State: when that acknowledgment was obtained, then he would recommend the most mild and conciliating terms that could be well imagined. No noble Lord in that House would go further, or more cheerfully, in restoring peace upon fair, equitable, and reasonable terms than he would, if they submitted to the legislative power of this country; till that should happen to be the case, none would more zealously support such measures as might promise to compel them to a constitutional submission to the *British* Legislature. Nothing came more fully up to the ideas he entertained and wished to convey on the great *American* question, than the Declaratory Act passed in 1766, on the repeal of the Stamp Act; that asserted the legislative supremacy of this country in its fullest extent, and he was astonished that the framers of that act could offer to defend *America*, when the very resistance which produced the present unhappy civil war, was made expressly in contradiction to the parliamentary rights therein maintained. He spoke much of the ingratitude of *America*, the favours we had heaped upon her, and the insupportable burdens we had loaded ourselves with, in rearing, nourishing, and protecting her, till at length we had raised her to a pitch of strength and opulence, sufficient to trust the decision of her cause to the event of arms. Such was the state of things; and now we had no alternative but either to suffer *America* to erect herself into an independent sovereign State, which was an opinion, he trusted, would never prevail in that House, or exert ourselves to the utmost stretch of our abilities. He said, the success of our troops at *Long-Island*, and the probable good consequences it may be productive of, would, he hoped, give us such a footing in *America*, as would break the Rebel Confederacy in some measure. If *New-York* is taken, which he had little doubt was the case before now, a civil Government might be reëstablished there, which would afford an asylum to those who were forced into a rebellion against their inclination, or had suffered for not doing so. It would give an opportunity to the friends of *Great Britain* to show their attachment to the parent State, and might probably, in the end, form so powerful a balance, as would be sufficient to restore that country to a state of obedience and tranquillity, without the sad necessity of wading to it through blood and slaughter.

The Earl of Shelburne perceiving that the Earl of *Sandwich* declined giving any answer relative to what steps had been taken by Administration towards bringing the Court of *Versailles* to an eclaircissement, on account of the open countenance and secret assistance which had been given to *America* in the course of the present civil war, called once more on his Lordship, and at the same time insisted he should give the House some information, relative to the state of the Navy, the number of ships we could fit out upon an emergency, a list of those now serving in *America*, and the force collected in the *French* ports.

The Earl of Sandwich said, he did not think himself permitted to give the explanation required: such an explanation would not be prudent at this time. If the intentions of *France* were hostile, it might not be proper, though he believed they were not. At all events he thought such an eclaircissement would be highly improper respecting our home defence. As for the force serving in *America*, it consisted of two ships-of-the-line, ten fifties, and seventy-one frigates and armed vessels, amounting in the whole to eighty-three ships and vessels of war, and fifteen thousand seamen.

The Earl of Shelburne said, he did not make the requisition now evaded, by way of a personal application. He knew his Lordship too well, and had too thorough a knowledge of him, to trouble him on any subject on which he should be obliged to depend on his word. He called upon him in his official character, and expected to be answered.

The Earl of Sandwich said, he could not satisfy his Lordship; that the question was of too delicate a nature to admit of an explanation; that nothing was said in that House that did not get out; that let our force be what it might, we should, from motives of policy, forbear to disclose it, particularly when foreign Powers were arming, and known to be in some degree of forwardness; that if we had any enemies, they would be soon made acquainted with our situation. It might be supposed, that people would not be wanting, nay, if all other means were denied, the very door-keepers might, and must have it in their power to disclose that species of intelligence, which it is our business to conceal.

The Earl of SHELBURNE said he was astonished, that any man in office in that House, who was responsible to the publick, and accountable to their Lordships, dare, on so important an occasion, trifle with the House, and refuse the necessary information, when he, at the same time, confessed it was in his power to satisfy them. [Here a great confusion arose, and a general call for Order! Order! Order!]

The Duke of RICHMOND contended, that his noble friend was by no means disorderly; that as a Lord of Parliament, sitting in that House, and called upon for his advice, he had a right to have the question now put fully and fairly answered.

The Earl of SANDWICH replied, he was in the judgment of the House; that he was ready, if the House insisted on it. [A cry of No! No! No!]

The Earl of BRISTOL. I think the noble Earl is properly justifiable in not answering the question now so warmly pressed, unless at the express desire of the House. The House do not wish for any such explanation, in which, I am of opinion, they have acted very wisely. It would answer no one good purpose: I am certain, taking the fact either way, it might be productive of many bad ones. The noble Earl preserves every possible confidence that can be reposed in him. I had the honour of sitting with him at the Board, at which his Lordship now presides, and can, from my own knowledge and experience in my profession and official character, affirm, that no man is capable of discharging the duties of the important station he now fills with more fidelity and ability than his Lordship. The noble Lord who spoke last but one, [Lord *Shelburne*,] is very desirous to be acquainted with the detail of our naval force at home. I can tell his Lordship, that we have twenty-three ships-of-the-line, their complements nearly full, and the ships in a condition to proceed to sea at a day's notice. I will tell him further, that the present press will furnish us with seamen sufficient to man the ships going to be put into commission; that we may have forty sail-of-the-line ready for sea by the first of *March;* nay, I may venture farther, and assure the House, that they will be ready early in *February*. From which, I am fairly authorized to draw this clear deduction, and which will be partly an answer to the question put early in the debate by the noble Duke in the blue ribbon, [Duke of *Grafton*,] the other noble Duke who enlarged the question, [Duke of *Richmond*,] and by the noble Lord, [Lord *Shelburne*,] whom I last mentioned; and it is this: that the guard-ships are a full match for any naval armament now ready in the *French* and *Spanish* harbours, and that the additional armament proposed to be fitted out, will give us such a fleet, as the whole combined force of *France* and *Spain* will not, by the time I have first stated, be able to cope with.

The same noble Earl has passed great encomiums on the Chief Magistrate of the City of *London*, for what his Lordship is pleased to term that Magistrate's spirited and commendable conduct. He has, he says, refused to back the press-warrants. Now, for my part, I entertain a very different opinion of the worthy Magistrate's conduct; and so far from being a popular step, I trust it will meet with that degree of publick disapprobation it justly merits. The noble Lord himself looks upon a war with *France* and *Spain* to be inevitable: we may presume, that his Lordship and his favourite Magistrate, unite in opinion. How then are we to interpret the conduct of one, or the approbation of the other? They must know, that though the strength and security of the Island is known to depend upon our Navy, that without seamen ships are of no service, and that on emergencies, such as the present, we are always obliged to have recourse to a press; yet, what must we think of those who, at so critical and alarming a crisis, would sooner sacrifice, not only the interests, but hazard the very existence of the nation to party views and personal resentments. The noble Lord supposes, that the absence of the greater part of our frigates on the other side of the *Atlantick*, is at present a very dangerous circumstance, if any actual sudden operations were intended to be carried into execution. That, however, is not the case; nothing of the kind is expected; but even if it were, we have several frigates at home fit for service, and several others that could be easily made ready for sea at a short notice; besides, if things should take a more serious and decisive turn, we could order home a sufficient number from *America*. Without sending for them, now that the landings are effected, there will be no occasion for such a number to be kept in *America*, consequently several of them will return to *Britain*. My Lords, I have spent the greatest part of my life in the naval service, and mean to dedicate the remainder to my profession, if circumstances should make it necessary. I know that things wear a suspicious appearance; but I know likewise, that we are, as the noble Earl has more than once assured your Lordships this night, prepared for the worst. The *British* Navy has always hitherto been invincible, and I trust ever will. Whatever character I have obtained in the service, either as an official or professional man, I am ready to stake it, that we will be more than a match for our enemies, taking the question of a rupture at the present, or at any more remote period. I am, my Lords, thoroughly convinced of the truth of what I now advance; and as the best proof, both of my own conviction and of my readiness to support those sentiments, am ready to take any command which it may be thought proper to entrust me with. I will never serve in any other character, but that which I have been accustomed to from my earliest youth. I would decline any other were it offered to me, while I would cheerfully execute any commands which might be laid upon me in the way of my profession.

The amendment being negatived, was entered as a Protest, as follows:

*Amendment proposed to be made to the motion for an Address on his Majesty's Speech.*

"To assure his Majesty, that, animated with the most earnest and sincere zeal for his true interest, and the real glory of his reign, we behold with inexpressible concern the minds of a very large and lately loyal and affectionate part of his people entirely alienated from his Government. Nor can we conceive, that such an event, as the disaffection and revolt of a whole people, could have taken place, without some considerable errours in the conduct observed towards them.

"These erroneous measures, we conceive, are to be imputed to a want of sufficient information being laid before Parliament, and to too large a degree of confidence being reposed in those Ministers, who from their duty were obliged, and from their official situation were best enabled, to know the temper and disposition of his Majesty's *American* subjects, and were therefore presumed most capable of pointing out such measures as might produce the most salutary effect. Hence the schemes which were formed for the reduction and chastisement of a supposed inconsiderable party of factious men, have driven thirteen large Provinces to despair. Every act which has been proposed as a means of procuring peace and submission, has become a new cause of war and revolt; and we now find ourselves almost inextricably involved in a bloody and expensive civil war; which, besides exhausting at present the strength of all his Majesty's dominions, exposing our allies to the designs of their and our enemies, and leaving this kingdom in a most perilous situation, threatens in its issue the most deplorable calamities to the whole *British* race.

"We cannot avoid lamenting, that in consequence of the credit afforded to the representations of Ministers, no hearing has been given to the reiterated complaints and petitions of the Colonies; neither has any ground been laid for removing the original cause of these unhappy differences, which took their rise from questions relative to parliamentary proceeding, and can be settled only by parliamentary authority. By this fatal omission, the Commissioners nominated for the apparent purpose of making peace, were furnished with no legal power but those of giving or withholding pardons at their pleasure, and of relaxing the severities of a single penal act of Parliament, leaving the whole foundation of this unhappy controversy just as it stood at the beginning.

"To represent to his Majesty, that in addition to this neglect, when, in the beginning of the last session, his Majesty, in his gracious speech to both Houses of Parliament, had declared his resolution of sending out Commissioners for the purposes therein expressed, as speedily as possible; no such Commissioners were sent until near seven months afterwards, and until the nation was alarmed by the evacuation of the only town then held for his Majesty in the

thirteen United Colonies. By this delay, acts of the most critical nature, the effect of which must as much depend on the power of immediately relaxing them on submission, as in enforcing them upon disobedience, had only an operation to inflame and exasperate. But if any Colony, town, or place, had been induced to submit by the operation of the terrours of these acts, there were none in the place of power to restore the people so submitting to the common rights of subjection. The inhabitants of the Colonies, apprised that they were put out of the protection of Government, and seeing no means provided for their entering into it, were furnished with reasons, but too colourable, for breaking off their dependency on the Crown of this kingdom.

"To assure his Majesty, that, removing our confidence from those who in so many instances have grossly abused it, we shall endeavour to restore to Parliament the confidence of all his people.

"To this end it may be advisable to make a more minute inquiry into the grievances of the Colonies, as well as into the conduct of Ministers with regard to them. We may think it proper particularly to inquire, how it has happened, that the commerce of this kingdom has been left exposed to the reprisals of the Colonies, at the very time when their seamen and fishermen, being indiscriminately prohibited from the peaceable exercise of their occupations and declared open enemies, must be expected, with a certain assurance, to betake themselves to plunder, and to wreak their revenge on the commerce of *Great Britain*.

"That we understand, that amidst the many disasters and disgraces which have attended on his Majesty's arms in many parts of *America*, an advantage has been gained by his Majesty's *British* and foreign mercenary forces in the Province of *New-York*. That if a wise, moderate, and provident use be made of their advantage, it is not improbable that happy effects may result from that use. And we assure his Majesty that nothing shall be wanting on our part to enable his Majesty to take full advantage of any dispositions to reconciliation, which may be the consequence of the miseries of war, by laying down, on our part, real permanent grounds of connection between *Great Britain* and the Colonies, on principles of liberty and terms of mutual advantage.

"That whilst we lament this effusion of *English* blood, (which we hope has not been greater, or other than necessity required and honour justified,) we should most heartily congratulate his Majesty on any event leading to the great desirable end of settling a peace, which might promise to last, by the restoration of the ancient affection which has happily subsisted in former times between this Kingdom and its Colonies; any other would necessarily require, even in case of a total conquest, an army to maintain, ruinous to the finances and incompatible with the freedom of his Majesty's people. We should look with the utmost shame and horrour on any events, of what nature soever, that should tend to break the spirit of any large part of the *British* nation, to bow them to an abject, unconditional submission to any power whatsoever, to annihilate their liberties, and to subdue them to servile principles and passive habits by the mere force of foreign mercenary arms. Because, amidst the excesses and abuses which have happened, we must respect the spirit and principles operating in these commotions. Our wish is, to regulate, not destroy them. For, though differing in some circumstances, those very principles evidently bear so exact an analogy with those which support the most valuable part of our own constitution, that it is impossible, with any appearance of justice, to think of wholly extirpating them by the sword in any part of his Majesty's dominions, without admitting consequences and establishing precedents the most dangerous to the liberties of this Kingdom."

The question was put, Whether these words shall stand part of the motion?

It was resolved in the negative.

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Dissentient.—*Manchester, Portland, Richmond, Scarborough, Devonshire, Rockingham, King, Craven, Fitzwilliam, Abingdon, De Ferrars, Effingham, Abergavenny, Ponsonby.*

November 1.

ADDRESS PRESENTED.

"*The humble Address of the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled:*

"*Most gracious Sovereign:*

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty our humble thanks for your most gracious speech from the throne.

"It is with the truest satisfaction we congratulate your Majesty on the success of your arms in the Province of *New-York*, the recovery of *Canada*, and the fair prospect of decisive good consequences, which, under the blessing of Divine Providence, is now opened by the firmness of your Majesty's councils, the valour and good conduct of your Majesty's officers and forces by sea and land, and by the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in your Majesty's service.

"We beg leave to assure your Majesty, that nothing would have given us equal happiness to the having been informed by your Majesty, at the opening of this session, that the troubles which have so long distracted *North-America* had been at an end; that your Majesty's unhappy people in those Provinces had recovered from their delusion, and, awakened by a due sense of their misfortunes and misdoings, had delivered themselves from the oppression of their leaders, and were returned to their duty. While we lament that your Majesty's humane and merciful intentions have been frustrated by the neglect shown to the means of conciliation, notified under the authority of your Majesty's royal commission, we feel the strongest indignation at the insolent manner in which they were rejected; and we want words to express our abhorrence of the desperate spirit of those overbearing men, who, with an insatiable thirst of power and dominion, which has uniformly actuated all their proceedings, have now renounced allegiance to the Crown, and all political connection with *Great Britain*; and, with an arrogance equal to the enormity of the attempt, lest a doubt of their real designs should remain on the breast of any person whatever, have set up their rebellious Confederacies for independent States. We are fully aware of the mischief which would accrue from the success of this treason to your Majesty's loyal Colonies, to the commerce of this nation, and, more remotely indeed, but not less certainly, to the system of *Europe*, and to every State upon the Continent of *Europe* possessed of distant Colonies.

"We reflect with pleasure on the solid advantage which will be derived from the object of the Rebels being openly avowed and clearly understood; the unanimity which will prevail at home, founded in a conviction of the justice and necessity of your Majesty's measures. Inspired with the same zeal for the cause of our country which animates the kingdom at large, we will steadily support your Majesty in the vindication of the honour of your Crown and the just rights of Parliament, and will cheerfully concur in making the necessary provisions for those great purposes.

"The assurances of amity which your Majesty continues to receive from the several Courts of *Europe* afford us great satisfaction; we entertain the most grateful sense of the endeavours which your Majesty is exerting to conciliate the unhappy differences between two neighbouring Powers; and we trust that, by your Majesty's auspicious endeavours, these misunderstandings will be removed, and *Europe* continue to enjoy the inestimable blessings of peace. Permit us, sir, at the same time, to return your your Majesty our dutiful thanks for your provident attention in guarding against any events which may arise out of the present situation of affairs, by keeping us in a respectable state of defence at home.

"With hearts full of duty and gratitude, we acknowledge the happiness which, under your Majesty's mild government, is extended to every part of the *British* empire; of which the late flourishing state of the revolted Provinces, their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think sufficient to enable them to make head against the whole power of the mother country, show that they have abundantly participated. And we earnestly hope, that your Majesty's paternal object of restoring your distracted Colonies to the happy condition from which, by their own misconduct, they are wretchedly fallen, will be speedily attained."

*

*His Majesty's most gracious Answer.*

"My Lords: I return you my thanks for this dutiful and affectionate address. It is with the greatest pleasure I observe the satisfaction which the success of my arms against the Rebels in *North-America* has given to all my loving subjects. That which you express is highly acceptable to me. The preservation of the publick tranquillity, the happiness of all my people, and the maintenance of our most excellent constitution, are the invariable objects of my heart."

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DEBATE IN THE COMMONS ON THE ADDRESS OF THANKS.

Thursday, October 31, 1776.

The Commons being returned to their House,

Mr. Neville moved the following Address of Thanks:

"*Most Gracious Sovereign:*

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the humble thanks of this House, for your most gracious speech from the throne.

"While we lament the continuance of the troubles which have so long distracted your Majesty's Colonies in *North-America*, and of the calamities and oppressions which our unhappy fellow-subjects are still suffering under the arbitrary tyranny of their leaders; we cannot forbear to express our detestation and abhorrence of the audacious and desperate spirit of ambition, which has at last carried those leaders so far, as to make them openly renounce all allegiance to the Crown, and all political connection with this country, and in direct terms to presume to set up their rebellious Confederacies for independent States.

"We consider their rejection of the gracious and condescending means of reconciliation, held out to them, under the authority of your Majesty's commission, as a fresh and convincing proof that the object of these men has always been power and dominion; but we can impute the circumstances of indignity and insult accompanying this proceeding to no other motive, than a resentment of your Majesty's firm and constant adherence to the maintenance of the constitutional rights of Parliament, divested of every possible view of any separate interests of the Crown; and we beg leave to assure your Majesty that the same attachment of your Majesty to the parliamentary authority of *Great Britain*, which hath provoked the insolence of the chiefs of this rebellion, cannot but operate, as it ought to do, in fixing your Majesty still deeper, if possible, in the affections of a *British* House of Commons.

"With reverence and gratitude to Divine Providence, permit us to express our unfeigned joy, and to offer our sincere congratulations to your Majesty, on the success which has attended the good conduct and valour of your Majesty's officers and forces both by sea and land, and the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in your service, in the recovery of *Canada*, and in the important operations in the Province of *New-York*, which give the strongest hopes of the most decisive good consequences.

"It is with much satisfaction we learn, that your Majesty continues to receive assurances of amity from the several courts of *Europe*; and we thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's goodness and paternal concern for the happiness of your people, in your constant attention to preserve the general tranquillity; and it is our most earnest wish that, by your Majesty's interposition, all misunderstandings and differences between two neighbouring Powers may be happily reconciled, and *Europe* still enjoy the blessings of peace.

"Your faithful Commons consider it as a duty which they owe to your Majesty, and to those they represent, to grant your Majesty such supplies as the weighty considerations, which your Majesty has been pleased to state to us, shall be found to require; and we have a well-grounded confidence, that, at this time, when the object of the Rebels is openly avowed and clearly understood, the general conviction of the justice and necessity of your Majesty's measures must unite all ranks of your faithful subjects in supporting your Majesty with one mind and heart in the great national cause in which you are engaged."

Mr. Hutton seconded the motion.

Lord John Cavendish disapproved of the proposed address, and moved an amendment, by leaving out all after the first paragraph, in order to insert these words:

"Animated with the most earnest and sincere zeal for his true interest, and the real glory of his reign, we behold with inexpressible concern, the minds of a very large and lately loyal and affectionate part of his people, entirely alienated from his Government; nor can we conceive that such an event, as the disaffection and revolt of a whole people, could have taken place without some considerable errour in the conduct observed towards them; these erroneous measures, we conceive, are to be imputed to a want of sufficient information being laid before Parliament, and to too large a degree of confidence being reposed in those Ministers, who, from their duty were obliged, and from their official situation were best enabled, to know the temper and disposition of his Majesty's *American* subjects, and were therefore presumed most capable of pointing out such measures as might produce the most salutary effects; hence the schemes which were formed for the reduction and chastisement of a supposed inconsiderable party of factious men, have driven thirteen large Provinces to despair: every act which has been proposed as a means of procuring peace and submission, has become a new cause of war and revolt; and we now find ourselves almost inextricably involved in a bloody and expensive civil war, which, besides exhausting at present the strength of all his Majesty's dominions, exposing our allies to the designs of their and our enemies, and leaving this kingdom in a most perilous situation, threatens in its issue the most deplorable calamities to the whole *British* race.

"We cannot avoid lamenting, that, in consequence of the credit given to the representations of Ministers, no hearing has been given to the reiterated complaints and petitions of the Colonies, neither has any ground been laid for removing the original cause of these unhappy differences, which took their rise from questions relative to parliamentary proceedings, and can be settled only by parliamentary authority; by this fatal omission, the Commissioners nominated for the apparent purpose of making peace, were furnished with no legal powers, but that of giving or withholding pardons at their pleasure, and for relaxing the severities of a single act of Parliament, leaving the whole foundation of this unhappy controversy just as it stood in the beginning.

"To represent to his Majesty, that, in addition to this neglect, when in the beginning of the last session his Majesty, in his gracious speech to both Houses of Parliament, declared his resolution of sending out Commissioners for the purposes therein expressed "as speedily as possible," no such Commissioners were sent until near seven months afterwards, and until the nation was alarmed by the evacuation of the only town then held for his Majesty in the thirteen United Colonies: by this delay acts of the most critical nature, the effect of which must as much depend on the power of immediately relaxing them on submission, as in enforcing them upon disobedience, had only an operation to inflame and exasperate.

"But if any Colony, town, or place, had been induced to submit by the operation of the terrours of these acts, there were none on the place of power to restore the people so submitting to the common rights of subjection. The inhabitants of the Colonies, apprised that they were put out of the protection of Government, and seeing no means provided for their entering into it, were furnished with reasons but too colourable for breaking off their dependency on the Crown of this kingdom. To assure his Majesty, that removing our confidence from those who in so many instances have grossly abused it, we shall endeavour to restore to Parliament the confidence of all his people; to this end it may be advisable to make a more minute inquiry into the grievances of the Colonies, as well as into the conduct of Ministers with regard to them. We may think it proper particularly to inquire how it has happened, that the commerce of this kingdom has been left exposed to the reprisals of the Colonies at the very time when their seamen and fishermen, being indiscriminately prohibited from the peaceable exercise of their occupation, and declared open enemies, must be expected with a certain assurance to betake themselves to plunder, and to wreak their revenge on the commerce of *Great Britain*.

"That we understand, that amidst the many disasters

and disgraces which have attended on his Majesty's arms in many parts of *America*, advantage has been gained by his Majesty's *British* and foreign mercenary forces in the Province of *New-York;* that if a wise, moderate, and provident use be made of this advantage, it is not improbable that happy effects may result from that use; and we assure his Majesty, that nothing shall be wanting on our part to enable his Majesty to take full advantage of any dispositions to reconciliation, which may be the consequence of the miseries of war, by laying down, on our part, real permanent grounds of connection between *Great Britain* and the Colonies, on principles of liberty, and terms of mutual advantage.

"That whilst we lament this effusion of *English* blood, (which we hope has not been greater or other than necessity required and honour justified,) we should most heartily congratulate his Majesty on any event leading to the great desirable end of settling a peace which might promise to last, by the restoration of the ancient affection which has happily subsisted in former times between this kingdom and its Colonies; any other would necessarily require, even in case of a total conquest, an army to maintain, ruinous to the finances, and incompatible with the freedom of his Majesty's people; we should look with the utmost shame and horrour on any events of what nature soever that should tend to break the spirit of any large part of the *British* nation, to bow them to an abject unconditional submission to any power whatsoever, to annihilate their liberties, and to subdue them to servile principles and passive habits, by the mere force of foreign mercenary arms; because, amidst the excesses and abuses which have happened, we must respect the spirit and principles operating in these commotions, our wish is to regulate, not to destroy them; for though differing in some circumstances, those very principles evidently bear so exact an analogy with those which support the most valuable part of our own constitution, that it is impossible, with any appearance of justice, to think of wholly extirpating them by the sword in any part of his Majesty's dominions, without admitting consequences, and establishing precedents, the most dangerous to the liberties of this kingdom."

The Marquis of *Granby* seconded the motion.

Governour Johnstone in very severe terms arraigned the conduct of Administration, in commencing the war with *America*. He said the affair of *Long-Island* was by no means a matter worthy of triumph. That island, he said, was a mere out-post to *New-York*, as *New-York* was an out-post to *America*, and it would have been folly and rashness in the extreme, had the Provincials attempted to maintain it. He paid General *Howe* and his brother very great compliments on their manœuvres in the capture of the island, and inferred that from the whole of General *Howe's* conduct in taking it, his caution in not forcing any of the Provincials' strong-holds, his opening trenches at six hundred yards distance from their redoubts, with his general orders to his officers to act with all possible circumspection, that most evidently the General thought highly of the Provincials, and had therefore treated them with the suitable respect due to so powerful and formidable an enemy. He complained of the defenceless state of the kingdom, and urged the danger of a war with *France* and *Spain*. The Minister's speech he declared to be an entire compound of hypocrisy. It made his Majesty talk of peace, at the very moment when not only all *Europe*, but this kingdom, gave the most evident appearances of preparation for war. In short, it was like a deceptious mirrour, reflecting a false image of truth. That part of it which talked of giving the *Americans* law and liberty, he conceived to be a mere turn of wit and humour, which would not bear a serious interpretation. It was an insidious, hypocritical speech, that held out law and liberty at the point of the sword. He spoke strongly of the falsehood of *France*, and the little reliance that was to be put on her professions, instancing a circumstance which happened while Cardinal *Mazarine* was Minister, when the *Portuguese* and *Spaniards* were at war together, and the latter had received repeated assurances of the pacifick intentions of *France*, although that kingdom had actually lent *Portugal* troops, clothed them, paid them, and officered them. He said he did not entirely approve of the *American* Declaration of Independence, but affirmed that the *Americans* were driven to that measure by our rigorous persecution of them. We had hired foreign troops to fight against them, and they had no other way of putting themselves on a footing with us, than by throwing off the yoke, declaring themselves independent, and inviting foreign aid to defend them. They had, he said, taken every possible means to avoid such a measure; they had sent a most humble petition to Government, praying relief, and couched their prayer in the strongest terms of duty and allegiance; Government had, with the most provoking harshness, rejected their petition, refusing to give any answer to it, or offering in any manner to hear them. The mode of their declaring for independency was, to be sure, in some measure indefensible. The declaration of the *New-England* Government was exceedingly rude and ill-written; the language was more unmannerly and abusive than even worse treatment than what they had received would have justified; but then it must be considered as written merely to captivate the common people, and therefore a polished style, and very scrupulous decency, were probably but trifling objects with the writer. He however as much condemned it, as he applauded that of the *Pennsylvanians*. He censured the late issuing of press-warrants, and declared that he was not only convinced a better mode of manning the Navy might be found out, but that he was well informed the late press was carried on with great irregularity and cruelty.

Mr. Wombwell said, no press was better conducted than the present. He approved of the motion for an address as exceedingly proper, and disapproved of the amendment. He censured the *Americans* as a bragging, cowardly banditti, &c.

Mr. Wilkes. The honourable gentleman who spoke last endeavours to mislead the House. It is certain that no pressing has at this time been carried on in the city of *London*, or its Liberties. No press-gangs have dared to make their appearance in that jurisdiction. Those lawless bands of cruel banditti very prudently chose other scenes of horrour and bloodshed of less danger to themselves. The city has hitherto remained in perfect safety and tranquillity, in a most happy state of security by the vigilance, intrepidity, and noble love of liberty, which are conspicuous in its present worthy Chief Magistrate. The conduct of Administration, sir, in the late issuing of press-warrants, before they had tried the operation of the high bounty, is totally unjustifiable. The speech now in your hand, sir, is so very pacifick, that the large bounty of five pounds for every able, and fifty shillings for every ordinary seaman, promised in last *Saturday's Gazette*, might safely, for a short time at least, have been trusted to, the emergency not being thought very critical. From the Minister's own state of publick affairs there was no danger in the experiment. Much cruelty and bloodshed had been avoided, many valuable lives preserved.

The affair of *Long-Island* has been misrepresented, and greatly magnified. The superiority of numbers was very considerable. General *Howe* landed twenty-two thousand men. The Provincials had only six thousand effective men on that island. They were ordered to retreat, and four thousand did accordingly, without being attacked, embark for the island of *New-York*. There was a real mistake of orders as to the other two thousand, but they acted as brave men always will act under a mistake of orders; they fought. They saw the enemy, left their intrenchments, and attacked with spirit. From the superiority of numbers, and their flanks being neglected and unguarded, they were totally defeated. They did not, however, remain inactive, like cowards, on an important day of battle. No such imputation can be fixed on them. Nothing decisive can follow from the late successful affair on *Long-Island*, no more than from the defeat at *Sullivan's Island*. *New-York* will probably fall into your hands, but your situation will in that case be scarcely mended since the last year, for you then possessed the capital of *North America*, *Boston*. Is that great and important town advantageously exchanged for *New-York?* I forgot that we still possess the fishing hamlet of *Halifax*. But, sir, we ought to take a much larger and more comprehensive view of this interesting scene, which is now fully disclosed.

The important dispute of *Great Britain* with her Colonies has for a considerable time fixed the attention, not only of this nation, but of almost all *Europe*. The most essential interests of this country, and indeed of the greater part of the

Powers on the Continent, are deeply interested in the event. The sacrifice of so much blood and treasure is to every State an object of the highest importance; to us, whose empire seems mouldering away, of the nearest concern; and I much fear we are now brought by inextricable difficulties to the very verge of destruction.

Since our last meeting, sir, the scene, with respect to *America*, has totally changed. Instead of negotiations with Colonies, or Provincial Assemblies, we have a war to carry on against the free and independent States of *America*; a wicked war, which has been occasioned solely by a spirit of violence, injustice, and obstinacy in our Ministers, unparalleled in history. In the beginning of *September*, in the last year, a very humble and dutiful petition was sent from the Congress to his Majesty, in which his Majesty was supplicated "to direct some mode by which the united applications of his faithful Colonists to the Throne, in pursuance of their common councils, may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation." There was not a word in the petition but what breathed submission and loyalty, and yet the official answer of Lord *Dartmouth*, the Secretary for the *American* department, after long deliberation, was to the last degree irritating. It was, "that no answer would be given;" that is, we will not treat; we scorn to negotiate with you; we exact unconditional submission. This answer, sir, in my opinion, might justly be called indignity and insult. It drove the *Americans* to despair, and with the violation of the perfidious promises in Lord *Hillsborough's* famous official circular letter, laid the real foundation of their Declaration of Independency. Much has been said, sir, of the prophecy of the Ministers, that the *Americans* would in the end declare themselves independent. I give the Ministers no credit for such a prophecy. They went on the surest grounds. They might very safely promulgate such a prediction, when they knew that the unjust and sanguinary measures which they intended to pursue, must bring about the event. They drove the *Americans* into their present state of independency. The *Jesuits* in *France* risked nothing when they prophesied in 1610 the death of the best prince that ever reigned in *Europe*, within that year. Theirs was the sure word of prophecy. They employed *Ravillac* to assassinate their Sovereign.

An honourable gentleman near me attacks the *American* Declaration of Independency in a very peculiar manner, as a wretched composition, very ill written, drawn up with the view to captivate the people. That, sir, is the very reason why I approve it most as a composition, as well as a wise political measure, for the people are to decide this great controversy. If they are captivated by it, the end is attained. The polished periods, the harmonious, happy expressions, with all the grace, ease, and elegance of a beautiful diction, which we chiefly admire, captivate the people of *America* very little; but manly, nervous sense, they relish even in the most awkward and uncouth dress of language. Whatever composition produces the effect you intend in the most forcible manner, is, in my opinion, the best, and that mode should always be pursued. It has the most merit, as well as success, on the great theatre of the world, no less than on the stage, whether you mean to inspire pity, terrour, or any other passion.

The honourable gentleman, sir, who seconded the address, says, the *Americans'* declaration of independency was no surprise to him—nor I believe, sir, to any man of common reflection, after the frantick and extravagant career, which Administration pursued, with a full chorus of approbation from the majority of this House.

The speech in your hand, sir, which an honourable gentleman near me has well called a speech of hypocrisy, mentions the "assurances of amity, which his Majesty continues to receive from the several Courts of *Europe*." At the beginning of the last session, the Minister gave us in the King's speech more explicit assurances. It was said, "I am happy to add, as well from the assurances I have received, as from the general appearance of affairs in *Europe*, I see no probability that the measures which you may adopt, will be interrupted by disputes with any foreign Power." We have no such assurances held out to us this year, that our measures will not be interrupted by disputes with any other foreign Power; but we have still assurances of amity, which are daily contradicted by the immense preparations of the neighbouring foreign Powers of *France* and *Spain*, and indeed of the whole House of *Bourbon*. The accounts from *Naples* contain little but the vast preparations making by the King of the *Two Sicilies*. Are we indeed simple and credulous enough to trust to general vague expressions of politeness against the clear evidence of facts? Our Ministry know very well that an *American* privateer being lately stopped at *Bilboa*, in *Biscay*, an express was immediately despatched to *Madrid*, which returned with the fullest directions for the release of the privateer, and permission to furnish him with provisions, stores, ammunition, in short, whatever he wanted. This fact will not be denied. Is *Spain*, then, one of the foreign Powers, which again soothes us with these honeyed assurances of amity? Has fate ordained, that we are neither to possess capacity enough to profit by the example of others, nor even by our own experience? In the very first year of the present reign, in *September*, 1761, the Gazette told us that "the Catholick King had at no time been more intent upon cultivating a good correspondence with *England*, than in the present conjuncture;" a declaration received seriously here, held out as part of the Court creed, and laughed at by all the rest of *Europe*. In the beginning of the following *January*, without any new facts having occurred of any moment, war was declared by *England* against *Spain*. Will the plausible, smooth-tongued *French* likewise be able to lull us into a fatal security against the evidence of all history? Can we expect to be treated by them in any other manner than the *Spaniards* were at the time of the famous revolt of *Portugal*? The *French* sent whole regiments, completely officered, into the service of the House of *Braganza*. They paid them underhand the same as their national troops, yet all the while declared their abhorrence of rebellions and of rebels, issuing proclamation after proclamation, and recalling their deserters under the most severe penalties. Sir, there is not a Power in *Europe*, unsubsidized by *Great Britain*, which does not wish success to the *Americans;* and we are considered almost every where on the Continent, in the odious light of tyrants and oppressors.

The speech, sir, states, that "if treason be suffered to take root, much mischief must grow from it to the safety of my loyal Colonies." Alas! sir, what we call treason and rebellion, and they just resistance and a glorious revolution, has taken root, a very deep root indeed, and has spread over almost all the *American* Colonies. In this very speech we are told of their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land. The loyal Colonies are three, the free Provinces thirteen. In laying on the embargo, the exception to the rule is ridiculous enough. It is as thirteen to three. The Gazette says, "any of my Colonies in *North-America* except the Colonies of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania*, the three lower Counties on *Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina*, and *Georgia*." Of what other Colonies was his Majesty in possession at his accession to the throne? I think the permission extends only to the Provinces which we have not yet lost—to the two Roman Catholick Provinces of *Canada* and *Florida*, and to *Nova-Scotia*.

We have now been carrying on for two years a savage and piratical, as well as an unjust war. Every demand of Government has been complied with, and yet the great force employed both by sea and land has not hitherto recovered a single Province of all the confederated Colonies. On the contrary, the evil grows more desperate. The last year only twelve Colonies humbly petitioned the Throne. This year, by the accession of *Georgia*, we have seen a Federal Union of thirteen free and powerful Provinces asserting their independency, as high and mighty States, and setting our power at defiance. This was done with circumstances of spirit and courage, to which posterity will do justice. It was directly after the safe landing of your whole force. In return we have barbarously plundered their coasts, and set fire to their open towns and defenceless villages, in a manner which disgraces the *English* name. In the midst of all the cruelties, terrours, and devastations, which follow your arms, the spirit of the *Americans* is still unsubdued, and I hope, and believe, you never will conquer the free spirit of the descendants of *Englishmen*, exerted in an honest cause. They honour and value the blessings of liberty. They are determined to live and die freemen, notwithstanding the vain efforts of every arbitrary Power in *Europe*. It is a foolish

attempt to think of conquering and holding the immense territory of *North-America*, when the whole country is united against us. We argue in a trifling manner on the decisive good consequences for events only in the Province of *New-York*. They do not prove that we shall subdue *Virginia* or either of the *Carolinas*. Success in two or three battles or sieges argues little for the final success of a war, so extensive already, and so greatly complicated.

As to our unanimity at home, sir, the very idea is absurd, because impossible, while the present system of injustice and oppression continues in its full rigour. The *American* war is unjust, and unconstitutional in its first principle, and, if persisted in, must end in our ruin. We have neither force to conquer, nor strength to maintain such extensive conquests, if we could succeed. Our situation is become truly critical. The constitution of this country is at home sapped by bribery and corruption. On the other side of the *Atlantick* it is assailed by violence and force of arms. The too fatal success in this devoted nation is very evident, but in the New World, I trust, as a friend of mankind, that all the despotick measures of a tyrannical Administration will prove ineffectual. It is impossible for this Island to conquer and hold *America*. They are determined and united. Your fleets may indeed every year carry horrour through all their coasts. Your armies may possess some sea-port towns, but the numerous and greatly-increasing people of the Provinces will retire into the interiour parts, of which you have already had some experience. Peaceful towns and villages will cover their fruitful plains, liberty will fix her blest abode among them, the unmolested, happy inhabitants rejoicing that they are *procul à Jove, procul à fulmine*.

I heartily agree, sir, with the noble Lord in the amendment proposed; but I go further, and my opinion is, that if we expect to save the empire, to preserve, even for a short period, *Canada* or the *West-India* Islands, or to recover any part of the immense territory we have lately lost, we must recall our fleets and armies, repeal all the acts injurious to the *Americans* passed since 1763, and restore their charters. We may then, if they will forgive, and can trust us, treat with them on just, fair, and equal terms, without the idea of compulsion, and a foundation be laid for the restoration of peace, internal tranquillity, and unity, to this convulsed and dismembered empire.

Honourable Temple Luttrell. He said, that he so very widely differed in opinion from the honourable member on the other side of the House, who moved the Ministerial address, in commendation of his Majesty's speech delivered from the throne, that he should feel himself highly culpable were he to sit still till the close of the debate, and content himself to be numbered with the silent votes in its disfavour. There was, however, no doubt of its being carried by a large majority; for those court-retainers and dependants on Government, who had this campaign reaped a golden harvest from the calamities of their country, would see in the speech under consideration, the best earnest that could possibly be given, of a no less plentiful harvest of the same sort the ensuing summer. For his part, he construed this speech an infamous, groundless libel, fabricated by a tyrannical faction, against some of the most valuable members of the *British* community, who, actuated by principles of justice and honour, were nobly contending on the other side of the *Atlantick*, for the dearest rights of mankind; and who, limiting their resistance to a redress of real and essential grievances, were falsely accused of having, from the beginning of this unhappy contest, had no other object in view than anarchy and independence.

It was a custom among the ancient *Persians* (in later times adopted in the kingdom of *Naples*) to cover their tribunals of justice with the skins of corrupt lawyers, whom they flayed alive. Were a similar example to prevail within these walls, and the seats around us to be clothed with the skins of corrupt statesmen, I fear, sir, there are not a few gentlemen on your right hand would catch their deaths of cold before the end of the approaching winter; I should tremble this night for a long group of pensioners, contractors, paymasters, treasurers, &c., &c., who will walk forth into that lobby, in order to bring up an address to their Sovereign, beseeching that he will persevere to plunder and assassinate his subjects, and totally to extinguish the vital spirit of that free constitution, on the maintenance of which alone rests his claim to the throne of these realms.

The honourable member near me [Governour *Johnstone*] has justly observed, that the "address moved for by Government is an echo of the speech" imposed on their royal master. It occurs to me, sir, that the speech itself is, in many of its most striking passages, an echo to the Continental remonstrances, and Declarations of Independency: for instance, "they have rejected, with insult and indignity, every offer of accommodation." This is verbatim the charge brought against the mother country by the oppressed Colonists. They likewise declare that "it would be rash to put an end to their plan when they have every reason to pursue it;"—that "it is a contest of the last importance;"—"a war, not of ambition, but necessity." Good God, sir! state this argument, on our part, in other language, without perverting the sense, and it will stand thus: "You are ambitious to maintain the rights of free-born *Britons*, and 'tis necessary we should have an army of foreign assassins, and use every barbarity to render them slaves." Omnipotence on one side, sir, must imply slavery on the other.

When news was brought to *Agesilaus*, King of *Sparta*, during a civil war in *Greece*, that a bloody fight had happened near the city of *Corinth*, but that the *Spartans* were victorious, and the number of their troops killed was but inconsiderable, compared with the loss of the enemy, instead of exultations of joy, that wise and humane monarch, with a deep sigh, cried out, "Oh, unhappy *Greece!* to have slain so many of thy best warriors with thine own hand, who, had they lived, might have proved a match for all the barbarians in the world!" I am credibly informed, sir, that when our most gracious Sovereign received news of the unhappy conflict at *Long-Island*, he broke forth in an exclamation of a like philosophick and generous nature, lamenting that *Great Britain* should destroy so many of her brave men with her own hand, who, had they lived in mutual concord and amity, might have set at defiance the united force of our natural enemies, the *Bourbon* States, at this hour threatening us with an invasive war. Confident, as I was, that such ideas perfectly coincided with his Majesty's known humanity of heart, and tenderness towards all his people, I did not conceive it possible that the most flagitious Minister of the bloody junto would dare to advise a continuance of these disgraceful and ruinous measures, and propose a speech from the throne, evidently dictated by despotism, hypocrisy, and infatuation. I, sir, entertain hopes of healing propositions, and a timely dereliction, on the part of this country, of its unjustifiable and empty claim of taxation; that efficient cause of the civil war, and which, if made an irrefragable ultimatum of your terms of peace, cannot fail to accelerate the downfall of your empire. For the Commons of *Great Britain* to support so desperate a purpose at the point of the sword, at the present alarming crisis, too, the *French* and *Spaniards* preparing for a rupture, and the nation sinking under an enormous debt of one hundred and fifty millions, argues folly in us beneath the unlettered Parliament, madness beyond the insane Parliament, and a blood-thirsty spirit of enterprise above any of the proscribing, chivalrous Parliaments, under the worst of the *Plantagenet* tyrants.

I may, perhaps, be told, as I was last year, when I took the liberty to move an address to the King, to instruct the Commissioners in *America* to treat for peace with the Provincial Conventions, or General Continental Congress, that bodies of men, under denominations not formally legalized, can, in no possible situation of things, expect a publick recognition of their authority; nor can you treat with rebels while they have arms in their hands. From what knowledge of men or books is this State maxim derived? I defy any of the learned gentlemen over the way to instance any intestine commotion, from the beginning of the world to this moment, of equal magnitude and maturity with that of *America*, where such wild doctrines have been maintained. In support of directly opposite measures and policy, without recurring to eras very remote, or troubling the House with stale, pedantick researches, I shall beg leave to remind you of one or two remarkable precedents from modern history, where the proudest and most perverse potentates in Christendom have been taught an humbler and more rational lesson; and I mean to hold up *in terrorem*, their obstinate tyranny, and the calamities resulting from it, to themselves and their dominions, that these *alicna pericula* may serve for beacons to preserve us from a similar fate.

About the year 1617, the *Bohemians* having suffered

extreme oppression, met in Convention, and set forth their grievances to the Emperor, (*Matthias*;) answer was made, that nothing had been done on the part of the Court of *Vienna* that was contrary to the imperial edicts and resolutions of the States of the empire; certain judges were commissioned by the Emperor, as King of *Bohemia*, to grant general or particular pardons; but these persons having treated the remonstrants with much harshness and indignity, were thrown headlong from a two pair of stairs window on the stone pavement of the castle yard. The *Bohemians* then constituted thirty Directors of their nation, and took up arms, publishing a manifesto to the several Powers of *Europe*, in which they maintained the equity of their cause. An army of thirty thousand men took the field, under a great hero of that day, (the name, sir, will probably carry with it a striking sound to your ear, as a champion for the liberties of the people,) Count *Mandsfelt*. Soon after this civil war broke out, the Emperor gave authority to the Duke of *Bavaria*, the Elector of *Saxony*, the Elector of *Metz*, and several other illustrious personages, to negotiate a peace with the malcontents. Thus much for the punctilious idea of not condescending to treat with rebels. The difficulty of the times increased to such a degree the distraction of the Emperor's mind, already agitated with the pangs of a recent domestick misfortune, that he resigned altogether the regal dignity, and soon after died, leaving to his successor a war of twenty-eight years, one of the most rancorous and bloody on the records of history. The *Bohemians* offered their Crown to the Elector *Palatine*, (*Frederick* V.,) ancestor in a female line of our most gracious Sovereign *George* the Third, the chief of whose electoral house, the Duke of *Brunswick*, hazarded his life and dominions, and actually lost an arm in upholding the oppressed *Bohemians*. The Parliament of *England* cheerfully voted supplies to maintain their revolt, upon a principle worthy the representatives of a free and generous nation; that tyrannical mandates, a violation of charter rights, and unconstitutional imposts, had dissolved the bands of submission from the subject towards the Sovereign, and left them at liberty to create a new Government. A regiment of two thousand *British* soldiers, among which were many volunteers of the highest birth and character, embarked on this popular service, under one of the *Vere* family, while the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, convinced of the godliness of their battle, gave them his solemn and sacred benediction.

Another precedent, in my humble opinion, is well worth observance, to establish the expediency of treating with insurgents, though imbodied in the field and bearing arms, may be found in reading the civil wars of *Hungary*, begun about a century ago, by a violation in the Emperor *Leopold* of the laws and privileges of that spirited nation, and the inhuman butchery of those truly patriotick leaders, Counts *Serini* and *Nadasti*. The first notable achievements on the side of the Emperor, in the field of battle, were performed by a Colonel *Heister*, followed by endeavours to establish military dominion throughout *Hungary*. This brought on an almost unanimous revolt of the people. In 1678, an ineffectual Congress was held for pacification between the *Hungarians* and their Sovereign;—conferences—proposals—suspension of hostilities, without avail, till the Emperor making certain concessions, a truce was agreed to in 1681. The war, however, was revived the year after, with a printed declaration that *Leopold*, having violated the fundamental laws of the constitution, was fallen from his throne and authority, and *Emeric*, Count *Sekeli*, elected King of *Hungary*, to whom, in a few campaigns, *Heister* (now become a General) abandoned the whole principality of *Transylvania*. Upon the death of *Leopold*, the Emperor *Joseph* made proposals to the enemy, which were rejected. In 1709, several prisoners were massacred in cool blood, by both parties; in which year, a Diet assembled at *Presburg*, to accommodate matters between the Emperor and the revolters, but that Diet being composed of the Emperor's partisans only, *Ragozzi*, commander of the malcontents, though invited by a safe conduct, refused to come, and forbade any *Hungarians* to repair thither, under pain of being considered as enemies to their country. The envoys from the Courts of *Great Britain* and the *United Provinces* made several fruitless attempts to mediate a reconciliation. The Imperial Ministers (say the writers of these transactions) were, in fact, averse from treaty, hoping to aggrandize themselves by the contest, and grow rich from a confiscation of the estates of the *Hungarians*; however, in 1711, the Court of *Vienna* found it expedient to despatch a publick Minister in form to the Rebel army, as it was called, to negotiate a peace, which was at length accomplished, after the civil war had raged, with short intermissions, for near half a century, with the destruction of about half a million of subjects; the Emperor stipulating to preserve inviolate, for the future, the rights, immunities, and liberties of *Hungary*.

I would observe, upon a view of these tragick scenes, that mankind in the mass of society, are, in all ages and countries, actuated by nearly the same passions; and the same radical evils in the body politick cause similar convulsions and risk of dissolution. Without consulting false pretenders to augury; without preternatural divination, you may, sir, perceive a gloomy series of misfortunes hanging over these realms, from the progress of our intestine warfare, equal to what befell either of those unhappy nations I have just spoken of. For my part, sir, I own I should be glad to compound for an issue to our quarrel with the Colonists, as little destructive to the human species, and as little decisive of the general destiny of the kingdom, as those civil broils in *Hungary* or *Bohemia*; but, I fear, a still more awful doom awaits us.

The force and prosperity of every nation depends, in great measure, on its populousness. "The *Romans*," says a learned author, "destroying others, were at length themselves destroyed; continually in action, and embarked on the most hazardous attempts, they wore out, like a weapon kept constantly in use." Whoever will duly reflect on the state and transactions of this our nation, within the last twenty years, will find her much reduced in number of inhabitants; not only from the efforts of the late war, but from her extensive maritime and commercial emigrations; her garrisons and settlements in the remotest and most insane corners of the globe; her enterprises (not to say errantry) in the *East Indies*, and many debilitating home manufactories that administer to the luxuries of the great, unthought of in ancient times; neither are we, I believe, at all behind the heathen world for the waste of debauchery and intemperance. In the midst of these various drains, is our little cholerick island entering upon a war of the most inveterate nature, and for an unattainable object; a war, that were you peopled like the dominions of *China*, and disciplined by the prolifick morality of the primitive disciples of *Lycurgus*, must ere long totally annihilate your empire. "Nature," says *Montesquieu*, "having made men equal, reason can never make them dependent, unless where it is necessary to their happiness." I shall add, that an appeal must ever hold, in equity, to the common sense of living societies, from the compacts or institutions of the dead.

Thus much may of a truth be advanced in favour of the *Americans:* Partners with you in the triumphs of a most glorious foreign war, and in all those national benefits acquired by your joint exertions and prowess, they stood firmly cemented to you by affection, as well as consanguinity. Perhaps, sir, there are deep-founded civilians, whose rules might have held them justified long ago, in saving their rising fortunes from your sinking fate, and in an absolute separation from your dominion, were it only upon that fundamental principle which ought to govern human societies as well as individuals—the law of self-preservation. They might, indeed, have urged a plea of insanity against the parent country, whose folly, ambition, and rapaciousness were proceeding with gigantick strides, year after year, and day after day, for a long time past, to destroy one common stock of happiness, the joint property of all the members of this distracted empire: neither was such abundant happiness to be found, I believe, in the lot of any mortal society since the beginning of the universe. A faction of despots presiding over your ostensible Government, fitter for the cells of Bedlam than the efficient Cabinet of a limited monarch, whose sole right to his diadem is a right of election from the people, and the end of that election to guard inviolate the liberties and properties of all his subjects—though the Colonies beheld such alarming evils, and another dependent country (*Ireland*) shamefully trampled upon, suffering injuries and indignities too numerous and glaring to need a recital—and which country, by the way, never deserved a like treatment at your hands, unless to bear it be to deserve it. I say, sir, though the *Americans* clearly saw these things, it was with an eye of affliction, and rather with the tear of pity given

to your publick degeneracy and fascination, than the least spark of anger: but when you followed those distant enormities, by bringing home to their own thresholds, the hand of rapine and tyranny; when you, with a remorseless violence, were preparing to wrest from them every blessing to which they were unalienably entitled, as *British* subjects and freemen, substituting instead a constitution never attempted to be imposed on any spot of Christian earth, but by a banditti of highwaymen on the heaths of *Bagshot* or *Hounslow*—"Give me your money, or I'll blow out your brains;" then, sir, it was surely high time, if they felt like men, and like *Britons*, to act with a spirit of fortitude becoming men and becoming *Britons*. Amidst the refuse of every numerous community, we of course find some characters marvelously sluggish and abject. From a few of these did we absurdly and fallaciously judge of the majority of the injured Colonists, till the measure of our oppression being full, in a string of diabolical acts against their charters, their trade, and very existence, scarce one advocate remained to us throughout thirteen large Provinces. "There is a time," says *Thomson*, (not the Provincial Colonel of that nation taken in *Canada*, but the flower of *Scottish* poets, *Jemmy Thomson*,) "when e'en the slave at heart will spurn his chains, nor know submission more." That time you have, with prodigious pains, brought to maturity. From what accursed examples our prevailing system of politicks is drawn, I am at a loss to discover; I can conceive there is nothing of a similar complexion midst all the voluptuous annals of mankind, unless it be met with in the memoirs of *Dionysius*, tyrant of *Syracuse*. Sir, that monster being determined upon the ruin of a free people of *Reggio*, imposed on them certain exactions, with which he was persuaded they had not the ability to comply—hence he founded a pretext to invest their territories with a formidable army; after a gallant and desperate defence, they were reduced to an unconditional surrender. *Dionysius* then laid their city in ashes, condemned many of the principal inhabitants to cruel tortures, and sold the rest for slaves by beat of drum, to the highest bidder, in a publick market-place. How happy, sir, would it make that mirror of all good qualities, our first Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, were he appointed drummer at the city of *New-York* on a like occasion!

To invocate the special interposition of Providence in such an infernal undertaking as the present, is, to my mind, the most profligate excess of blasphemy; but, however the mercenaries of Government may this day act, I hope the independent country-gentlemen will join with me to implore the God of clemency, that He will exorcise this demon of discord and violence, which has too long inspired our deliberations, and presided over the publick counsels of every branch of the *British* Legislature. May that God at length open our eyes and our hearts to the true interests of our country!

It is a very unfair argument to allege, that the *Americans* fight for independency. You must be sensible, sir, that the only way to straighten a bow is to wrest it with vigour to an opposite curve. The acts of this Legislature affecting the Colonists were so warped from rectitude, that their only chance to recover a right line of justice was by proceeding to contrary extremities, to announce disunion and absolute freedom. I approve of the address to his Majesty, recommended by the right honourable member near me, [Lord *John Cavendish*,] because I think it bids fair to save both countries from destruction, and to restore perfect concord to the contending parts of this distracted empire. If you empower the Commissioners in *America* to propose peace on equitable conditions; offer to restore their charters, and relinquish the unsustainable claim of taxation with a good grace—even now, while your armies figure in the field, under hitherto triumphant generals—and I make no doubt, but by so laudable a step, you will obtain from your Colonies, through your *Howes*, as fair and magnanimous an answer as that which was sent from the *Faleríi* to the *Roman* Senate, by the great *Camillus*: "The *Romans*, in having preferred justice to conquest, have taught us to be satisfied with submission instead of liberty."

Sir Herbert Mackworth professed himself to be one of the independent country-gentlemen, and declared, he feared that matters were much misrepresented; that he did not like to hear gentlemen so ready to find a plea for the *Americans* on every occasion, and even when they were beat, to hunt after a reason to show that they could not avoid it, and that some particular circumstances occasioned it. He said, he was ever most clearly against that House attempting to tax *America*, as *America* was not represented in that House; but he thought it highly necessary to maintain the right; and that it was but reasonable *America* should contribute something in return for the millions she had cost this country. He spoke highly in favour of some of the gentlemen in Opposition, but applauded the Ministry; finally declaring, that as an ancient *Briton*, he felt for the honour of his country, and therefore wished her success; not but he would be glad that a proper treaty for reconciliation was on foot, and, he owned he cared not whether it was with Rebels in arms or without them. He was against the amendment.

The Right Honourable T. Townshend. I do not rise, sir, to discuss, or indeed to take much notice of that humorous paragraph, which the Ministers have thought proper to insert in his Majesty's speech, calling for the unanimity of this House, and of the nation at large. I say, his Ministers have inserted, because I hope it will still be deemed parliamentary to consider the King's speech as the speech of the Minister, and to hold, that the Minister or Ministers are answerable for every part of it. I call it humorous, because it would be ridiculous in any one to consider it as serious. We have, thank God, a very witty Minister, and he has thought proper at this time, when the generality of the world think this country in a situation that ought to make the boldest man among you tremble, to treat us with a joke.

It would be doing the composer of the speech great injustice to suppose, that he meant in earnest to assume that we must now be unanimous. If he were, what must be his logick? Must he not reason thus? Gentlemen, you and all the world foretold last year, that the measures of Administration would bring the affairs of *America* into the unhappy state in which we now see them; that they would force the *Americans* to a declaration of independence; and you urged those natural consequences as reasons for opposing such measures. The consequence you foretold has happened; come, then, give us now your confidence, and be unanimous in your support of the same men, in the prosecution of the same system. To say that the measures of last year did not tend to this end, seems to me absurd to the last degree. What did you do by your language in every debate, and by the provisions of every act that you passed? Did you not declare them out of your protection? Did you not put them in the situation, not only of separated States, of *France* and *Spain* for example, but of distinct States, of *France* and *Spain*, at open war with you? Did you, even in your acts of Parliament, so much as affect to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty?

In this situation, Ministers think proper to trifle and to joke with the House. I never saw such a scene on the first day of a session, in a most important hour, as I have seen to-day. Ministers do not think themselves bound to attend, or to give answers to the questions that have been put to them by many respectable gentlemen to-day: nay, they do not even preserve the least appearance of attention; they do not keep their seats, they walk about the House, or out of the House. I really thought some time ago, that the Minister in the blue ribbon had left the House entirely, and meant to depute the care of the division to his clerks and secretaries, who might afterwards report the numbers to him at his own house. Such a treatment, I believe, a House of Parliament never experienced at any time, at least not at so important a period; a period, when we may possibly have reason to expect, that before many months are over our heads, this country may be in as melancholy a situation, a state of as much confusion and desolation as now prevails in *America*, in consequence of our past measures.

I will now venture to put a few questions to the Administration, though I do not very well know why I should, as they have not thought proper to answer questions, perhaps, much more pertinent; I am sure, much better stated from other honourable gentlemen, who have as good a right to expect answers as any men who ever sat here. I believe it never happened, that on the first day of the session, after a long recess, and at a most alarming crisis, a debate had lasted so long a time, and reached this hour of the evening, without a word having fallen from any one officially quali-

fied to give satisfactory answers upon the situation of publick affairs.

I must ask, then, what means that part of the speech, which tells us, that all the Powers of *Europe* are in amity with us, but that we must put our forces in a respectable state? Is not *France* arming? Is not *Spain* armed? Has not the former called for the registered seamen? Has she not swept her coasts by a press? Does there remain even a fisherman on the coast opposite to us, fit for the King's service, who is not marching, or under orders to march to *Brest*? Has she not an equipment at *Brest* ready to sail? Have we not pressed, and are we not putting a fleet of men-of-war into commission? I have been told that the Court of *France* have been asked the reason of their arming, and that the answer our Court received was, that we were armed ourselves, and in so formidable a state, that we should immediately subdue *America*, and that they were jealous, that in the career of our glory we should fall upon them. If that is true, I must suppose the Minister of *France* to have been in as facetious a humour when he sent that answer, as our Minister was, when he composed that part of his Majesty's speech, which assumes, that we must be unanimous in this day's debate. I must confess, that till I receive a little satisfaction upon these points, I shall continue to think this country in the most perilous situation it ever experienced. When I consider our army in *England*, our army in *Ireland*, what are the numbers, and of what raw men they are composed, I own, I tremble. Surely our Militia alone, in its present condition, is not to be trusted as the only defence of this country. It is not like what it was during the last war. The Militia marched out from their counties, regiment by regiment, according to the state of their discipline, and their fitness to take the field. They had had the assistance of two or three officers from the Army, to assist in training each separate battalion. Now, they will be called out all at once, and without these assistances. Add to this, that, without any reflection upon the present gentlemen who bear commissions in the Militia, they have not a third or a fourth part of the weight and property among them, that they had during the war. Now, sir, as those essential qualities in officering a Militia are not counterbalanced by the least superiority in military skill, that body of men are, in my opinion, not by any means so much to be depended upon.

As to the state of the Navy, we have heard much upon it from gentlemen much better qualified to speak upon it than myself. But there are one or two very striking features in it, that differ much from what we saw last war. We had twelve or thirteen thousand *Americans* in our Navy. It is unnecessary to say where they are now. They are making reprisals upon our defenceless trade. I hope they have made more prizes than the *French* and *Spaniards* did in all the last war in those seas. We have besides, I understand, about fifteen thousand seamen in our fleet in *America*. What a draught from the general naval force of this country! We have, as you are told, a very fine fleet of ships-of-the-line: but can ships-of-the-line protect your trade, or alone prevent an invasion? Where are your frigates and sloops? Almost all in *America*. I have been told, and from the best authority, by men who sat many years at the Board of Admiralty, with, perhaps, the greatest officer this country ever saw at the head of its Navy, that in times of an apprehended invasion, fifty, sixty, seventy of these frigates and sloops were constantly and necessarily employed. What proportion of them can you now command?

In the last war, the *French* had other objects to think of, besides an invasion of these islands. You had an army in *Germany*, that held at bay, and found ample work for one hundred and fifty thousand of the best troops in *France*. What chance have we now of such a diversion of their force? They seem to me to have before them, the full choice of every circumstance that a nation can wish for, that have a constant rival, and almost as constant an enemy to deal with. They may choose the scene, the mode, and, if I may use the expression, the degree of war they please.

The fleet of *Spain* may sail to *America*, while the troops and fleet of *France* may either threaten or attack this country. If they march their troops down to the coast, which they may do without the least inconvenience to themselves, if their men-of-war only ride at anchor in the road of *Brest*, it will be sufficient to strike almost a fatal blow to the credit of this country, at the same time that your fleet in *America* will be at the mercy of the *Spaniards*. For, as it has been already said, what can my Lord *Howe's* frigates do against ten or twelve men-of-war of the line?

The disputes and hostilities between *Spain* and *Portugal* are hinted at in the speech. If that difference proceeds to an open rupture, if *France* and *Spain* jointly, or either of them separately, attack that country, we are bound by treaty to assist *Portugal* with considerable succours by sea and land. The commerce of this country with *Portugal* has been always looked upon as an object of importance; it may be something less beneficial now than it used to be, but still it is of great moment to us. Can you in your present situation protect it? Can you perform your engagements, and attempt to prevent that country from becoming a Province of *Spain*? What a figure will this country make, if it is obliged to declare in the face of all *Europe*, that it is not in a condition to fulfill its treaties, (a disgrace which never before stained the annals of this country!) and to suffer *Portugal*, once the source of a trade extremely beneficial to us, to be overrun by the Princes of the House of *Bourbon*, and perhaps to become a Province of *Spain*.

Sir, this picture is too disagreeable for me to wish to dwell upon it. I am afraid it is not overcharged. If it is, I shall be glad to be convinced of it.

Before I sit down, I must beg leave, sir, to take notice of a few words that fell from the worthy member who spoke last. He spoke long and well. I have not equal pretension or inclination to take up as much of your time. He used much argument, and certainly no declamation, as he proscribed and forbid it in others. He threw out a sort of a challenge: do not declaim, but show me, when this House has inflicted any hardship upon *America*. I must recommend to the gentleman to take one or two of the volumes of statutes of the last two years, and peruse them. He will find them full of such laws as never made a part of any statute-book before. He will find, that we have put the Colonies totally out of our protection: that we have forbid them the exercise of any trade but that of arms, and have by those means forced them to take up those arms and use them against ourselves: that we professed to involve the innocent subjects of *America* with the guilty: that our restrictions did not only deprive them of trade but even of food. In this situation we are to wonder at their declaring themselves independent.

Sir, the worthy member has likewise accused sombody of taking every opportunity of extolling the bravery and conduct of the *American* troops and officers, and at the same time of wantonly and injuriously censuring the behaviour of our own officers and troops. I do not know at whom he means to point. I do not feel myself liable to this charge As to the affair of *Long-Island*, as the action happened, I am glad to find it attended with so little loss on the side of General *Howe*. I own I am wicked enough to wish that fewer *Americans* had fallen. There are disagreeable reports upon that subject. I do not know enough of the subject to speak with certainty, but I hope the Ministers will be able to convince us, that it is not true, that fourteen or fifteen hundred of them were killed in cold blood. When I came to town the day the news came, I heard that fact asserted with exultation, avowed and justified. Afterwards, I heard it upon a little cooler reflection, palliated and accounted and apologized for: I understand that to-day it will be denied. As I do not pretend to be certain of the fact, I will not even hint at the body of troops, by which it is supposed to have been committed.

I have never been disposed to make free with the characters of officers absent and upon service. I am sure, I am not one of those who have cast those reflections, alluded to by an honourable gentleman behind me, upon the conduct of Sir *Peter Parker*. I have always heard him reckoned an able officer; he has undoubtedly, in the affair of *Sullivan's Island*, shown himself a brave man. It is impossible for one so ignorant of naval affairs as I am, to judge of the propriety of the attack. But where is the character of General *Clinton*? as amiable and respectable a man, and as gallant and enterprising an officer as any in the service. And yet, judgment formed by mankind from the accounts published by Government is not in his favour. He appears, by their accounts, to have been nineteen days on *Long-Island*, before he found out the channel was seven feet deep

instead of eighteen inches. General *Clinton* in the last war attached himself to the hereditary prince of *Brunswick*, a service, that would not have been chosen by a man, that had not the spirit of enterprise. In such a school he was not likely to learn to hesitate, or to decline any fatigue or danger, by which the service, upon which he was ordered, might be advanced. Nor did he deviate from his former conduct upon this occasion: though the accounts that have been published and the reports spread by every member of Government may have drawn upon him the censure of unthinking men. Sir, I have seen such accounts, as authorize me to say, that he examined the channel or ford, as it has been erroneously called, the day he landed, and that he sent an account of it to the Commodore. He sounded it with his own person as far as he could. If I advance what is ill-founded, let me be contradicted. But I am confident no man can contradict me. If I am right, how injuriously he has been treated! The worthy member exclaims with propriety against liberties taken with the characters of absent officers, but let him remember the quarter from whence the injury comes, and direct his censure accordingly.

There is, I think, one part of the speech which mentions a discovery of the original designs of the leaders of the *Americans*. In God's name, who made them leaders? How came they to be so? If you force men together by oppression, they will form into bodies, and choose leaders. Mr. *Hancock* was a merchant of credit and opulence when this unhappy business first broke out. Men in that kind of situation are not very prone to a change of Government. I think I have sometimes heard a few old women say, that the civil war of the last century was originally contrived by *Cromwell;* that the first opposition to *Charles* I., was begun in order to advance *Cromwell* to the Protectorship. It is a sagacity and penetration of the same kind that has now happily discovered the original views of those who now are the leaders of the *Americans*.

Some gentlemen have been jocular upon the ribbons and other honours conferred by the Congress. They have, however, hardly distributed honours with a less sparing hand than the Ministers have done. I believe, since the good days of King *James* I., there never was so great a profusion of honours, as within this half year. I beg pardon for the expression of profusion, it conveys an improper idea, and I wish to recall it. It is not a profusion; it is a happy increase of merit in these times, which called for certainly a much larger distribution of honours than has been known in the memory of man. One Gazette announced no less than two-and-fifty honours conferred in *Ireland*. The great seals of *England* and *Ireland* have been set to six-and-forty patents of peerage within these few months. Some of them, I believe, supposed not to be quite consistent with the Act of Union. I would not be supposed to look with an evil eye at any marks of favour shown to the Peers of *Scotland;* I do not enter into that question; it is matter for the decision of another assembly. I wish the *Scotch* peerage upon a much better footing. I should see with pleasure five-and-twenty or thirty *British* peerages conferred upon the peers of that kingdom, provided we could get rid of the election of the sixteen. I respect many of the present sixteen, and should willingly see them included in such a promotion. But their present condition is not a desirable one. I believe there is not a man in that part of the United Kingdom, who does not agree with me in this opinion.

But, sir, I am deviating from the question before us; though I believe I may plead precedent for it, the first day of a session being usually looked upon as a day of general conversation. I have now only to return thanks to the House for their indulgence to me.

I rose for the purpose of asking the few questions which I have ventured to submit to those, who in other times would have been thought under some degree of necessity of answering them. I shall not be much surprised to find my questions treated as those offered by other gentleman have been. However, if I can procure a satisfactory answer to them, I shall think myself amply repaid for the trouble I have taken to state them.

Lord North. I think it proper to deliver my sentiments thus early, because should I defer my intention for only half an hour longer, the House may probably forget one of my prime inducements for rising to trouble you. It is, sir, to meet the charge made against me by the right honourable gentleman over the way, [Mr. *Townshend*,] lest it may go forth, that I neglected my duty in this House, as a member or a Minister; lest, sir, an absence of ten minutes, on a pressing call of business in the course of a debate, which will probably continue fourteen hours, should be represented as an open desertion of my post, in the moment of danger and difficulty. I may, sir, be deficient in many respects, but of all wants I never imagined that a want of respect, diligence as a member, or attention to this House, would have swelled the long catalogue. I am yet to learn, that the behaviour of a member, relative to these personal *minutiæ*, was ever esteemed a fit object of parliamentary animadversion, or matter sufficiently important to incur publick reprehension. I have, it is true, been absent about ten minutes, upon a pressing call of business, and am now returned to my seat. This, sir, is the atrocious crime I have committed. This it is that has furnished the right honourable gentleman who spoke last with so happy an opportunity of displaying his talents. I trust, however, that I shall have the justice done me, to allow that there is no member in this House longer keeps his place, I mean my place in Parliament, or attends with greater patience and resignation, the whole length of a tedious debate, than I do.

It has been more than once objected this night, that I have since the commencement of the present troubles, held back such information as became necessary for you to know, in order the better to be able to decide upon measures proper to be pursued, relative to *America*. Nothing can be more unjust and ill-founded than this charge. I have been ready at all times to communicate every possible information that could be given with safety: I repeat with safety, because the very bad and mischievous consequences of disclosing the full contents of letters, with the writers' names, has been already severely proved, and would, in the present situation of affairs, not only be impolitick, but might be to the last degree dangerous, if not fatal, to the persons immediately concerned.

Several honourable gentlemen on the other side have proposed questions which I think an attentive perusal of the speech would have prevented them from putting to me. His Majesty says he has received assurances of amity from the several Courts of *Europe;* yet he has thought it necessary to prepare himself against any sudden attack. The assertion is, I contend, strictly true; I am answerable for its veracity; for I advised, in concert with the rest of his Majesty's servants, the passage now objected to. His Majesty has received those assurances; but he has not thought it prudent entirely to trust and rely on their contents.

It is well known that *Spain* and *Portugal* have been for the last year on the point of differing about the frontiers of the *Brazils*. It is equally true, that his Majesty has interposed his good offices as a mediator, and endeavoured to accommodate the dispute. This interposition, at present, promises to terminate happily, and to the satisfaction of both parties; it is, however, impossible to tell what turn the affair may take, or venture at all to be responsible for the event of such a negotiation.

From the present assurances of the Court of *France*, and stronger cannot be desired, we have every reason to be satisfied of their pacifick intentions; should it nevertheless prove otherwise, I can venture to affirm, and from my own knowledge to assure this House, that we are prepared for the worst, and that our preparations have been such as to enable us to cope with any enemy who may be inclined to molest us. It has been said, that we are stripped of our home naval defence; that though we should procure seamen, and have a sufficient number of line-of-battle ships ready for sea, the absence of our frigates would prevent us, for some time, at least, from carrying on any effectual naval operations. To this, a very short answer will suffice: we have several frigates at home; there are some building; and if it were not so, we could procure a sufficient number to answer every purpose we want, or wish at present to effect.

The armament going on in *France*, which has been this night so mightily magnified, is but a small one. I mean comparatively, with what we are able to send to sea, at a short warning; it consists of six ships of the line and four frigates. They are, it is true, putting their Navy on a respectable footing; they have made a demand on the registers. These preparations import nothing directly hostile; their assurances of their pacifick disposition towards us are

as strong as words can make them: but I repeat once more, that his Majesty's Ministers have thought proper to advise him to the present armament, by way of precaution.

Two or three honourable gentlemen on the other side have charged me with stuffing the speech with wit and humour, hypocrisy, deceit, and absurdity; some on account of the word "unanimity;" others for the following passage: "My desire is to restore to them (the people of *America*) the blessings of law and liberty." Now, I see no wit or humour in either of the passages alluded to, but the plainest deductions of plain reasoning and common sense. By unanimity, it cannot be supposed was meant a total union of sentiment, on every side of the House; it could hardly be imagined or expected; it meant great and decisive majorities, minorities consisting, perhaps, of thirty or forty members. As to the hypocrisy charged on that other passage, wherein his Majesty expresses his desire to restore his subjects to law and liberty, that I think is, if possible, worse founded; instead of being absurd or hypocritical, I am of opinion it is supported by fact, and as sound logick as the *English* language is capable of conveying. Is not law and liberty fled from *America?* Can it be said so of this country? The debate of this day has fully proved it cannot; and I beg leave to remind the gentlemen, who have in the course of the present evening thrown so many reflections upon Administration, that they would soon find the difference of the two countries, had they dared to make so free with the Congress. I cannot, however, but applaud the spirit which has dictated those severities: I am pleased with that spirit of inquiry which has manifested itself, though it be a licentious spirit; and I wish it to continue, though I am destined to be the object of attack.

I beg pardon of the House for taking up so much of their time, but I wish them to recollect, that much the greater part of it was taken up in replying to questions and explanations, I thought it my duty to answer and give. I cannot agree with the amendment proposed, because it desires his Majesty to set on foot a tedious inquiry to no purpose; to procrastinate events which in all probability will soon be produced, and render fruitless every favourable operation which hath already taken place. It has always been my wish, and that of every other servant of the King, to bring matters to as early an issue, and with as little bloodshed as possible; to use the present successes and victory, if it were gained, with prudence and moderation, and rather as a means of cementing a lasting unity and amity, than as objects of triumph, or instruments for forging the chains of slavery, or excuses for tyranny or oppression.

He appealed to his own conciliatory motion, that reconciliation had constantly been his object. He asserted, that that motion held out to the Colonies a proposal, or proposition, that they should raise among themselves a certain, or such a proportionate sum, as should be settled and agreed upon between *Great Britain* and them; and that in future, they should never be further taxed but when we were.

Colonel Barré observed, that the right honourable gentleman who spoke last but one, was wrong in stating that the noble Lord did not pay sufficient attention to the House; that the noble Lord certainly did very regularly attend, and was in general ready to answer the questions put to him. That he answered them satisfactorily, he would not say; but he generally answered them. There was one question which had been put in the course of the debate—a question of the first consequence, of the most serious importance—to which the noble Lord had wholly neglected to speak. In order to give him an opportunity of speaking to it, he would therefore then put it, and sit down, without proceeding further, that the noble Lord might give the House that satisfaction which he doubted not many of them wished to receive. The question was, "What powers were General and Lord *Howe* invested with, as his Majesty's Commissioners to treat with *America?*"

Lord North immediately said, that their commission had lately been published in the Gazette, and that nothing relative to the business had been concealed. His Lordship read part of the commission, and said he knew of nothing more, unless indeed some direction relative to prisoners.

Colonel Barré again rose, and pulling a paper out of his pocket, declared he had in his hand an account of what passed at a conference between Lieutenant-Colonel *Patterson* and General *Washington*, when Colonel *Patterson* was despatched with General and Lord *Howe's* letter; that the account was printed in *America*, but that it bore evident marks of authenticity, although indeed it did not come directly to his hands; for he could positively say, that no letter directed to him, and sent from *America*, ever reached him. He commented on the account in his hand, declaring his high esteem for Colonel *Patterson*, with whom he had the happiness to be acquainted, and asserting, that he was a man of the first honour in the service. He said, the account he was going to read did Colonel *Patterson* infinite credit.

He then read the following paper, from the *New-York* Gazette of the 5th of *August:*

"The following is an exact state of what passed at the interview between his Excellency General *Washington* and Colonel *Patterson*, Adjutant-General of the Army under General *Howe*, *July* 20, 1776:

"After usual compliments, in which, as well as through the whole conversation, Colonel *Patterson* addressed General *Washington* by the title of Excellency, Colonel *Patterson* entered upon the business by saying, that General *Howe* much regretted the difficulties which had arisen respecting the address of the letters to General *Washington;* that it was deemed consistent with propriety, and founded upon precedents of the like nature by ambassadors and plenipotentiaries where disputes or difficulties of rank had arisen; that General *Washington* might recollect he had, last summer, addressed a letter to General *Howe*, to the Honourable *William Howe*, Esq.; that Lord *Howe* and General *Howe* did not mean to derogate from the respect or rank of General *Washington;* that they held his person and character in the highest esteem; that the direction, with the addition, &c., &c., &c., implied every thing that ought to follow. He then produced a letter which he did not directly offer to General *Washington*, but observed, that it was the same letter which had been sent, and laid it on the table, with the superscription to *George Washington*, &c., &c., &c. The General declined the letter, and said, that a letter directed to a person in a publick character, should have some description or indication of it, otherwise it would appear a mere private letter; that it was true the &c., &c., &c., implied every thing, and they also implied any thing; that the letter to General *Howe* alluded to, was an answer to one received under a like address from him, which the officer on duty having taken, he did not think proper to return, but answered it in the same mode of address; that he should absolutely decline any letter directed to him as a private person, when it related to his publick station. Colonel *Patterson* then said, that General *Howe* would not urge his delicacy any further, and repeated his assertions, that no failure of respect was intended. He then said, that he would endeavour, as well as he could, to recollect General *Howe's* sentiments on the letter and resolves of Congress, sent him a few days before, respecting the treatment of our prisoners in *Canada*, and that the affairs of *Canada* were in another department, not subject to the control of General *Howe*, but that he and Lord *Howe* utterly disapproved of every infringement of the rights of humanity. Colonel *Patterson* then took a paper out of his pocket, and, after looking it over, said, he had expressed nearly the words. General *Washington* then said, that he had also forwarded a copy of the resolves to General *Burgoyne*. To which Colonel *Patterson* replied, he did not doubt a proper attention would be paid to them, and that he (General *Washington*) was sensible, that cruelty was not the characteristick of the *British* nation. Colonel *Patterson* then proceeded to say, he had it in charge to mention the case of General *Prescot*, who, they were informed, was treated with such rigour, that, under his age and infirmities, fatal consequences might be apprehended.

"General *Washington* replied, that General *Prescot's* treatment had not fallen under his notice; that the persons under his particular direction, he had treated with kindness, and made their situation as easy and comfortable as possible; that he did not know where General *Prescot* was, but believed his treatment was different from their information. General *Washington* then mentioned the case of Colonel *Allen*, and the officers who had been confined in *Boston* jail. As to the first, Colonel *Patterson* answered, that General *Howe* had no knowledge of it, but by information from General *Washington*, and that the *Canada* department was not under his direction or control; that as to the other

prisoners at *Boston*, whenever the state of the Army at *Boston* admitted it, they were treated with humanity and even indulgence; that he asserted this upon his honour, and should be happy in an opportunity to prove it.

"General *Washington* then observed, that the conduct of several of the officers would well have warranted a different treatment from what they had received; some having refused to give any parole, and others having broke it when given, by escaping, or endeavouring so to do. Colonel *Patterson* answered, that as to the first, they misunderstood the matter very much, and seemed to have mistook the line of propriety exceedingly; and as to the latter, General *Howe* utterly disapproved and condemned their conduct.

"That if a remonstrance was made, such violations of good faith would be severely punished; but that he hoped General *Washington* was too just to draw publick inferences from the misbehaviour of some private individuals; that bad men were to be found in every class and society; and such behaviour was considered as a dishonour to the *British* Army. Colonel *Patterson* then proceeded to say, that the goodness and benevolence of the King had induced him to appoint Lord *Howe* and General *Howe* his Commissioners to accommodate this unhappy dispute; that they had great powers, and would derive the greatest pleasure from effecting an accommodation; and that he (Colonel *Patterson*) wished to have this visit considered as making the first advances to this desirable object. General *Washington* replied, he was not vested with any powers on this subject, by those from whom he derived his authority and power. But from what had appeared and transpired on this head, Lord *Howe* and General *Howe* were only to grant pardons; that those who had committed no fault, wanted no pardon; that we were only defending what we deemed our indisputable right. Colonel *Patterson* said, that would open a very wide field for argument. He then expressed his apprehensions that an adherence to forms was likely to obstruct business of the greatest moment and concern.

"He then observed, that a proposal had been formerly made of exchanging Governour *Skene* for Mr. *Lovell*; that he now had authority to accede to that proposal. General *Washington* replied, that the proposition had been made by the direction of Congress, and having been then rejected, he could not now renew the business, or give any answer, till he had previously communicated it to them.

"Colonel *Patterson* behaved with the greatest attention and politeness during the whole business, expressed strong acknowledgments that the usual ceremony of blinding his eyes had been dispensed with. At the breaking up of the conference, General *Washington* strongly invited him to partake of a small collation provided for him, which he politely declined, alleging his late breakfast, and an impatience to return to General *Howe*, though he had not executed his commission so amply as he wished. Finding he did not propose staying, he was introduced to the General Officers, after which he took his leave, and was safely conducted to his own boat, which waited for him about four miles distant from the city.

"Made publick by order of Congress:

"JOHN HANCOCK, *President*."

Colonel BARRÉ demanded of the Ministers why some account of this matter had not been given the publick through the channel of the *London Gazette*? He said, it was that scandalous concealment of intelligence from the publick which roused his warmth; that from the account he had just read it was plain the Ministers had been bold enough to break through an act of Parliament, for in that very House the act had passed but last session limiting the powers of the Commissioners sent to *America*, and rendering their commission altogether ineffectual. That he should have applauded them for their spirit in daring to violate the law, had the violation produced a salutary effect. That he had last year told them what would be the consequence of their sending such Commissioners under such an act of Parliament; that he had advised them to send a trumpet from camp to camp, previous to any action; that the House, he was proud to say, had approved of that advice, and that he was sure it would have been more effectual than a ridiculous attempt at a treaty, overlaid by absurd forms and idle punctilio. He turned from this to what he called another important subject, the tremendous appearance of a war in *Europe*, and told the House in a most peremptory tone, that a war of the most serious kind threatened this country, a war from the united Powers of *France* and *Spain*. That the attack would shortly be made, and made within the hearing of those who then sat in the House. A laugh arising from the opposite benches, the Colonel observed with some warmth, "Gentlemen may laugh, but I dare aver, that those who laugh now will, in the moment of danger, be lying, in tears, on their backs, like cowards." He then declared, that *France* was full two months beforehand with us in preparation, that we were, in fact, defenceless, unable to make any resistance should she soon begin; that the noble Lord shifted his ground so often that there was no dependence on his information; that even now he had said, he relied on the present assurances of the pacifick intentions of *France*, but that he did not know how soon she might alter her intention.

Lord NORTH declared, that he firmly believed the Court of *Versailles:* but as he was no prophet, he would not answer for events six months hence. He complained of having his words watched, and thrown perpetually in his teeth.

Colonel BARRÉ declared he ever would watch the Minister; that it was extraordinary indeed, if the noble Lord high in office, and the ostensible Minister, expected his words would not be watched; he protested he would continue to watch him, and report his words on every fit occasion. The Minister of this country, he said, ought always to have information sufficient of what the *French* were about to undertake to promise for six months; if he could not, his neck ought to be brought to the block. The situation of the affairs of this country, he said, was awful, alarming, and tremendous: he spoke it, he said, with fear and trembling, but this country seemed to be near the crisis of her fate; he advised the Treasury-bench, therefore, to look about them, and as there was one question which demanded an immediate answer, he would then put it: "Had the King's Ministers information of a particular species of armament preparing by the *French* in those ports of *France* which were immediately opposite and nearest to this kingdom?" The question, he trusted, was clear and comprehensive. He put it roundly, and it required immediate explanation. If it was not answered, the silence of the Ministry would operate in his mind as fully as any answer they could give; if they had not the necessary information, they were not fit for their posts, and ought to hold them no longer. He entered into the state of our naval power, summing up the number of men-of-war in our ports, and the guard-ships, which he declared had none of them their complement of men on board, although the noble Lord had said they were nearly manned. [Here he was again interrupted, Lord *North* having said partly manned.] He asserted that we were by no means a match for the united force of *France* and *Spain*. He recommended to the Ministry at any rate to make up matters with *America;* he observed we had in the last war twelve thousand seamen from *America*, who would now, should *France* attack us, be fighting against us; that all the useful part of our Navy was on the coasts of *America;* in fact, that matters were so bad, that unavoidable ruin hovered over this devoted country. Recall, therefore, he said, your fleets and armies from *America*, and leave the brave Colonists to the enjoyment of their liberty. [This created a louder laugh than the former among the occupiers of the several official benches; which irritated the Colonel so much that he reprehended the Treasury-bench in terms of great asperity; he arraigned them with a want of manners, and declared, he thought professed courtiers had been better bred.] He then again denounced vengeance, and, after a thousand repetitions of the danger of our present situation, he bid the Ministry appoint proper officers; the fleet, he said, ought to be commanded by a brave man then in the House, an Admiral who had once already saved his country; the Admiral he meant was his honourable friend near him, Admiral *Keppel*. He said he knew he was out of order in naming a member, but on such an occasion he thought himself justified in mentioning so brave an officer.

At length, having held up a most tremendous picture of impending mischief to his country, he repeated his question to the Treasury-bench, and sat down, deploring the infatuation of Government, and asserting that a majority of votes in that House would never conquer *France* and *Spain*

however they might procure the Minister a momentary triumph, and make him a welcome guest at *St. James's*.

Admiral KEPPEL said, that things had an extreme disagreeable appearance. He asserted, from the most authentick information, that *Spain* had twenty-five ships-of-the-line, but believed them to be ill-manned with marines. In respect to *France*, it was otherwise. Their registers commanded seamen, and their military force was known to be sufficient to furnish any number of men they might want to serve on board their ships-of-war. He concluded with lamenting, in case of a rupture with *France* or *Spain*, the absence of that useful and necessary part of our naval force, our frigates and sloops-of-war.

Lord GEORGE GERMAINE. I rise to explain a few circumstances which have been demanded for information; I shall give all the satisfaction in my power, not speaking from notes. Relative to the state of our armament, the right honourable gentleman is much mistaken in saying the twenty-three ships are not half manned. They want, sir, only fifteen hundred men of their full complement, and twelve are fully manned: so that there are no reasons for those numerous and great apprehensions which the right honourable gentleman has stated so largely. As to the propositions which General *Howe* made to General *Washington*, they prove clearly, as the *Americans* themselves state the matter, that General *Howe* was eager for the means of peace and conciliation; but *Washington* against them. However, General *Howe* will doubtless be able to put *New-York* at the mercy of the King; after which, the Legislature will be restored, and an opportunity will thereby be given for the well-affected to declare themselves, who are ready to make proper submission. Sir *Peter Parker's* expedition failed, from arriving too late; I am not answerable for its success, for it was planned before I came into the office. I had assurances from Lord *Cornwallis* and General *Clinton* of this, that had not unavoidable delays happened, the force would have proved sufficient. The conduct of the war in *Canada* also has been reprobated for want of boats; all possible expedition has been used in building them, but it has taken longer time than I expected, and the embarking upon the lake has necessarily been delayed beyond the time intended. I am further asked, what are the numbers of the armies in *America?* Sir, the number of that under General *Howe* is twenty-five thousand, and he will be reinforced by five thousand more, which are near the *American* coast by this time. He has besides about two thousand Provincials, and will probably have more. The Army in *Canada* is eleven thousand, and perhaps three or four hundred, which is the full complement for that department, if not a little more. There has been no cartel settled. There can be none; but the commanders in chief have agreed upon an exchange of some prisoners, man for man. Another question is, whether Administration knows any thing of particular preparations on the coast of *France?* I have asked the noble Lord by me, [Lord *North*,] and he knows nothing of any such—nothing further than what is necessary for conducting the registered seamen to *Brest*—nor have I any intelligence of that sort. And now, sir, having replied to these queries, permit me to make one remark on the House of *Bourbon's* supposed design of assisting the *Americans* by going to war with us. I can give no credit to this idea, and my reason is, because it would be manifestly against their interest. How well do you suppose would those countries like to have the spirit of independence cross the *Atlantick?* Would they not fear that their own Colonists would catch fire at the unlimited rights of mankind,—would they not like that language better than digging gold? And would not there arise great danger from powerful independent States being so near them, freed from all control from *Europe?* I cannot believe, sir, that they would be so blind to their own interests.

Mr. FOX said, that every circumstance that had fallen out in *America*, was one aggregate proof, that Opposition had been right last session in every one of their prophecies, and in every motive they had laid down as the cause of their conduct: that nothing could be so farcical as calling for unanimity in approving measures, because those measures had been uniformly attended with the mischiefs that had been predicted: that instead of applause and approbation, Administration deserved nothing but reproach—for having brought the *Americans* into such a situation, that it was impossible for them to pursue any other conduct than what they had pursued.

He went into the independence declared by *America*. The *Americans* had done no more than the *English* had done against *James* the II. When *James* went out of the kingdom, the *English* declared the throne to be abdicated, and chose another King. When the late severe laws were passed against the *Americans*, they were thrown into anarchy; they declared we had abdicated the Government, and therefore they were at liberty to choose a Government for themselves.

He was astonished at the sense which the noble Lord in the blue ribbon put upon his conciliatory motion. He affirmed, that the motion contained no such proposition as that now asserted by the noble Lord, nor could such a construction be put upon any words in the motion. He desired the motion might be read. It was read, as follows:

"*February* 27, 1775.—*Resolved*, That when the Governour, Council, and Assembly, or General Court of any of his Majesty's Provinces or Colonies in *America*, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstances, and situation of such Province or Colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence, (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the General Court, or General Assembly of such Province or Colony, and disposable by Parliament,) and shall engage to make provision also for the support of the civil Government and the administration of justice, in such Province or Colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by his Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made, accordingly, to forbear, in respect of such Province or Colony, to levy any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any further duty, tax, or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or to impose for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of the duties last mentioned to be carried to the account of such Province or Colony respectively."

Well, sir, is it not clear, that no such proposition was held out by the motion? and is it not extraordinary, that every body should understand the motion, but the author of it? As to the noble Lord who spoke last, priding himself on a Legislature being reëstablished in *New-York*, it is the highest absurdity. Who can suppose, that with an army of thirty thousand men there, a Legislature will not be found that shall express just that species of law and liberty which the other noble Lord wishes to establish in *America*, and which Kings may naturally be supposed to wish to flow from popular assemblies. Sir, it has been very well said, that the speech is an hypocritical one; and in truth there is not a little hypocrisy in supposing, that a King, (I except his present Majesty, who really loves liberty;) but that a common King should be solicitous to establish any thing that depended on a popular assembly. Kings, sir, govern by means of popular assemblies, only because they cannot do without them; to suppose a King fond of that mode of governing, is to suppose a chimera. It cannot exist. It is contrary to the nature of things; and it is hypocrisy to advance it.

But, sir, if this happy time of law and liberty is to be restored to *America*, why was it ever disturbed? It reigned there till the abominable doctrine of gaining money by taxes infatuated the heads of our statesmen. Why did you destroy the fair work of so many ages, in order to reëstablish that by the sword, which prudence, and the good government of the country, had seemed to fix forever?

But, sir, how is this blessed system of law and liberty to be established? By the bayonets of disciplined *Germans*. The noble Lord who spoke last, seemed to pride himself upon the *Americans* of *Long-Island* making a precipitate retreat. They were out-generalled. Discipline triumphed over the enthusiasm which liberty inspires. Did the noble Lord triumph? I pity his feelings.

Sir, something has been said on the case of General *Clinton:* I wish that matter had been more explained; as it stands at present, the Gazette account is an infamous libel on the character of that gallant officer. Let Administration stand forth, and avow that representation: they will not do it; they dare not do it; they skulk from an open and a fair representation.

We have been told, that it is not for the interest of *Spain*

and *France* to have *America* independent. Sir, I deny it; and say, it is contrary to every principle of common sense. Is not the division of the enemy's power advantageous? Is not a free country engaged in trade less formidable than the ambition of an old corrupted Government, their only formidable rival in *Europe*? The noble Lord who moved the amendment, said, that we were in the dilemma of conquering or abandoning *America*; if we are reduced to that, I am for abandoning *America*. What have been the advantages of *America* to this kingdom? Extent of trade, increase of commercial advantages, and a numerous people growing up in the same ideas and sentiments as ourselves. Now, sir, how would those advantages accrue to us, if *America* was conquered? Not one of them. Such a possession of *America* must be secured by a standing army; and that, let me observe, must be a very considerable army. Consider, sir, that that army must be cut off from the intercourse of social liberty here, and accustomed, in every instance, to bow down and break the spirits of men, to trample on the rights, and to live on the spoils cruelly wrung from the sweat and labour of their fellow subjects;—such an army, employed for such purposes, and paid by such means, for supporting such principles, would be a very proper instrument to effect points of a greater, or at least more favourite importance nearer home; points, perhaps, very unfavourable to the liberties of this country.

General Conway said, he should be very sorry any part of his conduct were construed as disrespectful to his Majesty; no person bore his Majesty higher respect; but the address was so entirely against his sentiments, so often declared in that House, that he must vote against it.

The House divided upon the amendment; 87 for it, and 242 against it.

After which, they divided on the original address. Ayes 232; Noes 83.

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November 1.

The Address reported. No debate.

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November 2.

The Address presented.

"*The humble Address of the House of Commons to the King.*

"*Most Gracious Sovereign:*

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament assembled, beg leave to return your Majesty the humble thanks of this House, for your most gracious speech from the throne.

"While we lament the continuance of the troubles which have so long distracted your Majesty's Colonies in *North-America*, and of the calamities and oppressions which our unhappy fellow-subjects are still suffering under the arbitrary tyranny of their leaders, we cannot forbear to express our detestation and abhorrence of the audacious and desperate spirit of ambition, which has at last carried those leaders so far as to make them openly renounce all allegiance to the Crown, and all political connection with this country, and in direct terms to presume to set up their rebellious Confederacies for independent States.

"We consider the rejection of the gracious and condescending means of reconciliation held out to them, under the authority of your Majesty's commission, as a fresh and convincing proof, that the object of these men has always been power and dominion; but we can impute the circumstances of indignity and insult accompanying this proceeding, to no other motive than a resentment of your Majesty's firm and constant adherence to the maintenance of the constitutional rights of Parliament, divested of every possible view of any separate interests of the Crown: and we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that the same attachment of your Majesty to the parliamentary authority of *Great Britain*, which hath provoked the insolence of the chiefs of this rebellion, cannot but operate, as it ought to do, in fixing your Majesty still deeper, if possible, in the affections of a *British* House of Commons.

"With reverence and gratitude to Divine Providence, permit us to express our unfeigned joy, and to offer our sincere congratulations to your Majesty, on the success which has attended the good conduct and valour of your Majesty's officers and forces, both by sea and land, and the zeal and bravery of the auxiliary troops in your service, in the recovery of *Canada*, and in the important operations in the Province of *New-York*, which give the strongest hopes of the most decisive good consequences.

"It is with much satisfaction we learn, that your Majesty continues to receive assurances of amity from the several Courts of *Europe*: and we thankfully acknowledge your Majesty's goodness and paternal concern for the happiness of your people, in your constant attention to preserve the general tranquillity; and it is our most earnest wish, that, by your Majesty's interposition, all misunderstandings and differences between two neighbouring Powers may be happily reconciled, and *Europe* still enjoy the blessings of peace.

"Your faithful Commons consider it as a duty which they owe to your Majesty, and to those they represent, to grant your Majesty such supplies as the weighty considerations which your Majesty has been pleased to state to us shall be found to require, and we have a well-grounded confidence, that at this time, when the object of the Rebels is openly avowed and clearly understood, the general conviction of the justice and necessity of your Majesty's measures, must unite all ranks of your faithful subjects in supporting your Majesty with one mind and heart in the great national cause in which you are engaged."

*The King's Answer.*

"This very loyal address deserves my particular thanks. I receive with the highest satisfaction your affectionate acknowledgment of my constant regard for the constitutional rights of Parliament, and your zealous assurances of confidence and support in this great contest, in which the interests of all my subjects are so essentially concerned."

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November 2.

Address presented. Adjourned to *November* 4.

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November 4.

No debate. Adjourned to *November* 6.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, November 6, 1776.

Thin House. Nothing expected.

Mr. Fox begged the House would not adjourn; an honourable friend of his was coming down to move something of the first consequence; and seeing none of the Ministers in the House, he desired they might be sent for; he thought them exceedingly blamable in being absent; whether business was expected or not, they ought constantly to attend their duty in Parliament.

[Messengers were sent to Lord *North* and Lord *George Germaine*. In a few minutes Lord *John Cavendish* came, and as did also the Ministers.]

Lord John Cavendish said, that he had seen in the publick prints of this day a most extraordinary Declaration, which, if genuine, required the attention and consideration of the House. He read it:

"By *Richard* Viscount *Howe*, of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, and *William Howe*, Esq., General of his Majesty's Forces in *America*, the King's Commissioners for restoring peace in his Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in *North-America*, &c.

"Declaration.

"Although the Congress, whom the misguided *Americans* suffer to direct their opposition to a re-establishment of the constitutional government of these Provinces, have disavowed every purpose of reconciliation not consonant with their extravagant inadmissible claim of independency; the King's Commissioners think fit to declare, that they are equally desirous to confer with his Majesty's well-affected subjects upon the means of restoring the publick tranquillity, and establishing a permanent union with every Colony as a part of the *British* empire. The King being most graciously pleased to direct a revision of such of his royal instructions as may be construed to lay an improper restraint upon the freedom of legislation in any of his Colonies, and to concur in the revisal of all his acts by which his subjects there may think themselves aggrieved, it is recommended to the inhabitants at large to reflect seriously upon their present condition, and to judge for themselves, whether it be more consistent with their honour and hap-

piness to offer up their lives as a sacrifice to the unjust and precarious cause in which they are engaged, or to return to their allegiance, accept the blessings of peace, and be secured in a free enjoyment of their liberty and properties, upon the true principles of the Constitution.

"Given at *New-York*, the 19th day of *September*, 1776.

"HOWE,

"W. HOWE."

"By command of their Excellencies:

"H. STRACHEY."

On this extraordinary Declaration, he said, he had some observations to make. There was no man more zealous for preserving the liberty of the press than he was. It was always with grief and indignation he beheld it abused, or employed to improper purposes. It was with reluctance he should complain of the abuse of it in the present instance, if the authenticity of the paper now alluded to were disavowed, which he must continue to think it would; because if such a paper really existed, it might be well expected its first publick appearance would be either in the Gazette or the Journals of the House. If the paper was a forgery, or was spurious, it was a most daring attempt to impose on the publick. Before he proceeded therefore any further, he thought proper to call on the noble Lord in the blue ribbon, [Lord *North*,] or his noble colleague in office who sat next him, [Lord *George Germaine*,] to tell the House whether the paper was genuine.

Lord NORTH said, he believed it was; that he heard the contents read, and believed it corresponded pretty faithfully with that which appeared in the publick papers. It was not properly in his department; he therefore referred the noble mover and the House, to the noble Lord who sat next him, and to whose office it was transmitted, for further information.

Lord GEORGE GERMAINE confessed the authenticity of the paper in question; said he had seen it in print the preceding evening, and believed it to be a faithful copy of that issued at *New-York* by Lord *Howe*.

Lord JOHN CAVENDISH then congratulated the House on this gleam of peace and conciliation, though he could not but express his astonishment at both the contents of the Declaration, and the extraordinary manner it became first communicated to the publick. He observed, that Parliament had been used all along by Administration with the most mortifying contempt; Commissioners are sent out with an intention of carrying a certain act of Parliament into execution, armed at the same time with certain parliamentary powers for restoring peace; these extend no further than granting pardons and receiving submissions; yet, wonderful to relate, the first account Parliament hear, and that through the channel of a newspaper, is, that those Commissioners are authorized to answer directly for the Sovereign; and obliquely for the two other branches of the Legislature, that he will concur in the revisal of all acts, by which his *American* subjects are aggrieved. He said, Parliament were rendered cyphers in the whole conduct of the business from its commencement; when their name is wanted, they are called on by way of requisition, to sanction acts which render them abhorred by their fellow-subjects in every part of the empire; when the least appearance of lenient measures is to be held out, the merit is all to be attributed to the King and his Ministers. It is to originate from them alone. Notwithstanding all this, he felt a dawn of joy break in on his mind. If Ministers were serious, he should not stand upon mere punctilios; yet, he thought, to give the negotiation the greater weight and efficacy, that House should, as the first proof of their disposition to peace, coöperate with Administration, in so desirable a work. It would, besides, restore Ministers to confidence; their professions were disbelieved in *America*; the motion, therefore, he was about to make, would be the means of removing the almost universal opinion that prevailed in *America*, that every Ministerial promise was given with some insidious intention of treachery, deceit, imposition, or to divide them, in order the more easily to break their strength, and subdue them. To remove so strong an impediment to peace and conciliation; to show we were in earnest, and wished sincerely for both; his Lordship moved, "that this House will resolve itself into a committee, to consider of the revisal of all acts of Parliament, by which his Majesty's subjects in *America* think themselves aggrieved."

Mr. BURKE seconded the motion. He begged to know from the noble Lord over the way, [Lord *North*,] whether the instructions to the Commissioners went the length of the offer of revisal held out in the Declaration; for without intrenching on that part of the prerogative which promises a revision of such of the Royal instructions as may be construed to lay an improper restraint, &c., it was in his apprehension pretty evident, that the latter part of the sentence on which the motion was framed, held out a promise of concurrence on the part of the Crown, to revise all acts by which his Majesty's subjects in *America* think themselves aggrieved. This he looked upon to be leading Parliament, not following it; he should, however, suspend any decisive opinion on the passage, till the noble Lord had explained it. The text was before us; he wished the noble Lord would rise and give us the comment; for certainly, either the idea held out in the Declaration meant that *Great Britain* intended to revise and concede, or desired the people of *America* to lay down their arms, and submit to state their grievances, and we will remedy them, if we think proper.

Lord NORTH said, he should not enter into a critical, literal, or philological interpretation of the passage in the Declaration, which gave rise to the present motion. He would, however, assure the honourable gentleman, that Administration never meant to relax in pursuing the claims of this country, so long as its legislative authority was disputed. He referred the honourable member to the commission under which the Commissioners acted, to their first proclamation, and desired him to compare them with the present, and see if they did not all substantially correspond; whether they did not all tend to the same point, to the restoration of peace to *America*. This Declaration invited the people of *America* to that restoration; and as a motive of encouragement, as well as with a view of establishing a lasting union, to be rendered permanent and cemented by mutual advantage, a revisal of all acts, by which his Majesty's subjects in that country think themselves aggrieved, was held out. His Majesty has promised to concur in those acts or Royal instructions that depend immediately on himself; he is more explicit: he has engaged that they shall be revised, and tells his Colonies that he has already directed his Commissioners to that effect. As to the motion made by the noble Lord, he must be obliged to dissent from it for several reasons. Before, however, he proceeded to state those reasons, he would take the liberty to set his Lordship right, as he supposed the errour he meant to allude to, led him to make the motion, and support it throughout, in his opinion, on very wrong grounds. The noble Lord's mistake was this: that the promise contained in the Declaration was the first of the kind. Nothing could be more erroneous. It was the great principle that pervaded the conduct of Administration from the beginning. It was the language of Parliament at the very outset. In the address of both Houses early in *February*, 1775, the conduct since so faithfully pursued, was strongly pressed and warmly recommended. One great object, nay, the leading one, was to hear grievances, to transmit an account of them home, and to engage, on the part of the Legislature, that redress would be granted, wherever a just cause for redress existed. That this was the first opportunity the Commissioners had to discharge that part of their duty, with any prospect of success; and why any communication of a plan already sanctioned by Parliament, or, more properly speaking, originating from it, should be insisted on till some of the fruits of the measure thus recommended, became necessary, was more, he confessed, than he could possibly perceive. His reasons for giving a negative to the motion, on this state of the whole question, would, he presumed, be obvious to every member present. The *Americans* have declared themselves independent; why enter into deliberation about what you are willing to concede, till we know first that they acknowledge our authority; and after they have returned to us, as subjects, till we know what would reasonably content them? How is it possible to treat, while they avow their sovereignty and independency? much less to form legislative regulations for those who, both as subjects and independent States, have all along disputed our power and right of legislation. Let them acknowledge the right once; let them fairly point out the constitutional abuse of it, and the grievances flowing from that abuse, and I shall be ready to go into the proposed committee; or to adopt the most efficacious and speedy

measures, not only to remedy real grievances, but even to bend to their prejudices in some instances. In such a case they would be heard with complaisance, and treated with candour; but for petitions to be repeatedly presented to this House, denying expressly the legislative authority of *Great Britain*, was to the last degree nugatory and absurd, and must continue to be ever rejected or unanswered; for though the purport of the generality of those petitions, substantially, at least, by implication, recognize the authority of Parliament, their contents taken in another light, composed partly of flat denials of the superiority of this country, of assumed facts, and a species of argumentative reasoning, controverting the very power which they are at the instant appealing to, will render such appeals ridiculous and inadmissible, till they accompany them with a clear, explicit, unequivocal acknowledgment of the right. His Lordship added, besides, that the present motion, if agreed to, instead of producing any good consequence, might produce the very worst. The affair was at present in the hands of his Majesty's Ministers, by the express advice of Parliament. The motion might retard it, not that he entertained any great hopes of its success. Still Parliament had advised it; his Majesty was willing to cooperate in effecting the same purpose, upon every parliamentary, rational and consistent rule of conduct. On the whole, therefore, he could not possibly discover what service the agreeing with the motion could answer, but he saw many inconveniences, and much possible mischief it might be productive of.

Mr. Fox observed, that howsoever absurd and inconsistent Administration had showed themselves in other respects, in their measures relative to *America*, and their professed contempt for Parliament, they had been perfectly uniform and consistent. They had all along manifested the most contemptuous treatment of that House. He was always with the majority of the House in one point, though not upon other occasions, in supporting its dignity, privileges, and consequence with the people; which, in every measure relative to *America*, in particular, had been most shamefully violated; every information was denied, or purposely held back. The operations of war, it is true, were communicated with all possible ostentation and parade; but the only proper objects of parliamentary attention were totally neglected, and left to be collected from chance, vague reports, or a newspaper, while the negotiations for peace, in which Parliament and the nation were much more deeply interested, as the welfare of this country more immediately depended upon them, were kept in a state of concealment, as if Ministers were ashamed to own, as well they might, that after all the blood and treasure which had been spent in the unhappy contest, they are obliged in the end to offer those very conditions which they had some years since rejected, with every mark of displeasure and disapprobation. The account from *New-York*, he observed, was received late on *Saturday* night; an extraordinary Gazette, announcing the retreat of the Provincials from that city, was published early on *Monday* morning; another Gazette followed it the succeeding evening; and yet a syllable of the Declaration never transpired. He first heard it at the opera the preceding evening, and read it that morning in a newspaper; still doubting its being genuine, till he heard it authenticated by the two noble Lords on the opposite bench. He begged to be understood, that he did not make a charge of intentional concealment; but he contended that Ministers were no less culpable than if they concealed it from design; particularly when the omission included in it the most manifest and mortifying inattention to Parliament, whose sentiments the penner of the above Declaration had virtually, and, he would add audaciously, engaged for, there being but little or no essential difference, according to the present well known pliable disposition of that House, between a royal promise to concur in the revisal of certain acts of the *British* Legislature, and an actual solemn engagement of the whole Legislature, for its due and faithful performance. In *America*, he said, all was peace, conciliation, and parental tenderness; in *England*, nothing but subjugation, unconditional submission, and a war of conquest. With that view Administration procured a pamphlet * to be written and sent to *America*, where thousands of them were distributed gratis; while in *England* the title was not so much as known, till after the publication on the other side the *Atlantick*. Publications of a very different tendency are encouraged here. *America* is to be subdued; taxes are to be obtained; charters are to be modified or annihilated at pleasure. These doctrines secure a party, and the bulk of the people on this side of the water, while the most moderate measures and fascinating promises are held out on the other, in order to insidiously trepan and deceive. He returned to what he called the shameful inattention and neglect which Ministers had shown in their conduct towards Parliament; and as Government had taken so much pains to conceal the proclamation alluded to, he had strong reasons to suspect, that other matters of a similar nature were suppressed, and never permitted to see the light. If there have been any such, why have not Parliament been made acquainted with them? Is it not reasonable that this House should know them? He then addressed and asked the Treasury-bench, if every supply they demanded had not been granted? Why, then, in this, as well as every other instance, keep back information, or, which was the same thing, neglect to give it to Parliament, which had acted so openly, and put such confidence in Ministers? What was the return? Either a downright, designed imposition, or the most gross nonsense. What do the Commissioners promise in the King's name? That "being most graciously pleased to concur in the revisal of all acts," &c. Does his Majesty, at any time, or upon any occasion, concur in the revisal of any acts of any kind? He may concur in the repeal of an act or in any amendment made in an act which comes in the shape of a bill, waiting for the royal assent; but as for promising to concur in the revisal of a law, which implies examination and amendment, in stages in which he can possibly take no part, it is rank ignorance or gross deceit. Besides, though Ministers were serious, the promise could not be fulfilled, without supposing that the opinion of Parliament was just what Ministers pleased to dictate; for what signifies what his Majesty's good dispositions may be, since Parliament, it is well known, thinks differently? If, therefore, revision or revisal, he said, meant any thing, he said, it meant a repeal, which it was impossible to expect from the present Parliament, as they had so frequently refused any motion, overture, or proposition, tending even that way. He finished with observing, that the Commissioners, especially Lord *Howe*, were known to be friends to conciliation; and for that reason were not sent out till so late in the season that Government knew the *Americans* must have declared for independency before they arrived. He declared it, as his firm opinion, that there could be no peace in *America* without a complete relinquishing on our part of the claim of taxation; that the Congress might well call the propositions of the Court of *Great Britain* insidious, if the House of Commons refused to support the Declaration of the Commissioners. That the expressions in the Declaration were complained of as not being clear; but that whenever an expression was represented as not clear, the act accompanying it must be taken as its commentary. If, then, the Declaration in question is not clear, how must *America* understand it, when by the vote of this House, this day, should the noble Lord's motion be negatived, they shall plainly perceive, that the Commons of *Great Britain* had peremptorily refused to concur in rendering his Majesty's gracious dispositions effective?

Mr. Solicitor General WEDDERBURNE. The reasons which have been given, Mr. Speaker, for agreeing to the present motion, are, I must confess, such as by no means convince me. I have not a doubt but the noble Lord who made it, wishes for nothing so much as to accelerate the means of peace; and my reason for opposing it is, that I think it would effectually mar the whole design. It is at present in the hands of the Commissioners, regularly in the common and natural course of business; but to comply with this motion would be at once to take it out of their hands, and to raise jealousies in the *Americans*, at the designs or powers of those Commissioners. Such a conduct here might be productive of the worst consequences. It might, in the first instance, be deemed an act of submission on our part, not of favour in condescension to those who look upon themselves as a sovereign State, and actually deny our authority. It would discredit the Commissioners, and throw difficulties in the way of the negotiation, now probably begun; because, by giving them the present proposed sanction it would point out that they were not before

* The Rights of *Great Britain* asserted against the Claims of *America*: being an Answer to the Declaration of the General Congress.

armed with parliamentary powers, adequate to the professed objects of their commission. On the other hand, it may be productive of evil, as it compels us to give the proposition a negative, which is far from being the disposition of the House, when *America* shall acknowledge the supreme legislative right of this country, and by such acknowledgment, lay a just constitutional claim to our favour and protection. Let it be considered what is the present situation of the Colonies. They are in a state of declared independency. Would you admit that independency, or treat with them as independent States? Or could you, consistently with common sense and prudence, revise acts by way of obliging those whose principal object at present is not such revision, but to render themselves free from all connection with you as their superiours? It has been observed, that the King has answered too much for the Legislature of this kingdom in the expressions of the proclamation in question. It appears to me very different, sir. His Majesty there speaks only as the head and mouth of the nation, and the Legislature, by assuring them that the legislative power is ready and willing to hear their grievances, and revise any of their acts which may prove grievances. To think the words of the proclamation mean any thing else, is to torture them strangely. Relative to these grievances, what are they which we can enter into a revision of? The principal that have been mentioned to-day, are, taxation and their charters. And would you enter upon the question of taxation by way of a means of reconciliation? Impossible! There is at present but one point which must be settled as a preliminary; it is that of independency. If they adhere, as I have no doubt they will, to that, there can be no discussion of other points; it is in vain to think of it. And as to their charters, they are not at all the questions at present, for restore their charter of King *William*, will they be satisfied? No. They are as unwilling to submit to the terms of those charters, as to the *Boston* acts: they openly declare this. Hence, therefore, I may fairly and reasonably assert, that till the spirit of independency is subdued, it is idle to come to any resolutions or revisions, as means of conciliation. Take the sword out of the hand of the governing part of *America*, and I have not a doubt but a very considerable part of that country will return to its obedience with as much rapidity as it revolted. Is it possible, that gentlemen can give their attention so much to one side of the question, and read one side only, so as to imagine the *Americans* are so free under their present Government as to have any reason to wish for a continuance of it? The very contrary is the fact; the Congress does not govern *America*—it tyrannizes over it; the power and punishment of imprisonment as practised there, are tyrannical to the highest degree, and utterly inconsistent with every idea of freedom. The liberty of the press is annihilated; a printer that dared to print any thing contrary to their system and interests, would be instantly ruined; nor is even the freedom of private letters, or private conversation, permitted; destruction hangs over the man who ventures to write, or express a sentiment in opposition to their opinions. This horrid tyranny is what we may rationally hope to be so far dissolved, from the difference of the troops on both sides, as to enable the oppressed tyrannized *Americans*, safely to avow their real opinions, and to return without danger to their duty. As to a point which the honourable gentleman much insists on,—the design in Administration of keeping the proclamation secret,—it appears strange to me that any person should think of such a thing, unless from the mode of reasoning which he is so ready to adopt, that having so much folly in it, it is the more likely to be the work of this Ministry. Folly indeed to make that a secret, which was posted upon the walls of *New-York;* and this I think is reason enough why it was not inserted in the Gazette—there was no call for it. I should ask the House pardon, for having troubled them so long upon matters which appear to me of little consequence; but before I sit down, I should remark, that it appears a very sudden and unexpected way of bringing in a debate, after it was so generally understood that no business of any consequence was to come on in the House before the recess; but as I was not at the opera last night, where this manœuvre was planned, I must be excused if I have not treated it in all its parts in the manner some might expect.

Mr. Burke. Rejoiced I am, sir, that the learned gentleman has regained, if not his talent, at least his voice; that as he would not, or could not reply the other night, to my honourable friend, charmed as he must have been with the powerful reasoning of that eloquent speech, he had the grace to be silent. On that memorable occasion he lay like *Milton's* devil, prostrate on the oblivious pool, confounded and astounded, though called upon by the whole Satanick host: he lay prostrate, dumb-founded, and unable to utter a single syllable, and suffered the goads of the two noble Lords to prick him till he scarcely betrayed a single sign of animal or mental sensibility. Why, sir, would he not be silent now, instead of attempting to answer, what in truth was unanswerable? But the learned gentleman has now called to his assistance the bayonets of twelve thousand *Hessians;* and as he thinks it absurd to reason at present with the *Americans*, he tells us, that by the healing, soothing, merciful measures of foreign swords, at the breasts of those unhappy people, their understandings would be enlightened, and they would be enabled to comprehend the subtleties of his logick. It was well said, on another occasion, that your speech demands an army!—and I may say, that the learned gentleman demands blood; reasoning he says is vain: the sword must convince *America*, and clear up their clouded apprehensions. The learned gentleman's abilities surely desert him, if he is obliged to call such a coarse argument as an army to his assistance; not that I mean any thing reflecting on his parts—I always esteem, and sometimes dread, his talents. But has he told you why Commissioners were not sent sooner to *America?* Has he explained that essential point? Not a jot. Why, after the act passed for them, why were they delayed full seven months, and not permitted to sail till *May;* and why was the commission appointing them delayed till the 6th of that month? Answer this. The blood and devastation that followed, was owing to this delay; upon your conscience it ought to lay a heavy load. If the measure was right and necessary in order for conciliation, as the King declared in his speech at the opening of that session, why was it not executed at a time, in which it could be effectual; instead of being purposely deferred to one, when it could not possibly answer any end but that of adding hypocrisy to treachery, and insult and mockery to cruelty and oppression? By this delay you drove them into the declaration of independency; not as a matter of choice, but necessity: and now they have declared it, you bring it as an argument to prove, that there can be no other reasoning used with them, but the sword. What is this but declaring, that you were originally determined not to prevent, but to punish rebellion; not to use conciliation, but an army; not to convince, but to destroy? Such were the effects of those seven months cruelly lost, to which every mischief that has happened since, must be attributed.

But still the learned gentleman persists, that nothing but the Commissioners can give peace to *America;*—it is beyond the power of this House. What was the result of the conference with the delegates from the Congress? Why, we are told, that they met in order to be convinced that taxation is no grievance—"no tyranny" used to be the phrase, but that is out of fashion now. Then, sir, what an insult to all *America* was it to send as Commissioners none but the commanders of the fleet and army to negotiate peace! Did it not show how much you were determined, that the only arguments you meant to use, were your broadswords and broadsides? Let me assert, sir, that the doctrines to be laid down in *America* would not have been too trivial an occasion, even for the reasoning abilities of the learned gentleman himself. But, sir, you may think to carry these doctrines into execution, and be mistaken too;—the battle is not yet fought; but if it was fought, and the wreath of victory adorned your brow, still is not that continent conquered; witness the behaviour of one miserable woman, who with her single arm did that which an army of a hundred thousand men could not do—arrested your progress in the moment of your success. This miserable being was found in a cellar, with her visage besmeared and smutted over, with every mark of rage, despair, resolution, and the most exalted heroism, buried in combustibles, in order to fire *New-York*, and perish in its ashes. She was brought forth, and knowing that she would be condemned to die, upon being asked her purpose, said, "to fire the city!" and was determined to omit no opportunity of doing what her country called for. Her train was laid and fired; and it is

worthy of your attention, how Providence was pleased to make use of those humble means to serve the *American* cause, when open force was used in vain. In order to bring things to this unhappy situation, did not you pave the way, by a succession of acts of tyranny? For this, you shut up their ports; cut off their fishery; annihilated their charters; and governed them by an army. Sir, the recollection of these things, being the evident causes of what we have seen, is more than what ought to be endured. This it is that has burnt the noble city of *New-York*; that has planted the bayonet in the bosoms of my principals; in the bosom of the city; where alone your wretched Government once boasted the only friends she could number in *America*. If this was not the only succession of events you determined, and therefore looked for, why was *America* left without any power in it, to give security to the persons and property of those who were and wished to be loyal? This was essential to Government; you did not, and might therefore be well said to have abdicated the Government.

I have been reading a work given us by a country that is perpetually employed in productions of merit. I believe it is not published yet—the History of *Philip* II.; and I there find, that that tyrannical monarch never dreamt of the tyranny exerted by this Administration. Gods! sir, shall we be told, that you cannot analyze grievances? that you can have no communication with Rebels, because they have declared for independency? Shall you be told this, when the tyrant *Philip* did it after the same circumstance in the *Netherlands*? By edict he allowed their ships to enter their ports, and suffered them to depart in peace; he treated with them; made them propositions; and positively declared that he would redress all their grievances. And *James* II., when he was sailing from *France*, at the head of a formidable force, assisted like you by foreign troops, and having a great party in the kingdom, still offered pacifick terms; while his exceptions of pardon were few, amongst the rest my honourable friend's ancestor, Sir *Stephen Fox*. But you will offer none; you simply tell them to lay down their arms, and then you will do just as you please. Could the most cruel conqueror say less? Had you conquered the devil himself in hell, could you be less liberal? No! Sir, you would offer no terms; you meant to drive them to the declaration of independency: and even after it was issued, ought by your offers to have reversed the effect. You would not receive the remonstrance which I brought you from *New-York*, because it denied your rights to certain powers; yet the late King of *France* received the remonstrances from his Parliaments, that expressly denied his right to the powers he was in the constant exercise of; answered them, and even redressed some of the grievances which those very remonstrances complained of, though he refused to grant what he thought more peculiarly intrenched upon his own authority.

In this situation, sir, shocking to say, are we called upon by another proclamation to go to the altar of the Almighty, with war and vengeance in our hearts, instead of the peace of our blessed Saviour. He said, "My peace I give you;" but we are, on this fast, to have war only in our hearts and mouths; war against our brethren. Till our churches are purified from this abominable service, I shall consider them, not as the temples of the Almighty, but the synagogues of Satan. An act not more infamous, respecting its political purposes, than blasphemous and profane as a pretended act of national devotion, when the people are called upon, in the most solemn and awful manner, to repair to church, to partake of a sacrament, and at the foot of the altar, to commit sacrilege, to perjure themselves publickly by charging their *American* brethren with the horrid crime of rebellion, with propagating "specious falsehoods," when either the charge must be notoriously false, or those who make it, not knowing it to be true, call Almighty God to witness—to not a specious, but a most audacious and blasphemous falsehood.

Mr. Rous entered into an abstract discourse on the nature of civil government, and applied his reasoning on the subject to the grounds of the present dispute subsisting between *Great Britain* and her Colonies. From thence he proceeded to state the various difficulties which presented themselves on either hand on the subject of taxation; whether the right was suspended or concealed on our part, or acknowledged or exercised on the other, it would be liable to strong objections. However, there was one point, as a grand preliminary, which must be the basis of every conciliatory step on either side; that was a clear unequivocal acknowledgment of the legislative supremacy of the *British* Parliament. If that was not to be obtained but by the force of arms, he confessed that he was most eagerly desirous that arms should be resorted to; that probably the advantages we had lately obtained at *Long-Island*, and in the neighbourhood of *New-York*, might give us an opportunity of establishing a civil government in that Province, the example and influence of which, when accompanied with a promise of a redress of real grievances, might be productive of the most happy and salutary consequences. After making a great many observations, he concluded thus: That he would be better pleased to see *Britain* dying of the wounds she might receive in this unnatural conflict given by her rebellious ungrateful children, than consent to one condescending step that might tend to tarnish her former glories.

Mr. Byng observed, that Administration had all along acted upon system; and however mistaken they might be as to some of the effects of their measures, they never lost sight of the great object they had in contemplation from the beginning: that was, to compel *America* to consent to unconditional submission; which was, in other words, to consent to be slaves; or, in the event of their refusal and consequent resistance, to endeavour to subdue or extirpate them. This he contended was the great pervading principle which governed the *American* system, and such was the intention of those to whom carrying it into execution was committed. The opposition given to the motion made by the noble Lord near him [Lord *J. Cavendish*] was of a piece with the whole of the Ministerial conduct, since the commencement of this business. Ministers in private, and their runners in publick, were constantly known to load the officers entrusted with the superiour commands with reproaches, or to flatly charge them with disobedience of orders, and with the commission of acts to which they were not authorized. Such, he presumed, was the true purport of what was now urged against the motion. The Declaration imports one thing, the obvious contents another; however, if a different interpretation should be put on it by the *Americans*, we still have two ways to get rid of it, and still keep up a semblance of good faith; for we retain the right of explaining our own meaning, or of disowning the Declaration, as exceeding the powers granted by the commission, and if more closely pressed, of exceeding the powers granted by Parliament; so that whatever the Declaration promises, can be of no avail, but to mislead *America* by false lights. Our aim is unconditional submission; every concession beyond that, we can explain away and disavow. He finally observed, that this underhand conduct on the part of Administration answered more purposes than one; it answered in a military, as well as a civick capacity, to screen and varnish over, as well as to mislead and betray. Thus they had the address and effrontery to shift the censure they would have so deservedly incurred off their own shoulders. This he instanced in the persons of *Carleton*, *Howe*, *Clinton*, and several others, who were represented by their runners about town, and even by some of the principals, as mad, ignorant, rash, or inactive, according as it suited the present moment. He should not have particularly adverted to those circumstances, he said, if it had not called to his recollection the fate of a near relation, who fell a sacrifice to the same treacherous motives of self acquittal.

Lord George Germaine next spoke, and said, he arose to clear up some matters of fact. That the noble Lord who made the motion, had supposed that he received the proclamation with the despatch from General and Lord *Howe*; that on the contrary, the proclamation was left at *Falmouth* with other matters, and coming up to town in the ordinary way, did not reach his hands till *Monday* morning, when the extraordinary Gazette was already published. That he forbore to insert it in *Tuesday's* Gazette, because he really did not think it of importance enough; that it was not concealed, many copies having been pasted against the walls of *New-York*, and many sent all over *America*. That, as it was only part of a treaty, he thought it improper to publish it, and conceived it was altogether unusual, as he remembered the conversations between Lord *Chatham* [when Mr. *Pitt*] and M. *de Bussy*, previous to the finishing the treaty of peace with *France*, were never published. With regard

to the great *American* question, he said, it was endless to argue upon it. Every gentleman present, he doubted not, had formed his opinion, and that the House might debate to eternity without altering the different ideas of different men. That he, from his opinion, called the *Americans* Rebels, and approved of the measures pursued against them by Government; that he was averse to the present motion, as it would deprive General and Lord *Howe* of the honour of making peace with *America*, an honour which he flattered himself the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House wished them to have. As to the proclamation for a fast, he had before this day only heard it read once in Council, and therefore from what the honourable gentleman had said, he had been induced to imagine, that the Archbishop who drew it up might have made some mistake; but that he had now read it, and thought it a very good and a very proper proclamation. His Lordship then read it at the table, and having finished, declared the words, "specious falsehoods," were properly introduced. He bid the gentlemen recollect the *American* Declaration for Independency, and then ask, if the Rebels had not published "specious falsehoods?" He bid them read their several other publications, and he doubted not they would all agree with him, that the assertion was most true; but he could easily account for his not seeing the matter in the same light as the honourable gentleman opposite him; he was neither so accomplished an orator, nor so excellent a divine.

Mr. Dunning opened with observing, that he was not at the opera (alluding to Mr. Solicitor-General) on *Tuesday* evening; and as he did not imagine any newspaper contained any matter likely to entertain him, he had not read one that day; that he came down to *Westminster-Hall* in the way of his profession, and had come from thence into that House, without any previous knowledge of the debate; but as the proclamation read from the newspaper, produced by the noble Lord, his friend, had been declared to be authentick by the noble Lord in the blue ribbon, and the other noble Lord who sat next him, [Lords *North* and *Germaine*,) it was evident that newspaper information was to be trusted as much as that given in any other manner. He declared his amazement, that the motion which had been made should be deemed sudden and ill-timed; he said he knew of no time more proper for appointing a committee for the revision of such acts as were deemed grievances by the *Americans* than the present. That the question was not now, what should be altered, and what should remain in force; that those were considerations to be agitated when they came into a Committee; that it was high time the Legislature of *Great Britain* gave *America* reason to suppose they would not always turn a deaf ear to her complaints; that it appeared by the proclamation of Lord *Howe* that he had promised in the King's name, that such acts as they thought grievances should be revised; that the promise went to an assertion, that Parliament, as a branch of the Legislature, would enable the King to keep his word; that therefore it was high time Parliament convinced *America* how ready they were to second the King's endeavours to restore peace, by beginning the good work with a revisal of the acts which oppressed *America*, and a removal of those obstacles to a reconciliation. He said, the remarks of a learned gentleman (who had taken the other side of the question) relative to the futility of the House's taking into their consideration what they thought the grievances of *America*, because it might afterwards appear they were not considered by the *Americans* as grievances, was notoriously ill-founded. That the gentleman did himself and the House much wrong, if because Parliament had collectively been blind to the several publications of *America*, he supposed that the members as individuals had been equally blind, and neglected to peep into the petitions which had been presented. That all the members had made themselves masters of the subject, and that the House knew the grievances *America* had to complain of, was well aware what she felt as grievances, and might with great certainty proceed to redress them. He said, the learned gentleman had given some new ideas of liberty; he had declared that *America* must be subdued, *America* must be conquered in order to her deliverance. This sort of deliverance was to him a new consequence of conquest. From all that he had read or heard, he never knew that a conquered people were a free people; and he believed the House would join with him in supposing, that from time immemorial, the very reverse of freedom had been the fate of the conquered. As to the observation, that Lord *Howe's* first proclamation was necessary to inform the publick that Lord *Howe* was arrived in *America*, he said, it might also have been proper to have published the present proclamation to show that he was still there. The noble Lord [Lord *George Germaine*] he said, had accommodated himself to all parties, in his reasons for not publishing the Declaration in the Gazette. To those who thought it ought to have been made publick, he had declared, any man might read it in the newspapers; and to those who wished and thought it ought to be kept private, he had said, none could read it but those who chose to take a voyage to *New-York*, where they would find it pasted on the walls of the half-burnt houses; and that he had not printed it in the Gazette, because Lord *Chatham's* private negotiations with M. *de Bussy* were not printed there. He should give his vote for the motion, (although, he said, he knew it would not be carried,) and ended with declaring, in reply to Lord *George Germaine's* observation about the fast proclamation, that he thought a church an improper place to promulgate a Court creed in, and that so to act was to profane the place of worship.

The House divided.

Tellers.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yeas | Mr. *Fox*, - - - - - - - - - - | 47 |
| | Mr. *Byng*, - - - - - - - - - - | |
| Noes | Earl *Lisburne*, - - - - - - - - | 109 |
| | Mr. *Charles Townshend*, - - - - - | |

So it passed in the negative.

Adjourned to *November* 8.

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DEBATE IN THE COMMONS ON THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

*November* 8.—In the Committee of Supply, Mr. Buller moved, "That 45,000 Seamen, including 10,129 Marines, be employed for the year 1777."

Sir George Yonge said, he should not oppose the motion, though he must condemn the service for which the greatest part of the seamen were destined. But while he approved of putting this country in a proper state of defence, he must reprobate that ruinous system upon which the present civil war was founded. He adverted to the declaration made by Lord and General *Howe*, and positively affirmed the Ministers were by that declaration pledged to a reversal of their system with *America*.

The Honourable Mr. Luttrell said, that the naval strength of this nation, for the protection of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, was by no means equal to the account publickly given by some of the most responsible characters in office. So far from twenty-three ships-of-the-line being fit for sea, as was asserted at the opening of Parliament by the first naval authority in *Great Britain*, and positively insisted on by a noble Lord over the way [Lord *George Germaine*] in contradiction to real, though melancholy facts stated by another right honourable member, [Colonel *Barré*,] we had not, on the first day of the present session, a sufficient number of men to complete the complements of thirteen sail of the twenty-three guardships then in commission, so as to render them in a condition to encounter an enemy; and yet the highest war establishment of this country is lower as to numbers than that of any other naval power in the universe. He conceived it to be the immediate duty of Parliament to take measures for putting these kingdoms in a proper state of naval defence, and not suffer the most useful of the ships, and the flower of your seamen, to be sent three thousand miles off, on a fruitless, romantick attempt to reduce the vast continent of *America* to unconditional submission; utterly lost to these dominions, (to borrow the words of a very emphatick orator [Mr. Solicitor-General] of the long robe,) "by the folly of a few, the madness of some, and the evil designs of many, who have gone headlong into these enterprises." Let us be the more careful of what yet remains of empire and of liberty, nor leave these islands in a defenceless state, while our confederate enemies of *France* and *Spain* actually command all the *European* seas with a fleet of fifty men-of-war. We should be told, perhaps, that it is highly improper thus publickly to expose the weakness of our Navy to those inimical Powers, of whom such strong apprehensions are now expressed. If there was a ray of

hope consistent with common sense, that such specious falsehoods of Government could impose upon the clear-sighted statesmen on the other side of the Channel, or upon their Ministers or emissaries on this side, we might allow that we had in the noble Earl the best Commissioner of the Admiralty that ever presided at that board; I mean so long as the safety of the nation depends upon concealing or disguising the truth; for I verily believe him to be the only man of his rank and education in these realms—I am sure he is the only professed moralist—who, after reiterated detection in the grossest impositions and deep-laid fictions, can rally again, and return to the charge with so sanctimonious a composure, so dauntless an effrontery, that the rarity and perfection of the vice almost constitutes it a virtue.

Mr. Attorney-General called Mr. *Luttrell* to order, appealing to the Committee, whether such language, and so personal an attack, ought to be suffered?

Honourable Mr. Luttrell said, he would persevere in his privilege as a representative of the people, to set forth, in as strong colours as he pleased, the official faults or iniquities of any of the publick Ministers of this country, where he was ready to support his allegations by circumstantial proofs.

The Attorney-General insisted, that as there was no accusation formally before the House, Mr. *Luttrell* could not, consistently with the rules of the House, proceed any further.

Honourable Mr. Luttrell replied, that he would, at all hazards, proceed in acquitting himself of his duty. He knew (with great deference to that learned and respectable gentleman) he was within the law of Parliament, and the rights of every individual member of it; and that the plea of wanting a formal accusation was a chicane which should avail nothing; for if the Ministry would suffer him to carry a motion for the returns and state of the Navy on which to ground his charges, he assured the House he would do no less in consequence of those abuses and mal-practices which must on inquiry come out, than follow such a motion by an address to his Majesty, "that he would be graciously pleased, for the welfare of his people, to remove the Earl of *Sandwich*, not only from the office he now holds, but from the royal councils and presence forever." He then proceeded and observed, that to give the First Commissioner of the naval department the palm of specious falsehoods, while he had so many competitors in the Ministerial fraternity, was indeed no trifling compliment. He acknowledged he was run hard by those men who give out to the world, that they have offered conditions of peace, and a real redress of grievances to the people of *America*, which offers have been rejected by those men on the Treasury-bench, who advance, that the Congress have disavowed every purpose of conciliation short of independence. What conditions of peace, founded on a redress of real grievances, have been offered to the Congress, or any delegates in whom the *Americans* put a trust? Shall we again be insulted and nauseated with your ambiguous, hypocritical, and insidious placards and proclamations, tending only to allure and cajole a few dastard renegadoes from the cause of constitutional liberty to your tyrannical standards? We were told by a noble Lord the other night, "that he would never allow the legislative claims of this country to be a grievance." These were his very words; I took them down in writing at the instant he uttered them. One of the first Crown lawyers added, that nothing could satisfy Government short of unconditional submission. "The *Americans* have no terms to demand," said he, "from your justice, whatever they may hope from your grace and mercy." Sir, when the Heathen Emperor, *Claudius Cæsar*, held *Caractacus* and all his *British* warriours in chains at his chariot wheels, he talked not so proud a language to his captives, as these Christian Ministers, while they invoke the special interposition of the Almighty, hold forth to their own countrymen hitherto superiour to them in the lists. In short, strip off the mask and specious falsehoods from every department of the State, as it is now modeled, and the war is a war of taxation, a war of injustice, impiety, and endless bloodshed.

Mr. Wombwell warmly defended Lord *Sandwich*, and gave a long panegyrick upon his private virtues, publick talents, and industry; said he was the best Minister, and perhaps the worthiest man in this country; [here the House laughed heartily;] that he was not to be hurt by the shafts of that vehement member who spoke last. His Lordship ought to be revered and honoured by every honest man in this country for his services in the department where he presides; there never was his equal in office; he gloried in calling him his friend; nor was there a man so admired and approved of by foreigners.

Mr. Luttrell made a short reply, and ended by saying, he verily believed that foreigners approved much of our having at this conjuncture such a man in such an office, and that he might perhaps be worshipped by the savages of *Otaheite*. He meddled not with his worthiness in social life; but he thought no good subject of this country held him worthy of his publick trust.

Lord Mulgrave said, he was glad to find the honourable member intended to move for a serious parliamentary inquiry into the conduct of his noble friend at the head of the Admiralty Board; that whenever the truth came out, the honourable member, however prejudiced he was at this time, by vague, ill-founded, and empty conjectures, would, if he had any candour in his nature, become a convert to a better-founded and more just opinion: for that the *British* nation had never known a first Commissioner of the Admiralty equal to the present in capacity and meritorious services. He therefore wished the honourable member to move a fair, publick test of the noble Earl's conduct; and he, as the noble Earl's friend, would stand as forward as any gentleman in opposition could do to second it.

Lord North also got up in behalf of Lord *Sandwich*; said, his Majesty had in that noble Earl a very capable and zealous servant, who ought not to be thus attacked in his absence, from a collection of loose surmises, and low newspaper abuse; that, if the honourable member would inform himself of the real desert of the noble Earl, in his official character, he must retract his imputation, and admit that the most laborious and eminent publick services had been rendered this empire since he came to the naval administration; neither could any of his predecessors (upon the whole) boast equal pretensions to the applause of this country, and the respect of every unprejudiced individual.

Lord Palmerstone spoke in support of Lord *Sandwich*, and the present Board of Admiralty; but he said, that in commending the noble Earl's assiduity and talents, he would not be understood to detract in any degree from the praise due to Sir *Edward Hawke* (now Lord *Hawke*,) with whom he had likewise been in office. His Lordship acquitted himself with a propriety of temper, and in terms becoming the peculiar situation of having served his Majesty at the Admiralty Board, under three successive Administrations.

Mr. Buller stated the number of mariners in the *British* ports as sufficient for the defence of these dominions, and maintenance of our national honour upon the seas, against any combined powers whatever that might attempt hostilities.

[Mr. Luttrell rose to reply to the several advocates for the noble Earl; but some strong expressions falling from him, which seemed applied to Lord *Mulgrave*, the latter was entering upon too warm an altercation, when a cooler dialogue was recommended to both gentlemen by Sir *Edward Astley* and Sir *Fletcher Norton*, the latter of whom desired the Chairman to read the resolution, in order to preserve order, by keeping both the honourable gentlemen to the proper subject contained in the resolution.]

Mr. Luttrell told Lord *Mulgrave*, he was not apt to become a convert in principle or persuasion, after he had once formed his mind upon the best lights his understanding could furnish; that the two noble Lords on the opposite bench did him injustice, when they imputed his conduct and accusations to anonymous slander, or a vague unsubstantial testimony of any nature whatever; that when this boasted service of the noble Earl came to be inquired into, it would be found he had been entrusted annually with twice as much of the publick money as any one of his predecessors in office; therefore he ought certainly to have the fleet in a more formidable and respectable condition; but certain it was, that a great part of this treasure was not applied to the uses for which it was granted; there had been a multitude of errours and much corruption, which he was prepared to produce evidence of, whenever the House would give a candid hearing. He thanked Lord *Mulgrave* for offering to second his inquiry, but could never have expected such a favour from a member for *Huntington*.

Sir HUGH PALLISER closed the arguments in Committee, by saying, he hoped the House would take confidence in the present strength of our naval establishment at home, and sufficiency of ships and men.

The question being put, was agreed to. The House was resumed, and Mr. Speaker took the chair.

Honourable Mr. LUTTRELL then moved, as the first evidence necessary, on which to establish the truth of his charges, and even for the material information of Parliament, independent of the proposed address to the King, to displace the Earl of *Sandwich*; "That the proper officers do lay on the table the latest weekly accounts received at the Admiralty, prior to the opening of the present session of Parliament, from the Admiral, or Commander-in-Chief of all his Majesty's ships and vessels at the several departments of *Portsmouth, Chatham,* and *Plymouth*; together with the latest week's account received at the said Board, prior to the commencement of this session, of all ships and vessels of war employed on Channel service, or on the coast of *Great Britain* or *Ireland*." Mr. LUTTRELL said, that he would show by these accounts, that the information given to both Houses of Parliament and the publick, on the first day of this session, of the state of the Navy, when it was officially alleged, that we had twenty-three ships-of-the-line fit to take the seas, and many more in great forwardness, and that our fleet at home was then a full match for the combined squadrons of *France* and *Spain*, should they visit these coasts, was a dangerous, wicked, and willful imposition on Parliament, and the whole nation. We had not, he said, near seven thousand effective men in the twenty-three guard-ships put together, and, to complete their complements for war, near double that number would be requisite. Our frigates, sloops, and small craft, were most of them upon remote service; and those ships-of-the-line, put lately into commission, alleged by the *American* Secretary [Lord *George Germaine*] to be "in great forwardness," had not, one with another, a twentieth part of their war complement; neither were the returns of the impressed men in and about this metropolis, on the first night of issuing the warrants, above one third in number of what the runners of Government were ordered to spread abroad. At *Portsmouth* and its environs, the intention of impressing men was known to all the seafaring people twenty-four hours before the press-gangs were in motion; so we succeeded but ill in that quarter, and still worse on the western coasts. In short, if the people of *England* knew the real state of our marine power and resources, and the great superiority of our natural enemies in these seas, they would scarce suffer so many ships and men to be despatched to the furthest quarter of the globe, even on a more rational and profitable pursuit than the reduction of our *American* Colonies to despotism, before we had secured the seat of our empire from invasion and ruin. He was confident, after what had passed, after the impatience of the noble Earl's friends to bring him to a fair ordeal, he should be seconded in this motion by one of the Lords of the Admiralty, or the noble Lord [Lord *Mulgrave*] in his eye.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL argued strenuously against receiving the motion: and the friends of Administration were for throwing it out without further discussion.

Right Honourable T. TOWNSHEND, after showing that the motion was strictly parliamentary and of material import to the business then before the House, seconded it; and asked what opinion any unprejudiced person could entertain of those gentlemen who so strenuously encouraged the honourable gentleman in his inquiry, and now shrunk from the trial. This clandestine and unwarranted step of withholding the first official papers called for by the honourable member, would stamp a sentence on their friend and patron, not much to his honour or his advantage.

Mr. H. W. HARTLEY likewise supported Mr. *Luttrell*, and drew a mournful picture of this country in its present condition, and a very odious one of the Administration, and the systems on which they act.

Honourable Mr. LUTTRELL insisted, that the absolute management of the maritime power of the *British* empire was too arduous, too solid, too important a trust, to be committed to a *bon vivant* of Lord *Sandwich's* levity of disposition and known depravity of conduct, especially now the piping hours of jubilee and dalliance are at an end; and we ought to prepare for naval operations of the most substantial and critical import to the safety of these islands.

The question being put, the motion was negatived without a division.

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## CORRESPONDENCE, PROCEEDINGS, &c.

### SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 1st December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Among the many important objects which employ your whole attention, I presume ways and means for defraying the expense of the present war, has a capital place; you will therefore give the following thoughts the weight which they deserve: In the first place, to emit more bills will be rather dangerous, for money, or whatever passes for such, when it exceeds the amount of the commerce of a State, must lose its value, and the present circumscribed state of the *American* commerce, is perhaps within the amount of your emissions already made. Your bills, therefore, must be borrowed of individuals by the publick at interest, or those already emitted paid off by taxes, and new emissions made. Some Colonies, I am sensible, may now be content with a tax, but it is most probably quite out of the power of some, and a measure rather impolitick in a majority of the Colonies or States *durante bello*. To effect any considerable loan in *Europe* is perhaps difficult; it has not been tried; and on the probability of succeeding in this, I will give my sentiments hereafter; this is obvious, that let the loan be made when it will, it must have a day fixed for payment, and respect to some fund appropriated to that purpose.

The relying on future taxes is holding up to the people a succession of distresses and burthens, which are not to cease even with the war itself. Whereas, could they have a prospect of paying the expenses of the war at the close of it, and enjoying the remainder of their fortunes clear of incumbrance, it must greatly encourage and animate both the publick and private in pushing it on with vigour. Loan of six or eight millions, or a debt of that amount, will probably enable you to finish the war. This I am confident may be negotiated on terms which I will propose hereafter; but previously let it be attended to, that the present contest has engaged the attention of all *Europe*; more, it will eventually interest all *Europe* in favour of the *United States*—the *Russians* in the north and *Portugal* in the south excepted. I make no consideration of the little mercenary Electorates in my calculation. The mercantile part of the other Powers are convinced where their interest appears so evidently engaged. The political part are sensible of the importance of enlarging their own naval concerns and force, and checking that of *Great Britain*.

The good and wise part, the lovers of liberty and human happiness, look forward to the establishment of *American* freedom and independence as an event which will secure to them and their descendants an asylum from the effects and violence of despotick power, daily gaining ground in every part of *Europe*. From these, and other considerations, on which I need not be minute, emigrations from *Europe* will be prodigious immediately on the establishment of *American* independency. The consequence of this must be the rise of the lands already settled, and a demand for new or uncultivated; on this demand I conceive a certain fund may now be fixed. You may smile, and recollect the sale of the bearskin in the fable, but at the same time must be sensible that your wants are real; and if others can be induced to relieve them, it is indifferent to you whether they have a consideration in hand or in prospect.

I trace the river *Ohio* from its junction to its head; thence north to *Lake Erie*, on the south and west of that lake to *Fort Detroit*, which is in the latitude of *Boston*; thence a west course to the *Mississippi*, and return to the place of my departure. These three lines, of near one thousand miles each, include an immense territory, in a fine climate, well watered, and by accounts exceeding fertile; it is not inhabited by any *Europeans* of consequence, and the tribes

of *Indians* are inconsiderable, and will decrease faster than the lands can possibly be called for, for cultivation. To this I ask your attention, as a resource amply adequate, under proper regulations, for defraying the whole expense of the war, and the sums necessary to be given the *Indians* in purchase of the native right. But to give this land value, inhabitants are necessary. I therefore propose, in the first place, that a grant be made of a tract of land at the mouth of the *Ohio*, between that and the *Mississippi*, equal to two hundred miles square, to a company formed indiscriminately of *Europeans* and *Americans*, which company should form a distinct State, confederated with and under the general regulations of the *United States General* of *America*. That the Congress of the *United States* shall out of such grant reserve the defraying or discharging the publick debts or expenses, one-fifth part of all the lands, mines, &c., within said tract, to be disposed of by the Congress in such manner as good policy and the publick exigencies may dictate; the said one-fifth to be sequestered out of every grant or settlement made by the company, of equal goodness with the rest of such grant or settlement; the company on their part shall engage to have in seven years after the passing such grant thousand families settled on said grant, and civil government regulated and supported on the most free and liberal principles, taking therein the advice of the honourable Congress of the *United States of North-America*. They shall also, from and after their having one thousand families as above said, contribute their proportion of the publick expenses of the continent, or *United States*, according to the number of their inhabitants, and shall be entitled to a voice in Congress as soon as they are called on thus to contribute. The company shall at all times have the preference of purchasing the Continental or common interest thus reserved, when it shall be offered to sale. The company shall consist, on giving the patent or grant, of at least one hundred persons.

These are the outlines of a proposed grant, which you see contains more than twenty-five millions acres of land, the one-fifth of which, if a settlement is carried on vigorously, will soon be of most prodigious value. At this time a company might be formed in *France*, *Germany*, &c., who would form a stock of one hundred thousand pounds sterling, to defray the expense of this settlement. By such a step you in the first place extend the circle of your connection and influence, you increase the number of your inhabitants, proportionably lessen the common expense, and have in the reserve a fund for publick exigencies. Further, as this company would be in a great degree commercial, the establishing commerce at the junction of these large rivers would immediately give a value to all the lands situated on or near them, within the above extensive description; and further grants might admit of larger reserves, amply sufficient for defraying the expenses of the war, and possibly for establishing funds for other important purposes.

It may be objected, this is not a favourable time for such a measure. I reply, it is the most favourable that can happen. You want money, and by holding up thus early to view a certain fund, on which to raise it, even the most certain in the world, that of land security, you may obtain the loan and engage the moneyed interest of *Europe* in your favour. I have spoke with many persons of good sense on this subject, which makes me the more sanguine.

As to a loan, I will now dismiss this scheme, to speak of that; only adding, or rather repeating, what I have in a former letter wrote, that a large and generous allowance ought immediately be made for the officers and soldiers serving in the present war, in which regard should be had to the wounded, the widow, or children, of those who fall, and to the term or number of campaigns each one serves. This will make the Army consist literally of a set of men fighting for freehold; and it will be a great encouragement to foreigners, with whom five hundred or a thousand acres of land has a great sound.

It has been a question with me at times, whether, if our commerce were open and protected, the Colonies would be wise in negotiating a loan. But on considering that before this war the importation of the Colonies just about balanced their exportations, I cannot think it possible with the most rigid economy, supposing exports as large as formerly, to make a lessening of consumption equal to the amount of the expenses of the war, and that consequently a debt must be contracted by the publick somewhere.

The question which naturally rises on this is, whether it be most prudent to contract this debt at home or abroad? To me it admits of no doubt, that the latter is to be preferred on every account. If you can establish a credit and pay your interest punctually, the rate of interest will be less by two or three per cent. in *Europe* than in *America*. You will thereby engage foreigners by the surest tie, that of their immediate interest, to support your cause, with many other obvious reasons for preferring the latter mode.

But the next question is, where can you borrow and what security can you offer? *Holland* is at present the centre of money and credit for *Europe*, and every nation is more or less indebted to them, collectively, to such an amount that could the nations in *Europe* at once pay the whole of their debts to this Republick of Mammon, it would as effectually ruin it as the breaking in of the sea through their dykes. Would you know the credit and situation of the affairs of the different kingdoms, consult the books of the *Dutch* banks. This kingdom has been in bad credit from the villainy of a late Comptroller-General, as it is said, one Abbé *Terrai*, against whose administration the severest things have been said and wrote. He was succeeded by the much esteemed Mons. *Turgot*, and stocks rose and a commission given a banker (a correspondent of mine in *Amsterdam*) to negotiate a loan; but the dismission of Mons. *Turgot*, and the indifferent opinion moneyed men at least had of his successor, Mons. *Clugny*, prevented the loan and fell the stocks. Mons. *Clugny* died last week, and is succeeded ostensibly by one Mons. *Tabouron;* I say ostensibly, for one Mr. *Necker*, a noted Protestant banker, is joined with him as Intendant of the Treasury. This raised stocks immediately; and I am told they have already risen ten per cent. This is the most politick appointment that could have been made; and it deserves our notice, that where a man has it in his power to be of publick service, his principles of religion are not a sufficient obstacle to hinder his promotion even in *France*. This will probably enable this kingdom to borrow money, which, from all appearances, will soon be wanted.

*Spain*, from the punctuality of its payments of interest and its well-known treasures, is in high credit in *Holland*. *Denmark* borrows at four per cent.; *Sweden* at the same; the Emperor of *Germany*, from the security of his hereditary dominions, and the Empress of *Russia*, from her having lately paid part of the large sum she borrowed in the *Turkish* wars, are both of them in good credit. The credit of *Great Britain*, though it has not fell, yet it is in a ticklish situation, with these foreseeing people; who, on receiving the news of the action on *Long-Island*, which raised stocks a trifle in *England*, began immediately to sell out. Not a Power in *Europe*, the King of *Prussia* excepted, can go to war without borrowing money of *Holland* to a greater or less amount; and whilst so many borrowers are in its neighbourhood, whose estates, as I may say, are settled and known, it is not to be expected *Holland* will be fond of lending money to the *United States of North-America*, though we should offer an higher interest.

To offer a large interest might be tempting, but it would be very ruinous to us; and I conceive it will never be thought prudent to permit higher than five per cent. interest in the States of *North-America*, and this is but one per cent. more than is given in *Europe*. This view leads me again to reflect, as I constantly do, with the utmost grief on the unaccountable delay of proper authority announcing the independency of the *United States of North-America*, and proposing terms of alliance and friendship with *France* and *Spain*. This, I am as confident as I can be of any thing not already effected, would at once remove this and many other difficulties; would put our affairs on the most established and respectable footing, and oblige *Great Britain* herself to acknowledge our independency and court our friendship, or hazard the chance of ceasing to be a nation. On such powers being received and presented, these kingdoms, I have no doubt, would become our guaranty for the money we want, and the produce of our country will be wanted for the interest, and even the principal, fast as we can transport it hither. But as no such powers and instructions are received, it is possible you mean not to send any.

I will mention a few thoughts on another plan. You are

not in want of money, but the effects of money, in the manufactures of *Europe*. Of these the Colonies, or *United States*, must now have a demand for some millions sterling. These manufactures are to be had principally in *France* and *Holland*. As to the latter, they have not at present, and are resolved never to have, any peculiar connection with, or friendship for, any Power further than their commerce is served by it; but that is not the ruling passion of the former, but the desire of humbling their old rival and hereditary enemy, and aggrandizing their monarchy, are predominant; and never was there a more favourable opportunity than the present. So favourable is it, that were the funds of this kingdom in a little better situation, and were they confident the *United States of America* would abide by their independency, not a moment's time would be lost in declaring, even though you had made no application direct, whatever part this kingdom takes will be pursued by the Court of *Madrid*. Would this Court give a credit even to private merchants, it would answer the same purpose as a loan, as for instance, the *United States* want about three million value of manufactures annually (it has heretofore been rising of that) from *Europe*; if this Court will give a credit to that amount to any body of men in the kingdom, that company may engage to pay the Court the same amount in Continental bills within a limited time, this company may send to *America* supplies to that amount, as the Congress shall order such goods as are wanted, either for Army or Navy. The Congress will instantly deposit their bills for the amount, the residue may be sold at a stated advance for Continental bills, the whole of the amount immediately put on interest to this Court; this will be the calling in of such an amount of the bills, and of course give the greater currency to the whole; mean time this Court must become interested to have the commerce free, by which alone remittances can be made. This is but a sudden thought, recommended to you for digesting, if deemed worthy of pursuing. That something this way may be effected, I can have no doubt, while I have this most unequivocal evidence: I am now credited to the amount of all the supplies for thirty thousand men, a train of artillery amounting to more than two hundred pieces of brass cannon, ammunition, &c., &c., which must be of near half a million sterling, not ostensibly by the Court, but by a private company; at the same time other companies, as well as individuals, after offering any loan or credit I should ask, always brought in sooner or later the condition of having my bills endorsed by some banker or person of credit, where you are sensible, in my situation, the affair ended, though in several instances I had the most flattering encouragement, and expected most assuredly no security would be required: but that this particular house should be able and willing to advance this prodigious sum at once, and without security, is no way surprising, but perfectly consistent with what I have all along asserted.

The most effectual card now played by the *British* Ambassador is, asserting that an accommodation will soon take place, and by some means or other conjecturing my want of powers by my not publickly appearing at Court. He is bold in this assertion, and I find it the greatest difficulty I have to encounter. But I will not enter on a subject which has well-nigh distracted me, and embarrassed and disheartened, in a greater or less degree, every friend of *America*. The late conduct of the Court of *Spain* respecting Captain *Lee*, whose case I mentioned before, is a striking proof of what I have so positively asserted of the good disposition of both these Courts. They dismissed the complaint against him, afforded him protection, with assurances of every assistance he might need, declaring publickly that their ports were equally free for *Americans* as for *Britons*. I have besides these overt acts, still more convincing proofs that the moment your application is made, every thing will be set in proper motion.

I now dismiss a subject which has given, and still continues to give me as much anxiety as I can struggle with, and mention another a little new, but indeed somewhat connected with it: it is the equipping of a number of *American* ships of war in the ports of *France*. Considering the price of duck, cordage, ordnance, and other military stores in *America*, they may be built much cheaper here. This is not the sole advantage. They may carry over stores of every kind in safety, as being *French* bottoms, ostensibly at least. All the brave and ingenious in the marine department in this kingdom would become adventurers in person or in purse and influence in such a scheme; and I speak on good grounds when I say, in three months after receiving your orders, I can have ten ships of at least thirty-six guns each, at your service, independent of assistance immediately from Government, so much attention is paid to the *American* cause by all persons of consequence in this kingdom.

The honourable Congress must, I conceive, either continue emitting bills or borrow money; and I submit it whether it be not preferable to borrow of foreign States than of individuals, in the present situation of *American* affairs. If of foreigners, I am convinced you may borrow five or six millions of *Holland*, on *France* becoming your security. This I am confident may be obtained on application to this Court and *Spain*; and that on these principles, they can by no means be willing to permit the Colonies to return to their former subjection to *Great Britain*, armed as both countries are. Their possessions in *America* must lie at the mercy of *Great Britain* on such an event as a reconciliation with the Colonies. The Colonies being in want of the manufactures of *Europe*, of this kingdom in particular, this sum would, a principal part of it, rest in *France*, and give a great spring to their manufactures, and give them the advantage of the first lead in *American* commerce. These are important objects, and I have no doubt would be considered of consequence sufficient for them to risk such a credit. Rich individuals offer to supply any quantity of goods or stores on such security, and I believe the latter would do considerable, were they only assured of five per cent. interest on their debts after due.

But I submit the whole to the mature consideration of the honourable Congress; and am, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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### GEORGE COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 1st, 1776.

HONOURED GENTLEMEN: We got safe to *Baltimore* on *Friday* morning, and since have not been able to do any thing for want of a wharf for the ship to clean at. I expect to get one that Mr. *Lux* has two brigs at, *Monday* morning, and shall use my utmost endeavours in getting the ship ready for sea as soon as possible. As soon as the tender is fit to be sent to *Potomack*, I shall send her off, with instructions to call at *Annapolis*, and take Mr. *Middleton* with them, to endeavour to find our anchor. I shall acquaint you from time to time how we go on.

I have the honour to be, honoured gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

GEORGE COOK.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

P. S. Enclosed I send you two advertisements of the sale of the snow *Georgia*. I should be glad to be informed what we are to do for mops for the ship's company, which are much wanting, or whether I may not contract for such articles as are wanting, if I have it in my power.

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### JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 1st, 1776.

SIRS: The bearer, Mrs. *Trepolet*, is uneasy about her houses taken by Captains *Ewin*, *Smith*, and *Ramsey*, last winter for barracks. I have troubled you on the same account once before. I was called on by the Court to value the houses when they were taken, and I believe for that reason the widow insists I will do something for her. This was all settled; she was paid, but since the houses was much abused, and she thinks will be recovered. They are better for barracks than any in town, and I believe the abuses had best be repaired. They are very careless, and she thinks they will burn her and all she has by their neglect. I think she has catched them with large fires against the walls on the outside. But what she says I think may be depended on, and must leave you and her to settle it. Please excuse for this freedom; it is for a widow.

From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 1st, 1776.

SIRS: I have provided for you near two hundred barrels of beef, which the butchers have, and are delivering every day. The bearer, Mr. *Crafford*, has a parcel of beef, barreled and to barrel, which he thinks very good, and wants to sell. The quantity he has is so great that I did not choose to purchase it without your consent. If you think so much beef will be wanted please write, and it shall be purchased. There is no pork yet come to hand, but I think there will be a great number of hogs in this winter, for the people's expectations are up. If Mr. *Crafford's* beef would do for Captain *Cook*, some of Captain *Cook's* agents ought to examine it and be satisfied as to the quality.

Captain *Gibbens* has sailed as low as the boom. Captain *Martin* will be loaded this week, and shall do every thing in my power to get them away; but it is hard to be done. There is a schooner here owned by Messrs. *Morris* and *Turnbull*. She is quite new, and seems a good vessel. Her fore timbers are all mulberry. She has all her sails but a flying jib, new and in good order; good anchors and cables. I think her a good vessel and fit for sea; but the price is high. Fourteen hundred pounds is the price, he told me to write. She, I think, will carry near five hundred barrels. Please let me know what you would have done in this. The Captain is waiting for your directions to Captain *Cook* about the mate. I have a deal of trouble, and fear you blame me for delaying the vessel, but I can load twenty vessels rather than man and sail two. The money paid to Captains and sailors is wonderful, and no way to shun it. Shall send you your nails as soon as I can, but there is no such thing as I know of.

From your friend and humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

The Council of Safety.

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THOMAS SMYTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Chester-Town, December 1st, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: This will be delivered you by *Robert Read*, a blacksmith of this town, who waits on the Council to sell them seventeen muskets which he has made, and carries with him. They seem to be strong and substantial. He proposes contracting with your Board for a good many. He bears the character of an honest man; has some real property in this town, and, I believe, would be pretty punctual.

I wrote the Council a few days ago that no salt had reached me for curing the beef and pork they had given me orders to purchase. I could have purchased by this time the one hundred barrels of beef and as many of pork, had the salt been ready; but for want thereof could not pretend to buy a single beef, and most of it is now sold.

There is a good deal of very fine pork to sell, which the farmers hold very high, up to forty-five shillings per hundred weight, and some people, I am told, have offered that price. Little or none has yet been sold, and I apprehend it may be bought at forty shillings per hundred weight. If you propose to limit me in price or quantity, please to write me particularly by the bearer of this letter. The salt ought to be here now, as most people will sell their pork in the course of two weeks; and when the salt arrives I shall do the best I can. The people of the neighbourhood of this town, both in this County and *Queen Anne's*, are greatly distressed for the want of salt. The Council would relieve their distresses much if they could send some for their use at the time they send that intended for the Province use, and I would engage to distribute the salt and remit the Council the money for it.

The row galley that is building at my yard is nearly ready to launch. The cables and anchors are wanting to secure her when in the water; the guns are wanting to enable the carpenters to make the carriages, and the pig iron for ballast. The Council will please to direct me what name to call her.

Mr. *Thomas Coursey*, who stands of the list of appointments, would accept of the appointment of her. I am told he is very capable, and was all last war engaged in the sea service, and had the command of a privateer; or he would accept of the command of one of the Province merchant vessels. Mr. *Coursey* is well known to several gentlemen of your Board.

The Council will please excuse the liberty I have taken in mentioning Mr. *Coursey;* and am, with much respect, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

THO'S SMYTH.

The honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis.*

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 1st, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 30th *November* was duly received; in consequence of which, as the contents were of the utmost importance, I thought proper to call the Congress together; whose resolutions of this day I now do myself the honour to enclose.

Considering the very critical situation of our affairs, the Congress have agreed that you may order into the *Jerseys* the troops who are at present on the east side of *Hudson's* river, if it should be your opinion the publick service will receive any benefit from such a movement.

You will please to direct that the clothing, as fast as it arrives at Head-Quarters, or at any of the camps, should be given to those soldiers who stand most in need of them.

The Secret Committee will order one or two persons to set out immediately to the Eastern States, to see that the clothing and stores which have been purchased in that quarter be sent to the Army with all possible despatch.

I have the honour to be, with sentiments of the most perfect esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO DOCTOR MORGAN.

Philadelphia, December 1st, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed resolve of Congress, relative to your duty and the department in which you are to exercise it, I have it in charge from Congress to transmit to you as the rule of your conduct.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Doctor *Morgan.*

[Same to Doctor *Shippen.*]

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Brunswick, December 1st, 1776.

SIR: I yesterday had the honour of writing, and to advise of our arrival here. I am now to inform you that the enemy are still advancing, and that their vanguard had proceeded as far as *Bonum*, a small town about four miles this side of *Woodbridge*, according to my last intelligence. As to their number, reports are various; some say they were joined yesterday by a considerable reinforcement from *Staten-Island*. How far this fact may be true, I cannot determine; but from every information before, they were between six and seven thousand strong. I have for some time past supposed *Philadelphia* to be the object of their movements, and have every reason to believe my opinion well founded, the advices of sundry persons who have had an opportunity of mixing and conversing with them on the march agreeing that such is the report.

I have wrote to Governour *Livingston* upon the subject, requesting his utmost exertions to forward on every succour in his power. The same, I trust, will be attended to in *Pennsylvania*. Without a sufficient number of men and arms, their progress cannot be checked. At present our force is totally inadequate to any attempt.

Several officers belonging to the enemy, who were prisoners, have obtained permission to return. I have not yet sent in the names of those belonging to us, that are to be exchanged for 'em. By a *Virginia* paper, I perceive that Captain *Morgan* and Lieutenant *Heath*, who were taken prisoners at *Quebeck*, and now on parole, are promoted in the late arrangement of officers in that State, the former to a regiment, the latter to a majority. It would be well if they were released; but being *Virginians*, and not knowing that any gentlemen who were taken at the same time are so circumstanced, I have declined claiming their return

without the opinion of Congress, lest I should incur the charge of partiality.

I have sent forward Colonel *Humpton* to collect proper boats and craft at the ferry for transporting our troops, and it will be of infinite importance to have every other craft besides what he takes for the above purpose secured on the west side of *Delaware*, otherwise they may fall into the enemy's hands and facilitate their views.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. *Half after one o'clock, P. M.*—The enemy are fast advancing. Some of 'em are now in sight. All the men of the *Jersey* Flying-Camp, under General *Howe*, being applied to, have refused to continue longer in service.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON.

Brunswick, December 1, 1776.

Dear Sir: I wrote to you yesterday; but as from every information of the motions of the enemy, their intent seems plainly directed through this State, and then on to *Philadelphia*, I cannot help calling on you, in the most urgent manner, and begging you to fall upon proper means to draw forth the strength of your Province to my support.

The enemy's advanced parties were last night at *Bonum* town, four miles on this side of *Woodbridge*. They are impressing wagons and horses, and collecting cattle and sheep, which is a further proof of their intent to march a considerable distance. Unless my force is speedily augmented, it will be impossible for me to make any stand at this place, when the enemy advance, as I have not, including General *Williamson's* Militia, (say one thousand,) more than four thousand men. The Militia from the Counties of *Morris* and *Sussex* turn out slowly and reluctantly; whether owing to the want of officers of spirit to encourage them, or your summons not being regularly sent to them, I cannot say; but I have reason to believe there has been a deficiency in both cases. Designing men have been purposely sent among them, to influence some and intimidate others; and except gentlemen of spirit and character will appear among them, and rouse them, little can be expected. I wrote to General *Williamson* last night, and pressed him to exert himself; but I have reason to believe he has not the confidence of the people as much as could be wished. My accounts of the reinforcements to be expected from *Pennsylvania* are very encouraging; but, from the distance and necessary delays attending a sudden march, I cannot look for them under a week or ten days, in which time the enemy will have reached the *Delaware*, at least, if not opposed by more than my present numbers. General *Lee* is on his march down to join me; but if the enemy should throw in a body of men between us, he will be obliged to make a considerable circuit to avoid them. The boats and craft all along the *Delaware* side should be secured, particularly the *Durham* boats used for the transportation of produce down the river. Parties should be sent to all the landings, to have them removed to the other side, hauled up and put under proper guards. One such boat would transport a regiment of men.

I have, &c., Go. Washington.

To Governour *Livingston, New-Jersey*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Brunswick, December 1st, 1776.

Dear Sir: The enemy are advancing, and have got as far as *Woodbridge* and *Amboy*, and from information not to be doubted, mean to push to *Philadelphia*. The force I have with me is infinitely inferiour in number, and such as cannot give or promise the least successful opposition. It is greatly reduced by the departure of the *Maryland* Flying-Camp men, and sundry other causes. I must entreat you to hasten your march as much as possible, or your arrival may be too late to answer any valuable purpose. Your route, and the place to join me, I cannot particularize; in these instances you must be governed by circumstances, and the intelligence you receive. Let the former be secure. I hope to meet a considerable reinforcement of *Pennsylvania* Associators; it is said they seem spirited upon this occasion.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c., Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Lee*.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HOWE.

Brunswick, December 1st, 1776.

Sir: I am to acknowledge the honour of your favour of the 11th ultimo, and to thank you for your polite return of my letter to Mrs. *Washington*.

Agreeing to the proposition you were pleased to make for the exchange of such prisoners as can be conveniently collected, the gentlemen whose names are specified in the enclosed list, have permission to proceed immediately to *New-York*. Others, as soon as they arrive, will be allowed the same indulgence. At a proper season I shall require a return of the like number, and of equal rank.

Having directions from Congress to propose an exchange of Governour *Franklin* for Brigadier-General *Thompson*, I would take the liberty to submit the matter to your determination, and to request your answer upon the subject.

Besides the persons included in the enclosed list, Captain *Hesketh*, of the Seventh Regiment, his lady, three children, and two servant maids, were permitted to go in a few days ago.

I am, sir, with due respect, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington

To Lieutenant-General *Howe*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

December 1st, 1776, half after 7, p. m.

Sir: In a little time after I wrote you this evening, the enemy appeared in several parties on the heights opposite *Brunswick*, and were advancing in a large body towards the crossing place. We had a smart cannonade whilst we were parading our men, but without any or but little loss on either side. It being impossible to oppose them with our present force with the least prospect of success, we shall retreat to the west side of *Delaware*, and have advanced about eight miles, where it is hoped we shall meet a reinforcement sufficient to check their progress. I have sent Colonel *Humpton* forward to collect the necessary boats for our transportation, and conceive it proper, that the Militia from *Pennsylvania* should be ordered towards *Trenton*, that they may be ready to join us and act as occasion may require.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, President of Congress.

P. S. I wish my letters of yesterday may arrive safe, being informed that the return express, who had 'em, was idling his time and showing 'em on the road.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN LONDON, DATED NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 1, 1776.

General *Howe* is returned hither from the Army, and General *Clinton* is sailed from hence with six thousand men, some say to *Rhode-Island*. Our successes lately are very great. It is not alone what we have obtained, but the great good it will do the King's service, by heartening up those who were rather lukewarm in his interest. We have had such numbers flock in here, that but for the great precaution of our General we might have had a famine; but, considering every thing, provisions are very reasonable.

I should not wonder if the King's troops were put in possession of *Philadelphia* without striking a blow. A number of people are there of great worth, who, though they might contribute towards the continuation of the war at a distance, will, I believe, be the first to give up that city should an enemy appear before it; and this opinion is generally believed by the most intelligent here.

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London, January 14, 1777.

Yesterday an officer arrived from *Quebeck*, which place he left on the 1st of *December*. He left the troops in cantonments. An officer of the King's who had been a prisoner, was lately brought through the post of *Ticonderoga*, and reports that the Rebels were at work upon their fleet for next season, and says, that they had laid the keels of twenty-six boats, large and small. The General has, on our part, laid the keels of six, one of which is to be a twenty-gun ship. Little is to be apprehended from these preparations of the Rebels, who are in want of artillery,

and all manner of articles for equipping a fleet, and have applied to *Philadelphia* for shipwrights without success, that city having no assistance to spare, from the consideration of its own defence. The Army in general are very sickly, and particularly the *Brunswickers*. Out of twelve thousand, which was the complement, there are not above seven thousand effective. The following is the winter quarters of the Army: General Hospital of the Royal Artillery is at *Montreal;* General *Fraser's* corps of Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the *British* troops, and the Twenty-Fourth Regiment, upon the south side of the river *St. Lawrence*, at *Le Prarie, Longueil Boucher, Ville Varren*, and *Isle Therese, Ver Cheris, Bouchard, Contre Creur*, and *Grand St. Curs*. Fifty-Third Regiment at *Chamblee*. Thirty-First at *Baleuil, St. Charles, St. Dennis, St Anthony, St. Curs*, and *Sorrel*. Ninth and Forty-Seventh at *Isle Jesus, River de Prarie, St. Luce Recollect, St. Genevieve*, and *St. Lawrant*. Twenty-First at *St. John's*. Sixty-Second at *Point Levi*, &c., opposite to *Quebeck*. Twentieth at the *Isle aux Noix*, and Thirty-Fourth at *Quebeck*. The *Brunswickers* and *Hanau* troops quartered in the river *St. Lawrence*, from *Berthier* to *Three Rivers*, and forty miles below *Three Rivers*, in the road to *Quebeck; Maclean's* Royal Highland Emigrants, at *Chinage Bonne* and river *Du China;* Sir *Jo. Johnston's* Regiment, called the Royal New-Yorkers, at *Lachine, La Point Clare*, and *St. Ann;* the Eighth Regiment in the back posts of *Canada*.

There is one very principal fact respecting this unhappy *American* war, which ought not to escape the publick attention. It is the difference between the number of troops paid for, and the number in actual service. The *American* establishment is, at this time, fifty-four thousand men. General *Howe's* last returns are under twenty-two thousand; and General *Carleton's* under seven thousand; but not to quibble about half a dozen men, suppose them together to be thirty thousand; it is then a certain fact, that this country is paying for four-and-twenty thousand men more than are in the service. The specie is sent from *England* for the payment of these troops. Paper payments in *England* have increased amazingly; and the foreign exchange is rising against us. These are circumstances so very important and interesting, that they would in any other time have awakened the nation, and compelled the Court to abandon a system of government so very injurious to the publick welfare. But supposing *America* should be conquered, it has been rationally asked, What is the advantage gained? She cannot repay the enormous sum expended. But supposing *America* should not be conquered, what is the loss? Not only the trade, but the islands, and the strength of that country turned against us. The small progress made by so large an army and fleet in a whole campaign, and the non-effect of the Commissioners' last proclamation, show that the latter alternative is but too probable.

An able calculator affirms, that the expense of this war to *Great Britain*, from the time of the battle of *Lexington* to the end of the campaign of 1776, has not been less than thirty millions; and the loss of troops, *British* and foreigners, by slain, sickness, desertion, &c., has not been less during the same period than twenty thousand men. The *West-India* planters and merchants alone, estimate their losses in the year 1776, by the capture of their ships, at £1,800,000. The other trading vessels, with the ordnance store-ships, transports, &c., cannot be put at less than £500,000; and the sailors or hands on board the several ships, not less than three thousand.

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GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL TYLER.

Peekskill, December 1st, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have received your favour of the 29th ultimo, and thank you for the vigilance which you have discovered in securing the stores, &c., at *Tapan*. I should have ordered you to have returned to your former post before this time, but have waited for the moving of part of the Army on this side, whom I have been for several days expecting would cross over the river. They will most probably pass this day or to-morrow, after which you will join Colonel *Huntington* with your regiment, except two companies, which you are to detach, upon the receipt hereof, to Colonel *Hay's*, to protect such stores and provisions as are there until further orders. General *Scott* is now at Colonel *Hay's* with his brigade, but the time of their engagement expired yesterday, and I fear that not many of them will stay longer.

I am, dear sir, yours affectionately,

W. Heath.

Colonel *Tyler*.

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COLONEL SCAMMELL TO GENERAL HEATH.

General *Lee* desires me to inform you, that the State of *New-Jersey* is destitute of lead, and that it would be for the good of the service to forward a quantity on, if there is any to spare at *Peekskill*.

With the greatest respect, your most obedient,

A. Scammell, *D. A. G.*

Major-General *Heath*.

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NICHOLAS QUACKENBUSH TO JUDGE DUER.

Peekskill, December 1, 1776.

Sir: Major *Hughes* has desired me to send to you for three hundred bushels of oats, which are exceedingly wanted at his post.

Two divisions of the Army are now coming here, and Mr. *Pemart* assures me that there is not a sufficiency of hay to last two days; and as for grain, there is not more than three hundred bushels of corn in all the stores. You must be sensible of the difficulties that will ensue from the scarcity of forage at this time. Teams must stop, every thing remain in a confused state, and all owing to the want of hay and grain. I beg, therefore, (in behalf of Mr. *Hughes*,) that you would please to order large quantities of both to be forwarded immediately to this place.

I am, with due respect, sir, your very humble servant,

Nicholas Quackenbush.

To Honourable Judge *Duer*.

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ISAAC NICOLL TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Peekskill, December 1st, 1776.

Sir: I have just learned from good authority that there is a considerable quantity of goods and household furniture in stores near *Orange-Town*, belonging to Colonel *William Bayard*, and sundry other disaffected persons, who are now actually with the enemy. There is to a considerable amount in and about the camp, of goods—two horses, one yoke of oxen, and cart, belonging to *Joshua Barnes*—which goods was taken going to the enemy. If I could have proper authority I could have them secured for the good of the State.

From your sincere friend and humble servant,

Isaac Nicoll.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., at *Fishkill*.

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TIMOTHY DANIELSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, December 1st, 1776.

Sir: By order of the late *Massachusetts-Bay*, we have appointed *William Shepard, James Wilson, John Bailey, Thomas Nixon, Rufus Putnam*, and *Michael Jackson*, Esq., to the command of battalions, and *John Brooks*, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel in Colonel *Jackson's* battalion, who is absent by reason of a wound, and have commissioned them accordingly.

By order of the Committee of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, to appoint officers.

Timothy Danielson.

His Excellency *George Washington*, Esq., Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

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JOHN BARD TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Hyde-Park, December 1, 1776.

Sir: As teams appear at present much wanted at the *Fishkills*, I have taken the liberty to offer mine for the publick service for a week, which I beg may be at my private expense. By the same opportunity I have sent a small present of cider and fruit, which I beg the Convention will accept as a pepper-corn acknowledgment of my respect.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

John Bard.

To Colonel *Pierre Cortlandt*, Vice President of the honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN ELMENDORF.

December 1st, 1776.

Sir: The necessity of obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* river near *Pollepel's Island*, having been resolved upon as an object of the utmost moment to the safety of this State, the enclosed resolutions have been adopted. The advanced season requires that the preparations should be made with the utmost vigour; and from an opinion which the Committee of Safety entertain of your activity and your zeal for the common cause in which we are engaged, they have unanimously appointed you to the trust mentioned in the said resolutions. They entertain no doubt but that you will execute it with fidelity, despatch, and cheerfulness.

I am, sir, your very humble servant. By order of the Committee of Safety.

Captain *John Elmendorf*,
Mr. *Jeremiah Clarke*.

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GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Albany, 1st December, 1776.

Dear General: Enclosed is a publick letter I received yesterday evening. As it contained nothing that required immediate despatch, I deferred sending an express until this morning. General *Arnold* sends you his opinion of the subject of a boom, with a draft. I think I remember to have been told that the boom which is placed to defend the dock-yard at *Portsmouth* is a very heavy chain, which lays at the bottom of the water; at each end thereof is fastened a strong cable, which is fixed to a capstan; whenever it is necessary to raise the boom, the capstans are manned, and the chain hove as near the surface of the water as is thought necessary. This boom is placed under the cover of two strong batteries of cannon, and would also be protected by ships-of-war moored across the channel.

There is a report here that the King of *England* is dead.

I am, &c., Horatio Gates.

To the Honourable Major-General *Schuyler*.

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COLONEL WAYNE TO GENERAL GATES.

Ticonderoga, 1 December, 1776.

My dear General: I anxiously waited for your directions for my line of conduct as commander of this post until the 27th ultimo, when I was favoured with instructions from General *Schuyler*, viz: That sentries were necessary in an Army; that cleanliness was conducive to health; that chimneys ought to be swept; to send advice if soap and candles were wanting, &c. Indeed, the chief purport of them were to let me know that I had no power to do any one act, however necessary, without first obtaining permission in writing from Head-Quarters at *Saratoga* or *Albany*. Notwithstanding, I shall endeavour to recollect the heads of such matters as you recommended to me *viva voce*, and to render this place as tenable as possible during the time I remain on the ground.

I must take the liberty to remind you that the term for which the *Pennsylvanians* are engaged expires the 5th of next month; no time is therefore to be lost in relieving them. We shall be hard set to get the sick away; our hospital, or rather house of carnage, beggars all description, and shocks humanity to visit. The cause is obvious: no medicine or regimen on the ground suitable for the sick; no beds or straw to lay on; no covering to keep them warm, other than their own thin wretched clothing. We can't send them to *Fort George* as usual, the hospital being removed from thence to *Albany*, and the weather is so intensely cold that before they would reach there they would perish. It lays much in your power, by a proper representation to Congress, to have these defects supplied, and many other abuses redressed that tend to render the service almost intolerable to men and officers. But as you are a much better judge of those matters than me, I shall say no more on the subject.

Enclosed is the return of this garrison for this day, together with some of the references omitted in the unfinished plan of *Mount Independence* and *Ticonderoga*.

I have advice that Colonel *McGaw* and Colonel *De Haas* (two very good officers) are likely to be promoted over me. (Their being younger in rank than myself is a circumstance which, perhaps, you were not acquainted with.) If Congress see cause they undoubtedly have a right to do it; and for my own part, I shall with the utmost composure retire to my Sabian field, where love, where peace, and all that man can wish fondly, waits my return. I never will submit to be commanded by the man whom I commanded yesterday. I may be wrong, but I have custom and prejudice in my favour, and a pride common to a soldier, that will not be easily eradicated—*Inter nos*.

Whilst I am writing, an express brings advice of *Fort Washington* being in the hands of the enemy, and the whole garrison, consisting of two thousand men, killed or prisoners. My heart bleeds for poor *Washington*. Had he but Southern troops he would not be necessitated so often to fly before an enemy, whom, I fear, has lately had but too much reason to hold us cheap.

I wish to God that it was possible to lead the fifteen hundred hardy veterans you left with me to your assistance, but for one day; I would risk my life that they would sell their lives or liberties at too dear a rate for *Britons* to make many purchases. But as that is out of my power I can only wish you success, and assure you that the post you left to my charge shall be maintained; and that I shall always be ready to serve you with the best service of, dear sir, yours most sincerely, Ant'y Wayne.

Major-General *Gates*.

☞ As I was beginning to seal this, Captain *Church*, whom I had sent down the lake to gain intelligence of the situation of the enemy, returned and informed me that about four miles below *Crown-Point* he discovered a large topsail vessel coming up the lake. He made all the sail he could with his boat, and by the help of his oars got clear of her. She came to anchor at *Crown-Point*. I sent off two parties immediately by land to make further discoveries. They have not yet returned. Whether this is only a single vessel come on some scheme, or the advanced guard of the enemy, I can't determine. I think it is quite too late for an attack; however, I am preparing for the worst, and will, at all events, defend this place until succours can arrive. I would by no means have this occasion any alarm until you hear further from your humble servant, Ant'y Wayne.

3d December, 1776.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Sir: I leave Mr. *William Hoskins* to act for me in my absence, in *New-England*, preparing salted provisions for another season. I must beg your Excellency's directions to him from time to time as occasion may require, and warrants on the Paymaster-General from time to time as he may apply, as the season is coming on for providing necessaries for the winter, and next season the demands will be large. Whatever sums he may receive I shall hold myself accountable for.

I am, most respectfully, dear General, your most humble servant, Jos. Trumbull.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Providence, December 2, 1776—past 12 o'clock at night.

Honourable Gentlemen: I have just received undoubted information that a large fleet of square-rigged vessels was seen this morning between *Block-Island* and *Montauk*, steering for *Newport*. When the letters were writing to me from Colonel *Noyes* and Colonel *Sturton*, eleven sail were plainly discovered, and when the expresses came away several more hove in sight. I am mustering the Militia of this State, and must earnestly entreat you not to lose a moment's time in assembling a force to march immediately to the assistance of this State, and act as the exigency of affairs shall require. I also give this information by express to Governour *Trumbull*, and desire you to forward the enclosed immediately.

I am, in great haste, respectfully, your Honours' most obedient, humble servant, Nich's Cooke.

Honourable General Court of the *Massachusetts-Bay*.

JAMES BOWDOIN TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Boston, December 2, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed letter from General *Lee* is just received, which I beg leave to communicate to your Honours for your consideration.

Sergeant *Dawes* has just informed me that there is not a man left at *Dorchester* heights, by which the cannon there may be rendered useless and the barracks burnt by any person inimical and evil-minded enough to execute so infernal a business. I have desired him to attend your Honours, that you may know from him the state in which the posts at *Dorchester* are left, and he now waits on you accordingly.

I am, with great respect, your Honours' most obedient servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

I sent your Honours, per Mr. *Loring*, in the morning, a letter from Mr. *Gibson*, Secretary to the Treasury Board at *Philadelphia*, which I suppose he has communicated.

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BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

In Committee, Baltimore, 2d December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The officers in Colonel *Edward Cockey's* battalion has not yet received their commissions, and as the battalion are to meet in all next week, they conceive they have not a right to act without their commissions. We therefore request they may be forwarded immediately.

We are, gentlemen, your most humble servants,

WILL'M LUX,
AND. BUCHANAN,
JOHN MOALE,
SAM'L PURVIANCE, Jun.

The Hon. *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esq., President of the Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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ROBERT CUMMINS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Monckton Mills, 2d December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As our contract for supplying the troops with provisions will soon be out, and Mr. *Buchanan* declines any thing further in that way, if a further contract be made (though the latter unsuccessful to us) I would be glad to have an offer of it, as the season for putting up provisions for the summer is at hand, and our people whom we have had out to purchase the needful supply is returned, after engaging the chief part of what we shall want, or what you will allow for barreled beef or pork, should I find it answer to put up any more than will serve the present contract.

As there will be some salt wanted for the troops, the honourable the Council will please to let me have an order for the preference in the purchase of one hundred bushels, paying the current price. As I could not get any of the last, came to *Baltimore* without it. The messenger with this will wait your answer.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

ROBERT CUMMINS.

To the honourable the Council of Safety at *Annapolis*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COMMANDING OFFICERS OF BATTALIONS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 2, 1776.

SIR: The Army under General *Howe* has taken possession of *Brunswick*. General *Washington*, not having a sufficient number of men to oppose the enemy, is obliged to retreat before them. Vigour and spirit alone can save us. There is no time for words. Exert yourselves now like freemen.

By order of the Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President*.

To the Colonels or Commanding Officers of the respective Battalions.

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COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 3, 1776.]

Burlington, New-Jersey, December 2d, 1776.

SIR: When I did myself the honour of addressing you on the 30th ult., I had not the least idea that the enemy would at this season attempt a progress thro' the country. It seems but too probable that I was mistaken. I therefore beg leave to retract the resignation I then made, and as soon as I have disposed of Mrs. *Reed* and my children, will attend my office in the Army until a successor is appointed, or operations shall cease beyond all doubt.

Flattering myself that an uninterrupted attention for six months and my conduct during that time, will incline you to the most favourable construction of this measure, which proceeded from our unacquaintance of the state of things, I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOS. REED.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Princeton, December 2d, 1776.

SIR: I arrived here this morning with our troops, between eight and nine o'clock, when I received the honour of your letter of the 1st, with its enclosures. When the enemy first landed on this side the *North-River*, I apprehended that they meant to make a push this way; and knowing that the force which I had was not sufficient to oppose 'em, I wrote to General *Lee* to cross with the several Continental regiments in his division, and hoped he would have arrived before now. By some means or other he has been delayed. I suppose he has passed the river, as his letter of the 26th ultimo mentioned that he had marched a brigade the day before and should follow the next himself. The remainder of the troops I conceived necessary to guard the several passes through the Highlands, nor do I think they can be called from thence. Their number is very small, being reduced to very few by the departure of the troops who stood engaged till the 30th ultimo.

I understand there are now at *Bristol* several prisoners. As their exchange at this time cannot be effected with propriety, I think it will be necessary, under the present situation of affairs, to have 'em removed immediately to some more interiour place upon their paroles. If they remain they may be of infinite disadvantage.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO CAPTAIN OTTENDORF.

The Congress having been pleased to give you a commission of a Captain in the Army of the *United States*, you are hereby authorized and empowered to inlist a body of able-bodied men, especially *Germans*, to be under such regulations as the Congress shall hereafter direct, for the term of three years; and on the conditions and pay of the last establishment.

Given under my hand this second day of *December*, 1776.

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Captain *Ottendorf*.

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*An Estimate of the Provisions and Men at and near* TRENTON; *also the Cattle on the east side River* DELAWARE. *December* 2, 1776.

| | Barrels Flour. | Hhds. Beef. | Barrels Beef. | Quantity in hhds. and barrels. | Quantity Beef in bulk—lbs. wt. | Hhds. Rum. | Bushels Salt. | Boxes Soap and Candles. | Cattle on hand. | Barrels Pork. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| At the Landing | 2,000 | 40 | 100 | 62,000 | - | - | 250 | - | - | - |
| Mr. Tucker's Store | - | 33 | - | 33,000 | 100,000 | - | - | - | - | - |
| In sundry stores | - | - | - | - | - | 35 | - | - | - | - |
| Office cellar | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 150 | - | - |
| Sundry places on east side Delaware river. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1020 | - |
| At Penny-Town | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 200 |
| At Flemington | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 500 |
| At Jacob Service's, on Delaware | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 100 |
| Total | 2,000 | 73 | 100 | 95,000 | 100,000 | 35 | 250 | 150 | 1020 | 800 |

Attest: STEPHEN LOWRY, *A. D. C. G.*

*General Return of the Army.* TRENTON, *December* 1st, 1776.

| DISTRIBUTIONS.—REGIMENTS. | | OFFICERS PRESENT. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Rank and File. | | | | | Wanting to complete. | | | Alterations since last Return. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Commissioned. | | | | | | Staff. | | | | | | Non-Comm'd. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Colonels. | Lieutenant-Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Paymasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
| *Mercer's Brigade.* | Hutchinson's | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 19 | 10 | 179 | 74 | 15 | 95 | - | 363 | 1 | 2 | 187 | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| | Durkee | 1 | - | 1 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 12 | 343 | 52 | 28 | 55 | 4 | 482 | - | 2 | 158 | - | 2 | - | 2 |
| | Late Smallwood | - | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 210 | - | 534 | 23 | 2 | 769 | 15 | 14 | 387 | 1 | 6 | - | - |
| | Bradley | - | - | - | 3 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 11 | 2 | 86 | 1 | - | - | - | 87 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Rawlins | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | 36 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | 2 | - | 3 | 20 | 16 | 21 | 20 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 76 | 35 | 854 | 127 | 577 | 173 | 6 | 1701 | 16 | 18 | 732 | 1 | 8 | - | 4 |
| *Stevens's Brigade.* | Elliot | - | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | - | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 22 | 9 | 208 | 17 | - | - | - | 225 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Scott | - | - | - | 6 | 6 | - | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 17 | 8 | 140 | 7 | - | - | - | 147 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Bucknor | 1 | 1 | - | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 25 | 13 | 224 | 50 | - | 15 | - | 289 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | 1 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 20 | 8 | 16 | 1 | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 64 | 30 | 572 | 74 | - | 15 | - | 661 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *Ewing's Brigade.* | Montgomery | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 26 | 5 | 177 | 13 | 39 | 45 | - | 274 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| | Watts | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 18 | 5 | 134 | - | 28 | 63 | - | 225 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | McCalester | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 11 | 1 | 107 | 31 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Clotts | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 16 | 3 | 122 | 19 | 3 | 13 | - | 157 | 12 | 4 | 303 | 1 | - | - | 8 |
| | Moor | - | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 19 | 4 | 154 | 15 | 20 | 48 | 11 | 258 | - | - | - | 29 | - | - | 28 |
| | Total | 4 | 3 | 3 | 23 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 5 | - | 2 | 3 | 90 | 18 | 694 | 78 | 90 | 169 | 11 | 914 | 12 | 4 | 303 | 30 | - | - | 39 |
| *Hand's Brigade.* | Hand | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 15 | 246 | 40 | 52 | 22 | 4 | 364 | 5 | 3 | 356 | - | - | - | - |
| | Haller | 1 | - | - | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 23 | 8 | 250 | 12 | - | - | - | 262 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Cunningham | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 8 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 32 | 5 | 347 | 50 | 27 | - | 8 | 432 | 1 | 13 | 198 | - | - | - | - |
| | Total | 3 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 79 | 28 | 843 | 102 | 79 | 22 | 12 | 1058 | 6 | 16 | 554 | - | - | - | - |

RETURN OF OFFICERS IN GENERAL SULLIVAN'S BRIGADE.

## *Continental Eleventh Regiment of Foot*, 1776.

*Field Officers:* James Reed.....Colonel.
Israel Gilman.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Nathan Hale.....Major.

*Staff Officers:* .....Chaplain.
Ezra Green.....Surgeon.
Nathaniel Breed.....Mate.

*Commissioned Officers.*

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ezra Towne, | Joseph Churchel, | James Taggard, | Palatiah Whitemore, |
| John Jones, | Elijah Clayes, | James Otis, *Adjutant*, | Silvanus Reed, |
| Levi Spaulding, | George Aldrich, | Thomas Boffee, | William Lee, |
| | Thomas Grover, | Thompson Maxwell, | Gillan Taylor, |
| Robert Oliver, | Isaac Farewell, | Richard Coughlare, | Jonathan Emerson, |
| Jacob Hinds, | Isaac Stone, | Isaac Fry, *Quartermaster*, | Benjamin Davis, |
| Benjamin Mann, | Samuel Pattingale, | Jonathan Collis, | Wm. Adrian Hawkins, |
| David Place. | Amas Emerson. | Aaron Hanson. | Stephen Carter. |

## *Continental Fourth Regiment of Foot.*

*Field Officers:* John Nixon.....Colonel.
Thomas Nixon.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Andrew Colburn.....Major.

*Staff Officers:* Hezekiah Smith.....Chaplain.
Isaac Spafford.....Surgeon.
Nathan Burnap.....Mate.

*Commissioned Officers.*

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Butler, | Silas Walker, | John Sawyer, | Warham Wheeler, |
| Micajah Gleason, | James Kimball, | Abel Holden, *Adjutant*, | Peter Cloyes, |
| Ebenezer Winship, | Nathan Wheeler, | Richard Buckminster, | Mason Wattles, |
| Jeremiah Gilman, | Joseph Smith, | John White, *Quartermaster*, | Simon Sartwell, |
| Moses McFarland, | | Joseph Wood, | Dudly Taylor, |
| Adam Wheeler, | Jonathan Hill, | Benjamin Haywood, | Ephraim Minot, |
| Thomas Barnes, | Silas Bent, | William Lemoul, | Isaac Nichols, |
| Joseph Thompson. | William Toogood. | Nath'l Critteton. | Ephraim Wheeler. |

## *Continental Fifth Regiment of Foot.*

*Field Officers:* John Starks.....Colonel.
Thomas Poor.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
John Moore.....Major.

*Staff Officers:* Noah Cook.....Chaplain.
Goss.....Surgeon.
Josiah Chase.....Mate.

*Commissioned Officers.*

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| George Reid, | | Robert Barnett, | Caleb Stark, |
| *Henry Dearbon, | Amos Morrill, | Mich'l McClary, | Samuel Bradford, |
| Daniel Moore, | Ebenezer Frye, | Ammi Andrews, | Edward Evens, |
| Joshua Abbott, | Joseph Sober, | Abiel Chandler, *Adjutant*, | Ephraim Colby, |
| Elisha Woodbury, | *Nath'l Hutchins, | Henry Perkinson, *Quartermaster*, | John Patten, |
| Samuel Richards, | James McCauley, | Daniel Livermore, | Timothy Blake, |
| John Hale, | Thomas Hardy, | Jesse Karr, | Thomas Richard, |
| Silas Walker. | Asa Coburn. | A. Aaron Steel. | Isaac Wormer. |

N. B. Those of this mark (*) are in *Canada*.

RETURN OF OFFICERS IN GENERAL SULLIVAN'S BRIGADE—Continued.

*Continental Eighth Regiment of Foot.*

*Field Officers:* Enoch Poor.....Colonel.
John McDuffee.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Joseph Cilley.....Major.

*Staff Officers:* Caleb Greenleaf Adams.....Surgeon.
William Sawyer.....Mate.

*Commissioned Officers.*

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Winborn Adams,<br>Jeremiah Clough,<br>Philip Tilton,<br>Benjamin Titcomb,<br>Jonathan Wentworth,<br>James Norris,<br>Richard Shortridge,<br>Fred. Mordant Bell. | Zachariah Beal,<br>Thomas Lyford,<br>Benjamin Kimball,<br>William Smith,<br>James Carr,<br>Jonathan Frye,<br>Richard Weare,<br>James Mathes. | Jeremiah Fogg, *Quartermaster,*<br>Edward Parsons, *Adjutant,*<br>Joseph Huntoon,<br>Nathaniel McClintock,<br>Jethro Herd,<br>William Rowell,<br>Joshua Lovejoy,<br>Stephen Jones Thomas. | John Colcord,<br>Jonathan Heath,<br>Robert Pike,<br>Enoch Chase,<br>Samuel Nute,<br>Charles Glidden,<br>Stephen Abbott,<br>Jacob Lowe. |

*Continental Nineteenth Regiment of Foot.*

*Field Officers:* Charles Webb.....Colonel.
Street Hall.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
John Brooks.....Major.

*Staff Officers:* Joseph Buckminster.....Chaplain.
Francis Fogues.....Surgeon.
Isaac Swift.....Mate.

*Commissioned Officers.*

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Haite,<br>Nathaniel Tuttle,<br>Edward Shipman,<br>Isaac Bostwick,<br>Peter Perit,<br>Eli Levensworth,<br>William Hull,<br>Nathan Hale. | Joseph Allen Wright,<br>Eli Catlin,<br>John Yates,<br>Samuel Hurlbut,<br>Charles Pond,<br>Robert Lewis,<br>Joseph Sumway,<br>Alpheus Chapman. | Reuben Scofield,<br>Jesse Grant,<br>Nathan Whittlesey,<br>Elisha Bostwick,<br>Samuel Sanford,<br>Charles Webb, Jun., *Adjutant,*<br>William Clarke,<br>John Elderkins, *Quartermaster.* | Stephen Betto,<br>Amos Johnson,<br>Selah Benton,<br>Amos Bostwick,<br>William Smith,<br>John Ball,<br>Charles Whittlesey,<br>George Hurlbut. |

*Continental Twenty-Seventh Regiment of Foot.*

*Field Officers:* Israel Hutchinson.....Colonel.
Benjamin Holden.....Lieutenant-Colonel.
Ezra Putnam.....Major.

*Staff Officers:* Elisha Smith.....Chaplain.
Thomas Welch.....Surgeon.
Nathan Oliver.....Mate.

*Commissioned Officers.*

| *Captains.* | *First Lieutenants.* | *Second Lieutenants.* | *Ensigns.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Benja. Kimball,<br>Ezra Newhall,<br>Enoch Putnam,<br>Nathan Browne,<br>John Lowe,<br>Addison Richardson,<br>Billy Porter,<br>John Baker. | Ephraim Emerton,<br>Archelaus Batchelder,<br>Job Whipple,<br>Thomas Downing,<br>Nathaniel Cleaves,<br>Francis Cox,<br>Haffield White,<br>John Pierce. | Tarrant Putnam, *Adjutant,*<br>Frederick Breed,<br>Benja. Gardiner,<br>Thomas White,<br>Joseph Herrick,<br>David Poor,<br>Samuel Cutter,<br>Jona. Trask. | Elisha Hutchinson,<br>John Watts,<br>John Tucker,<br>Gibson Clough,<br>Luke Roundy,<br>Jeremiah Putnam,<br>Eliphalet Perley,<br>Ezekiel Cooper. |

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER RECEIVED IN LONDON FROM A FIELD OFFICER IN THE KING'S ARMY, DATED NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 2, 1776.

The troops under General Lord *Cornwallis*, after driving the Rebels from *Fort Lee*, or *Fort Constitution*, in *New-Jersey*, proceeded from *Hackinsack* to *Newark*, and from *Newark* to *Elizabethtown*, where they found great quantities of stores, amongst which are twenty tons of musket bullets. The Rebels continue flying before our Army. Lord *Cornwallis* took the fort opposite *Brunswick*, plunged into *Raritan* river, and seized the town. Mr. *Washington* had orders from the Congress to rally and defend that post, but he sent them word he could not. He was seen retreating with two brigades to *Trenton*, where they talk of resisting; but such a panick has seized the Rebels, that no part of the *Jerseys* will hold them, and I doubt whether *Philadelphia* itself will stop their career. The Congress have lost their authority. They ordered all the Militia of *Pennsylvania* to be drawn out; they refused to march. Their second order was for two companies of every regiment to be imbodied, and to repair to *Washington*, but they refused also. The Congress consists now of only seven members at *Philadelphia*, and they are in such consternation that they know not what to do. The two *Adamses* are in *New-England; Franklin* gone to *France; Lynch* has lost his senses; *Rutledge* is gone home disgusted; *Dana* is persecuting at *Albany;* and *Jay*'s in the County playing as bad a part; so that the fools have lost the assistance of the knaves. However, should they embrace the enclosed proclamation, they may yet escape the halter, which I hear it is this night expected will be the case of many repenting sinners; and in *Connecticut* in particular, where they are much divided. Honest *David Matthews*, the Mayor, has made his escape from them, and arrived here this day. He was conducted by the Church of *England* people; they faithfully concealed him, although seven hundred dollars were offered by an advertisement which some poor man showed him. They conveyed him safely. All the Militia in *Connecticut* had been ordered out by *Trumbull*, the Governour, but they would not assemble, and he's at his wit's end. The fleet under Sir *Peter Parker*, consisting of twenty-three men-of-war, sailed from *Sandy-Hook* yesterday; and transports, with the troops and some frigates, passed *Hell-Gate*, and proceeded up the *Sound* this morning for *Rhode-Island*, where Lord High Admiral *Hopkins* and his Navy are supposed to be riding. Most of the inhabitants have quitted the island; and Mr. *Matthews* informs us that mobs began to rise in the country, crying out for peace. The paper currency of the Congress has lost its credit, and sells at thirty silver dollars the hundred. Salt is eight dollars the bushel in *New-England*, and not easily to be had at any rate. General *Howe* joins the Army to-morrow morning in the *Jerseys*, whither I shall accompany him. An exchange of prisoners, man for man, has taken place, and some of the Seventh and Twenty-Sixth Regiments arrived this day from *Philadelphia*. The Rebels have seized many Tories, and expected they would be exchanged too, but General *Howe* will not; because, if he should seize the Whigs for that purpose, it would occasion great disorder, and protract the disputes. The city fails daily, &c., &c.

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COLONEL SARGEANT TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Haverstraw, December 2, 1776.

SIR: The bearer, Mr. *Joseph Allen*, is the person originally intended as Paymaster to the Sixteenth Regiment, and would have waited on your Excellency last *September*, but your orders coming out for a proper person to be employed from each regiment to be sent to procure clothing for the

diers, I sent him, knowing him to be well qualified for that business. As he has been employed from the first *October*, make no doubt your Excellency will appoint him from that time.

Your Excellency's humble servant,

PAUL DUDLEY SARGEANT.

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COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Ramapough, 2d December, 1776.

SIR: By the best information there are not more than a thousand of the enemy at *Hackensack*; their main body at *Elizabethtown*. Between this and that there is a fine country, of twenty or thirty miles square, full of necessaries that is furnishing supplies to them. Ought they not to be interrupted? Is it not feasible to possess ourselves of *Hackensack*? Colonel *Tyler's* regiment is not yet returned from *Toppon*. Am doing all in my power to forward my works and barracks; and am, most respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

JED. HUNTINGTON.

Major-General *Heath*.

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GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fort Montgomery, December 2d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I received the resolve sent to me by your honourable House, setting forth the necessity of Colonel *Humphrey's* and *Snyder's* regiments continuing till the first of *January* next. But Colonel *Snyder's* regiment went away from here the 27th and 28th of *November* last, which was before I received the resolve. I had the resolve read to Colonel *Humphrey's* regiment, but without success. Upon some persuasion the officers all turned out—three sergeants, two corporals, and two privates; but, in my opinion, had the officers in general exerted themselves, many of the men might have been persuaded to stay another month; but to do the regiment justice, there was some good officers in it, as well as men. Lieutenant *Hamille*, who acted as Adjutant, and Lieutenant *Talmage* is still employed here.

I am very sorry to hear that Captain *Rosekrans*, of my regiment, is not provided for in the new arrangement. When I heard he was not amongst the list of Captains, I imagined he was promoted to the rank of a Field Officer, which I think he was deserving of, for I must say, without any reflection on the rest of the officers of the regiment, and I believe it will be acknowledged by the most of them, that he was the best officer in it. And as he was the oldest officer, he often had the command of this garrison before I moved here. Lieutenant *Lee*, who was his Lieutenant, and a good officer, would have been willing to serve under him as he was; but as he is appointed under another much below his rank, he talks of declining. But I hope it is not too late to continue them yet, agreeable to their rank.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General*.

To the President of the honourable Convention now sitting at *Fishkill*.

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GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fort Montgomery, December 2d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed I send your Honour a return of the men in this garrison, including those on the fortifications on the south side of *Puplopen's Kill* or creek. The garrison at *Fort Constitution* and *Fort Independent* is supplied by my brother's brigade, and of consequence he will return them in his return. Since my last return, I moved two companies of my regiment from *Fort Constitution* to the fort on the south side of the creek where Colonel *Snyder's* regiment was left me. As I have two separate garrisons here, one on each side of the creek, I am obliged to keep about seventy men on guard at both places. I have likewise fifty men who does duty out of the five companies of my regiment in the artillery, so that I will not be able to carry on any work here, without it be getting of fire-wood and the necessary duty about the garrisons. You will see by the return that I have not one Field Officer with me.

I would be glad to know if there is any lime or brick at *Peekskill*, as I have one stack of chimneys to build in the barracks on the south side of the creek.

I am, sir, your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General*.

To Hon. Major-General *Heath*, Head-Quarters, *Peekskill*.

GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fort Constitution, 2d December, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: We are distressed for want of boats and tools to carry on our works here. The latter we know you can't supply us with further than you already have; but as I presume General *Lee's* division must have crossed the river, or at least will before this reaches you, must beg you will order us all the boats and pettyaugers and scows you can spare from *Peek's Kill* and the ferry. Captain *Dobbs* will be best able to judge which are fittest for our business; and I have sent an officer with a strong party to take charge of them, and bring them up loaded with stone, as they can be very conveniently loaded between *Peek's Kill* and this. I wish Captain *Godwin* and some other of my officers who were left behind on court-martial, were ordered to join their regiments, as their companies are little worth without them?

I am, dear sir, yours most affectionately,

GEO. CLINTON.

The meal ordered here, on delivery, fell short twelve pounds of the weight mentioned in Mr. *Quackenboss's* note. Will you be kind enough to mention this to him?

To the Honourable Major-General *Heath*.

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MEMORIAL OF JOHN HATHORN, OF GOSHEN.

Goshen, December 2d, 1776.

*Gentlemen, the Memorial of John Hathorn, of the County of* ORANGE, *humbly showeth:*

That your memorialist had a small quantity of salt in Mr. *William Ellison's* store, at *New-Windsor*; that there was not more than he had engaged to his neighbours, and was obliged to keep for his own use; that a large number of men, whose names your memorialist can discover, without any legal authority, as he conceives, have taken out of said store, as well the salt of your memorialist (except one bushel) as of other persons; and that your memorialist is in the greatest want of salt for his own use. That unless a check is put to such unjustifiable proceedings, your memorialist apprehending, from the seeming disorderly spirit at present pervading among the common people, his property, as well as those of others, will be very insecure. He therefore humbly prays, that this honourable House would be pleased to take the premises into consideration, and grant such relief as to them shall seem meet; and your memorialist shall ever pray.

I am, with the greatest esteem, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JOHN HATHORN.

The honourable Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, December 2, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 29th ultimo, and am glad to hear of your Excellency's safe arrival at *Brunswick*, without the least interruption from the enemy. I am happy to find my honest endeavours to do my duty crowned with your Excellency's approbation.

In addition to the stores which I before mentioned to have been secured and brought off, a quantity of pearl-ash, beeswax, oil, &c., and two brass patereros, which belong to the States, have been brought here. An invoice thereof is enclosed. I have ordered them to *Fishkill*. I have also secured ten tons of lead, which is sent to the same place.

I am paying the utmost attention to the plan for obstructing *Hudson's* river, and have detached General *George Clinton*, with two of his strongest regiments, to push this most important business. They serve for a garrison for *Fort Constitution* at the same time that they are at this duty.

General *Scott's* brigade, Colonel *Tash's* and Colonel *Snider's* regiments, are gone home, except about one hundred of General *Scott's* brigade that have been prevailed upon to stay a little longer. The Convention of the State of *New-York* had sent them an address and fifteen hundred pounds currency, as a gratuity to encourage them to continue a month longer. I did all in my power to prevail upon them, and also transmitted to General *Scott* your Ex-

cellency's letter, urging the expediency of their staying at this time; but all was in vain; home they must go; but many mean to inlist, as they say, after they have seen their friends.

The troops now at this post are but few, and much scattered, which will put it out of our power to accomplish so much work as I fear will be expected; but no endeavours of mine shall be wanting.

I have just received a number of resolves from the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*, which I take the liberty to enclose, not knowing whether your Excellency has as yet received them.

General *Lee* is this day beginning to pass the river with his division; and numbers of the Northern Army we are told are on their march to join you. So that I hope soon to congratulate your Excellency on some signal victory over the enemy, unless upon the approach of the reinforcements they should give you the slip, which I rather think will be the case.

I have the honour to be, with respect and esteem, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. Heath.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL WEISSENFELS TO ROBERT YATES.

Peekskill, December 2d, 1776.

Dear Sir: The constant movement of the Army makes it somewhat difficult with respect to the speedy raising recruits for the regiment, notwithstanding I have delivered some officers, who are on the spot, the cash for the above purpose, and doubt not we will fit up the men as fast as circumstances permit.

Enclosed is a list of officers who will not serve, together with the names of those who I humbly presume to recommend. Doctor *Woodrof* would be glad to be appointed in Colonel *Van Cortlandt's* regiment. He is now Surgeon in late Colonel *Ritzema's*, and a good Surgeon. As for a Sugeon's Mate, I know none, except one *Mincma*, who, I fear, is taken prisoner, as he was on the other side with the sick. The Chaplain I hope you have been pleased to appoint, and also the Paymaster; both of whom I made bold to recommend last time I had the honour of being with you.

I would be much obliged to you to communicate to me the arrangements of the other *York* battalion; and with great respect I remain, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Fred. Weissenfels.

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*Officers who refuse to serve.*

Captain *John Johnson;*
Captain *Richard Platt*, Brigade-Major;
Captain *Elijah Hunter;*
Lieutenant *James M. Hughes;*
Lieutenant *John Johnson.*

*Officers whom I humbly propose to recommend.*

2d. Captain *Copp;* } All of Colonel
1st. Captain *Gershom Mott;* } *Nicholson's*
3d. Captain *John Brogdon;* } Regiment.
Lieutenant *Hugh McClallan;*
Lieutenant *John Nicolls;*
Lieutenant *Simon Crygier;*
Doctor, *Hunlock Woodroof;*
Paymaster, *Christopher Bennet;*
Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Gano.*

I am sorry to inform you that Captain *Pelton* does not answer my expectation, and therefore should be sorry that he should be the oldest Captain, but would presume to mention that Captain *Graham* is much more deserving.

Fred. Weissenfels.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., at *Fishkill.*

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COLONEL WEISSENFELS TO ROBERT HARPUR.

Peekskill, December 2d, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have wrote to Mr. *Robert Yates*, and annexed a list of officers who will not serve, and who, I think, will serve. I also humbly recommend them to your notice. *Simeon Crygier* is on the list for an Ensignсy, in the room of *Herring*, who refuses. By my personal knowledge of those gentlemen I have recommended, I am very sure they will do honour to the service and their country.

I beg, dear sir, you would be pleased to save one dozen of those shirts I bought, as the officers will be glad to have some. As soon as we return from the other side of the river, I will send for them. God grant us success in our expedition, for to-morrow we shall go to the *Jerseys*. I am in great expectation of doing something at the close of the year.

With much respect, I am, dear sir, your most humble servant,

Fred. Weissenfels.

*Robert Harpur*, Esq., at *Fishkill.*

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JAMES DUANE TO ROBERT HARPUR.

Manor Livingston, 2d December, 1776.

Gentlemen: Be pleased to examine whether there is a vacancy for the bearer, recommended by Mr. *Yates*, and in that case give him his recruiting orders. I am told Colonel *Van Schaack's* officers have already more than their complement.

To Mr. *Yates* I have written in pressing terms, to repair to the *Fishkills*. The service suffers but too much from the impediments to the arrangement which arise from his long absence.

I am, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

Jas. Duane.

To *Robert Harpur*, Esq., and the other Members of the Committee of Arrangement in Convention, *Fishkills.*

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JAMES CLAY TO CUMBERLAND DELEGATES IN NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Brattleborough, December ye 2, 1776.

Gentlemen: At your desire, Captain *Clay*, Chairman of the Committee for said County, has taken pains to call us together, in order to make a representation to the State aforesaid, respecting the broken situation of this County. It is our opinion if we, who are only a part of the Committee for said County, should do any thing of that nature, it would make uneasiness in this County, and we think that as you represent the County, it is your indispensable duty to make a true representation thereof.

James Clay, *Chairman.*
John Bridgeman, John Sergeants,
Samuel Nichols, Israel Smith,
Luke Knowlton, Arad Hunt.
Samuel King,

To Messrs. *John Session* and *Simon Stevens*, Esqs., Representatives of the County of *Cumberland*, and State of *New-York.*

P. S. There was but nine members that voted for the withdrawing the letter, and eight against it. And after the vote was passed, and another that you have a copy of, the eight members withdrew, and broke up the Committee; otherwise the Committee would have represented the broken state of the inhabitants of the County as a body.

James Clay,
*Chairman of the County Committee.*

To Messrs. *John Session* and *Simon Stevens*, Esqs.

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COURT OF INQUIRY ON GENERAL ARNOLD.

A Court of Inquiry held at *Albany*, the 2d *December*, 1776, to examine into the cause of complaint exhibited by Colonel *Moses Hazen* against Brigadier-General *Arnold;* Brigadier-General *Bricket*, President; Colonel *Wigglesworth*, Colonel *Cortlandt*, Members.

Colonel *Hazen* produced a writing on the back of a receipt, which was given by him at *Chamblee*, that was delivered the Commissioners by General *Arnold*, as follows:

"Thirty kegs rum for the use of the garrison, one load of which Mr. *Daniel Tucker* acquaints me was delivered to a *Frenchman* who kept tavern at *Chamblee*. Colonel *Hazen* can best tell how much he sold.

"One keg brandy for his private use, taken without my order, as was the tobacco, which is to be charged to his

account. The bales contained about one hundred and fifty pounds each. B. Arnold, *B. General.*"

Mr. *Daniel Tucker* being duly sworn, says, that coming out of the fort at *Chamblee*, he saw a cart loaded with kegs, about eight or ten. He asked the man that drove it, what he had in his kegs? Was answered it was rum he had brought from *La Prairie*, and was going into the village to deliver it to a tavern-keeper by Colonel *Hazen's* order.

Colonel *Hazen* then asked the evidence whether he knew Mr. *Bell*, of *Chamblee*, and if he sold rum? Answered he knew him, and he sold rum and wine.

2*d Question.* Whether he knew his handwriting? Answered, Yes.

Colonel *Hazen* then produced a writing, which the evidence thinks was writ by Mr. *Bell*, wherein he charges the publick with sixty gallons rum lent Colonel *Hazen* and Mr. *McCarty*.

General *Arnold* then asked the evidence whether the rum he saw on the cart was going to *Bell's* or the *French* tavern.

2*d Question* by General *Arnold*. Whether it was usual to keep rum belonging to the publick at the *French* tavern? Answered, not as he knew, as it was not the post he was stationed at.

The evidence being asked what time he saw the rum go to the tavern, and when he acquainted General *Arnold* of it? Answered, the beginning of *June* last, and acquainted General *Arnold* of it at *Montreal* and at *Crown-Point*.

Colonel *Hazen* produced sundry papers, giving him the command of the district of *Montreal*, including *Chamblee* and *St. John's;* superintending the works, contracting for provisions, commanding the *French* Militia, &c., &c., &c.

The Court, after due deliberation, are of opinion that the words "Colonel *Hazen* can best tell how much he sold," which is part of the note on the back of the receipt delivered the Commissioners by General *Arnold*, are an aspersion of Colonel *Hazen's* character, and therefore think the complaint just.

James Brickett, *President.*

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Saratoga, December 2, 1776.

Sir: Your favour of the 28th ultimo, covering the resolutions of the Committee of Safety and draft of part of *Hudson's* river, I had the honour to receive this afternoon. I am much obliged by the favourable opinion the Committee of Safety is pleased to entertain of me. I wish I could be in sentiment with them, and be convinced that I was equal to the business they wish me to undertake. It is truly important, and will claim more attention than it will be possible for me to bestow on it, without neglecting a variety of other matters that are also indispensably necessary to be attended to; I will nevertheless most cheerfully give the utmost of my assistance.

As the Committee has not pointed out any particular mode of executing the work, I take the liberty to suggest my ideas on the subject. Experience has taught us that a chain sufficiently long to reach across the river ought to have better supports than floating logs—perhaps caissons, from thirty to forty feet square, according to the depth of the water where they are to be sunken, might answer the end. At the place in question the river is about six thousand feet wide; if, therefore, twenty-five such caissons were sunk at nearly equal distances, the intermediate space between each would be about two hundred feet. The tops of the caissons might come up to within two feet of the surface of the water at ebb tide, and the chain run through them at about six feet below the upper part of the caissons; but as the chain might not be sufficiently strong to withstand the great force of a ship coming against it under sail, and with the tide, a number of floats, each composed of six large pine logs, of fifty feet long, might be made; the logs fastened to each other with strong chains, eight or ten feet long, with an eye-bolt at each end and through the log, forelocked and keyed; the two extremes of those six logs to be fastened by a chain to two of the caissons. These thus fastened and let go with the tide of ebb, will form the two sides of triangle, the angular point of which will be about one hundred and twenty feet from the line of caissons, and there they should be kept by anchors. If a ship should come against these logs, the anchor will probably drag, may prevent the logs from breaking, and deaden the ship's way so much that the chain will not break. It is evident I suppose that we shall have batteries on the island and the western shore, to prevent the enemy from laying alongside of the caissons, in order to cut the chain. One caisson might be so constructed as to serve for a battery en barbet, and the guns being so near the surface of the water would make it extremely dangerous for a ship to come within reach of them. The greatest danger and difficulty we have to dread in sinking caissons is from large rocks in the bottom of the river, but that may also be overcome.

I cannot at present think of a better plan, and if the Committee approve of it, no time should be lost in procuring the timber, which must be got in the vicinity of *Fishkill*, as the season is so far advanced that what might be got here cannot be carried down until the winter breaks up. If the timber cannot be procured below, I should wish to be advised of it immediately, that I might employ people about *Albany* not only to prepare the timber, but to frame it, so as that the caissons may be expeditiously sunk in the spring. About two thousand pieces of thirty feet long and not less than ten by twelve inches square, and five hundred pieces of fifty feet long, twelve inches square, will be wanted, and about ten thousand inch and half plank.

I hope in fourteen days from this time to do myself the pleasure to pay my respects to Convention on my way to *Philadelphia*.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

Ph. Schuyler.

*Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Chairman &c., &c.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Saratoga, December 3d, 1776.

Sir: The time of inlistment of the troops that now garrison *Tyonderoga*, *Fort George*, &c., will expire on the last day of this month, and I fear they cannot be prevailed upon to remain there after that; it is therefore of the utmost consequence that troops should be expedited into this department the soonest possible. And agreeable to the enclosed resolution of Congress, I do myself the honour to entreat you to order such parts of each regiment to be raised in your State for this department as can be got ready, to march so as that they may arrive at *Albany* by the latter end of this month.

As it is impossible to prevent the enemy from gaining intelligence of what passes in this quarter, should the troops now at *Tyonderoga* leave it before others come up to relieve them, General *Carleton* will doubtless take the advantage of it, and possess himself of that important post; and what the consequences will be are easily conceived. I do not therefore doubt but that every exertion will be made by your State to hasten on the troops.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient humble servant,

Ph. Schuyler.

To the honourable President of the State of *Massachusetts*.

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Newport, December 2, 1776.

The sloop *Providence*, Captain *Hacker*, arrived in a certain port last *Wednesday* from a cruise, in company with the *Alfred*, having taken a rich ship, a brig, and snow; the brig we mentioned in our last to have arrived safe; and it is said the *Alfred* and the other two prizes are safe in port at the eastward.

A gentleman arrived in town on *Saturday* from *Boston*, informs that a privateer from the eastward had lately taken a ship with dry goods, &c., whose cargo cost thirty-seven thousand pounds sterling.

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MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Boston, December 2d, 1776.

Sir: We have the honour to enclose you, by order of the General Assembly of this State, the petition and plan of Messrs. *Fanueil* and others, *French* gentlemen, together with the proceedings of the Assembly thereon, and to recommend them to the immediate notice of the honourable Congress, as the Assembly are of opinion the plan of these gentlemen may be adopted and improved by the Congress

to the great benefit of the *United States*. They hope the Congress will take the matter speedily into consideration, as the gentlemen have been here upon considerable expense waiting the success of their application, and seem desirous of entering into their service.

FRANCIS DANA.

By order of the Committee.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the honourable Continental Congress.

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The Committee of both Houses upon the Memorial of Messrs. *Fanueil* and others, *French* gentlemen, have attended that service, and beg leave to report it as their opinion, that the proposal of raising one or more regiments to be officered by *French* gentlemen, appears to be easily effected, and will be attended with important consequences to the *United States*, especially as there are many *Canadians* in different parts of the *United States* who, from the best information, will readily enter into the service. That therefore the plan and papers herewith, be forthwith transmitted to Congress, recommending the same to their immediate notice, as Monsieur *Fanueil* is now at considerable expense for himself, and the other *French* gentlemen with him, waiting the success of their application.

JOHN WHETCOMB, *per order*.

IN COUNCIL, *November* 26th, 1776.—Read and accepted, and thereupon *Resolved*, That *Francis Dana*, Esq., be a Committee, with such as the honourable House shall appoint, to write to the honourable Congress respecting the same.

Sent down for concurrence.

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *November* 29th, 1776.—Read and concurred, and Brigadier *Palmer* and Colonel *Orne* are joined.

SAM'L FREEMAN,
*Speaker pro tempore*.

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JOHN LANGDON TO MESHECH WEARE.

Portsmouth, December 2, 1776.

SIR: Captain *Gardner* waits on you for a commission for a very fine ship of twenty guns, which I intend sending out soon. Your Honour will particularly serve me if you will send it immediately. If it's necessary that I should come up to *Exeter*, shall come, but hope it can be done without, as I am greatly hurried.

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN LANGDON.

Honourable *Meshech Weare*, Esq.

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JOSIAH BARTLETT TO WILLIAM WHIPPLE.

Kingstown, December 2d, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR: I am to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 8th ultimo, and want to hear the determination of Congress about increasing the soldiers' wages. Our Court had voted to give our men the same wages that the *Massachusetts* gave; and knowing that they had voted ten dollars per month, our Committee that went to appoint the officers, have given orders and have inlisted a number of men on those terms, so that it will be impossible now to raise them on any lower terms. They have appointed officers for but two regiments, viz: in *Stark's* and *Poor's*. General *Ward* gave orders to Colonel *Long* to march his regiment from *Portsmouth* to *Ticonderoga*, but I understand the men say they inlisted on the encouragement given them by their officers that they should not be called away out of the Province, and many of them, I am informed, refuse absolutely to march. Many necessaries are wanting for them before they can go, which will take some time to procure, and they have not received any pay except one month's wages from this State.

General *Washington* has requested a thousand more men from this State to be sent him, to be inlisted till the 1st of *March*. The General Court, which began their sitting last *Thursday*, has it now under consideration, and will, I believe, comply with his request. Had we received his letter seasonably, we should have sent to our men that are with that Army, and I believe could have prevailed on them to have tarried for that time, but by some mischance his letter, though dated the 6th ultimo, did not arrive till the latter end of last week.

We have for some time had very disagreeable news from the Army. The Tories here say the Regulars drive our Army before them like a parcel of sheep; that they have driven them forty or fifty miles with the greatest precipitation; and, by our late accounts, we learn that the enemy are in possession of the forts *Washington* and *Lee*, and some say, with all their artillery, stores, &c., and between two and three thousand men taken prisoners; but we have no certain accounts, only common fame, and I hope it will not prove quite so bad as it is reported, though I am pretty certain things wear a pretty unfavourable aspect in that quarter; but whether from cowardice, treachery, or want of experience, I am not certain, though I would hope the latter. These things raise the heads of the Tories, and very much depress the spirits of the friends of liberty.

If you have any good news to inform us of, pray send it along as soon as possible to cheer our drooping spirits.

Give my best regards to Colonel *Thornton*, who by this time, I hope, has got well through the small-pox.

I wish you health and happiness, and am your friend,

JOSIAH BARTLETT.

P. S. The weather here has been this fall and is now remarkably fine and pleasant.

5*th*.—The General Court has voted to send five hundred men, agreeable to General *Washington's* request, to be immediately raised and sent; and to send and try and raise five hundred more out of our Militia at *New-York*. They have also voted to supply Colonel *Long's* regiment with necessaries for their march; but I fear they will not be prevailed on to move soon, if at all. We have had a confirmation of the loss of the forts *Washington* and *Lee*. Agreeable to the request of Congress, we have purchased a considerable quantity of shoes, stockings, mittens, hats, shirts, &c., &c., and many more are agreed for, and have wrote to Congress for money to pay for them agreeable to order. Twenty thousand dollars are requested for the purpose, and I hope you and your colleague will use your endeavours to see it is sent forward soon, as our treasury is almost empty, and I am loth we should make more paper money at this time.

Not having an opportunity of sending this letter, I am now arrived at the 6th, and we are now told that General *Howe* is marched with twenty thousand men for *Philadelphia*, and by a letter from *Rhode-Island* we are informed that a large fleet of the enemy have arrived there, but the news here is so various and contradictory that we know not what to believe, though lately the bad news have turned out to be true, and the good false. The spirits of the people here seem much depressed with our repeated losses, and I fear in the Army too. Unless something turns up more favourable, I dread the consequence. I hope the Congress act with more spirit than they have done lately, or else I am assured they will lose much of their former influence. Pray use your influence to keep up a consistency in their conduct. The want of it is much complained of. This *inter nos*.

J. B.

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TRANSLATION OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY A FOREIGNER ON HIS TRAVELS.

London, December 3, 1776.

DEAR COUNT: I have now been six months in *England*, and eight weeks in this metropolis. You should have heard from me before, but my frequent avocations, as well as the want of a suitable opportunity, have prevented. Agreeably to my promise, however, I now sit down to give you some account of the character and politicks of this strange people. So copious a subject cannot be discussed in one letter; but you shall hear from me again, when further observation shall have enabled me to be more particular.

The general character of the *English* is certainly the most fantastick and absurd that ever fell to the lot of any known nation. As they are made up of contradictions, it would be unjust to give them any uniform designation. There is scarce a virtue that adorns the mind, or a vice that disgraces human nature, but may be ascribed to them as part of their national character. But the former are often

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rendered ineffectual by misapplication, and the latter qualified by a levity of manners, which shows them not to be constitutionally prevalent. An *Englishman* will treat his enemy with great generosity, and his friend with ingratitude and inhumanity. He will be lavish of his wealth when he has but little of it, and become a miserly wretch when fortune pours her favours into his purse. He will brave the utmost hardships, and encounter the severest trials with heroick fortitude; and will drown or hang himself because the wind is in the east. He will lend large sums to a stranger on the slightest security, and refuse his nearest relation the means of subsistence. To-day, his heart expands with social benevolence; to-morrow, he is cold, sullen and morose. To-day, he possesses the wealth of a nabob; to-morrow, he refuses a sixpence to a beggar, lest he should himself be reduced to the want of that sixpence. In a word, contradiction and absurdity makes an *Englishman*.

During the last century, this people hath risen in wealth, power, and prosperity; but the instability of their temper will not permit them to enjoy with content any blessing in possession. At peace with all the world; feared and respected by their neighbours; an established policy, reformed religion, and extensive commerce, are circumstances sufficient, one would suppose, to render any people happy. But the thirst of lawless ambition can never be satisfied. The *English* assume to themselves the character of being the most just, generous, and humane nation in the world, and yet they encourage the *African* trade—a trade attended with circumstances of injustice, cruelty, and horrour, that disgrace human nature; whereby they fasten for life, the chains of servitude the most abject, and misery the most complete, on many hundreds of their fellow-creatures every year.

This just and humane nation also sent one *Clive* to the *East-Indies*, to secure a dominion for them there; a country which, it should seem, the Creator never intended for the *English*, because he had placed it on the opposite side of the globe, and made the inhabitants of a quite different complexion. This *Clive*, however, arrived with his forces in the *East-Indies*, and under the sanction of his most gracious *Britannick* majesty and a free Parliament, put to death some hundred thousands of the inoffensive inhabitants by the sword, by famine, and the most atrocious cruelties; after which he returned to *England* with immense riches, and a wife set in diamonds, and was made a Lord—and then cut his throat with a penknife.

You will be surprised at this; but the people here were not surprised at all. It is no uncommon thing to spend an evening with a man, in all the easy gaiety of social life, and to hear next morning that he hanged himself in a stable, or practised phlebotomy on his own jugular vein with a razor.

The *English* now govern in the *East-Indies* with a tyranny so pure, so unadulterated with any mixture of justice or humanity, as could not have been exceeded in the reigns of the twelve *Cæsars*.

This best of all Kings has now turned his attention to *America*. There he had three millions of subjects, who loved, honoured, and obeyed him. He governed them by officers of his own appointment; he had the whole regulation of their commerce; and the overflowings of their wealth were conducted by easy channels into his coffers, and into the purses of the merchants and manufacturers of his kingdom. But he has quarreled with these loyal and beneficial subjects, because they are so obstinate that they will not acknowledge that two and two make five. Whole volumes have been written on this subject, and all the force of reason and eloquence exerted to convince this wise King that he is in an errour. The *Americans* have most emphatically beseeched him to accept of the undissembled loyalty of their hearts; declaring that they are satisfied that the fruits of their industry should centre with him and his people, as heretofore, to enrich and aggrandize them; but humbly pray that they may not be compelled to acknowledge that two and two make five, which would be to them a most dangerous and distressing violation of truth. But this wise and humane monarch is far from being disposed to give up the point. He has rejected their petitions with scorn, and spurned at their offers of affection and fidelity; and declares, that he will even risk the crown of his ancestors but he will make the obstinate *Americans* subscribe to his new dogma.

To this end he hath sent over, not only his own fleets and armies, but has hired a banditti of foreign mercenaries from a petty prince, who supports the splendour of his court by selling the blood of his subjects; and he has also employed negroes and wild *Indians* to persecute the poor *Americans* without mercy until they shall acknowledge that two and two make five.

*America* is at this time a scene of desolation and distress; a theatre whereon is acted a real tragedy, exhibiting every species of cruelty and injustice. The royal Army of this most enlightened of all nations are ravishing the women, murdering the men, and laying waste that fertile and beautiful country, under the conduct of Lord and General *Howe;* who are executing their bloody mandate with all the composure in the world. His most gracious Majesty receives, from time to time, such accounts of their proceedings as they please to give him, and is as happy as such a monarch can be.

Who would have thought that the peaceful plains of *America* would be desolated because the inhabitants will not believe that two and two make five, when their good King and wise Parliament require them so to do?

On the contrary, the *Americans*, highly resenting this treatment, have declared that they will no longer be pensioners of the smiles of such a King, or submit to a Government in which they have no share, and over which they have no control, and which is therefore, with respect to them, a Government of mere will and pleasure. They have determined to be henceforth a free people; and have publickly avowed that they will enjoy the inestimable privileges of believing and saying, that two and two make only four, according to the common sense of mankind.

How this affair will terminate, God only knows: but it seems very probable that the King of *England* will lose the most valuable jewel of his crown, in the pursuit of his present views.

You will say, perhaps, that the King could not act so absurdly were he not countenanced and supported in his folly by the assent of his people. But the truth is that the King, by means of his Ministers, hath gained such an ascendency over the Parliament, which is the constitutional voice of the people, that he can obtain their sanction for any project in which their rights are not openly and directly attacked. As to the people at large, they do not trouble themselves about the right or wrong of the matter in contest. *America* is a great way off, and they have no feelings for what is passing there. They grumble, indeed, about the diminution of their trade in consequence of this war, but leave the discussion of national politicks to their Parliament. The Crown hath imperceptibly extended its prerogative so as to destroy the boasted balance of the *British* constitution; and if the King's power should be further strengthened by the subjugation of *America*, the people of *England* may bid adieu to their constitutional freedom. Some of the wisest amongst them see this, and have openly declared, that the salvation of *England* depends upon the success of the *Americans* in the present war.

This infatuated people have wearied the world for these hundred years with loud eulogiums on liberty and their constitution; and yet they see that constitution languishing in a deep decay, without making any efforts for its recovery. Amused with trifles, and accustomed to venality and corruption, they are not alarmed at the consequences of their supineness. They love to talk of their glorious constitution, because the idea is agreeable, and they are satisfied with the idea; and they honour their King, because it is the fashion to honour the King. Half the loyalty of the nation is supported by two popular songs, viz: "*Britons* strike home," and "God save the King." These are vociferated at taverns, over porter, punch, and wine, till the imagination is heated, and the blood in a ferment, and then these pot-valiant patriots sally forth and commit all manner of riot and excess in honour of their King and country.

There are fanaticks in politicks as well as in religion, and both are managed in the same, viz: by keeping up the delusion in which they delight. The men in power well know the weakness of the multitude, and when they observe them to grow uneasy under the too barefaced encroachments of prerogative, they get half a dozen of court scribblers to expatiate on the glories of the *British* constitution, and to sing the sweet lullaby of liberty to the people, and all is well. Just so a nurse rattles three pieces of tin in a little

rush basket to amuse her crying child. The poor infant thinks it has the world in possession, and is satisfied.

The extreme ignorance of the common people of this civilized country can scarce be credited. In general they know nothing beyond the particular branch of business which their parents or the parish happened to choose for them. This, indeed, they practise with unremitting diligence; but never think of extending their knowledge further.

A manufacturer has been brought up a maker of pin heads. He has been at this business forty years, and of course makes pin heads with great dexterity; but he cannot make a whole pin for his life. He thinks it is the perfection of human nature to make pin heads. He leave other matters to inferiour abilities. It is enough for him that he believes in the *Athanasian* creed, reverences the splendour of the court, and makes pin heads. This he conceives to be the sum total of religion, politicks, and trade. He is sure that *London* is the finest city in the world; Black Friar's bridge the most superb of all possible bridges; and the river *Thames* the largest river in the universe. It is in vain to tell him that there are many rivers in *America*, in comparison of which the *Thames* is but a ditch; that there are single provinces there larger than all *England*; and that the Colonies formerly belonging to *Great Britain*, now independent States, are vastly more extensive than *England*, *Wales*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, taken all together. He cannot conceive this. He goes into his best parlour and looks on a map of *England* four feet square; on the other side of the room he sees a map of *North* and *South-America* not more than two feet square, and exclaims, How can these things be! It is impossible! He has read the *Arabian* Night's Entertainment, and he hears this wonderful account of *America*—he believes the one as much as the other. That a giant should rise out of the sea, or that the *Delaware* should be larger than the *Thames*, are equally incredible to him. Talk to him of the *British* constitution, he will tell you it is a glorious constitution; ask him what it is, and he is ignorant of its first principles; but he is sure that he can make and sell pin heads under it. Mention the freedom of elections, and he will tell that he does not meddle in these matters; that he lives in a borough; and that it is impossible but that Squire *Goosecap* must represent that borough in Parliament, because Squire *Goosecap* is acquainted with the Prime Minister, and his lady comes every *Sunday* to the parish church in a brocaded gown, and sits in a pew lined with green cloth. How then can it be otherwise? But these are things in which he is not concerned. He believes in the *Athanasian* creed, honours the King, and makes pin heads—and what more can be expected of man?

It is not so in *America*. The lowest tradesman there is not without some degree of general knowledge. They turn their hands to every thing; their situation obliges them to do so. A farmer there cannot run to an artist upon every trifling occasion. He must make and mend, and contrive for himself. This I observed in my travels through that country. In many towns, and in every city, they have publick libraries. Not a tradesman but will find time to read. He acquires knowledge imperceptibly. He is amused with voyages and travels, and becomes acquainted with the geography, customs, and commerce of other countries. He reads political disquisitions, and learns the great outlines of his rights as a man and as a citizen. He dips a little into philosophy, and knows that the apparent motion of the sun is occasioned by the real motion of the earth. In a word, he is sure that, notwithstanding the determination of King, Lords, and Commons to the contrary, two and two can never make five.

Such are the people of *England*, and such the people of *America*. These nations are now at daggers drawn. At first, the *Americans* knew little or nothing of the art of war, but they improve daily. The *British* troops are teaching them how to conquer; and they find them very apt scholars. The probable consequence is, that *England* will lose, and *America* gain, an empire. If *George* the Third should subjugate *America* on his present principles, all good men will abhor him as a tyrant; if he should fail in his project, all wise men will despise him for risking the immense advantages he derived from a friendly connection with that country.

But it is time to conclude this long letter; for the present, therefore, adieu! and believe me ever yours, &c., &c., &c.

SILAS DEANE TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, 3d December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: My letters from *Bordeaux* and since, to which I have received no reply, will give you my situation; but lest some of them fail, I will briefly in this give you the history of my proceedings. Immediately on my arrival, I sent forward your bills, a large part of which were protested, and intelligence arriving of the loss of *Canada*, and that *Carleton* was even on the frontiers of the Colonies, and at the same time the formidable armament gone and going over, made every one here give up the Colonies as subdued. To have tried for a credit under such circumstances would have been worse than useless; it would have been mortifying, as a refusal must have been the consequence. Mr. *Delap* generously offered to advance five or six thousand pounds, but when I considered it was already more than four months since you began to prepare for remitting, and that next to nothing was received, I really found myself embarrassed, and hoping every day for some relief, I suspended engaging, and came up to *Paris*, having previously sent Mr. *Morris's* letter to his different correspondents, not one of which appeared inclinable to be concerned in a credit.

I sent to procure the goods in *Amsterdam*, if to be had, but found our credit worse there than in *France*. A gentleman here offered me a credit for a million of livres, but it was, when explained, on the following conditions: I must produce direct authority from the Congress, with their promise of interest; all *American* vessels must be sent to his address; and until this could be secured him I must provide a credit, or in other words a security in *Europe*. Here you are sensible my negotiation ended. I then contracted for the supplies of the army, and crowded into the contract as large a proportion of woolens as I well could, sensible that with them you might do something, and hoping your remittances might still arrive, or some intelligence of the situation of your affairs, for I thought I judged rightly, that if in six or seven months you were unable to send out one third the remittances, the returns must be equally difficult. On this ground I have been anxiously waiting to hear something from you. Mean time I shipped forty tons of saltpetre, two hundred thousand pounds of powder, via *Martinique*, one hundred barrels via *Amsterdam*. The late affairs at *Long-Island*, of which we had intelligence in *October*, and the burning of *New-York*, the report of *Carleton's* having crossed the lakes, and that you were negotiating, has absolutely ruined our credit with the greater part of individuals; and finding so little prospect of completing the *Indian* goods, I have attended the closer to despatch the supplies for the Army, for which I had obtained a credit ostensibly from a private person, but really from a higher source. Mean time the moneys remitted are in Mr. *Delap's* hands, except what I have drawn out for my private expenses, for payment of the saltpetre, for the fitting out of Captain *Morgan*, and for the equipment of certain officers going to *America*. For the two hundred thousand weight of powder Mr. *Delap* is my surety, consequently should he receive nothing more from you he will have no considerable balance in his hands. Could I have received but one-half the amount in any season, I would have ventured on the goods long before this; but to what purpose would it have been, could I have been credited the amount, if you were unable to remit? The same obstruction must subsist against their arrival. I am however at last promised the goods on credit by the same way as the stores have been procured, and hope to ship them this month; but some of the articles are not manufactured any where in *Europe* except *Great Britain*, and others must be substituted in the best manner I can.

I have written to Mr. *Delap* to send you his account, also to send the particulars to me, which I will transmit as soon as received. The goods may be expected in the month of *February*; mean time I pray you, not on this account only, but on others, to exert yourselves in remitting so much as to support the credit of the Continent, for which I am now engaged to a very great amount. Tobacco, rice, flour, indigo, peltry, oil, whale fins, flaxseed, spermaceti, masts, spars, &c., are in good demand. Tobacco at nine to ten sous per pound and rising, free of duty or expense, save

commission. Rice thirty livres per cwt. Flour twenty-two to twenty-four livres.

I am, most respectfully, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

P. S. When I say tobacco is free of duty, I mean if sold to the Farmers-General directly; on other conditions it is inadmissible at any rate.

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SILAS DEANE TO JOHN JAY.

Paris, 3d December, 1776.

DEAR JAY: If my letters arrive safe they will give you some idea of my situation. Without intelligence, without orders, and without remittances, yet boldly plunging into contracts, engagements, and negotiations, hourly hoping that something will arrive from *America*. By General *Coudray* I send thirty thousand fusils, two hundred pieces of brass cannon, thirty mortars, four thousand tents, and clothing for thirty thousand men, with two hundred tons of gunpowder, lead, balls, &c., &c., by which you may judge we have some friends here. A war in *Europe* is inevitable. The eyes of all are on you, and the fear of your giving up or accommodating is the greatest obstacle I have to contend with. Mons. *Beaumarchais* has been my Minister in effect, as this Court is extremely cautious, and I now advise you to attend carefully to the articles sent you. I could not examine them here. I was promised they should be good, and at the lowest prices, and that from persons in such station that had I hesitated it might have ruined my affairs. But as in so large a contract there is room for imposition, my advice is that you send back to me samples of the articles sent you. Cannon, powder, mortars, &c., are articles known; but clothes, the fusils, &c., by which any imposition may be detected. Large remittances are necessary for your credit, and the enormous price of tobacco, of rice, of flour, and many other articles, gives you an opportunity of making your remittances to very great advantage. Twenty thousand hogsheads of tobacco are wanted immediately for this kingdom, and more for other parts of *Europe*.

I have written you on several subjects, some of which I will attempt briefly to recapitulate. The destruction of the *Newfoundland* fishery may be effected, by two or three of your frigates, sent there early in *February*, and by that means a fatal blow given to *Great Britain*—I mean by destroying the stages, boats, &c., and by bringing away the people left there as prisoners. *Glasgow*, in *Scotland*, may be plundered and burnt with ease, as may *Liverpool*, by two or three frigates, which may find a shelter and protection in the ports of *France* and *Spain* afterwards. Blank commissions are wanted here to cruise under your flag against the *British* commerce. This is a capital stroke and must bring on a war. Hasten them out I pray you. *France* and *Spain* are friendly, and you will greatly oblige the latter by seizing the *Portuguese* commerce wherever it is found. I have had overtures from the King of *Prussia* in the commercial way, and have sent a person of great confidence to his Court in person with letters of introduction from his agent here, with whom I am on the best terms. A loan may be obtained, if you make punctual remittances for the sums now advanced, for any sums at five per cent. interest, perhaps less. The western lands ought to be held up to view as an encouragement for our soldiers, especially foreigners, and are a good fund to raise money on. You may, if you judge proper, have any number of *German* and *Swiss* troops; they have been offered me, but you know I have no proposals to treat. A number of frigates may be purchased at *Leghorn*, the Grand Duke of *Tuscany* being zealously in favour of *America*, and doing all in his power to encourage its commerce. Troubles are rising in *Ireland*, and with a little assistance much work may be cut out for *Great Britain*, by sending from hence a few priests, a little money, and plenty of arms. *Omnia tentanda* is my motto, therefore I hint the playing of their own game on them, by spiriting up the *Caribs* in *St. Vincents*, and the negroes in *Jamaica*, to revolt.

On all these subjects I have written to you. Also on various particulars of commerce. Our vessels have more liberty in the ports of *France* and *Spain* and *Tuscany*, than the vessels of any other nation, and that openly. I presented the Declaration of Independence to this Court, after indeed it had become an old story in every part of *Europe*; it was well received, but as you say you have articles of alliance under consideration, any resolution must be deferred until we know what they are. The want of intelligence has more than once well-nigh ruined my affairs; pray be more attentive to this important subject, or drop at once all thoughts of a foreign connection.

I must mention a few trifles. The Queen is fond of parade, and I believe wishes a war, and is our friend. She loves riding on horseback. Could you send me a fine *Narrotoheganset* horse or two, the present might be money exceedingly well laid out. *Rittenhouse's* orrery, or *Arnold's* collection of insects; a phaeton of *American* make, and a pair of bay horses. A few barrels of apples, of walnuts, of butternuts, &c., would be great curiosities here, where every thing *American* is gazed at, and where the *American* contest engages the attention of all ages, ranks, and sexes.

Had I ten ships here I could fill them all with passengers for *America*. I hope the officers sent will be agreeable; they were recommended by the Ministry here, and are at this instant really in their army; but this must be a secret. Do you want heavy iron cannon, sea officers of distinction, or ships? Your special orders will enable me to procure them. For the situation of affairs in *England* I refer you to Mr. *Rogers*, Aid-de-Camp to Mons. *Du Coudray*. I have presented a number of memoirs, which have been very favourably received, and the last by his Majesty, but my being wholly destitute of other than accidental and gratuitous assistance will not permit my sending you copies. Indeed I was obliged to make them so as to explain the rise, the nature, and the progress of the dispute. I have been assured by the Ministers, that I have thrown much light on the subject, and have obviated many difficulties; but his Majesty is not of the dispostion of his great grandfather *Louis* XIV. If he were, *England* would soon be ruined. Do not forget or omit sending me blank commissions for privateers; under these, infinite damage may be done to the *British* commerce, and as the prizes must be sent to you for condemnation the eventual profits will remain with you. Tell Mrs. *Trist* that her husband and Captain *Fowler* were well the 16th instant. I had a letter from the latter. Pray be careful who you trust in *Europe*. One *Williamson*, a native of *Pennsylvania*, is here as a spy; yet I believe he corresponds with very good people on your side of the water. The villain returns to *London* about once in six weeks to discharge his budget.

Doctor *Bancroft* has been of very great service to me; no man has better intelligence in *England* in my opinion, but it costs something. The following articles have been shown to me; they have been seen by both the Courts of *France* and *Spain*, and I send them to you for speculation:

1st. The Thirteen *United Colonies*, now known by the name of the *Thirteen United States of North-America*, shall be acknowledged by *France* and *Spain*, and treated with as independent States, and as such shall be guarantied in the possession of all that part of the Continent of *North-America*, which by the last treaty of peace was ceded and confirmed to the Crown of *Great Britain*.

2dly. The *United States* shall guaranty and confirm to the Crowns of *France* and *Spain*, all and singular their possessions and claims in every other part of *America*, whether north or south of the equator, and of the islands possessed by them in the *American* seas.

3dly. Should *France* or *Spain*, either or both of them, possess themselves of the islands in the *West-Indies* now in possession of the Crown of *Great Britain*, (as an indemnity for the injuries sustained in the last war, in consequence of its being commenced on the part of *Great Britain* in violation of the laws of nations,) the *United Colonies* shall assist the said Powers in obtaining such satisfaction, and guaranty and confirm to them the possession of such acquisition.

4thly. The fisheries on the banks of *Newfoundland*, of *Cape-Breton*, and parts adjacent, commonly known and called by the name of the cod fishery, shall be equally free to the subjects of *France*, *Spain*, and the *United States*, respectively, and they shall mutually engage to protect and defend each other in such commerce.

5thly. The more effectually to preserve this alliance, and to obtain the great object, it shall be agreed that every and any *British* ship or vessel found or met with on the coasts of *North-America*, of *South-America*, or of the islands

adjacent, and belonging thereto, and within a certain degree or distance to be agreed on, shall be forever hereafter considered as lawful prize to any of the subjects of *France*, *Spain*, or the *United Colonies*, and treated as such, as well in peace as in war, nor shall *France*, *Spain*, or the *United Colonies*, ever hereafter admit *British* ships into any of their ports in *America*, North and South, or the islands adjacent. This article never to be altered or dispensed with, but only by and with the consent of each of the three contracting States.

6thly. During the present war between the *United States* and *Great Britain*, *France* and *Spain* shall send into *North-America*, and support there, a fleet to defend and protect the coasts and the commerce of the *United States*, in consequence of which if the possessions of *France* or *Spain* should be attacked in *America* by *Great Britain* or her allies, the *United States* will afford them all the aid and assistance in their power.

7thly. No peace or accommodation shall be made with *Great Britain* to the infringement or violation of any one of these articles.

I am, with the utmost impatience to hear from you, dear sir, yours, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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MATTHEW TILGHMAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, December 3d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. *Hanson* and Mr. *Chamberlaine* arrived here last night, after, I believe, a very fruitless journey to the camp, which they found on the retreat, and is now no doubt at *Trenton*, being left by our gentlemen on the road thither on *Sunday* night.

By the best information our General could get, the enemy are between six and seven thousand; his Army now not more than three thousand. If any considerable reinforcement can be sent from hence, he intends to make a stand at *Trenton*, in case the enemy come forward, which it is generally thought they will, though General *Chamberlaine* thinks they will not.

The *German* battalion are nearly ready to march from hence, and every measure is taken to spirit up the Militia to move.

Should the enemy move forward with any degree of speed, I greatly fear our reinforcements will not be in time. A little time will open their designs. If we don't hear to-day of their coming forward from *Brunswick*, of which they must have possessed themselves on *Sunday* evening after the retreat of our Army, I shall be inclined to think their aim is not at this place. Where General *Lee* is, seems not to be known. 'Tis said General *St. Clair* is on his march with about fifteen hundred men. We had a report indeed yesterday, which for a time gained credit, that *Lee* and *St. Clair* were joined with an army of ten or fifteen hundred men, but it dwindled before night into almost nothing. Such is the present situation of our affairs. It is bad enough but may be worse. A few days will determine, and afford us a small respite or greatly add to the distress and confusion of this place.

I can't see how the Council or the Delegates to Congress can suppress any part of the proceedings of Convention.

With great respect, I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

MAT. TILGHMAN.

The Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Head-Quarters, Trenton, 3d December, 1776.

SIR: I arrived here myself yesterday morning, with the main body of the Army, having left Lord *Stirling* with two brigades at *Princeton* and that neighbourhood, to watch the motions of the enemy, and give notice of their approach. I am informed that they had not entered *Brunswick* yesterday morning, at nine o'clock, but were on the opposite side of the *Raritan*.

Immediately on my arrival here, I ordered the removal of all the military and other stores and baggage over the *Delaware*. A great quantity are already got over; and as soon as the boats come up from *Philadelphia* we shall load them, by which means I hope to have every thing secured this night and to-morrow, if we are not disturbed. After being disincumbered of my baggage and stores, my future situation will depend entirely upon circumstances.

I have not heard a word from General *Lee* since the 26th last month; which surprises me not a little, as I have despatched daily expresses to him, desiring to know when I might look for him. This makes me fearful that my letters have not reached him. I am informed by report, that General *St. Clair* has joined him with three or four regiments from the northward. To know the truth of this, and also when I may expect him, and with what numbers, I have this minute despatched Colonel *Stewart* (General *Gates's* Aid-de-camp) to meet General *Lee* and bring me an account.

I look out earnestly for the reinforcement from *Philadelphia*. I am in hopes that if we can draw a good head of men together, it will give spirits to the Militia of this State, who have as yet afforded me but little or no assistance; nor can I find they are likely to do much.

General *Heard* just informs me that a person on whose veracity he can depend, has reported to him that on *Sunday* last he counted one hundred and seventeen sail of ships going out of the *Hook*.

You may depend upon being advised instantly of any further movement of the enemy's Army, or that of mine.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Trenton, December 3d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I was just now favoured with your letter of the 30th ultimo. Having wrote you fully both yesterday and to-day of my situation, it is unnecessary for me to add much at this time. You will readily agree that I have sufficient cause for my anxiety, and to wish for your arrival as early as possible. In respect to instructions on your route, you must be governed by circumstances. This has been the language of all my letters since I had occasion to call for your aid. The sooner you can join me with your division, the sooner the service will be benefited. As to bringing any of the troops under General *Heath*, I cannot consent to it. The posts they are at, and the passes through the Highlands, being of the utmost importance, they must be guarded by good men. I would have you to give me frequent advices of your approach. Upon proper information in this instance, much may depend.

I am, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HOWE.

Head-Quarters, December 3d, 1776.

SIR: The letter which accompanies this, was designed to have been sent by the gentlemen whose names are in the list it encloses; but by some accident or delay of my messenger, they had left *Brunswick* before it reached them. Since that time I have been informed that a number of others, both officers and soldiers, are coming on from the State of *Pennsylvania*. I have directed Colonel *Moylan* to meet, and to give them a safe conduct to your outposts. He will transmit you a list of their number, names, and ranks, and I shall, as I mentioned in my former letter, soon make a requisition of the like number of equal rank.

I am, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Lieutenant-General *Howe*.

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SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 3d December, 1776.

MY LORD: I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship a return of ordnance and stores taken from the enemy, since the landing of his Majesty's troops at *Frog's Neck*, in *Westchester* County, from the 12th *October* to the 20th *November*; those in the Commissary and Quartermaster-General's branches are also very considerable; but as it has not been in their power hitherto to ascertain them, the reports must therefore be deferred to the next opportunity.

I also enclose a return of prisoners taken during the campaign, and am very sorry to add, I find myself under the

necessity of detaining them, though at a very great expense and inconvenience, until the Rebels return the King's officers and men, now prisoners with them, for the performance of which, I have had frequent assurances, though hitherto delayed under various pretences. I have even allowed some of their principal officers, at their earnest request, to go to their Congress, and endeavour to expedite the exchange, which, being once effected, I shall soon rid myself of the remaining encumbrance.

In consequence of permission formerly received from his Majesty, I appointed Sir *William Erskine* Quartermaster-General to this Army, on the 7th *October* last past. The services he has since rendered in the military line of that department, have sufficiently proved his abilities, and entitle him to every acknowledgment in my power to make, which I am fully sensible is the best plea I can offer in recommendation of my appointment with his Majesty.

I am, &c.,

W. Howe.

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*Return of Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, rank and file, killed, wounded, and missing, belonging to the Army under the command of his Excellency the Honourable General* Howe, *in several actions, &c., with the Rebels, from the 17th of* September *to the 16th of* November, 1776, *inclusive, specifying the different periods, and the Corps the casualties have happened in. Head-Quarters,* New-York, *1st* December, 1776.

In the action at *Pelham Manor*, on the 18th of *October*, and in previous skirmishes, from the 17th of *September* inclusive:

*British.*

17th Regiment of Light-Dragoons.—One drummer, missing.
1st Battalion of Light-Infantry.—One Sergeant, two rank and file, killed; one Field Officer, one Captain, one Subaltern, three Sergeants, one Drummer or Trumpeter, twenty-three rank and file, wounded; two rank and file, missing.
2d ditto.—One rank and file, killed; three rank and file, wounded.
2d ditto Grenadiers.—Two rank and file, wounded.
4th Regiment.—One rank and file, missing.
27th ditto.—One rank and file, wounded.
28th ditto.—One rank and file, wounded.
38th ditto.—One rank and file, wounded.
55th ditto.—One rank and file, wounded.
57th ditto.—One rank and file, wounded.
71st ditto.—Five rank and file, killed; seven rank and file, wounded.
Royal Artillery.—One Sergeant, three rank and file, killed.

Total.—Two Sergeants, eleven rank and file, killed; one Field Officer, one Captain, one Subaltern, three Sergeants, one Drummer or Trumpeter, forty rank and file, wounded; one Drummer, three rank and file, missing.

*Names of the Officers killed and wounded, &c.*

1st Battalion of Light-Infantry.—Captain *Eveleyn*, of the 4th Regiment, mortally wounded, and since dead; Lieutenant-Colonel *Musgrave*, of the 40th Regiment, wounded; Lieutenant *Archibald Rutherford*, of the 22d Regiment, wounded.

N. B. The Sergeant and three rank and file of the Royal Artillery, returned killed, were drowned in *East River* by the oversetting of a boat the 12th of *October*.

In the action the 28th of *October*, in passing the *Bronks River*, and in previous skirmishes, from the 19th of *October*, inclusive:

*British.*

16th Regiment of Light-Dragoons.—One Sergeant, one rank and file, one horse, wounded; one rank and file, missing.
17th ditto.—One rank and file, five horses, killed; subaltern, four rank and file, three horses, wounded.
Brigade of Guards.—One rank and file, killed; two rank and file, missing.
3d Battalion of Light-Infantry.—One rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, three rank and file, wounded.
5th Regiment.—One rank and file, killed; one Field Officer, one rank and file, wounded.
10th ditto.—One rank and file, killed; one rank and file, wounded.
28th Regiment.—One Captain, eight rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, four Sergeants, fifty-three rank and file, wounded.
35th ditto.—One Field Officer, one Subaltern, fifteen rank and file, killed; two Captains, one Subaltern, six Sergeants, thirty-one rank and file, wounded; two rank and file, missing.
37th ditto.—Three rank and file, killed; two rank and file, wounded.
45th ditto.—One drummer, one rank and file, missing.
49th ditto.—One Captain, one Subaltern, one Sergeant, five rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, two Sergeants, seventeen rank and file, wounded.
71st ditto.—Two rank and file, missing.
New-York Company.—One rank and file, wounded.
Queen's Rangers.—Twenty rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, eight rank file, wounded; twenty-eight rank and file, missing.
Royal Artillery.—One rank and file, killed; one Sergeant, one rank and file, wounded.

Total.—One Field Officer, two Captains, two Subalterns, one Sergeant, fifty-seven rank and file, five horses, killed; one Field Officer, two Captains, six Subalterns, fourteen Sergeants, one hundred and twenty-three rank and file, four horses, wounded; one drummer, thirty-six rank and file, missing.

*Names of Officers killed and wounded.*

17th Regiment of Light Dragoons.—Lieutenant *Loftus*, wounded.
5th Regiment.—Lieutenant-Colonel *Walcott*, wounded.
28th ditto.—Captain *Deering*, killed; Lieutenant *Taylor*, wounded.
35th ditto.—Lieutenant-Colonel *Carr*, Ensign *Eagle*, killed; Captain *Fitzgerald*, Captain-Lieutenant *Massey*, Lieutenant *Banks*, wounded.
49th ditto.—Captain-Lieutenant *Gore*, Lieutenant *Joculyn*, killed; Lieutenant *Roberts*, wounded.
3d Battalion of Light-Infantry.—Lieutenant *Saurine*, of the 46th Regiment, wounded.

*Hessian Corps, &c.*

Chasseurs.—Four rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, nine rank and file, wounded; two rank and file, missing.
Grenadier Battalion of Linsing.—One Captain, two rank and file, wounded.
Grenadier Battalion of Block.—One rank and file, wounded.
Hereditary Prince's.—Two rank and file, wounded.
Losberg's.—Six rank and file, killed; one Sergeant, thirty-nine rank and file, wounded.
Kniphausen.—Two rank and file, wounded.
Rall's.—Two rank and file, one horse, killed; one Subaltern, three rank and file, wounded.
Trumback's.—Eight rank and file, missing.
Artillery.—One rank and file, wounded.
3d Regiment of Waldeck.—Thirteen rank and file, missing.

Total.—Twelve rank and file, one horse, killed; one Captain, two Subalterns, one Sergeant, fifty-one rank and file, wounded; twenty-three rank and file, missing.

*Names of Officers killed and wounded, &c.*

Chasseurs.—Lieutenant *De Rau*, wounded.
Grenadier Battalion of Linsing.—Captain *De Westerhagen*, wounded.
Regiment of Rall.—Lieutenant *Muhlhausen*, wounded.

N. B. The eight rank and file of the *Hessian* Regiment of *Trumback* returned missing, were taken prisoners in *Staten-Island*, the 15th of *October*.

In the attack of the 16th of *November*, when the Rebel lines and redoubts near *Fort Washington* were stormed, and that fort surrendered, &c., with other casualties since the 29th of *October* and preceding the 16th of *November:*

*British.*

17th Regiment of Dragoons.—One rank and file, wounded.
2d Battalion of Light-Infantry.—One Sergeant, three rank and file, killed; two Sergeants, one drummer, seven rank and file, wounded.
4th Regiment.—One rank and file, missing.
10th ditto.—One Captain, three rank and file, killed; five rank and file, wounded.

15th Regiment.—One rank and file, killed; one rank and file, wounded.
23d ditto.—One Sergeant, wounded.
27th ditto.—Three rank and file, missing.
28th ditto.—One rank and file, wounded.
38th ditto.—Six rank and file, wounded.
42d ditto.—One Sergeant, eight rank and file, killed; three Subalterns, four Sergeants, sixty-six rank and file, wounded.
52d ditto.—One rank and file, missing; one Subaltern, one Sergeant, wounded.
71st ditto.—One rank and file, wounded; one Sergeant, missing.
New-York Company.—One rank and file, missing.
Royal Artillery.—One rank and file, killed; one rank and file, wounded.

Total.—One Captain, two Sergeants, seventeen rank and file, killed; four Subalterns, eight Sergeants, one drummer, eighty-nine rank and file, wounded; one Sergeant, five rank and file, missing.

*Names of Officers killed and wounded.*

10th Regiment.—Captain *M'Intosh*, killed.
42d ditto.—Lieutenant *Alexander Grant*, Lieutenant *Patrick Graham*, Lieutenant *Norman M'Leod*, wounded.
52d ditto.—Lieutenant *Collier*, wounded.

*Hessian Corps, &c.*

Chasseurs.—Six rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, five rank and file, wounded.
Grenadier Battalion of Kohler.—Six rank and file, killed; one Captain, one Sergeant, thirty-three rank and file, wounded.
Regiment du Corps.—Two rank and file, killed; one rank and file, wounded.
Hereditary Prince's.—Two rank and file, wounded.
Wuttginaw.—One Captain, one Sergeant, one Subaltern, thirteen rank and file, killed; two Subalterns, three Sergeants, fifty-nine rank and file, wounded.
Dittforth.—Two rank and file, wounded.
Donop.—One rank and file, wounded.
Losberg.—Five rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, seventeen rank and file, wounded.
Kniphausen.—One Captain, six rank and filled, killed; two Field Officers, one Subaltern, five Sergeants, fifty-eight rank and file, wounded.
Stein.—One Subaltern, one rank and file, killed; one rank and file, wounded.
Rall.—One drummer, two rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, three rank and file, wounded.
Wessembach.—Four rank and file, wounded.
Huyn.—One Subaltern, two rank and file, killed; one Subaltern, four Sergeants, twenty-one rank and file, wounded.
Bunon.—Two rank and file, killed; three Sergeants, twenty-three rank and file, wounded.
3d Regiment of Waldeck.—Six rank and file, killed; sixteen rank and file, wounded.

Total.—Two Captains, three Subalterns, one Sergeant, one drummer, fifty-one rank and file, killed; two Field Officers, one Captain, six Subalterns, seventeen Sergeants, two hundred and forty-six rank and file, wounded.

*Names of Officers killed and wounded.*

Grenadier Battalion of Kohler.—Captain *Hessemuller*, wounded.
Wuttginaw's Regiment.—Captain *Medern*, Lieutenant *Lowensfeld*, killed; Lieutenant *De Lendaw*, Ensign *De Ende*, wounded.
Losberg's Regiment.—Lieutenant *De Wurmb*, wounded.
Kniphausen's Regiment.—Captain *Barkhausen*, killed; Lieutenant-Colonel *De Borcke*, Major *De Dichow*, Lieutenant *Brude*, wounded.
Stein's Regiment.—Lieutenant *Schwein*, killed.
Regiment of Rall.—Captain *Walter*, killed; Lieutenant *Kunen*, Ensign *Werneck*, wounded.
Huyn's Regiment.—Lieutenant *Justy*, killed; Ensign *Wend*, wounded.

*Return of Prisoners taken during the campaign*, 1776.

*August* 27—*Long-Island.*

Commissioned Officers.—Three Generals, three Colonels, four Lieutenant-Colonels, three Majors, eighteen Captains, forty-three Lieutenants, eleven Ensigns.
Staff.—One Adjutant, three Surgeons, two Volunteers.
Privates.—One thousand and six; including nine wounded officers and fifty-six wounded privates.

*September* 15, 16—*Island of New-York.*

Commissioned Officers.—One Colonel, two Lieutenant-Colonels, three Majors, four Captains, seven Lieutenants.
Privates.—Three hundred and fifty-four.

*October* 12—*White-Plains.*

Commissioned Officers.—One Captain, two Lieutenants.
Staff.—One Quartermaster.
Privates.—Thirty-five.

*November* 16—*Fort Washington.*

Commissioned Officers.—Four Colonels, four Lieutenant-Colonels, five Majors, forty-six Captains, one hundred and seven Lieutenants, thirty-one Ensigns.
Staff.—One Chaplain, two Adjutants, two Quartermasters, five Surgeons, two Commissaries, one Engineer, one Wagonmaster.
Privates.—Two thousand six hundred and seven.

*November* 20—*Fort Lee.*

Commissioned Officers.—One Lieutenant, one Ensign.
Staff.—One Quartermaster, three Surgeons.
Privates.—Ninety-nine.

*Total.*

Commissioned Officers.—Three Generals, eight Colonels, ten Lieutenant-Colonels, eleven Majors, sixty-nine Captains, one hundred and sixty Lieutenants, forty-three Ensigns.
Staff.—One Chaplain, three Adjutants, four Quartermasters, eleven Surgeons, two Commissaries, one Engineer, one Wagonmaster, two Volunteers.
Privates.—Four thousand one hundred and one.

| | |
|---|---|
| Officers, - - - - - - - - - - - | 304 |
| Staff, - - - - - - - - - - - | 25 |
| Privates, - - - - - - - - - - | 4,101 |
| Total, - - - - - - - - - - | 4,430 |

Jos. Loring, *Commissary of Prisoners.*

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*Return of Ordnance and Stores taken by his Majesty's Troops in the Redoubts and Lines of the Enemy, from their landing at* Frog-Neck, West-Chester *County, from the* 12*th of* October *to the* 20*th of* November, 1776.

At *Fort Washington*, now *Fort Knyphausen*, and Batteries depending: Iron Ordnance: Four thirty-two pounders, two eighteen ditto, seven twelve ditto, five nine ditto, fifteen six ditto, eight three ditto, two five-and-half-inch brass howitzers.

*Fort Independence:* Iron Ordnance: Twelve four pounders.

*Fort Valentine:* Iron Ordnance: Four twelve pounders, ten nine ditto, ten six ditto, thirty-seven four ditto.

*Fort Lee:* The Rock, Redoubt, and Batteries in the *Jerseys:* Iron Ordnance: Five thirty-two pounders, three twenty-four ditto, two six ditto, two three ditto, one thirteen-inch brass mortar, one ten-inch ditto; two thirteen-inch iron mortars, one ten-inch ditto, one eight-inch ditto.

On the road leading to *Hackinsack*, in the *Jerseys:* Iron Ordnance: Two twenty-four pounders, two eighteen ditto, four twelve ditto, mounted on travelling carriages, four six pounders.

Total.—Iron Ordnance: 9 thirty-two pounders, 5 twenty-four pounders, 4 eighteen pounders, 15 twelve pounders, 15 nine pounders, 31 six pounders, 49 four pounders, 10 three pounders, 2 five-and-half-inch brass howitzers, 1 thirteen-inch brass mortar, 1 ten-inch ditto, 2 thirteen-inch iron mortars, 1 ten-inch ditto, 1 eight-inch ditto.

Shot: Round, loose: 1,087 thirty-two pounders, 272 eigh teen pounders, 2,637 twelve pounders, 300 six pounders, 760 six pounders, 870 three pounders.

Case: 30 thirty-two pounders, 40 eighteen pounders, 340 twelve pounders, 290 nine pounders, 74 six pounders, 39 three pounders, 1,159 double-headed of sorts, 42 boxes for grape.

Shells: 156 thirteen-inch, 311 ten-inch, 1,140 eight-inch, 1,170 five-and-half-inch, 1,200 four-two-fifths-inch.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Powder, barrels, | | 15 |
| Muskets of sorts, | | 2,800 |
| Musket-cartridges, near | | 400,000 |
| Iron, tons, | bar | 20 |
| | rod | 5 |
| Intrenching tools of sorts, | | 500 |
| Armourers' tools, sets, | | 6 |
| Hand-barrows, | | 200 |
| Gin, complete, | | 1 |
| Sling-carts, | | 2 |
| Iron fraise of four hundred weight each, supposed to be intended to stop the navigation of *Hudson's* river, | | 200 |

A large quantity of other species of stores not at present ascertained.

SAM. CLEAVELAND,
*Brigadier-General, Royal Artillery.*

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN ENGLISH OFFICER, DATED NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 3, 1776.

Most of our provisions are brought by water. As to lodging, you may rest assured we are in no want of room. The General went from hence on the 12th of *October*, and on the 18th the remainder of the *Hessians* arrived, who had hardly time to breathe before they were sent on actual service. They have suffered severely in the several actions, particularly in that of *Washington* fort. Ever since their first landing on *Long-Island*, the Provincials have borne them a grudge, and they in return have not been backward in showing their dislike.

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COLONEL MALCOM TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp at Niack, December 3d, 1776.

SIR: I arrived here yesterday with about one hundred men and several of my commissioned and non-commissioned officers as volunteers. Love of our country, respect for our General, and the reputation of the regiment, all conspired to incline us to comply with his Excellency's request "to serve until the middle of this month."

I have formed two guards about a mile distant, and opposite the fleet, which consists of two ships-of-war, two galleys, one schooner, a transport brig, and a sloop. The inhabitants are much pleased with our arrival. They were much exposed. The boats landed twice last week, plundered a house, and took off some cattle.

I mount but few sentinels; but depend upon patrols from each guard moving along shore. At this season they are more alert, and in our situation answer for the duty.

Captain *Tredwell* is with us; will be useful in case of an alarm at night, or their small vessels approaching the shore in the day.

I request your Honour's instructions concerning the publick arms, tents, &c. As there is a respectable guard at Colonel *Hay's*, perhaps you may consider that as a proper place to deposit them for the present. I also request a whale-boat, to use as a guard-boat. I could also thereby be enabled to communicate to your Honour with more despatch any thing extraordinary that way happening in this quarter.

With due respect, I am your Honour's most obedient and obliged servant,

W. MALCOM.

Honourable General *Heath.*

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COLONEL HAY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Haverstraw, December 3d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Agreeable to your desire, I have informed Colonel *Lasher* that he must take care of the tents, arms, cooking utensils, and others belonging to his regiment, until you send a party for them. Colonel *Malcom* and his regiment have consented to stay in the service fourteen days longer, consequently will want theirs. Colonels *Drake* and *Hardenbergh* have left this place with their regiments, and I do not know what they have done with their tents, &c.

I am, dear sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

A. HAWKES HAY.

To the Honourable General *Heath, Peekskill.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Peekskill, December 3d, 1776.

SIR: Your favours of the 27th and 28th of *November* are before me. I should have sooner acknowledged the receipt of them, had not a multiplicity of pressing avocations prevented. It gives me the highest satisfaction to find my endeavours to serve the publick cause meet with the approbation of so respectable a body as the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

I have the pleasure also to acquaint you, that by a letter received from his Excellency General *Washington*, dated at *Brunswick*, the 29th of *November*, his Excellency is pleased to express his approbation of my offers of assistance in obstructing the passage of the *North River*, as it is an object of so much consideration that too much attention cannot be paid to it.

I am sorry to find that a number of soldiers, both sick and well, have obtruded themselves upon you, and thank you for the kind assistance which has been afforded to them. They were not of my division; but having come within the limits of my command, I immediately gave orders for those who were fit for duty to join their regiment, and that a Surgeon of the hospital should attend the sick; and I am surprised this evening to find that the latter has been neglected. I have this evening directed Dr. *McKnight* to repair to *Fishkill* to-morrow. He has promised that he will attend, with medicines, &c.

I yesterday ordered to *Fort Montgomery* a quantity of sheet iron, which is to be forwarded to the *Forest of Dean*, in order to complete the stores for the use of the Northern Army.

I shall pay a particular attention to the posts and passes on the west side of *Hudson's* river, which lie within the limits of my command, and shall order over, from time to time, such reinforcements as our strength will admit of, or the exigencies of affairs require. At present, as General *Lee* is passing that way with a very respectable body of troops, any reinforcement of our posts there is unnecessary.

I thank the honourable Convention for the measures which they have taken to afford speedy aid, in case occasion should require it, on the west side of *Hudson's* river, by holding the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties in readiness to march at a moment's notice.

A hospital for the reception of the sick of my department, is extremely wanted. Doctor *McKnight*, who is my principal Surgeon, acquaints me that the academy at *Fishkill* is well calculated for that purpose, and has been recommended to him by some gentlemen of the Committee. If it is unimproved, and it should be agreeable to the honourable Convention that it should be used as an hospital, it will benefit the publick. If it should appear disagreeable, a house must be somewhere or another built or fitted up.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most obedient and very humble servant,

W. HEATH.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President of the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York, Fishkill.*

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EZRA THOMPSON TO JONATHAN LANDON.

SIR: According to your orders of the 1st of *December*, 1776, I have measured the work done by *McDonald* and his workmen since his last agreement with you and Committee appointed to explore mines in this State, viz: he sunk from the west to the east, five feet depth, and extended the same twenty-four feet in length, and three feet in breadth; he also had sunk from northeast to the southwest, eleven feet in depth, and extended the same two-and-a-half feet in length, and twelve feet in breadth. The above different measures are as exact as I could make. He likewise has drawn a report, the truth of which, as far as I could understand, may be depended on.

Sir, I remain your very humble servant,

EZRA THOMPSON.

December 3d, 1776.

By agreement *McDonald* was to dig one hundred and eight cubick feet for ten pounds. He has dug six hundred and ninety cubick feet, which, at the rate of ten pounds for one hundred and eight, amounts to sixty-three pounds seventeen shillings and nine pence.

NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GENERAL HEATH.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, December 3d, 1776. }

SIR: A petition, supported by a number of affidavits, was this day presented to the Committee of Safety, complaining of depredations committed by Captain *Ford* and his company, belonging to Colonel *Brewer's* regiment, of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, and requesting the interposition of civil authority. You, sir, have, we presume, but too much evidence before you of the rapacity of our troops, who seem to have conspired with a cruel enemy, increasing the misfortunes of those who have unhappily fallen victims to the calamities of war. From your known humanity and benevolence we are fully satisfied that you cannot but resent ravages which disgrace the arms taken up in the most righteous of all causes with abhorrence.

Called upon by numberless complaints of the suffering inhabitants of this State, it has become our duty to see that at least some of the principal offenders be brought to justice, that a stop may be put to such pernicious excesses for the future; and the Committee of Safety have accordingly passed suitable resolutions, which will be transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*, with a request that Captain *Ford* be delivered up, in order to answer for his misconduct in a court of justice. In the mean time I am directed to request you to detain Captain *Ford* in custody, and to give orders for securing such of the plundered effects as may still be found.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant.

By order of the Committee of Safety:

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice President.*

To the Honourable Major-General *Heath.*

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO JOHN ROWE.

In Committee of Safety Fishkill, }
December 3, 1776. }

SIR: This Committee are informed by Mr. *John Livingston*, that he has purchased a quantity of goods of you for this State, and left in your care four hogsheads. The bearer, Mr. *James Weeks*, is sent on purpose to bring the goods to this place, which goods you will be kind enough to deliver to him. He has Mr. *John Livingston's* order to you for that purpose.

We are, sir, your most obedient servants,

JAS. CUYLER,
E. L'HOMMEDIEU,
JOHN MOORE.

To *John Rowe*, Esq., *Boston.*

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN NATHANIEL PLATT.

Fishkill, December 3, 1776.

SIR: The Committee are informed that Colonel *Livingston* brought from *Long-Island* a considerable number of fire-arms. The Convention have therefore directed us that those arms will be wanted in this State. You are recommended to us as a proper person. We request you will apply to Colonel *Livingston*, and take the arms, appraise them, and transport them to this place, as soon as possible; and for your trouble and expense you will be paid.

We are, sir, &c.,

JAS. CUYLER,
E. L'HOMMEDIEU,
JOHN MOORE.

To Captain *Nathaniel Platt, Milford.*

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO CAPTAIN WEEKS.

Fishkill, December 3, 1776.

SIR: You will immediately proceed from here to the town of *Boston*, with the letter and order herewith delivered you, for Mr. *John Rowe*, who will deliver you four hogsheads of dry goods, with which you will repair here as soon as possible. For this purpose we have put in your hands the sum of eighty pounds. You will either buy teams or hire them to carry the said goods, as to you may appear most advantageous. You are to do every act in this business with despatch and the least expense.

We are, sir, yours,

J. CUYLER,
JOHN MOORE,
E. L'HOMMEDIEU.

To Captain *James Weeks, Fishkill.*

*Memorandum.*—Agreeable to an order of this Committee of Safety, one hundred pounds have been paid by Mr. *L'Hommedieu*, whereof eighty is paid to Captain *Weeks*, and twenty detained in his hands, for the removal of the fire-arms.

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JOHN ELMENDORF TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Kingston, 3 December, 1776.

SIR: I am happy to hear that the Convention entertains such an opinion of my fidelity to our common cause, as to empower me in procuring requisites in order to make our common defence; but am sorry to inform you that at this present time I cannot accept of performing that trust reposed in me, for reason of such daily depredations and plunder of private property at my house. You are sensible when such outrages are committed, in having your doors splintered, forced, &c., it is requisite for an honest man, and a lover of his country's rights, to alleviate the distress of my good family (as they may be called by the world) with my presence. Nothing grieves me more than daily to observe, and be an eye witness to such confusion and turbulent dispositions of the people. I should willingly embrace an opportunity for the service of my country at any other time, so with reluctance might decline, and refer you to some other person for the completion of the trust I was honoured with.

I am, with the greatest esteem and regard for the welfare of the publick in general, your most obedient, humble servant,

JNO. ELMENDORF.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice President of the Committee of Safety, at *Fishkill.*

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COLONEL GANSEVOORT TO ROBERT YATES.

Albany, 3d December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have this day assumed upon myself to issue instructions to the undermentioned persons, to recruit for my battalion, to wit: *Henry Colbrath* and *McClannen.* They are persons whom I did not know till lately, when they were recommended to me by some officers. They are at present Lieutenants in Colonel *Nicholson's* regiment. I was induced to do this, as they had considerable influence among the men in that regiment, and probably to get them to reengage; and having but few recruiting officers in this quarter, I am under some apprehensions that the men will be gone before I might find others, there appearing so great a reluctance in the young gentlemen in and about *Albany* to engage in the service, many of Colonel *Van Schaick's* officers having, as I am informed, declined to accept their appointment.

I shall continue to issue instructions to such gentlemen as I shall approve of, and sending you their names, until otherwise directed by your Committee. I have, however, made no other engagements with the above gentlemen, but that I would recommend them for Ensigns, and that I doubted not but that your Committee would take notice of it; and should they not, that they should be paid as recruiting officers.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very humble servant,

P. GANSEVOORT.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of Committee of Arrangement.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 27th.]

Saratoga, December 3d, 1776.

SIR: At one this day I was honoured with your favour of the 24th ultimo, covering sundry resolutions of Congress, which shall be immediately published.

The resolution respecting the *Pennsylvania* and *New-Jersey* troops, I had already anticipated; and as the troops that had been employed in this department, except the necessary garrisons, were on the march from *Ticonderoga* when I received the account of *Fort Washington's* having fallen into the enemy's hands, I ordered seven others of the regular troops to join his Excellency General *Washington.* The last of those embarked yesterday at *Albany*, under the command of General *Gates.*

I am very apprehensive that a sufficient body of troops for the new Army will not be engaged in time to relieve

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the northern garrisons. I shall make pressing application to the Eastern States to send whatever numbers they can procure.

As many of the officers that have served the last campaign are left out in the new arrangement, should not some directions be given to discharge them from the service? I am just now informed that a prize ship is arrived at *Boston*, with seventeen thousand suits of clothing. I hope the whole will be purchased for the use of the Army.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO MESHECH WEARE.

Saratoga, December 3, 1776.

SIR: The term of inlistment of the troops that now garrison *Ticonderoga*, *Fort George*, &c., will expire on the last day of this month, and I fear they cannot be prevailed upon to remain there after that. It is therefore of the utmost importance that troops should be expedited into this department the soonest possible. And agreeable to the enclosed resolution of Congress, I do myself the honour to entreat you to order such parts of each regiment to be raised in your State for this department as can be got ready, to march, so as that they may arrive at *Ticonderoga* by the latter end of this month.

As it is impossible to prevent the enemy from gaining intelligence of what passes in this quarter, should the troops now at *Ticonderoga* leave it before others come up to relieve them, General *Carleton* will doubtless take the advantage of it, and possess himself of that important post; and what the consequences would be are easily conceived. I do not, therefore, doubt but that every exertion will be made by your State to hasten on the troops.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Honourable President of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

[Same to Massachusetts Council; Governour Trumbull; Governour Cooke.]

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In Congress, November 22, 1776.

As the necessity of obtaining an Army immediately to oppose the designs of the enemy is so evident and pressing as to render it proper to give all possible facility to that business:

*Resolved*, That each State be at liberty to direct their recruiting officers to inlist their men, either for the war or three years, upon the respective bounties offered by Congress, without presenting inlisting rolls for both terms, according to a former resolution, keeping it always in view, that in the opinion of Congress, the publick service will be best promoted by inlistments for the war, if the recruiting business is not retarded thereby.

Extract from Resolves.

JOHN LANSING, Jun.,
*Secretary to M. General Schuyler.*

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DEPOSITION OF OLIVER JOHNSON AND OTHERS.

The testimony of *Oliver Johnson*, *John Hall*, *Seth Johnson*, *John Gilbert*, *Abel Willcor*, and *Elisha Brown*, is as follows, viz:

The deponents say that they were upon the military watch, kept by order of the Civil Authority and Selectmen of *Middletown*, in the night season, in the night next after *Saturday* last; that when they came to the guard-house, at the town-house, they heard the noise of great merriment at Governour *Franklin's* lodgings, at the house of *Jacob Sebor*, viz: singing loud, hallooing, shouting, &c., which seemed to proceed from a large company; and *Seth Johnson* and *John Gilbert*, for themselves, say, that as they passed by, about half after eleven o'clock, they heard said company roaring out a catch, which began thus: "King *George's* health, and it shall go round," which seemed to be begun by one, and then the whole company joined in the chorus; and said *Abel Willcor* and *Elisha Brown* say, that they heard said company sing a song which begins, "*Howe's* a brave commander;" and all said deponents declare and say that the noise and uproar of said company continued from the time said guard was set, at nine o'clock, until half after eleven o'clock in the evening, and might, as they judge, have been heard forty rods from said *Sebor's*. And the said *Elisha Brown* and *Abel Willcor* declare and say, that they were ordered by the Captain of the watch, between eleven and twelve, to patrol the streets, and that upon their return they met four of the persons who had spent the evening with Governour *Franklin*, who they are since informed are Mr. *Walton*, Colonel *Corsa*, Mr. *Samuel Burling*, and Mr. *Robert Ross Wadelle*, four gentlemen from *New-York*, supposed to be Tories, and confined here upon their parole. That they upon meeting them, thought it their duty to carry men who had made such a disturbance to the guard-house, and accordingly ordered them to stand, and required them to go with them to the guard-house, which they with some reluctance submitted to and went; when they came there they questioned the right of the guard to detain them; upon which they were desired to read the instructions to the guard, which were stuck up in writing against the wall, which some of them did, and thereupon Mr. *Walton* acknowledged the guard had pursued their instructions, and endeavoured to convince the other gentlemen of it; but very soon Mr. *Burling* and *Wadelle* began to show resentment that they were detained, and *Burling* pretended an excuse for going into the street; but as it was believed to be a mere excuse, he was not permitted; then a negro boy of Mr. *Walton's*, who attended them, was permitted to go down, but *Elisha Brown* suspecting he might intend to escape, opened a window and gave him to understand that if he attempted to escape, he would be within reach of his piece; the boy went and returned, but Mr. *Wadelle* took upon him to resent said *Brown's* conduct, and fell into a very violent passion, and threatened said *Brown* to beat his brains out; and the said *Burling* also began to abuse and insult said watch. Soon after, Captain *Johnson* returned, and said *Walton* and *Corsa* requesting to be dismissed, and promising to go directly and peaceably to their lodgings, Captain *Johnson* dismissed them; but said *Wadelle* and *Burling* continuing turbulent, and giving the watch abusive language, they were detained, and from this time till they were dismissed by Major *Starr*, their conduct and language was most outrageous, violent, and wicked, in the course of which said *Burling* called Captain *Johnson* a liar, a thief, and a devil, and many other vile and abusive epithets; one or other of them threatened to beat and kill *Abel Willcor*, *John Hall*, *Elisha Brown* and Captain *Johnson;* Mr. *Burling* damned the Congress repeatedly, cursed this Colony and all authority in it, wished the *Hessians* here to cut our throats, and said they would be in a fortnight; called our soldiers and Army cowards; and much more of the like nature; they further say that they uttered the most terrible oaths and curses which they ever heard; they swore by the name of God, by Jesus Christ; and with these and the like oaths, introduced almost every sentence. Mr. *Burling* said it was no sin to take God's name in vain, and also told *John Hall* he could not go to Heaven, for he had neither piety nor virtue enough, and beside had not money enough to pay the expenses of the journey. Mr. *Burling* damned the Continental currency, and said it was good for nothing; and the said *Burling* several times attempted to strike said *Abel Willcor*, and also attempted to wrest a large heavy cane out of the hands of said *Wadelle* to strike said *Willcor* with. And the said *Oliver Johnson* and *Abel Willcor* further say, that soon after said gentlemen were carried to said guard-house, Governour *Franklin* sent for said *Johnson*, and he and said *Willcor* went to him to said *Sebor's* gate, where he used arguments to show they ought not to be detained; and upon said *Willcor* replying that they ought to be taken up and detained, the said Governour *Franklin* replied, (speaking to said *Willcor,*) "You are a damned villain; I know you; you shall be come up with for this." And these deponents further say said persons were not used with any angry or provoking language, nor had they any insult offered them by any of said watch, neither do they know of any reason for said outrage, insult and provocation, but their being taken up and detained as aforesaid; and further these deponents say not.

OLIVER JOHNSON, JOHN GILBERT,
JOHN HALL, ABEL WILCOR,
SETH JOHNSON, ELISHA BROWN.

Middletown, December 3d, 1776.

HARTFORD *County, ss:* MIDDLETOWN, *December* 3d, 1776.

Personally appeared *Oliver Johnson, John Hall, Seth Johnson, John Gilbert, Abel Willcor,* and *Elisha Brown,* and made oath that the deposition written in this sheet of paper and by them subscribed, is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Before me,

MATTHEW TALLCOTT, *Justice Peace.*

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY.

Providence, December 3, 1776.

SIR: I think it my duty to inform you that I have just received undoubted intelligence that yesterday morning a large fleet of square-rigged vessels was seen between *Block-Island* and *Montauk*, who in all probability are designed for an attack upon this State. When the letters giving me this information were writing, eleven sail were plainly discovered, and before the expresses came away several more hove in sight. The authority of *New-Hampshire* will make such use of this intelligence as prudence shall suggest, and at all events prepare the force of that State to act as the exigency of affairs shall require.

I am, in great haste, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

Honourable Speaker of the Assembly of *New-Hampshire.*

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO MESSRS. PENET & SON.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, New-England, War Office, Boston, 3d December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We have lately been constituted by this Government a Board of War, as for other purposes so to get from your part of the world those supplies of warlike stores we yet stand in need of. Having an opportunity from *Newburyport* to ship a small interest by a chance vessel, we consign it to your house for sale. There may be some small furs and oil, or perhaps oil only. Whatever effects may come to you for our account, please to sell them to the best advantage, and return us the proceeds, freight and all other charges being deducted, in good effective fire-arms, with bayonets, such as are used in the King of *France* his army, or those that approach nearest to them. There has been a good manufacture of this kind shown to us as a specimen, that was brought by a gentleman from *Nantz*, belonging to the house of *Penet & Gruel,* negts sur l'isle fey deau à *Nante.* This fusil was of a good length, had a well-sized calibre, and a sufficient bayonet and sheath. It had iron clasps and steel ramrod, and well fixed in every part, with a bridle to the lock. This fusil was offered at twenty-two livres *Tournois.* Please to ship upon the *Montgomery,* when she returns, the whole amount of this adventure in such fire-arms as above described, if you can procure them, and let them be carefully packed in chests. But as you may not be able to procure good fire-arms, and as we are uncertain at present what interest will be to ship it to you by this vessel, we will mention to you what other articles we want, and you will send them in the course they are mentioned, viz: Five hundred well-made gun-locks, with what the *English* call good bridles; one hundred and fifty thousand good flints, cost three and a half to four livres per thousand; fifty pounds borax purificata, cost in *London* about five shillings per pound; ten good brass cannon for field-pieces, carrying three pound ball—if not too dear. If any thing remains after these purchases, please to send it in good raven's duck, fit for soldiers' tents. It generally cost from twenty-two to twenty-seven shillings sterling a piece, of thirty-eight yards and seven-eighths of a yard wide.

It is probable we may make you some further consignments by our own vessels; and in the interim remain with respect your humble servant,

JAMES WARREN,
*President of the Board of War.*

Messrs. *Louis Penet & Son,* Merchants at *Bordeaux.*

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO MESSRS. JACKSON, TRACY, & TRACY.

War-Office, Boston, 3d December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your Mr. *Jackson* mentioning to us your offer to freight a parcel of oil now at *Newburyport* to *Bordeaux* in your ship *Montgomery,* Captain *Row.* you will oblige us to apply to the owners of said oil, which we suppose to be train oil; and if it be of good quality, and they will take four pounds per barrel, or thirty-two pounds, lawful money, per ton of two hundred and fifty-two gallons, please to purchase the whole for account of Government, provided you will carry it in said ship. We will pay for the freight of it three pounds ten shillings sterling per ton; and if you can afford it for a less sum, we presume you will not insist upon our offer. Enclosed you have a letter to *Nathaniel Carter,* Esq., also to Mr. *John White,* with applications to them for some shipping furs they have. If either or both those gentlemen incline to part with them for the service of their country, please to receive them, and ship them per Captain *Rowe,* for *Bordeaux.* Enclosed you have a letter to Messrs. *Penet & Son,* at *Bordeaux,* which you will please to send forward to them, with an invoice or bill lading, provided you obtain any oil or furs as mentioned.

By order of the Board of War:

JA. WARREN, *President.*

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO JOHN WHITE.

War-Office, Boston, 3d December, 1776.

SIR: This Board having been informed by Mr. *Jackson* that you have a quantity of small furs by you fit for shipping, and being well convinced of your strong attachment to your country in its present dispute, as they find a great scarcity of exports proper for the *European* market, and want a great quantity of military supplies from that country, beg leave to ask whether you will spare those furs for an export upon the account of Government. There is an opportunity from *Newburyport* to ship them. Messrs. *Jackson, Tracy & Tracy* lately bought a parcel in this town. We are willing to give the same prices they gave, and which they will furnish you with if you incline to let them go. Please to deliver them in shipping order to said *Jackson, Tracy & Tracy,* and invoice of them; and if you will send us an invoice likewise of the same we will soon provide payment of it.

I am, your humble servant, J. WARREN, *President.*

Mr. *John White,* of *Haverhill.*

[Same to *Nathaniel Carter,* at *Newbury Port.*]

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State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, December 3, 1776.

*Ordered,* That the Secretary be directed to publish in the several Newspapers the following Act.

A true extract from the Minutes.

Attest: JOHN AVERY, *Dep'y Secretary.*

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*In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.*

*An Act to prevent the forging and altering Bills of Publick Credit, and for preventing the Depreciation thereof, and for making the Bills of Credit of the United Colonies and the Bills of this Government a tender in all payments.*

Whereas, by reason of the unjustifiable attacks committed against the *United Colonies of America* by the troops of *Great Britain,* and the difficulty of collecting money, plate, and bullion to support the charges of their necessary defence, the Congress of said Colonies have thought fit, for the carrying on the publick affairs and answering the demands of soldiers and seamen employed by them, to order the imprinting and signing a certain number of bills of credit of several sums, by Commissioners thereunto duly appointed and authorized: And whereas the Congress and General Assembly of this Colony have also, for the payment of seamen and soldiers employed in the defence of the same, ordered that a certain number of notes and bills of credit of several sums should be imprinted and signed by Commissioners thereunto duly authorized and appointed: And whereas several of the *United Colonies* have, by their Governments, severally ordered the imprinting and signing a certain number of bills of publick credit for answering the demands of soldiers and seamen by them severally employed for their necessary defence, all which bills have retained a good currency and have very much facilitated the carrying

on of the present war; nevertheless, some wicked persons, intending to defraud the inhabitants of the Colonies aforesaid, and for the sake of base and unlawful gain, have forged, altered, and uttered, several counterfeit notes and bills of the same, in imitation of the true notes and bills of this Colony, thereby imposing a vile cheat on unwary and less discerning persons: For the prevention of which evils for the future,

*Be it enacted by the Council and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same*, That whosoever shall presume to scribe or counterfeit any note or notes, bill or bills, of the tenour, or in imitation of the bills of credit of the *United Colonies*, established by any resolve of the *American* Congress, Convention, Congress, or Government of this, or any of the *United Colonies of America*, or that shall utter any such counterfeit and forged notes or bills, knowing them to be such, or that shall counsel, advise, assist in, or procure the forging, counterfeiting, imprinting, or signing of any such false notes or bills, or engrave any plate, or make any instrument to be used in forging and counterfeiting such notes or bills, every person so offending, and being thereof convicted before the Superiour Court of Judicature, Court of Assize, and General Gaol Delivery, shall be punished by being set on the gallows for the space of one hour, with a rope round the neck, and shall pay a fine, for the use of this Colony, not exceeding thirty pounds, and suffer six months imprisonment, and be publickly whipped not exceeding thirty-nine stripes, and be incapable of holding any office under the Government of this Colony, or shall suffer all or any of the foregoing punishments at the discretion of the Court before whom the trial shall be, according to the nature and circumstances of the offence; and shall pay to the person or persons that shall be defrauded by such forgery treble damages, and if such offender or offenders shall not be able to pay the charges of his or their imprisonment, the Court before whom the conviction is shall order that, at the expiration of said term of imprisonment, such person or persons shall be sold in service a time sufficient to pay the same.

*And it is also enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That whosoever shall make discovery and give information of such vile and wicked practice of making or knowingly putting off any false and counterfeit note or bill as aforesaid, so that the person or persons guilty thereof may be rendered to justice and convicted, every such informer shall have and receive as a reward for his good services, on every such conviction, the sum of twenty pounds, to be ordered out of the publick Treasury of this Colony by the Council, on a certificate from the Court before whom the conviction shall be, that such person did inform of such offence according to this act.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That every person convicted of altering or increasing the sum of or figures set and expressed in the notes or bills of credit of the said *United Colonies*, or either of them, or of forging or counterfeiting any hand, name, or stamps, or other private mark that shall be, or has been made or set thereon, shall be for either of said offences punished in the same manner as is provided by this act against those who shall forge or counterfeit such notes or bills.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if any person shall, directly or indirectly, receive or pay any of the bills aforesaid for a less sum than is in them expressed, such persons shall be incapable ever after of holding any civil or military office in this Colony, and for every such offence pay a fine of forty pounds, to be received before any court of record by bill, plaint, or indictment; one moiety whereof shall be for the use of the person who shall sue or inform for the same, and the other moiety to the use of this Colony.

*And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That if any person or persons shall set or offer his, her, or their goods, wares, or merchandise, at a smaller or less price in gold or silver than what they are by him, her, or them, set at in the paper currency of the *United Colonies*, or either of them, he, she, or they shall pay a fine of twenty pounds; one moiety thereof to the use of the person who shall sue for and recover the same, and the other moiety to the use of the town where the offence is committed.

*And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the bills of credit of the *United Colonies*, established by the *American* Congress, and the bills of this Government, shall be received in all payments within this Colony, and a tender of the same may be pleaded in bar to any action brought for the recovery of any money or species of money due by deed or simple contract, or in any way and manner whatever.

And all Justices, Sheriffs, Grand Jurors, and Tythingmen, are hereby strictly enjoined and commanded to bring to justice all persons offending against this act or any part of it.

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CAPTAIN COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 4th, 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen: I have got the ship at a wharf, but not without some trouble. I am in hopes, provided this weather proves good, to have the ship at *Annapolis* some few days before Christmas. I shall do my utmost in getting ready for sea.

In my last I enclosed you two advertisements of the sale of the snow *Georgia* and cargo, that you may, if thought necessary, appoint the agent for the Province. The other vessel here is all libeled, and I believe the rum in the schooner will soon be sold, as the casks are in bad condition. We shall want rum for the use of the ship, and shall be glad of your advice on that head. I have sent the tender to go in search of an anchor that's left in *Potomack;* and it will be necessary for Mr. *Middleton* and his boat to go this occasion, which I am in hopes you'll be pleased to direct.

We shall want for the ship some small sails, of which the enclosed is a list, with the quantity of canvas wanting, which I'm in hopes is in your power to supply me with. Should any thing occur to you relative to the advantage of the ship, I hope you'll please to give me your instructions, that I may closely attend thereto, and shall from time to time inform you how we go on.

The prisoner, Mr. *Dennistoon*, is discharged from the ship agreeable to your letter to me, and should have done it on the first application, but was informed the Board of Admiralty had the management of that business, and my not seeing them was the reason.

The rum, sugar, &c., on board the schooner *Nancy*, will be sold on *Monday* next. We shall want a sufficient quantity for the next cruise. Should be glad you'll appoint some one not belonging to the ship, either to purchase or procure what may be necessary for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, honoured gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

Geo. Cook.

The honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis.*

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MAT. DRIVER TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

December 4th, 1776.

Gentlemen: Enclosed you have the determination of the Court-Martial for the trial of Captain *John Fauntleroy*. And I think it my duty to inform you, that after the Court came to the enclosed determination, Captain *Fauntleroy* behaved in a very rude and insolent manner to the said Court, declaring that he did not think himself bound ever to attend the said Court, nor to return to his former duty in battalion, while ever his commanding officer, who complained against him, was continued over him, and offered, in the presence of the Court, to give Colonel *Stainton* fifty pounds to exchange a ball with him, and at the same time said the Court had prejudged the matter, and looked upon it no more than a mock trial.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

Mat. Driver

The honourable the Council of Safety, *Maryland.*

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Melvill's Warehouse, November 16th, 1776.

In pursuance to an order from the Council of Safety, bearing date the 18th day of *September* last, for the trial of Captain *John Fauntleroy*, of the Twenty-Eighth Battalion of Militia for this State, I appointed the 16th day of *November*, 1776, for holding a Court-Martial for that purpose, and give notice of the time and place for holding said Court, to all persons concerned.

And there was present at the time and place, Captains *Vincent Price*, *Nathaniel Potter*, *John Mitchel*, *Peter Richardson*, and *Henry Casson*, Sen.

And after fully hearing the allegations of Colonel *Benson Stainton*, and the evidences on both sides, and considering the same, the Court give judgment that Captain *John Fauntleroy* pay five pounds, current money, for his offence and breach of duty.

MAT. DRIVER, *President*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

"In Congress, December 3, 1776.

"*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be directed, in case he has not entered into a negotiation with General *Howe* for exchanging Governour *Franklin* for General *Thompson*, to suspend the execution of that matter till further orders."

Philadelphia, December 4th, 1776.

SIR: The Congress apprehending that in the present state of the Army, and situation of our affairs, an exchange of Governour *Franklin* might be prejudicial, and attended with some bad consequences, have been induced to come to the above resolution, which I transmit by their directions.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*, at *Trenton*.

Your favour of 3d instant just come to hand.

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NEW-YORK DELEGATES IN CONGRESS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, December 4, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We received Mr. *McKesson's* letter, dated the 25th *November*. We have, according to your request, applied to Congress for leave to our State to raise another battalion, to be commanded by Colonel *Dubois*, which is agreed to, and a resolve to that purpose is enclosed for employing five Aid-Majors at the expense of our State. Blank commissions for both the battalions and Aid-Majors are herewith sent. There are forty-five blanks, a few more than the number wanted, to serve in case some might be spoiled in filling up. The accounts of the officers of the five battalions is with you to settle. The Congress does not interfere under the new arrangement in the rank of officers appointed by the several States.

General *Washington* is at *Trenton* with his Army; General *Cornwallis* at *Brunswick*. The city has been in great confusion for some days. Their consternation was great from an apprehension that the enemy would march on to this place; but they have now in a great measure recovered their spirits, and are marching out in considerable numbers to join General *Washington;* and in a few days our Army will be strong enough to face the enemy. We have no account where our troops under General *Lee* are at present, but are in hopes, if they are on their march, as is said, that *Cornwallis* will not proceed any further this way too speedily. If he delays a very few days longer, there is nothing to fear from him.

We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,

PHIL. LIVINGSTON,
FRA. LEWIS,
WM. FLOYD.

To the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Trenton, December 4th, 1776.

SIR: Since I have had the honour of addressing you yesterday, I received a letter from General *Lee*. On the 30th ultimo he was at *Peekskill*, and expected to pass the river with his division two days after. From this intelligence you will readily conclude that he will not be able to afford us any aid for several days. The report of General *St. Clair's* having joined him with three or four regiments, I believe to be altogether premature, as he mentions nothing of it. It has arisen, I am informed, from the return of some of the *Jersey* and *Pennsylvania* troops from *Ticonderoga*, whose time of service is expired. They have reached *Pluckemin*, where I have wrote to have 'em halted and kept together, if they can be prevailed on, till further orders.

The enclosed is a copy of a letter which came to hand last night from Major *Clark*, to which I beg leave to refer you for the intelligence it contains. The number of the enemy said to be embarked is supposed to be rather exaggerated. That there has been an embarkation is not to be doubted, it being confirmed through various channels. By Colonel *Griffin*, who went from *Brunswick* on *Sunday* morning with a Captain *Sims* to pass him by our guards, and who was detained by Lord *Cornwallis* till *Monday* evening on account of his situation, the amount of General *Clinton's* force, from what he could collect from the officers, was about six thousand; as to their destination, he could not obtain the least information. By him I also learn, the enemy were in *Brunswick*, and that some of their advanced parties had proceeded two miles on this side. The heavy rain that has fallen has probably checked their progress, and may prevent their further movement for some time.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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Tapaan, November 29, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: The bearer of this, a private in Colonel *Rawlin's* regiment, made his escape from the enemy in *New-York* yesterday. He is an intelligent fellow, and brings information that upwards of ten thousand of the enemy embarked on *Sunday* last, under the command of General *Clinton*, the place of their destination uncertain. Some of them informed him they were gone to *Carolina*, others say to the eastward, (query, if not to the Capes of *Delaware?*) The number of the enemy at *Fort Lee* three thousand; at *Hackensack* about seven thousand, under the command of Lord *Cornwallis*. Doctor *Pell* has just made his escape from them. He also confirms the above accounts; but says it was believed by many, the troops under *Clinton* were gone to *Rhode-Island*.

I have the pleasure to inform you the stores are all moved from this place. One of our little scouting parties brought off a wagon and horses yesterday from the enemy within a few rods of them; 'tis marked "General *Vaughan*, No. 1." To-day I march my detachment, in hopes of joining you soon.

Should the above intelligence be of any service, I shall think myself happy; and am your Excellency's most obedient,

JNO. CLARK, Jun., *Major*.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Head-Quarters, Trenton, 4 December, 1776.

SIR: Yours of the 20th last month was delivered to me by the Brigadier *Le Roche de Fermoy*, who is now here, but unable to render me that service which, I dare say, from his character, he would was he better acquainted with our language.

I yesterday received a letter from you without a date, mentioning that the prisoners from *Yorktown* were directed to halt at *New-Town* for my orders. On hearing they were there, I sent Colonel *Moylan* to conduct them, and the prisoners from *Reading*, who arrived nearly at the same time, over towards *Brunswick* and deliver them in.

I hope you have not sent Captain *Price*, Lieutenant *Peacock*, and Major *Campbell* on to this place, as it is highly improper they should see and know the situation of our Army here and at *Princeton*. They had better be sent up under the care of some person to *New-Town* or that neighbourhood, and there wait the arrival of some larger party, who, I imagine, will be soon forwarded from *Lancaster*, and go in with them.

Lieutenant *Symes* came over to me at *Brunswick* from *Bethlehem* without the least guard or escort, and a Lieutenant of the Seventh Regiment went through our whole Army, and was at last discovered by a mere accident. He had a pass from the Council of Safety, and that was all. Such an irregular mode of suffering prisoners to go in alone must be put a stop to, or the enemy will be as well acquainted with our situation as we are ourselves. If they are left at liberty to choose their own route, they will

always take that through our Army for reasons too obvious to mention.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To *Richard Peters*, Esq., War Office.

P. S. I have been obliged to send down a number of our sick to *Philadelphia* to make room for the troops, and to remove them out of the way. Be pleased to have some care taken to have them properly accommodated. I should think part of the House of Employment might be procured for that purpose. I have ordered down an officer from each regiment, and a Surgeon Mate, if they can be spared. But I hope they will not want the assistance of the visiting physicians of the hospital.

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GENERAL GREENE TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Trentown, December 4th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I embrace this opportunity to write you by Captain *Skinner*, of the *Connecticut* Light-Horse, the posts being uncertain, and sometimes the mails intercepted. I have not wrote you a history of the state of the Army so early as I should otherwise have done if those difficulties had not been in the way.

Upon the retreat of the enemy at the *White-Plains*, his Excellency ordered over the *North River* the greatest part of the Southern troops. The enemy made a disposition of *Dobbs's* Ferry, as if they intended to cross the river also. I was then at *Fort Lee*, opposite *Fort Washington*. The enemy remained in that situation several days, and then decamped and marched off for *New-York*. By this his Excellency had arrived at *Fort Lee*. In three or four days from the time his Excellency arrived, General *Howe* demanded a surrender of the garrison of *Fort Washington;* it was refused, he attacked and carried it. The garrison consisted of upwards of two thousand men. The lines were too extensive for that number to defend, and when they retreated into the garrison, so much confusion, disorder, and dispiritedness prevailed, that Colonel *Magaw*, who commanded the garrison, could not get the troops to man the outworks. We had very few killed, and those that were killed were principally from Colonel *Bolling's Virginia* regiment, that defended a point of a hill on which *Mount Washington* was situated. The loss of the enemy, we learn from several accounts, was near seven hundred killed and as many wounded; but we have no accounts that are authentick. The loss of *Fort Washington* rendered *Fort Lee* useless. His Excellency ordered it evacuated accordingly. All the valuable stores accordingly were sent off. The enemy got intelligence of it, and as they were in possession of *Harlem* river, brought their boats through that pass without our notice. They crossed the river in a very rainy night, and landed about five miles above the fort, about six thousand, most accounts say eight thousand. We had then at *Fort Lee* only between two and three thousand effective men. His Excellency ordered a retreat immediately. We lost considerable baggage for want of wagons, and a considerable quantity of stores. We had about ninety or a hundred prisoners taken, but these were a set of rascals that skulked out of the way for fear of fighting. The troops at *Fort Lee* were mostly of the Flying-Camp, irregular and undisciplined. Had they obeyed orders, not a man would have been taken. I returned to the camp two hours after the troops marched off. Colonel *Cornwell* and myself got off several hundred, yet notwithstanding all our endeavours, still near a hundred remained hid about in the woods. We retreated to *Hackensack;* from *Hackensack* to *Equaconeck*, from *Equaconeck* to *Newark*, from *Newark* to *Brunswick*, from *Brunswick* to this place. Here we are endeavouring to collect a sufficient force to give the enemy battle, or at least to stop their progress.

We have had another convincing proof of the folly of short inlistments. The time for which the five months men were engaged, expired at this critical period. Two brigades left us at *Brunswick*, notwithstanding the enemy were within two hours' march and coming on. The loss of these troops at this critical time, reduced his Excellency to the necessity to order a retreat again.

Here we are endeavouring to draw our force together. The *Philadelphia* and *Pennsylvania* Militia turn out with great spirit; but the *Jersey* Militia behaves scurvily, and I fear are not deserving the freedom we are contending for. General *Lee* is on his march for this place, and part of the *Ticonderoga* troops. When we get collected together, I am in hopes it will be a respectable body of troops.

The enemy spread desolation wherever they go. The *British* and *Hessian* troops plunder without distinction; Whig and Tory all fare alike. I am in hopes the General will give orders to advance upon the enemy to-morrow. Our numbers are still small, not to exceed five thousand, but daily increasing. When we left *Brunswick* we had not three thousand men—a very pitiful army to trust the liberties of *America* upon. The *American* States should establish their Militia upon the *British* plan; they would be a much better body of troops. It would do less injury to husbandry, manufactures, and commerce, than upon the present establishment. The distresses of the people would be infinitely less, for then whose lot it fell to serve would naturally accommodate their business to their situation. A Militia upon the *British* establishment are a respectable body of troops, and afford a great internal security to a State. They are subject to such a degree of discipline and order as renders them formidable; and without that, numbers are useless, nay distressing, for you cannot bring them to act to any one point; and you have a great many useless and unprofitable mouths to feed.

The vacancies you referred to his Excellency and me to fill up, was referred to *Hitchcock* and *Varnum*. How they have completed the corps of officers I have not learned—I hope to their own satisfaction, if to nobody's else. I wish the inlisting may go on favourably; but I fear the contrary. The success of privateering has set all the troops distracted. 'Tis impossible to oppose the enemy successfully without a good firm body of troops, subject to proper discipline and well officered. Our men are good: nothing wanting, but officers and discipline, are necessary to make the *American* troops equal to any in the world. I have not time to look over the letter, and must beg your excuse for any defects, for I have only a few moments to write. I did not know of the opportunity till within a few moments.

I am, dear sir, with the greatest respect, your obedient servant,

Nathanael Greene.

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COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Camp Ramapough, 4th December, 1776.

Sir: Six companies of Colonel *Tyler's* regiment returned to camp last night. They have brought with them six pipes of *Madeira* wine; ten barrels of wine in bottles, much broken and wasted, said to be *Teneriffe;* one box of soap; all which wait your orders. The last article is much wanted here as it can be any where. I will venture to say as much of the wine, at least of part of it. The officers will be glad of some of it on some terms or other. Part of the wine is marked "*Gabriel Ludlow.*"

The two other companies of *Tyler's* regiment are at *Haverstraw;* their baggage goes from us this night.

Colonel *Tyler* tells me there are eleven chests of armourers' tools, besides bellows, anvils, &c., in the care of *Abraham Post*, at *Tapon*, who promised to put them into a store of *Abraham Maybre's*, at the *Slote*. He thinks they are very safe with the present keeper, and that there is safe passage for boats from that to *Haverstraw*.

I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

Jed. Huntington.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Haverstraw, December y^e^ 4th, 1776.

Dear General: I have received your pressing letter; since which intelligence was sent to me that you had quitted *Brunswick*, so that it is impossible to know where I can join you. But although I should not be able to join you at all, the service which I can render you will, I hope, be full as efficacious. The Northern Army has already advanced nearer *Morristown* than I am. Shall put myself at their head to-morrow. We shall upon the whole compose an army of five thousand good troops in spirits. I should imagine, dear General, that it may be of service to communicate this to the corps immediately under your command. It may encourage them, and startle the enemy; in fact, their con-

fidence must be risen to a prodigious height if they pursue you, with so formidable a body hanging on their flanks or rear. I shall clothe my people at the expense of the Tories, which has a double good effect—it puts them in spirits and comfort, and is a correction of the iniquity of the foes of liberty. It is paltry to think of our personal affairs, when the whole is at stake; but I entreat you to order some of your suite to take out of the way of danger my favourite mare, which is at *Hunt Wilson's*, three miles the other side of *Princeton*.

I am, dear General, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Haverstraw, 4th December, 1776.

SIR: The troops here are so distressed for rum this rainy weather, that I must request you'll immediately forward ten hogsheads of rum down to Colonel *Hay's* landing in *Haverstraw* creek.

I am, sir, yours,

CHARLES LEE, *Major-General.*

To Major-General *Heath.*

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COLONEL MALCOM TO GENERAL SCOTT.

Camp Niack, December 4, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I had the honour to write you by Dr. *Bowen* yesterday, concerning the bounty for the men. I hope ere now he is on his way homeward therewith. The choicest of the men continue with me, are exceedingly hearty, and in high spirits. I could increase their number very speedily if there was occasion, but neither the duty nor time of service would justify my putting either this State or the Continent to that expense.

When I marched from *Haverstraw* on *Monday*, Captain *Steward's* men refused to follow the regiment, insisted that their time of inlistment was expiring. I thought it prudent to disarm what of them I could find, viz: five out of eight, the whole complement.

Captain *Steward* appeared yesterday from Convention, where he had been to settle his accounts, and in his way picked up his men at *Haverstraw*. Tells me he had instructions to continue with the regiment while in service; but as it would answer no purpose to keep them here, (were they even good ones,) and as their behaviour has been so indifferent that the soldiers object to stand in the ranks with them, I have advised *Stewart* to proceed to *Fishkills*, and take further orders from the Convention. With respect to him, I have considered him a sober discreet man, and I believe a brave soldier, and I dare say might have distinguished himself if his bad state of health had not prevented his attending his duty through the campaign. I have had repeated evidences of his attachment to the freedom and independency of *America* and honour of her arms.

As these fellows have chosen the alternative of forfeiting their pay rather than do duty, the residue, after their regiment's debts are paid, shall be at the disposal of the honourable Convention to reimburse their bounty and lost arms, unless they think proper to take another heat at making them soldiers.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you before I leave this part of the world, at least of having a few lines from you; being, with much respect, your Honour's most obedient servant,

W. MALCOM.

To the Honourable General *Scott, Fishkills.*

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

North-Castle, 4th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: Enclosed I send you returns of some of the regiments of *Connecticut* Militia under command of Major-General *Wooster*, such as I can get; though I have called and called again and again for them, I believe there are but one of them really true, that is Major *Brinsmade's*, who seems to be the honestest man. The fact is, they can't make their weekly and provision returns agree; for this reason, they have made a number of brevet officers. They doubt whether these officers will be allowed extra rations: to avoid that, they return so many more men as to cover the extra rations for those officers. You'll see by adverting to the returns, that some companies have more officers than privates at best; but not content with that, and instead of sending home the officers who have very few men, almost none, and turn those few men over into other companies, they add brevet officers, not only to pick the pockets of the publick here, but also by and by those brevet officers are to be dismissed from the Militia rolls at home, and in a few times more being called forth, there will be no Militia left in the State. These things I thought it my duty to report to you, as the character of the State is at stake; and how the officers who have done these things will get along here I don't know, as we now make weekly ration returns as well as returns of the Army, by which they must be discovered The consequence is bad to the officers; however, they must take their fate. I am sorry to have the character of the State suffer by such conduct of its officers.

We have nothing material that is new. General *Washington's* head-quarters are at *New-Brunswick;* the enemy at *Elizabethtown* on this side. No troops this side *New-York* Island. It is said that a fleet of five hundred sail are lying on this side *Hell-Gate*, bound down the *Sound* with the first wind; that they are to ravage the sea-coasts as they go, and to winter at *Newport;* and it is added by others, that four brigades are to march along the coast at the same time on the land. This may be the case, but the numbers are too great to be credited. That smaller numbers are going is not improbable. The present weather is much against them. We may expect winter after these rains. It may be well to be in preparation, as far as may be, for such an event. I shall go to *Peekskill* as soon as the rain is over, and I much expect to meet General *Gates* and brother *John* there. I believe I shall go from thence to *Philadelphia* next week.

I am, honoured sir, your dutiful son,

JOS. TRUMBULL.

Governour *Trumbull.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL MALCOM.

Peekskill, December 4th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have just received your favour of yesterday's date. The noble principles which animated you and the brave officers and soldiers of your regiment, to continue a little longer in the service at this critical time, cannot fail to ensure both you and them lasting honour. They are entitled to the thanks of their countrymen. They have mine, and heartily.

I approve of the disposition which you have made of your regiment, and doubt not but the inhabitants will be protected from any further insults from the enemy.

I intended to have ordered Captain *Treadwell* to this post; but as he may be of service to you, he shall remain with you for the present.

The tents, arms, utensils, and ammunition, may be lodged at Colonel *Hay's* for the present. If a whale-boat can be spared it shall be sent to you.

I am, dear sir, yours affectionately,

W. HEATH.

Colonel *Malcom.*

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GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fort Montgomery, 4th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your favour of the 2d of this instant, I just now received by way of *Fort Constitution.* You will see by the enclosed note from Major *Barker*, from *Fort Independent*, that there is a quantity of lime on board of *Ackerman's* sloop there, which Colonel *Thompson* received from on board of one *Burnet's* sloop, for the use of the barracks at that place, about the time the men-of-war came last up the river, which I knew nothing of. By what I hear there must be about two hundred bushels, which will be more than I want at present. I thought Mr. *Campbell* had taken the brick I acquainted him of. As he has not, there must be twenty thousand there, except a few that Colonel *Thompson* had for the use of the barracks at *Fort Independent.* I have desired Major *Barker* to send the sloop down that has the lime on board to where the brick kiln is; to take in seven thousand brick, and send her up to this fort as soon as possible. As there will be more lime than I want, I would be glad to know if any be wanted at *Peekskill;* if not, I would

unload the sloop here, and if wanted, would send her down. I suppose there will be brick left at the brick kiln, which is at one *Jacob Halsted's*, on the west side the river, below the *Dunderbergh*. He was to deliver them at this fort at the rate of thirty shillings per thousand for hard brick, and twenty shillings for soft brick, as I assisted him with two men to burn them. Mr. *Campbell* had better send for the remainder of them if wanted at *Peekskill*.

I have not received the sheet-iron yet which is designed for stoves, that you ordered here for Mr. *Patrick*. I would be glad to see your Honour here, and have your opinion of what work is the most necessary to be done, as we will not be able to do much more than to get wood, and mend the roads, finish the barracks, &c., &c.

I am your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General.*

To the Honourable Major-General *Heath*, Head-Quarters, *Peekskill.*

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WILLIAM DUER TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY.

Fishkill, December 4, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I transmit you, by order of the Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York* for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all conspiracies formed in the said State against the liberties of *America*, copies of two resolutions of their Board of this date; the first respects the disposal of sundry prisoners who have been sent into your State for notorious disaffection to the *American* cause.

It was with great reluctance that this Committee found themselves necessitated to trouble you with men whose principles are so dangerous to the liberties of mankind, and they have adopted with infinite pleasure an expedient which will probably render them useful to the general cause in which we are engaged, and wean them from those poisonous tenets which have been instilled into many of them, by associating with crafty and designing abettors of the wicked usurpations of the *British* King and Parliament. As most of those persons who have been seduced to take part with our open enemies were flattered by the prospect of self-interest, it may naturally be expected that an operation of the same principle will by degrees lead them to support a cause by which their fortunes may be improved.

The other resolution which I have the honour to transmit you, is a tribute justly due to Lieutenant-Colonel *Welch*, who has been stationed at this place by order of General *Washington* since the 15th of *October* last. If a strict attention to order and regularity amongst soldiers and a deference to the civil authority, are qualifications which deserve commendation in the military officers of a free State, this gentleman is happy enough to possess them in a very eminent degree.

It was upon this principle that the Committee over which I have the honour to preside, directed me to return their thanks to that worthy officer; and to transmit you a copy of the same, in full hopes that his services may be distinguished in the State to which he belongs, and that he may have an opportunity of exerting in a higher sphere the inclination and abilities he possesses to serve his country.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your most obedient and very humble servant,

WILLIAM DUER.

The honourable the Council and General Court of the State of *New-Hampshire.*

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In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York*, for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all conspiracies which may be formed in said State against the liberties of *America:*

Fishkill, December 4, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Council and General Court of the State of *New-Hampshire* be authorized to permit the Prisoners who have been removed by this Committee to said State, to enter on board any of the Continental or private ships of war, excepting such persons who are confined in Jail in said State for treasonable practices against the State of *New-York;* and that Lieutenant-Colonel *Welch* be requested to coöperate with the said Council and General Court in executing this resolution.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to the Council and General Court of the State of *New-Hampshire*, transmitting them a copy of this resolution.

Extract from the Minutes:

ROB'T BENSON, *Secretary.*

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In Committee appointed by the Convention of the State of *New-York* for the purpose of inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all conspiracies formed in the said State against the liberties of *America:*

Fishkill, December 4, 1776.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee that Lieutenant-Colonel *Welch* is entitled to the thanks of the Representatives of this State, for the attention he has shown in executing the orders of this Committee, as well as for the care he has taken to support good order and regularity amongst his troops whilst stationed at this place; and therefore, that the Chairman be requested, in the name of this Committee, to express their hearty approbation of his conduct; and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Council and General Court of the State of *New-Hampshire.*

WM. DUER, *Chairman.*

Attest: ROBERT BENSON, *Secretary.*

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PETER R. LIVINGSTON TO ROBERT BENSON.

Manor Livingston, 4th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Am extremely obliged to you for your kind favours. I have just returned from *New-Haven*, and have occasion to send the bearer hereof down to Commissary *Trumbull*, and have ordered him to call on you to inquire where he may hear of him, whether at *Peekskill* or *North-Castle*, as you'll direct him, and on his return let me know where our Army is, and what force the enemy has this side *King's Bridge*. I shall set out the day after this express returns, as it relates entirely to publick business.

Am, sir, with regards to all the gentlemen, your very humble servant,

PETER R. LIVINGSTON.

To *Robert Benson*, Esq., *Fishkill.*

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J. TRUMBULL, JUN., TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, 4th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I have none of your favours since *Brown* was here. Is he not coming again? As I wrote you in my last, matters this way are growing unimportant; the troops are almost all from *Ty*, save those who remain the winter. General *Gates*, with General *Arnold*, my brother, &c., and several regiments, are gone from here to join the Army below. Their assistance perhaps will not be needed; in that case brother *Jack* will be at liberty for some part at least of the winter.

I send you another piece of *Indian* intelligence, lately sent me per Mr. *Kirkland*.

The people here are much surprised, not to say uneasy, at the return of so many of their Tories, some of whom are the most dangerous of any they sent away. Was it not they fear giving offence, these Tories would not be suffered to stay a moment. I wish we knew better how to treat our enemies. I hope soon to be at *Lebanon* for the winter.

I am your dutiful son, J. TRUMBULL, Jun.

Honourable Governour *Trumbull.*

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J. ROORBACK TO ROBERT YATES.

Albany, December 4th, 1776.

SIR: These waits on you with my sincere regards; and after informing you of my good health, which blessing I hope you enjoy, may serve to beg the favour of you to let me know for what reason my step-son, *John Visscher*, was passed by in the new appointment; and to beg the favour of you (if there is any remedy left) to have him appointed, as you know his military ability and zeal in the cause, his numerous family, &c.

You'll be pleased to remember that he is an old officer, having acted as Captain in two campaigns last war. In this he raised a company, and was the first that marched from this County with a company to the northward, where

his behaviour was such as to merit the esteem of the late worthy General *Montgomery*, who took him along (when none of the Field Officers of his regiment were ever present) to *Canada*, where he was along-side that brave General when he was slain, and he endured the fatigue of the winter campaign, and was the last man who left *Canada* in the shameful retreat. He has been honoured with a Lieutenant-Colonel's commission by the Honourable *John Hancock*, upon the recommendations of several Generals who saw his behaviour and conduct. Now to be neglected, and boys, when he was a man in service, put over his head, chagrins him much, and I think is a discouragement to officers to behave well, and consequently a hurt to the cause in general.

Your laying these matters in their proper place, and using your interest in his behalf, for the reasons first above mentioned, will lay under the greatest obligations, not only him, but, sir, your humble servant,

J. ROORBACK.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., *Fishkill*.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Lebanon, 4th December, 1776, half past 9 o'clock, a. m.

SIR: This moment received, under cover with mine, the enclosed for President *Bowdoin*, of the *Massachusetts*. Coming open to me, have enclosed it to you to observe the contents, to seal and forward immediately by express. General *Lee* was crossing the ferry nigh *Peekskill*, the 1st *December*, going into the *Jerseys*. *Rogers*, the famous, or rather infamous, *Rogers*, who commanded the Rangers in the *British* service, is disgraced.

This State have declined meeting by Commissioners at *Providence*, to consider and join in measures for securing the bills of credit current in these States against depreciating; the reasons were that the honourable Continental Congress were taking up the subject, and the fears we had that such step would occasion jealousies in the other States, and endanger so cordial a Union.

This State have made the Continental and its own bills of credit a legal tender in all payments, and in the Treasury. A tax of seven pence on the pound, in the publick list, is made payable the 10th of *May* next. The collecting warrants are now out. The prices of the most essential articles are fixed, and an embargo laid on them. We wish to assist all in our power for securing the rights of the *United States*.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH TRUMBULL.

Honourable Governour *Cooke*.

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At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *December* 4, 1776:

*Voted*, That Mr. *Nathaniel Shaw*, Jun., be, and he is hereby authorized and desired to draw a letter of credit in favour of the Captain or Commander of the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, to be made use of to obtain necessary repairs or supplies for said ship in any foreign port where she may fall; and the said Mr. *Shaw* shall be indemnified by the State against all damage that may accrue to him by means thereof.

A true copy. Attest: BENJ. HUNTINGTON, *Clerk*.

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New-Haven, December 4, 1776.

*Saturday* evening last the flag of truce lately at *New-London*, stopped in this port; the manner of her coming in gave some suspicion that their designs were not good, and the officer was taken into custody and examined by the Magistracy of the town, who, after a proper examination, acquitted him, and *Monday* morning the vessel pursued her voyage to *New-York*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Providence, December 4th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I received your resolve of this day, and note the contents of it. I now let you know that I have long had orders from the honourable Marine Committee to get all the vessels out as soon as I could man them. I should be glad that your honourable Board would devise some way to complete their men, and likewise some way that the great number of deserters may be sent on board, a considerable number of whom are now in this State.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Honourable *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Rhode-Island*; to be laid before the Committee of said State.

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ALEXANDER WILSON TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

December 4, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As you pleased to desire proposals from me to go a voyage to *Europe*, as master of one of the ships under your direction, I present you the following, viz: 1st, I must approve of the ship and voyage; 2dly, the cargo not to be less than £3,000; 3dly, I must have five per cent. commissions for sales and two-and-a-half for purchase clear at "*Carolina*;" 4thly, to have eight tons privilege out; 5thly, eight pounds per month wages; 6thly, to be despatched immediately as soon as may be; 7thly, not to have a prisoner for a mate. Two tons privilege home.

Gentlemen, I wish not to value my services more than they are worth. I doubt not men may offer to go for half of what I ask, who know nothing about the voyage, nor, perhaps, how to put the ship about.

I am, with great respect, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

ALEX. WILSON.

To the honourable Committee of War.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO HUGH ORR.

Board of War, Boston, 4th December, 1776.

SIR: The Board of War being informed that you are now ready to treat for casting a number of cannon, are desirous of seeing or hearing from you as soon as may be respecting that business, as they are anxious to procure every article necessary for the defence of the State, with the greatest possible despatch.

By order of the Board:

J. WARREN, *President*.

*Hugh Orr*, Esq., *Bridgewater*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN AYRES.

Board of War, Boston, 4th December, 1776.

SIR: You are hereby ordered to proceed to sea, for the purpose of reconnoitering a fleet said to be off *Block-Island*: to look into *Cape Cod* harbor. If you meet with the fleet off the Cape, either return or run into *Chatham*. Apply to Colonel *Doane*, or otherwise send any accounts you may think proper by express to Brigadier *Otis*, of *Barnstable*, with directions to forward the same to the Board of War immediately. If you discover nothing off the Cape, run round the east end of *Nantucket*, looking if possible into the *Vineyard Sound*, where if you make any discoveries, run into *Hyanniz*, the *Vineyard*, or *Woods's Hole*, and send express as aforesaid. If you discover any thing in the South Channel, you will do well to push for *Nantucket*, *Chatham*, or *Hyanniz*, and send express to Brigadier *Otis* as aforesaid, or if you go into any other place, send by express the quickest intelligence possible; and in general, you will use your best endeavours to discover and inform the Board of the motion of the fleet.

By order:

J. WARREN, *President*.

Captain *John Ayres*.

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MAJOR CUSHING TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Pownalborough, December 4th, 1776.

Having received the honour of an appointment to the second Majority, in the Second Regiment of Militia, in the County of *Lincoln*, the duties of which office, from the weakness of a declining state of health, I am unable to execute, and which a due regard to the welfare of my country forbids me longer to retain, your Honours, therefore, will please to accept my resignation of said office, with my most respectful acknowledgments for the same. Any service

which may be in my power to render my country, will be done with the greatest cheerfulness.

I have the honour to be, with the profoundest respect, your Honours' most obedient and very humble servant,

ROLAND CUSHING.

The honourable the Council of the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay.*

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NOAH M. LITTLEFIELD TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Wells, December 4th, 1776.

TO THE HONOURABLE BOARD: I have received a letter from the Secretary by your Honour's direction, which shows the honour conferred on me in the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel in a battalion now raising, whereof *Ebenezer Francis*, Esq., is Colonel. I thank your Honours for the undeserved favour conferred on me, and am ready and cheerful to serve in the *American* Army for the defence of the *United States of America*, and hope my conduct will do honour to the appointment.

From your humble servant,

NOAH M. LITTLEFIELD.

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M. LOTBINIERE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Translation.]

SIR: I arrived at *Boston* (coming from *St. Pierre de Miquelon*, and having passed by *Chatham* and *Harwick* to *Cape Cod*,) on the 19th of last month, about nine o'clock in the evening. The next morning, 20th of said month, I sent a letter, which I had written beforehand, to Mr. *Franklin*, not then knowing that he had sailed for *France* three weeks previously, and did not know it till the moment of the departure of the post. I instantly went to the post-office, and not having time enough to have the honour to write directly to you, I requested you, on the back of the cover to Mr. *Benj. Franklin*, to have the goodness to open that letter, as though it were addressed to you; to be pleased to make the same use of it as Mr. *Franklin* would have done had he been there; and to grant me the favour of supplying his place in regard to every thing it contained, both on the subject of my son and on every other subject. I hope, sir, that that letter will have been transmitted to you, as well as the one to my son, which it covered, without being sealed, in order that you might know what it contained; but in case it might have been suppressed, I will, in a few words, repeat to you what I stated to Mr. *Franklin*. I informed him that I had spent the whole of *April* and *May* last at *Versailles* and *Paris;* that I had there had several conferences with M. le Comte *de Vergennes*, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and with many other of the most important personages in *France*, all of whom had appeared to me to take the liveliest interest in your cause, and that I reserved myself for conversing more fully with him about every thing when I should have the honour to rejoin him at *Philadelphia;* that in the mean while, and knowing that I was sufficiently *au fait* with the profession of war to be able to give some good advice as to the present situation of affairs, my opinion was to carry on the war to the close of the campaign which is approaching in the manner of *Fabius:* closing upon the enemy as much as possible, taking care to keep in the rear all kinds of provisions, and also all the stores of munitions and other things; to lay waste entirely the country you should be obliged to abandon, so that he should not be able to find any resource for penetrating further, but especially to avoid engaging in a general action with him, which, if lost, would put it out of your power to collect together in time reinforcements to support you. I must add, that whatever manœuvres he may make to withdraw you from the mountainous passes of the *North River*, you must regard them as the most precious points for your preservation, and as the most easy to defend against the kind of troops he can bring against you with the kind of troops you have to oppose to him, who, in the woods and mountains, will have all the advantage they can ever have over regular troops, who, in such a position, are not worth the tenth part of what they would be worth in the open field: it is there where your only bulwarks ought to be located to arrest ships and the army of the enemy, which I regard as lost if it decide to bring on an engagement in those regions. Your plan elsewhere I think ought to be to keep your Army in flying camps around the enemy and to flutter continually around him, to destroy and consume him by the fire of your musketry, and especially by that of some field-pieces. When I shall have the honour to see you, sir, we shall be able to extend our ideas much further over all our war manœuvres, and even to some points of policy and precautions to be taken, which I look upon as the soul of war when we desire that it should succeed perfectly.

You will perhaps, sir, regard me as too presumptuous to pretend to be an adviser without having yet the honour of being known to you, and only to those who among your people have been enabled to be acquainted with the most accurate manœuvres of the last war in *Canada;* but when you shall learn that the whole system of defence in that country, after the defeat of Baron *de Dieskau*, until the close of 1758, was solely my own, and that it ceased to be pursued only in the campaign of 1759, in which the Sieur *Pont le Roy*, a much older Engineer than I, and who arrived in the summer of 1758, determined absolutely, in his mode of defence, to pursue the reverse of all that I had planned; that, besides, every one of the Generals in *France* of the present day, who are acquainted with the war manœuvres in *Canada*, and the plans laid down by me for its defence in every particular, accord in saying that it was demonstrated that it never would have been taken if they had been constantly followed, you will then know that with the most determined will to make you succeed in every thing, and accompanied with the general confidence of those whom I have cited, I am pardonable in speaking out at once without further ceremony, and in hazarding fearlessly the counsels which I esteem absolutely indispensable the moment after what I have learned since my arrival in this country and from the knowledge I have of the present theatre of the war: (five years ago I travelled from *Canada* to *New-York*, by *Lake Champlain*, *St. Sacrament*, and the *North River*.) A great attention, and the principal one to give, is to prevent all the evil that the Tories can do to your State. I look upon them as the enemies you have the most to fear, from the moment that I perceived all their plots at *Cape Cod;* and that which the Committee of this Province has just decreed is the only means of putting a sudden stop to this pest, which would ruin your State from the very moment of its birth. But the law must be put into execution without any consideration, and I will answer that only three examples will be sufficient to unite together at once all your subjects, and perhaps to drive off your enemy very promptly if he no longer sees any mode of dividing you, which, I believe, has always been his greatest hope.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest consideration and respect, sir, your very humble and obedient servant,

THE MARQUIS DE LOTBINIERE.

Boston, at Thomas Russell's, near the Towne-house, Wednesday, 4 December, 1776.

P. S. I would be very much flattered at being furnished with orders sufficiently precise to enable me to go to you, sir, without having reason to fear the slightest accident, for me, for my suite numbering only two at present, nor for my baggage.

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VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE FOR RAISING FIVE HUNDRED MEN FOR THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

4 December, 1776.

The Committee appointed to consult upon the best ways and means for answering the late requisition of General *Washington* for raising part of the Militia in this State, &c., made report, (as on file,) which report is received and allowed, and thereupon *Voted*, That five hundred men be drafted from the several Regiments in this State as soon as possible, and officered and sent to *New-York;* that the wages of the officers and men be the same that is given by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay;* that the Field Officers of the regiments aforesaid appoint the Captains and Subalterns of the companies in their respective regiments.

Sent up for concurrence:

SAM'L CUTTS, *Speaker pro tem.*

In Council the same day adjourned.

E. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

### COLONEL BAYLEY TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY.

Exeter, 4 December, 1776.

SIR: I have had of late opportunity to converse with *Indians* of the *St. François* tribe; and perceiving the *Indians* are informed by our enemies in *Canada* that it is impossible for our States to supply them with articles they need, and of course they must be wholly beholden to, and must join them;—in order to counteract their plan, I inform them that it is in our power to supply them as reasonably as they can be supplied in *Canada;* and have hired an *Indian*, with two men ordered by Captain *Ames*, to proceed to the *Indian* hunting ground, to inform the *Indians* that we are ready to supply, if they choose, at *Upper Coos*, in exchange for beaver, &c., as reasonably as they can be supplied in *Canada;* to inform them we are the same as to them as twelve years past; that we wonder they should make themselves strange; that we don't mean to entreat them, but to inform and undeceive them.

For the service of the *Indian* I promised him a blanket, and his squaw and three children one each. Should think it would be a great saving to this State if some supplies for *Indians* be conveyed to *Upper Coos*, and directed to be exchanged reasonably with them for furs, &c.; for if the *Indians* trade with us we need no soldiers. I thought it duty to give information.

Beg leave to subscribe myself, your very humble servant,

JACOB BAYLEY.

To the honourable the Speaker of the House of Representatives for State of *New-Hampshire.*

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*Memoranda of articles suitable for* INDIANS, *viz:*

2 dozen blankets, white or blue;
2 do. shirts, coarse, white or check;
30 yards half-tick, or other cloth equal thereto;
Powder and lead.

At present the above is as much as will be needed at *Upper Coos.*

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Charlestown, S. C., December 5, 1776.

By two vessels arrived here from the *West-Indies*, we have accounts of an armed brig of sixteen guns, commanded by Captain *Christopher Whipple*, being taken by the *Portland* man-of-war, of fifty guns. It is said that the master of a *Dutch* vessel, which he spoke with, led him into the snare, by informing him that the *Portland*, then in sight, was a large *West-Indiaman;* he suspected nothing, immediately bore down, and too late discovered his errour.

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*Return of the Six Independent Companies and First Regiment of* MARYLAND *Regulars in the service of the* UNITED STATES, *commanded by Major* GIST.

| | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieutenant-Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Third Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Paymasters. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Non-Com'd. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Privates. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Dead. | Discharged. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Captain Gunby | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 30 | - | 44 | - | - | 74 | - | - | 22 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Hendman | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | - | 70 | - | - | 88 | - | - | 8 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Thomas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 82 | - | - | 82 | - | 2 | 14 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Woolford | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 36 | - | 48 | 4 | 1 | 89 | 1 | 1 | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Harrison | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 29 | - | - | 31 | 2 | 1 | 65 | - | - | - | - |
| Late Captain Bracco | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 10 | - | 74 | 2 | 1 | 87 | 1 | 1 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Stone | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 25 | - | 25 | - | - | 50 | - | 1 | 14 | - | 3 | - | - |
| Captain Lucas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 8 | - | 5 | 2 | - | 15 | - | 1 | 49 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Ramsey | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 12 | - | 32 | 1 | - | 45 | 2 | 2 | 19 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Captain Adams | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 10 | 1 | - | 17 | 3 | 2 | 47 | - | - | - | - |
| Captain Smith | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | 17 | - | 30 | 4 | - | 51 | - | 1 | 13 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Captain Sim | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 18 | - | 31 | 5 | - | 54 | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| Late Captain Scott | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 9 | - | 41 | 3 | - | 53 | - | 1 | 11 | - | - | - | - |
| Late Captain Bowie | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | - | 3 | - | - | 9 | 3 | 1 | 55 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Captain Ford | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 13 | - | 10 | 1 | - | 24 | 3 | - | 44 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Total | - | - | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 210 | - | 534 | 23 | 2 | 769 | 15 | 14 | 387 | 1 | 6 | - | 2 |

Colonel promoted.
Lieutenant-Colonel *Ware*, Captains *Harrison*, *Lucas*, and *Ramsey*, leave of absence.
Captains *Thomas* and *Sim* absent without leave.
Captain *Adams* sick, absent.
Two Subs on command; ten Subs, twenty-six Sergeants, and seven Drums, sick.

Major *Price* sick.
Taking care of the sick and guarding the baggage.....23 Privates
Ditto gone to-day.....20
43
190 present fit for duty.

M. GIST, *Major.*

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### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read the 6th.]

Trenton, December 5th, 1776.

SIR: As nothing but necessity obliged me to retire before the enemy, and leave so much of the *Jerseys* unprotected, I conceive it my duty, and it corresponds with my inclination, to make head against them so soon as there shall be the least probability of doing it with propriety. That the country might in some measure be covered, I left two brigades, consisting of the five *Virginia* regiments and that of *Delaware*, containing in the whole about twelve hundred men fit for duty, under the command of Lord *Stirling* and General *Stephens*, at *Princeton*, till the baggage and stores could cross the *Delaware*, or the troops under their respective commands should be forced from thence. I shall now, having removed the greatest part of the above articles, face about with such troops as are here fit for service, and march back to *Princeton*, and there govern myself by circumstances and the movements of General *Lee*. At any event, the enemy's progress may be retarded by this means, if they intend to come on, and the people's fears in some measure quieted, if they do not. Sorry I am to observe, however, that the frequent calls upon the Militia of this State, the want of exertion in the principal gentlemen of the country, or a fatal supineness and insensibility of danger, till it is too late to prevent an evil that was not only foreseen, but foretold, have been the causes of our late disgraces. If the Militia of this State had stepped forth in season—and timely notice they had—we might have prevented the enemy's crossing the *Hackinsack*, although without some previous notice of the time and place it was impossible to have done this at the *North River*. We might with equal probability of success have made a stand at *Brunswick*, on the *Raritan;* but as both these rivers were fordable in a variety of places, (knee deep only,) it required many men to defend the passes; and those we had not. At *Hackinsack* our force was insufficient, because a part was at *Elizabethtown, Amboy*, and *Brunswick*, guarding a coast

which I thought most exposed to danger; and at *Brunswick*, because I was disappointed in my expectation of Militia, and because on the day of the enemy's approach—and probably the occasion of it—the term of the *Jersey* and *Maryland* brigades' service expired; neither of which would consent to stay an hour longer.

These, among ten thousand other instances, might be adduced to show the disadvantages of short inlistments, and the little dependence upon Militia in times of real danger. But as yesterday cannot be recalled, I will not dwell upon a subject which no doubt has given much uneasiness to Congress, as well as extreme pain and anxiety to myself. My first wish is, that Congress may be convinced of the impropriety of relying upon the Militia, and of the necessity of raising a larger standing army than what they have voted. The saving in the article of stores, provisions, and in a thousand other things, by having nothing to do with Militia unless in cases of extraordinary exigency, and such as could not be expected in the common course of events, would amply support a large army, which, well officered, would be daily improving, instead of continuing a destructive, expensive, and disorderly mob.

I am clear in opinion, that if forty thousand men had been kept in constant pay since the first commencement of hostilities, and the Militia had been excused doing duty during that period, the Continent would have saved money. When I reflect on the losses we have sustained for want of good troops, the certainty of this is placed beyond a doubt in my mind. In such case, the Militia who have been harassed and tired by repeated calls upon them, and farming and manufactures in a manner suspended, would, upon any pressing emergency, have run with alacrity to arms; whereas the cry now is, they may be as well ruined in one way as another; and with difficulty are obtained. I mention these things to show, that in my opinion, if any dependence is placed on the Militia another year, Congress will be deceived. When danger is a little removed from them they will not turn out at all. When it comes home to 'em, the well-affected, instead of flying to arms to defend themselves, are busily employed in removing their families and their effects, whilst the disaffected are concerting measures to make their submission, and spread terrour and dismay all around, to induce others to follow the example. Daily experience and abundant proofs warrant this information.

I shall this day reinforce Lord *Stirling* with about twelve hundred men, which will make his number about twenty-four hundred men. To-morrow I mean to repair to *Princeton* myself, and shall order the *Pennsylvania* troops (who are not yet arrived except part of the *German* battalion and a company of Light-Infantry) to the same place.

By my last advices the enemy are still at *Brunswick*, and the account adds, that General *Howe* was expected at *Elizabeththown* with a reinforcement, to erect the King's standard and demand a submission of this State. I can only give this as a report brought from the enemy's camp by some of the country people.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

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TIMOTHY DANIELSON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Quaker-Ridge, December 5th, 1776.

Sir: We herewith send you the beating orders, inlistments, and commissions, committed to us by the State of *Massachusetts*. The commissions you will be kind enough to keep safe till you may receive orders from the General Assembly how to dispose of them, unless you find Captains and subalterns that have nearly filled their companies; in that case you will oblige the State by filling up and delivering them their commissions. If any Colonels we have commissioned should stand in need of beating orders and inlistments, you will give them out on the encouragement of Congress, with the delineations and interlineations as you will see made by the Committee on some of them sent you.

As we are assured of your readiness to serve your native Colony on all occasions, must desire you to call upon the several Colonies in the new arrangement belonging to the *Massachusetts* State, as you have opportunity, to make a return of the number inlisted, and transmit the same to the Assembly by the post, as often as you may think necessary, that the State may know from time to time the probability of their computing their quota.

Sir, we wish you all success, with the pleasures that attend the soldier in your exalted station, in winter quarters; and are your Honour's most obedient, most humble servants.

By order of the Committee:

Timo. Danielson, *Chairman.*

To Major-General *Heath*, commanding at *Peek's Kills.*

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*List of Field Officers appointed for* Massachusetts *State*, 1776.

The Field Officers commissioned are:

| | |
|---|---|
| *William Shenard*, Colonel. | *James Wisson*, Colonel. |
| *Eben'r Sprout*, Lieut. Col. | *James Millen*, Lieut. Col. |
| *Warham Parks*, Major. | *Ezra Badlam*, Major. |
| *John Bailey*, Colonel. | *Thomas Nixon*, Colonel. |
| *Ben. Tupper*, Lieut. Col. | *Calvin Smith*, Lieut. Col. |
| *Andrew Petero*, Major. | *Joseph Thompson*, Major. |
| *Michael Jackson*, Colonel. | *Rufus Putnam*, Colonel. |
| *John Brooks*, Lieut. Col. | *David Henly*, Lieut. Col. |
| *Joseph Swasey*, Major. | Major. |

By order the Committee:

Timo. Danielson, *Chairman.*

Quaker Ridge, December 5th, 1776.

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TIMOTHY DANIELSON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Ridge, December 5th, 1776.

Sir: We have commissioned *Rufus Putnam*, Esq., Colonel of a regiment, and have left it with him to nominate his Major out of three Captains, viz: *Wade* and *Warner*, out of Colonel *Littel's* regiment, and *Newell*, in Colonel *Hutchinson's*.

We desire you to fill up a commission to either of them, as will best serve the cause and most agreeable to Colonel *Putnam*. You will, sir, much oblige the Committee. Your most humble servant.

By order of the Committee: Timo. Danielson.

To Major-General *Heath, Peekskill.*

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TIMOTHY DANIELSON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Quaker-Ridge, December 5, 1776.

Sir: We are on our return to the Assembly of *Massachusetts-Bay* without being recalled; and it may so happen that the post may convey further orders to the Committee before our arrival at *Boston*, therefore we desire you to open all letters and packages that may come within your knowledge directed to us, and examine the contents; and if they contain matter of further encouragement for raising our quota of the Continental Army, that you will communicate it to the several Colonels we have appointed, that they may proceed thereon further to inlist; as we imagine that rules and ceremony are to be dispensed with when our country's cause is in question. We have wrote the Postmaster to forward all such despatches to you immediately, and we desire you to pay the postage and charge the State.

We are, sir, your most obedient, very humble servant.

By order of the Committee:

Timo. Danielson, *Chairman.*

To Major-General *Heath.*

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SENTENCE OF GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

Peekskill, December 5th, 1776.

At a General Court-Martial held by general orders, at the house of *John Mandavel*, whereof Colonel *Ward* is President.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant-Colonel *Hamman*, | Captain *Bartlet*, |
| Major *Woods*, | Captain *Barlow*, |
| Captain *Moss*, | Captain *Newel*, |
| Captain *Wright*, | Captain *Pain*, |
| Captain *Sumner*, | Captain *Maxwell*, |
| Captain *Brown*, | Captain *Ladew.* |

Captain *Hyde*, Judge Advocate.

Lieutenant *William Horton*, Captain *Raymon's* company, Colonel *Nicoll's* regiment, brought before the said Court for getting drunk and stripping to fight in a publick tavern,

and behaving in an infamous manner, unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. Pleads not guilty.

Lieutenant *Feairly*, being duly sworn, saith, that he was at the tavern of Mr. *Mandavell's*, where the prisoner was stripping, and damned and swore he would be at Captain *Graham*, saying, Now I am under an arrest, damn you, I will give a flogging; or words importing the same.

*John Roberson*, under oath, saith, that the prisoner gave Captain *Graham* the lie, whereupon Captain *Graham* gave the prisoner a push, then the prisoner pushed Captain *Graham* down in the chimney corner and fell upon him, first having stripped.

*Joseph Ishon*, under oath, saith, that the prisoner stripped off his shirt and struck Captain *Graham*, and after they was parted the prisoner strove to get in the room to quarrel more with Captain *Graham*, and swore if he could get at him he would fight him.

*Isaac Silver*, under oath, saith, that the prisoner and some others got into a wrangle, and Captain *Graham* came into the room to still the rout. The prisoner fell to quarreling with the Captain, and cursed, damned, and swore, and stripped to fight the Captain; clinched the Captain, jammed up against the bar, and threw him down in the corner and seized him by the throat.

Captain *Graham*, under oath, nearly agrees with the above evidences; and the prisoner saith, that the Captain hath told near the truth.

The within Court having maturely heard the evidences, are of opinion, that the prisoner is guilty of infamous behaviour, unbecoming the character of a gentleman and soldier, and adjudge him to be cashiered and dismissed from the Army.

Attest: JONATHAN WARD, *President.*

I approve of the above judgment:

W. HEATH, *Major-General.*

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Murder's Creek, 5th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The weather has been so extreme bad, which, with the want of felling-axes, has hitherto prevented our doing much at the business we were sent up on. We have, however, got out some timber, and have several sloops furnished us by Convention, collecting stone and rafts of timber, and to-morrow we hope to begin to frame the first block. The blacksmiths ordered up have not yet joined us, nor have we here as yet a shop for them to work in. We have begun to build one, and have boards to cover it. Must beg you will order us about fifty pounds of twenty or twenty-four penny nails, as we have not one, and cannot do without them. I observed near your door some iron, like plow-shares. These would answer some good purpose, and be very convenient for us. Should be glad, therefore, you would order the Quartermaster to forward them here. We shall want a number of teams. These, I suppose, we must endeavour to supply with, and give certificates on the Quartermaster. It will be the cheapest way.

Be pleased to indulge me with a line respecting the situation of our Army in the *Jersey*, if you have heard lately from them, as our accounts are various and uncertain.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

GEO. CLINTON.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GENERAL HEATH.

In Committee of Safety, Fishkill, December 5th, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by the Committee of Safety to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 3d instant, and assure you that General *Washington's* approbation of your generous aid in carrying on the obstructions of *Hudson's* river, and your attention to the passes in the Highlands, afford them the highest satisfaction.

The sick of Colonel *Bradley's* regiment we had caused to be taken care of by a physician of this place until Doctor *McKnight* arrived; and be assured, sir, the non-attendance of a Doctor or Surgeon was not ascribed to any inattention of yours.

Such parts of the unfinished academy as are in any wise tenantable at this season of the year, were lately assigned for a distressed party of sick from General *McDougall's* brigade; but we are informed by *William Duer*, Esq., under whose direction the barracks between *Peekskill* and this place are, that those in the north entrance of the Highlands, and also that near *Hait's*, each intended to contain upwards of one thousand men, are nearly completed. In those barracks the sick of your division may now be made comfortable; and if the building of any other hospital shall be necessary, you may be assured, sir, the Convention will be ready to afford every necessary aid in their power for that purpose.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

By order of the Committee of Safety. In the absence of, and for the Vice President,

JOHN MCKESSON, *Secretary.*

The Honourable Major-General *Heath.*

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JAMES WEEKS'S RECEIPT.

Fishkill, December 5th, 1776.

Received of *Ezra L'Hommedieu*, Esq., eighty pounds, current money of *New-York*, in order to defray the expense of transporting four hogsheads of dry goods purchased by *John R. Livingston* of *John Roe*, Esq., for the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*, from *Boston* to this place, by hiring or buying teams for that purpose, as shall appear most advantageous, and to account for the same sum with the Committee of Safety for the State of *New-York*, charging for my time, horse, and expenses, twenty shillings per day.

Witness my hand: JAMES WEEKS.

Witness, JACOB CUYLER.

---

NICHOLAS BREWER TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

December ye 5, 1776.

We, as agents appointed by your Honour for hiring or impressing boats and scows for the publick service, find a difficulty in the exorbitant prices in men. We have spoke with General *Clinton*, who has recommended us to your Honours for the prices of boats of such and such burthen. We wait for your immediate directions; and subscribe ourselves your ever devoted servants,

NICH'S BREWER, Jun.
JER'H CLARK.

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J. TRUMBULL, JUN., TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, 5th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I wrote you some time since a report of a letter being wrote by the Mayor of this city to the enemy, advising them to make a movement into *Connecticut*. The report of a flag being sent you, with the idle excuse that General *Washington* is not to be found, revives that idea in my mind. Is it not possible the enemy's design, by sending to *New-London*, is to have an opportunity of viewing that harbour, and passing up the country, seeing its strength, the situation of the people, the state of the batteries, &c., and by being at *Hartford*, to consult their good friends there, by which they can judge the practicability of making an attempt in that quarter? My ideas may perhaps run too fast. Jealousy in our situation is absolutely necessary. A word is sufficient.

I am, with great affection, honoured sir, your dutiful son,

J. TRUMBULL, Jr.

His Honour Governour *Trumbull.*

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Lebanon, December 5th, 1776.

SIR: I have this day received intelligence from *New-London* that there are collected in the *Sound*, near *Plumb-Island*, ten *English* men-of-war and about eighty transports; and from another quarter have further intelligence that some hundreds of the enemy's ships and transports had passed *Hell-Gate*; their destination must at present be uncertain, whether at *New-London* or *Newport*, but *Newport* may be the most probable, though they may possibly pay us a small visit at *New-London* as they go along. I think it is high time for the *New-England* colonists to be alarmed, and almost every other consideration to be laid aside to have the great object of our defence employ our utmost

attention and most vigorous exertions. I have ordered the Militia of this State, on and eastward of *Connecticut* river, to be on their march towards *New-London*, and trust we shall be ready to afford all possible assistance, whenever the appearance of the enemy shall make it necessary. I have taken the liberty to enclose a letter, containing the same intelligence, to Mr. *Bowdoin*, President of the Council of the *Massachusetts*, which hope you will be so good as to forward without delay. I have this moment received a letter from General *Lee*. You will note the contents, and take such measures as the exigence of the case may require. Have enclosed the original for your inspection, having not time for a copy.

I am, in great haste, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH TRUMBULL.

Governour *Cooke*.

N. B. There came nothing enclosed in General *Lee's* letter.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Lebanon, December 5th, 1776—Evening.

SIR: I have this afternoon received authentick intelligence that ten or eleven ships-of-war from *New-York*, and about eighty transports with troops, are just arrived off *New-London* harbour; and there is very little room to doubt but their design is to attack that place or *Newport:* the first, by all appearance, is now most probable. I have given out orders to assemble all the Militia in this quarter for our defence. No exertions on our part will be neglected, though our Militia have been much employed towards *New-York*, and many of them not yet returned.

I must therefore earnestly request your patriotick Assembly to take this important matter into their immediate consideration, to lend us every aid in your power. *New-London* or *Newport*, or both, are the objects the enemy have in view to attack. Your virtuous and patriotick spirit and ardour leave me no room to doubt of your vigorous and instant exertion for our assistance, even without any regard to the zeal and ardour exerted by the military force of this State when the scene of blood commenced at *Lexington*, as well as on other occasions. A letter just now arrived says a much larger number have passed *Hell-Gate;* so that it is very probable the whole had not arrived when the express left *New-London*, and may be hourly expected. You will believe no time can be lost, in order to afford us seasonable relief.

I am, sir, with great respect, your and your honourable Assembly's most obedient and most humble servant,

JON'TH TRUMBULL.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Providence, December 5, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: The enclosed copy of a paragraph of a letter from Mr. Adjutant *Stelle* I sent to *Block-Island* with a number of *British* prisoners to be exchanged, may be entirely relied upon.

The last certain information of this fleet is, that they were seen on the 3d instant, at eleven o'clock forenoon, standing for the harbour of *New-London*, having come round *Fisher's Island Point*. It is supposed that their intention is to meet a number of transports who are expected to come through the *Sound*.

I thank your Honours for the measures you have taken to give assistance to this State; and am, very respectfully, your Honours' most obedient, humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

Honourable General Court of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

P. S. The enclosed was forwarded to me by Governour *Trumbull*, with a request to send it by express.

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Block-Island, 2d December, 1776, eight o'clock P. M.

SIR: This evening, about sunset, came to anchor off the west end of this island eleven sail of *British* ships, armed, four of which are frigates from twenty-eight to thirty-two guns, the others from forty to sixty-gun ships. They anchored so nigh I could distinctly count their guns. There are likewise three ships (those I suppose that are stationed here) a cruising to the eastward. I saw them to-day at twelve o'clock, about eight or ten leagues distance, bearing about E. N. E. All of which are bound into *Rhode-Island*, without doubt, &c., &c.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Providence, December 5th, 1776.

SIR: Yours of yesterday I have just received, and I shall take it for granted that you will take every legal method to forward the manning the ships; and as to what you refer to with respect to the wages and prize money, I now let you know that I am not Agent nor Paymaster, and that I have nothing to do in the matter further than to use my influence that right be done to every man in the Navy. I have no knowledge of any fraud in any officer under my command, and I believe there is not. Shall caution the officers to take care to keep the men on board, although I believe the greatest part of the desertion was before they came on board. And as to what you seem to desire, the ships should go round to *Boston*, my orders will not admit such a step; and if they would, I can see little prospect of getting them there, as I am well assured that if one of the ships there had been manned she would have sailed before now.

I am, sir, yours and the members of Assembly's humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Honourable *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq.

To be laid before such Members of Assembly as he may think fit.

---

WILLIAM BARTLETT TO STEPHEN MOYLAN.

Beverly, 5 December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: A few minutes after I took my leave of you Captain *John Derby*, of *Salem*, came to me and made a demand of the guns belonging to the *Lee* schooner, which Colonel *Glover* borrowed of him. I interceded with him as much as lay in my power to have them only for one cruise more, but he utterly refused, and insists upon having them immediately. Upon receiving the demand, I, together with Colonel *Glover*, pursued you, to give the information, but could not overtake you. What can be done about this matter must be left to you.

In haste, I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM BARTLETT.

To *Stephen Moylan*, Esq., Head-Quarters, *Cambridge*.

Sir, I would remind you of the cash wanting.

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Newburyport, December 5, 1776.

The friends of Captain *Henry Johnson*, late Commander of the *Yankee* privateer, are hereby informed, from good authority, that he has escaped from *London* to *France*.

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Boston, December 5, 1776.

Last *Saturday* afternoon, Captain *St. Barbe*, in a vessel belonging to *Newburyport*, arrived at *Squam*, from *Bilboa*, in thirty-three days, with whom came passenger Mr. *George Cabot*, of *Beverly*, merchant, who informs, that the *Spanish* and *French* ports are open to our cruisers and their prizes, and that they permit the *American* vessels to carry the *American* flag in their ports; and that both the Courts of *Madrid* and *Versailles* were determined to prevent the *Russians* coming to *America*.

Last *Sunday*, a number of prisoners (marines and sailors) arrived in town from the interiour parts of this State and *Connecticut*, and on *Monday* set off for *Marblehead*, in order to be exchanged for a number of our men who lately arrived in the cartel vessels there.

Last *Saturday* evening arrived in this town from *Halifax*, via *New-York*, (after a long and cruel imprisonment,) the Honourable *James Lovel*, Esq., to the no small joy of the inhabitants of the capital of this State.

We hear that a *Beverly* privateer has taken five empty transports, being part of a fleet of near two hundred sail, bound home from *New-York*, whether with design to bring over some *Russians* or fetch provisions, time will discover.

By a gentleman of veracity lately arrived from *Ticonderoga*, we are informed, that the noted Colonel *Nesbit*

departed this life at *St. John's* in *September* last. He commanded the Forty-Seventh Regiment of Foot in his tyrannick Majesty's service. His skill in military matters we are strangers to; but this we can say of him, that he was master of the art of tarring and feathering, as he tried his hand on a poor countryman in this town some time before the *Lexington* battle.

Last *Thursday* arrived in town from the Continental camps at *New-York*, the Honourable Major-General *Lincoln*, who commanded the Militia of this State which was sent as a reinforcement for two months.

Commodore *Manly*, in the Continental ship *Hancock*, of thirty-two guns, came round from *Newburyport* last *Thursday*.

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SILAS DEANE TO COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, 6th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: You have enclosed the duplicate of an agreement with Monsieur *Du Coudray*, of my orders for clothing, stores, &c.; of my agreement with Baron *De Kalb*, and others of his train; also with the Comte *De Monau* and his, which I hope will be agreeable; also the agreement for freight of the ships, which I was assured by letters from *Bordeaux* and elsewhere was as low as could be procured. At the same time, if it is above the stated price, in such cases I am promised an abatement. I hope the peculiarity of my situation, and the anxious desire I have of forwarding aid to my country, will be considered if any of the articles are thought high. Men cannot be engaged to quit their native country and friends, to hazard life and all in a cause which is not their own immediately, at the same easy rate as men will do who are fighting literally *pro aris et focis*; and it is a universal custom in *Europe* to allow something extra to foreigners; but my allowances are very much below the rates here for officers in the same station.

I submit one thought to you: whether if you could engage a great General, of the highest character in *Europe*, such, for instance, as Prince *Ferdinand*, Marshal *Broglio*, or others of equal rank, to take the lead of your armies, whether such a step would not be politick, as it would give a character and credit to your military, and strike, perhaps, a greater panick in our enemies. I only suggest the thought, and leave you to confer with Baron *De Kalb* on the subject at large.

I have the honour to be, with the most profound respect for the honourable Congress, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

---

[Translation.]

*List of Officers of Infantry and Light Troops destined to serve the* UNITED STATES OF NORTH-AMERICA.

| Names of Officers. | Rank. | Commencement of their Pay. |
|---|---|---|
| Messrs. Le Baron *De Kalb*, | Major-General, | 7th *Nov.*, 1776. |
| Le Vicount *De Mauroy*, | Major-General, | 20th do. |
| *De Senneville*, - - | Major, - - | 7th do. |
| Le Chev. *Dubuysson*, | Major, - - | 7th do. |
| Le Chev. *De Fayoles*, | Lieut. Colonel, | 20th do. |
| *Dubois Martin*, - - | Major, - - | 20th do. |
| *De Holtzendorff*, - - | Lieut. Colonel, | 26th do. |
| Le Chev. *De Failly*, | Lieut. Colonel, | 1st *Dec.*, 1776. |
| *Amariton*, - - - - | Major, - - | do. |
| *De Roth*, - - - - | Captain, - - | do. |
| *De Gerard*, - - - - | Captain, - - | do. |
| *Philis de Roseval*, - - | Lieutenant, - - | do. |
| *De Montis*, - - - - | Lieutenant, - - | do. |
| *Loquet de Granges*, - | Lieutenant, - - | do. |
| *De Vrigny*, - - - | Capt. d'une Comp'y Franche, - - | do. |
| *Candon*, - - - - - | Lieutenant, - - | do. |

The said ranks and pay at the dates marked in the present list, have been settled mutually between us, the undersigned; me, *Silas Deane*, in my quality of deputy of the most honourable Congress of the *United States of North-America*, and me, *Jno.* Baron *De Kalb*, Major-General in the service of the *States General*.

Done double, at *Paris*, this 1st of *December*, 1776.

DE KALB.

SILAS DEANE,
*Agent for the United States of North-America.*

[Translation.]

*Agreed between Mr.* , *and Mr.* SILAS DEANE, *in his character of Deputy from the Congress of the Thirteen* UNITED COLONIES.

1st. That Mr. *Augustin François des Epiniers*, nephew to Mr. , actually a Captain in the *French* service, shall pass over into that of the *United Colonies*, where he shall serve in the corps of Artillery and Engineers.

2d. That he shall be employed in that corps as Captain during the first campaign, with all appointments, &c., which a senior Captain in that corps enjoys, which commission he shall be entitled to from this date, and shall rise in proportion to his services to the degree of Major and Lieutenant-Colonel.

3d. That Mons. *des Epiniers* shall have this in particular and separate from all other officers of the same rank, that should peace be declared the rank of Major shall not be refused him after two years' service; that of Lieutenant-Colonel after four years; and that of Colonel after six years; provided during that time he by his behaviour should not forfeit it, and this shall be tried by a regular procedure before the Board of War, or a Court-Martial assembled by their orders.

4th. After these six years' service in war or peace, if the Sr. *des Epiniers* thinks fit to leave the service of the *United Colonies*, he shall receive always the half of the salary he enjoyed as Lieutenant-Colonel, and this pension shall be paid him in whatever corner or part of the world he pleases to retire to.

5th. He shall receive the same pension if, by the fate of war or fatal wound, he shall find himself deprived of any principal limb of his body.

6th. The said conditions being granted to Mr. *des Epiniers* in consideration of the important services Mr. , his uncle, rendered one year, and continues to render the *United Colonies*, no other officer can complain of these terms, either before Congress or the Board of War.

It is in confidence of this that the parties have mutually signed these presents, at *Paris*, *December* 5th, 1776.

SILAS DEANE,
*Agent for the United Colonies of North-America.*

---

[Translation.]

*A List of Officers of Infantry and Light Troops destined to serve in the Armies of the* STATES GENERAL OF NORTH-AMERICA, *viz:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Messrs. Le M. *De La Fayette*, | Maj. General, | from 7th *Dec.* 1776. |
| Le Baron *De Kalb*, | Major-General, | " 7th *Nov.* " |
| *Delesser*, - - - | Colonel, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *De Valfort*, - - | Colonel, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *De Fayols*, - - | Lieut. Colonel, | " 20th *Nov.* " |
| *De Franval*, - - | Lieut. Colonel, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *De Bois Martin*, - | Major, | " 7th *Nov.* " |
| *De Gimat*, - - | Major, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *De Vrigny*, - - | Captain, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *De Bedaulx*, - - | Captain, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *Capitaine*, - - | Captain, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *De La Colombe*, - | Lieutenant, | " 1st *Dec.* " |
| *Candon*, - - - | Lieutenant, | " 7th *Nov.* " |

The mentioned ranks and the pay which the most honourable Congress shall affix to them, to commence at the periods marked in the present list, have been agreed to by us, the undersigned, *Silas Deane*, in quality of Deputy of the *American States General*, on the one part, the Marquis *De La Fayette* and the Baron *De Kalb*, on the other part.

Signed double, at *Paris*, this 7th of *December*, 1776.

SILAS DEANE,
LE MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE,
DE KALB.

---

[Translation.]

The desire which M. the Marquis *De La Fayette* shows of serving among the troops of the *United States of North-America*, and the interest which he takes in the justice of their cause, making him wish to distinguish himself in this war, and to render himself as useful as he possibly can, but not thinking that he can obtain leave of his family to pass the seas and serve in a foreign country till he can go as a

General Officer, I have thought I could not better serve my country, and those who have entrusted me, than by granting to him, in the name of the very honourable Congress, the rank of Major-General, which I beg the States to confirm to him; to ratify and deliver to him the commission to hold and take rank, to count from this day, with the General Officers of the same degree. His high birth, his alliances, the great dignities which his family hold at this Court, his considerable estates in this realm, his personal merit, his reputation, his disinterestedness, and above all his zeal for the liberty of our Provinces, have only been able to engage me to promise him the rank of Major-General in the name of the *United States*.

In witness of which I have signed the present, 7th of *December*, 1776.

SILAS DEANE,
*Agent for the United States of North-America.*

On the conditions here explained, I offer myself, and promise to depart when and how Mr. *Deane* shall judge proper, to serve the *United States* with all possible zeal, without any pension or particular allowance, reserving to myself the liberty of returning to *Europe* when my family or my King shall recall me.

Done at *Paris*, this 7th of *December*, 1776.

LE MARQUIS DE LA FAYETTE.

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[Translation.]

*Articles of affreightment of Armed Vessels and Merchandise, entered in and agreed to between Messrs.* DE MONTHIEU *and* RODRIQUE HORTALEZ & CO. *and Mr.* SILAS DEANE.

We the subscribers, *John Joseph de Monthieu* and *Rodrique Hortalez & Co.*, are agreed with Mr. *Silas Deane*, agent of the *United Colonies*, upon the subsequent arrangements:

That I, *De Monthieu*, do engage to furnish on account of the Thirteen *United Colonies of North-America*, a certain number of vessels to carry arms and merchandise to the burthen of sixteen hundred tons, or as many vessels as are deemed sufficient to transport to some harbour of *North-America* belonging to the Thirteen *United Colonies*, all the ammunition and appurtenances, agreeable to the estimate signed and left in my possession, and which we estimate would require the above-mentioned quantity of vessels to carry sixteen hundred tons burthen, which are to be paid for at the rate of two hundred livres the ton; and that I will hold said vessels at the disposal of said Messrs. *Hortalez & Co.* ready to sail at the ports of *Havre*, *Nantes*, and *Marseilles*, viz: The vessels which are to carry the articles and passengers mentioned in the afore-mentioned list, and are to depart from *Havre*, as well as those that are to go from *Nantes*, to be ready in the course of *November* next, and the others in the course of *December* following, on condition that one-half of the afore-mentioned freight of two hundred livres per ton, both for the voyage to *America* and back to *France*, laden equally on account of the Congress of the Thirteen *United Colonies* and Messrs. *Hortalez & Co.* aforesaid, who are responsible for them, shall be advanced and paid immediately in money, bills of exchange, or other good merchandise or effects, and the other half the said Messrs. *Hortalez & Co.* do agree to furnish me with in proportion as the vessels are fitting out, in the same money or other effects as above; over and above this they are to pay me for the passage of each officer, not belonging to the ship's crew, the sum of five hundred and fifty livres *Tournois*, and for every soldier or servant two hundred and fifty livres, and for every sailor who goes as passenger one hundred and fifty livres. It is expressly covenanted and agreed between us, that all risks of the sea either in said vessels being chased, run on shore, or taken, shall be on account of the Congress of the *United Colonies*, and shall be paid agreeably to the estimation which may be made of each of these vessels, agreeably to the bills of sale of each, which I promise to deliver to Messrs. *Hortalez & Co.* before the departure of any of the said vessels from any of the ports of *France* mentioned above.

Finally it is agreed that if the *Americans* detain these vessels longer than two months in their ports, without shipping on board them the returns they are to carry to *France*, all demurrage, wages, or expenses on them, from the day of their arrival to that of their departure, these two months excepted, shall be at their charge, and paid by them or by Messrs. *Hortalez & Co.* in our own name, as answerable for the Congress of the *United Colonies*. We accept the above conditions as far as they respect us, and promise faithfully to fulfill them, and in consequence we have signed this instrument of writing one to the other, at *Paris*, 15th *October*, 1776.

MONTHIEU.
RODRIQUE HORTALEZ & CO.
SILAS DEANE, *Agent for the United Colonies of North-America.*

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GOVERNOUR HENRY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Williamsburg, Virginia, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: I lost no time in laying your letter before our Assembly; and late last night they did resolve, that the troops of Horse (six) shall be marched to join General *Washington*. I have issued the necessary orders this morning to the Major commandant to prepare for the march; but before it can be begun I fear a considerable time will elapse, owing to the troopers being in want of many necessaries. I shall as soon as possible transmit to you an account of such things as cannot be had here for them, that they may be got with you. The prisoners of war are scattered in different places in this State, but will be collected and sent to *Brunswick*.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

P. HENRY, *Pt.*

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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

*Instructions and commands from the Freeholders of* ACCOMACK *to their Representatives in General Assembly.*

Being informed that an attempt will be made this session to influence the General Assembly to subvert altogether the present establishment of the Church of *England*, we think it a duty we owe to God, ourselves, and the community in general, to instruct you particularly what part to act in the decision of a question in its consequences so very important. We at present feel ourselves happily and warmly united with every religious denomination of Christians in these States, in the defence of our civil liberties, against the arbitrary power of a *British* King and Parliament, sensible it is to this general Union, under God, we have hitherto withstood the united force of *Britain* and her mercenaries, in a manner to be wondered at even by ourselves; and we are convinced by experience, that disputes and division in religious matters are in their consequences most dangerous to every State, and particularly to those in their infancy: We therefore at present command you, should such a proposition be made in the General Assembly, to vote against the same. At the same time we shall cheerfully agree to any regulations which may be adopted to make the clergy accountable for their conduct, and be removed upon misbehaviour.

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PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF CHARLES CITY COUNTY TO VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY.

Mr. PURDIE: It was intended that the following Petition of the inhabitants of *Charles City* should have been presented to the House of Delegates through their Representatives; but as it did not get to their hands time enough to answer the intention of the petitioners, they beg you will publish it in your Gazette, that their sentiments upon religious toleration may be generally known to their countrymen.

*To the honourable House of Delegates:*

*The Petition of the Inhabitants of the County of* CHARLES CITY *humbly showeth:*

That your petitioners are greatly alarmed at the rapid progress which some of the dissenters from the Church by law established are daily making in various parts of this country, by seducing the ignorant and unwary to embrace their erroneous tenets, which your petitioners conceive to be not only opposite to the doctrines which true Christianity

inculcates, but subversive of the peace of families, tending to alienate the affection of slaves from their masters, and detrimental to the happiness of the publick; and while such daring attempts are made, by petitions to this honourable House, to pull down all the barriers which the wisdom of our ancestors have erected to secure the Church from the inroads of the sectaries, your petitioners apprehend that it would argue a culpable lukewarmness tamely to sit still and not make known their sentiments, so contrary to such innovations. All these bad effects your petitioners have already found, by the short experience which they have had in their own County, to be the dismal consequences of the doctrines taught by these new teachers. We have seen, with grief and indignation, by their suggestions, irreparable breaches made between husbands and their wives; we have seen meetings in the night of our slaves to receive instructions of these teachers without our consent, which, we apprehend, could produce nothing but deeds of darkness, and which have already produced their proper fruits of disobedience and insolence to masters, and glorifying in what they are taught to believe to be persecution for conscience sake. Your petitioners are not actuated by the narrow and bloodthirsty spirit of persecution. They wish to see a well-regulated toleration established, by which all those weak and conscientious brethren, who from principle cannot join with the established Church, may be permitted to serve God in their own way without molestation; but we wish also, that those nightly meetings may be prohibited under severe penalties, and that those only who, after a due examination of their morals, shall be found worthy, may be authorized to preach, and only in such publick meeting-houses as it may be found proper to license for that purpose. But your petitioners humbly apprehend that these purposes may be answered without destroying those gentle and wholesome restraints which the wisdom of ages, and the policy of our laws and constitution, have appointed, to give the Church a proper preëminence over every other sect, and gently to incline, by the obligation of interest as well as reason, a reunion of all those who have been deluded and led to forsake that Church which your petitioners apprehended to contain the genuine doctrines of Christianity, and to promote the true happiness, both temporal and eternal, of mankind. Your petitioners therefore pray, that the Church may be maintained in all its legal rights, and that the sectaries may be indulged with such a regulated toleration as to this honourable House shall seem proper.

And your petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

[Signed by 260.]

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Williamsburgh, Virginia, 6 December, 1776.

The Officers and Soldiers of the Ninth *Virginia* Regiment who are absent with leave, are desired to return with all possible despatch, or join the regiment on its march, or at *Philadelphia*, it being ordered to reinforce General *Washington* immediately.

Given under my hand, this 1st day of *December*, 1776.

THOMAS FLEMING.

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Williamsburgh, Virginia, 6 December, 1776.

The masters and crew of the ship *Caroline*, taken by the schooner privateer *Harlequin*, and condemned as a lawful prize by the Court of Admiralty of this State, are hereby advertised, that they are to apply to *William Lux*, Esq., of the town of *Baltimore*, in the State of *Maryland*, for payment of the wages due to them from said ship, agreeable to a resolution of the Continental Congress.

By order of the honourable Court of Admiralty:

BEN. POWELL, *Marshal.*

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CAPTAIN COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 6, 1776.

HONOURED GENTLEMEN: The snow *George* arrived the 4th instant, that we took *November* the 2d, and afterwards retaken by one of the Ministerial ships; soon after that the privateers, Captain *Campbell*, took her again. She is now libelled in their names.

As the ship *Defence* first took her, the Province and ship's company has a right to some part, and it will be necessary to have some attorney employed to claim that part before the Board of Admiralty, when she is to be condemned. I hope you'll please to appoint some gentleman of the law for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, honoured gentlemen, your very humble servant,

GEO. COOK.

The honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis.*

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SAMUEL DORSEY, JUN., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

December 7th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I take this opportunity to inform you of my success in procuring coals, which has taken up most of my time till now, and have now as much as will last me twelve months. Have cast a few small guns. Should be glad you would appoint some person to prove them this next week, that in case they should not answer we might make another mixture of metal. There is Mr. *Swannhum* or Mr. *Hommilto*, that lives at the landing, if you think proper, which would be always at the spot, or any person you choose. Please appoint some one that will attend when requested in time.

Remain your humble servant to command,

SAM'L DORSEY, JUN.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis.*

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WILLIAM PACA TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, Saturday, the 7th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Congress is of the opinion that the order from the Board of War extends only to such prisoners as are natives of *Great Britain*, and soldiers from thence in the present war; and therefore the prisoners from *Carolina* and privates there lately taken in arms against us, are not comprehended, and are still to be detained. As to the two gentlemen taken by Captain *Cook*, whether they be prisoners or not is a matter our State must decide, and not Congress. I am told by the delegates to the eastward that persons in such predicament are set at liberty, but the property taken is confiscated. But this is not a general rule; circumstances often require them to be . You must, therefore, (I speak my own opinion only,) exercise your discretion in the present case.

The enemy is still at *Brunswick*. General *Washington* has faced about, and is moving towards them with the reinforcements from this State. General *Lee* has crossed the river, as we are informed, with about two thousand men, and we are also informed that General *St. Clair*, with about twelve hundred men, left *New-Windsor* last *Friday* week, and that by this time we hope the enemy will find themselves between two fires; and Heaven grant they may be well routed.

Great complaints have been made by the privates of our Flying-Camp of neglect and want of pay. I am afraid our officers have not been so careful and industrious in making out their rolls as they ought to have been. We are doing all we can to get them their money, which indeed has been long ago ready for them, and only detained from the want of officers' rolls. Our poor sick were much distressed till they came to this city. Here every necessary is found them, and the best care taken of them. We have declined no trouble to have these poor creatures comfortably provided for.

Your obedient servant,

W. PACA.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis.*

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THOMAS WHARTON TO RICHARD PETERS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: The Council has appointed a Committee to confer with the Board of War on the propriety of establishing a military hospital in this State, and would be glad to know when it will suit the Board of War to receive them.

By order of Council:

THO'S WHARTON, *President.*

To *Richard Peters*, Esq.

*

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 7th: Referred to Board of War.]

Trenton, December 6, 1776.

SIR: I have not received any intelligence of the enemy's movements since my letter of yesterday. From every information, they still remain at *Brunswick*, except some of their parties, who are advanced a small distance on this side. To-day I shall set out for *Princeton* myself, unless something should occur to prevent me, which I do not expect.

By a letter of the 4th instant from a Mr. *Caldwell*, a clergyman, and a staunch friend to the cause, and who has fled from *Elizabethtown*, and taken refuge in the mountains about ten miles from thence, I am informed that General or Lord *Howe* was expected in that town to publish pardon and peace. His words are: "I have not seen his proclamation, but can only say he gives sixty days of grace, and pardons from the Congress down to the Committee. No one man in the Continent is to be denied his mercy." In the language of this good man, "The Lord deliver us from his mercy!"

Your letter of the 3d, by Major *Livingston*, was duly received; before it came to hand I had wrote to General *Howe* about Governour *Franklin's* exchange, but am not certain whether the letter could not be recovered. I despatched a messenger instantly for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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JOSEPH NOURSE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Ringwood Iron-Works, 6th December, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by General *Lee* to inform you he has had the misfortune to lose three of his best camp horses, and begs the favour you'll have some inquiry made amongst the soldiery under your command. One is a black, with a nag tail, fifteen hands high; a brown bay, with a switch tail, fourteen-and-a-half hands; and a sorrel mare, with a blaze-face and a switch tail, about fourteen hands and an inch.

The General offers three guineas reward, or a guinea for each.

I am, sir, your very obedient, humble servant,

JOSEPH NOURSE, *Secretary*.

Honourable Major-General *Heath, Peekskill*.

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GENERAL SULLIVAN TO DANIEL COE.

Cakiact, December 6, 1776.

I beg that you will assemble the Militia of the district of *Cakiact*, with their arms, accoutrements, blankets, and three days' provisions, and order them to join General *Lee* at *Morristown* as soon as possible.

I am your humble servant,

JOHN SULLIVAN,
*Major-General in the Continental Army*.

To *Daniel Coe*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee.

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DANIEL COE TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Kakiate, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: We thought it our indispensable duty to inform the Convention, that last evening we received the enclosed requisition from General *Sullivan*. In the present state of our country, it is not in our power, consistent with the safety of the inhabitants or the publick service, to comply with his request; and we flatter ourselves, that had the General been properly acquainted with the true state of the country he would not have issued this order. The whole Militia of our Precinct consists of but two hundred and eighty men, one third of which are disaffected to the cause. Most of the Militia are unarmed, and now employed in the service of the publick, either as guards to the shore or wagoners, or labourers on the publick roads. Besides this, we are in great distress from the exposed state of the country, which now lies open to the ravages of the enemy from *Hackensack* and *Fort Lee*; therefore we are so far from being able to afford General *Lee* any assistance, that we most earnestly request the Convention to send us assistance from the upper parts of the country, or we must, from our weak and exposed state, in all probability soon fall a sacrifice to the enemy. We beg you would lay this request before the honourable Convention, and entreat their immediate advice and aid. An answer by the bearer will much oblige your humble servant.

By order of the Committee:

DAN'L COE, *Chairman*.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention for the State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Peekskill, December 6th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have just received intelligence, that on the 4th instant, about sunset, seventy sail of ships-of-war and transports, with many troops on board, sailed down the *Sound*, towards *New-England*. If you have not received the intelligence before this reaches you, I beg that you send an express immediately to *Rhode-Island*, and also to *Massachusetts-Bay*.

I have the honour to be, with respect and esteem, your most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

Honourable *Jona. Trumbull*, Esq.

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GENERAL HEATH TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Peekskill, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: I have just received intelligence, that on the 4th instant, about sunset, seventy sail of ships-of-war and transports, with many troops on board, sailed with a fair wind down the *Sound* towards *New-England*, perhaps for *Newport*.

General *Washington*, by the last letters which I received from him, was at *Brunswick*. A large body of troops from the Northern Army are marching down, the van of which I suppose by this time have joined the General.

General *Lee*, two days ago, passed over the ferry, with between three and four thousand men. The loss of forts *Washington* and *Lee*, with many stores, have been unfortunate blows; but as good and bad events have their turns in war, we against such still hope to be crowned with success.

I have the honour to be, with respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

W. HEATH.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, December 6th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have just received intelligence, that on the 4th instant, about sunset, seventy sail of ships-of-war and transports, with troops on board, sailed with a fair wind down the *Sound* towards *New-England*, probably to *Rhode-Island*. I have sent an express to Governour *Trumbull* and to *Massachusetts-Bay*, and have desired Governour *Trumbull* to send an express to *Rhode-Island*. I have at this post three regiments of General *Parsons's* brigade and three of General *Clinton's*, and a number of convalescents, lame and ragged, left by General *Lee*. General *Clinton* is pushing the obstructions in the river. Any orders from your Excellency to move the troops, or any part of them, shall be instantly obeyed by him who has the honour to be, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

To General *Washington*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Peekskill, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: I have just received intelligence, by letter from General *Spencer*, that on the 4th instant, about sunset, seventy sail of ships-of-war and transports, with many troops on board, sailed down the *Sound* towards *New-England*, with a fair wind.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your humble servant,

W. HEATH.

Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt, Fishkill*.

### COURT MARTIAL ON CAPTAIN DOLSON.

Peekskill, 6th December, 1776.

At a General Court-Martial, held by general orders, at the house of Mr. *John Mandivells*, Colonel *Ward*, President.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. Col. *Hammon*, | Captain *Pain*, |
| Major Woods, | Captain *Ladew*, |
| Captain *Maxwell*, | Captain *Wright*, |
| Captain *Moss*, | Captain *Bartlet*, |
| Captain *Nowell*, | Captain *Barlow*, |
| Captain *Sumner*, | Captain *Brown*. |

Captain *Hyde*, Judge Advocate.

Captain *Abraham Dolson*, of Colonel *Nicoll's* regiment, arrested by the said Colonel *Nicolls* for feloniously taking and marking and selling a blanket belonging to a soldier. The prisoner being arraigned pleads Not guilty.

Lieutenant *Gore*, under oath, saith Captain *Dolson* told him that he had a blanket that he would sell him; and soon after a soldier in Captain *Little's* company came to the tent of the prisoner and said he had lost a blanket, and thought that blanket then present was his blanket. Soon after the soldier was gone the Captain came to the tent, and I was at the fire, and told him that the blanket he offered for sale is like to have an owner, and the Captain said, Is the blanket gone? I told no. Then he said he would go into the tent and mark it, for it was not marked; and took out his knife and went to the tent; and when he came out, he was shutting his knife, and said he had marked the blanket. He asked the Captain how he came by the blanket; the Captain told him he took it up because it could not give the countersign. At another time he told him he found it by the root of a tree. After Captain *Little* challenged the blanket, Captain *Dolson* told me that Captain *Little* had been to him about that blanket, and says if you will stand by me, I will do well enough, for, says he, I told Captain *Little* I brought it from *King's Bridge*, and you may say that, and not tell a lie, for I brought it far enough from *King's Bridge*, you know; and further, says he, I told him I bought it of a *New-England* man, and gave him twelve shillings for it.

*Rheuben Hall*, Captain *Dolson's* waiter, under oath, saith that he heard the Captain tell the Lieutenant, that he had found a blanket, and it could not give the countersign, and he took it up. Some time after I heard Captain *Dolson* tell Captain *Little* that he bought the blanket of a *New-England* man at *King's Bridge*, and gave him twelve shillings for it; and Captain *Dolson* marked the blanket, and after some time sold the blanket that was in contest to *Joel Frost*.

*Joel Frost*, under oath, saith, that he was passing by the tent of Captain *Dolson*, and Captain *Dolson* offered him a blanket for sale, and I agreed and gave him two dollars for the blanket, and carried it home to my tent, and offered to sell it to my tent mates, and one of them agreed to have it; and the next morning he told me that he should not have the blanket, for there was like to be an owner for it. And after Captain *Little* challenged the blanket he sold me, I told him I had sent it home; he said that blanket could not give the countersign; and further saith about the time said *Dolson* was arrested, he asked me what I had done with the blanket; I told him I had sent it home, and I told him if he came as honestly by the blanket as I did, he would not be ashamed to have the blanket seen; and told him if he would give me leave I would go home and bring it; and he told me that he would go to the Colonel and try to get me a furlough; and he came back and told me that the Colonel would not give a furlough, and said he wished that he would, for then I could go home and get the blanket and alter or mark it so that the blanket should not be known.

*George Gore* confirms the above evidence of *Rheuben Hall*.

The within Court having examined the evidences against the prisoner, find him guilty of the charge alleged against him, and adjudge him to be cashiered and posted as described in section 14th, article 22d, in the Rules and Regulations of the Army, and be mulcted eight dollars, four to be paid the soldier that lost the blanket, and the rest to be disposed of as directed by act of Congress.

Attest: J. Ward, *President*.

I do approve of the above sentence.

W. Heath, *Major-General*.

### MATTHEW ADGATE TO JOHN M'DONALD.

Fishkill, 6th December, 1776.

Sir: The Committee for exploring Lead Mines, &c., have this day had your letter of the 16th *November*, 1776, before them, it being the first time they have met since it was received, (on your report therein.) I am directed to inform you that it is the will of the Committee you should proceed no further in exploring the lead mine in the *Great Nine Partners*, on the bargain made with you by the said Committee on the 16th day of *October* last, until their further order, and that you do repair to the *Fishkill*, bringing a certificate from *Ezra Thomson*, Esq., of the length, width, and depth of the pit you have sunk on said bargain.

Signed by order of the Committee:

Matthew Adgate, *Chairman*.

To *John McDonald*, Miner.

P. S. The Committee desire you to procure Mr. *Thomson's* account against them for inspecting said mine, for settlement.

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### HENRY SCHENCK TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Fishkill Landing, December 6th, 1776.

Sir: Having occasion for coming to this place, where I found a quantity of Continental stores, such as tar, tents, &c., which are a wasting to a great degree; the dock afloat with the tar; the tents on a heap in the weather, wet, &c., consequently a rotting;—I would recommend the appointment of some other person living at this place to take charge of all stores delivered at this place, with an allowance for his trouble. I am confident the States would find their account in it. I would recommend *Petrus Bogardus*, a good careful person.

I am, sir, with great esteem, your very humble servant,

Henry Schenck.

To *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Committee, State of *New-York*.

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### PETITION OF MILES SHERBROOKE.

*To the Honourable the Convention or Committee of Safety of the State of* New-York:

*The Petition of* Miles Sherbrooke, *of the City of* New-York, *Merchant, humbly showeth:*

That your petitioner, on the tenth of *February* last, viewing his most critical situation on account of the approaching troubles, removed himself and his family from the city of *New-York* to *Long-Island*, with a determination, which his connexions in *Great Britain* he humbly conceives will fully justify, not to take part in the least in the unhappy controversy subsisting between that Kingdom and the *United States of North-America*.

That nevertheless your petitioner, notwithstanding his aforesaid retreat, and the well-known inoffensiveness of his character, was, upon some information, which doubtless General *Washington* conceived to be well founded, apprehended by his Excellency's order, on the seventh day of *August*, as a person suspected to be unfriendly to the *American* cause, and was sent a prisoner to the State of *Connecticut*.

That your petitioner is a partner of the commercial house of *Perry, Hayes, & Sherbrooke*; that your petitioner's partners reside in *England*, and are well known to have openly avowed and taken an active part in favour of the *American* cause.

That your petitioner humbly conceives he cannot be considered inimical to that cause, if no other considerations than those of interest should influence him to a similarity of opinion with his partners.

That your petitioner has received directions from his partners, who have proved themselves friendly as abovementioned, to *America*, how to demean himself in the present troubles, and hopes he always has exercised and shall continue to exercise so much prudence as strictly to conform to them.

That your petitioner has in every instance complied with all Convention and Committee orders, except in the single instance of not taking up arms, in which your petitioner flatters himself he will by the mere recital of his case be fully exculpated, if not justified, in the opinion of the honourable Convention.

That the General Committee of the City and County of *New-York* conceived your petitioner's case to be singularly hard and scarcely to be paralleled, and your petitioner is well informed that one single person only in that body held him up in a suspicious point of light, which your petitioner is informed was the only cause of his arrest.

That the property of the commercial house in *America* to which your petitioner belongs, is great, and therefore strongly attaches them to the *American* interest.

That all the title-deeds, books, and other papers belonging to that house, so much attached to the *American* cause, as well as a number of papers concerning the estate of the late Mr. *Joseph Haynes*, deceased, which affect the property of women who cannot take a part in the present controversy, have been buried under ground by your petitioner, on the south side of *Long-Island*, and will probably soon perish in their present situation unless your petitioner can be admitted to go for their redemption.

That besides this, he hopes that his desire to provide for his wife and family will, considering the probable reasons to suppose him to be friendly to *America*, have some weight with the honourable Convention.

Upon the whole, he submits to their wisdom and tenderness, both his request to be permitted to repair to the city of *New-York* and *Long-Island*, and the terms and conditions upon which he may be thus indulged.

And your petitioner shall ever pray, &c., &c.

MILES SHERBROOKE.

Fishkills, December 6th, 1776.

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PETITION OF ALEXANDER WALLACE.

*To the honourable the Convention or Committee of Safety of the State of* NEW-YORK:

*The Petition of* ALEXANDER WALLACE, *of the City of* NEW-YORK, *Merchant, humbly showeth:*

That on the eighth day of *August* last your petitioner was apprehended, as he understood, by order of his Excellency General *Washington*, as a person suspected as unfriendly to the *American* cause, in consequence of which your petitioner presented a memorial to him, representing his family's distresses, a copy of which is ready to be produced.

That his Excellency, in answer to your petitioner's memorial, told him his case was very hard, and directed him to call the next morning. That your petitioner accordingly attended on his Excellency and produced to him a certificate of his good behaviour from Colonel *Remsen*, and that your petitioner had actually employed a sufficient man in his stead in the Continental service, as by the certificate from Colonel *Remsen*, ready to be produced, will appear.

That his Excellency thereupon declared that there were then so many applications to him of the like nature that it was out of his power to relieve your petitioner at that juncture, and that your petitioner should submit to the necessity of going with the other gentlemen then under arrest to *New-England*, and gave your petitioner reason to believe that ere many days elapsed he should return to his family.

That your petitioner while in *New-England* applied to his Excellency through General *Putnam*, on the subject of his return to his family, and received for answer that he must wait with patience a few weeks longer.

That your petitioner again applied to his Excellency through another channel, and received an answer to his application, dated the 5th *November* last, purporting that though his Excellency was disposed to oblige your petitioner, he had referred the matter to the Convention of *New-York*, to whom your petitioner must apply.

That Governour *Trumbull*, of the State of *Connecticut*, knowing your petitioner's particular distressed situation, has permitted him personally to apply to this honourable Convention, as by his certificate ready to be produced will appear.

That your petitioner's private papers, on the preservation of which the well-being of his family principally depends, are buried in the earth on *Long-Island*, in a place unknown to any but your petitioner and , now a prisoner in *New-England*, and will probably soon perish unless redeemed from their present state.

That the company papers belonging to your petitioner and his brother, *Hugh Wallace*, are deposited in a vault in the city of *New-York*, and cannot be taken from thence but by one of the partners.

That your petitioner's wife and eight small children are now on *Long-Island*, utterly destitute of that necessary assistance which so numerous a family must unavoidably want in your petitioner's absence, and that to add to the distress of your petitioner's family, they will be obliged to quit the house on *Long-Island*, in which they now reside, on the 1st *February* next, as the proprietor thereof is determined to occupy it himself at that time.

Your petitioner therefore, under this complication of distress, begs leave to cast himself on the benevolence of the honourable Convention, humbly requesting their permission to him to proceed to the city of *New-York* and *Long-Island*, for the necessary care of his family and his private and company concerns, under such conditions in point of time and other circumstances as to this honourable Convention shall seem fit.

And your petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

ALEXANDER WALLACE.

Fishkill, December 6th, 1776.

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COMMITTEE OF SALEM TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

SALEM, *December* 6th, year 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We have a number of men in the town of *Salem* that is absconded, and left their families and effects, and gone to the Ministerial Army; and by the advice of the Chairman of the County Committee, we have taken an account of the effects of those men, and have here sent the account, with their names; and the Committee now desires of me to know of you what shall be done with these estates, whether any thing or not. Please to give us answer by the bearer hereof, if you judge them forfeit to the State of *New-York*; in particular, what manner to proceed in securing them.

*Ephraim Sanford* is run off, and left—

| | |
|---|---|
| One horse, worth | £15 0 0 |
| Four cows, two young cattle | 21 0 0 |
| Five hogs, fifteen bushels corn | 17 0 0 |
| Twelve load good hay | 18 0 0 |
| House and barn and furniture | 300 0 0 |
| Forty-eight acres valuable land. | |

*Benjamin Close* has also left—

| | |
|---|---|
| Three young horses | £21 0 0 |
| One pair of oxen | 20 0 0 |
| Three cows and young cattle | 28 0 0 |
| About thirty bushels wheat | 7 0 0 |
| Twelve load hay | 15 0 0 |
| Very good house and barn. About thirty acres of land. | |

*Samuel Baxter* has gone, and left—

| | |
|---|---|
| One horse and young horse | £23 0 0 |
| Two cows, two-year olds | 12 0 0 |
| Two fat hogs, two load of rye | 7 0 0 |
| Six load of hay | 9 0 0 |
| Twenty-five acres land, house, and barn. | |

*Job Keeler.*

| | |
|---|---|
| One cow, two-year old, one calf | £9 0 0 |
| Three fat hogs, five shotes | 8 10 0 |
| Sixty bushels corn | 9 0 0 |
| Three load hay | 4 10 0 |
| Forty bushel wheat | 12 0 0 |

*Thomas Smith*, likewise.

| | |
|---|---|
| Two horse kind, one pair oxen | £28 0 0 |
| Four cows, six young cattle, three calves | 31 0 0 |
| Twenty-five sheep, four fat hogs | 18 0 0 |
| Five shotes, sixty bushels wheat | 23 10 0 |
| Ten bushels rye, sixty corn | 2 15 0 |
| Twenty loads good hay | 30 0 0 |
| Ninety acres land, with good building. | |

*Gilbord Hunt.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Two horses, one pair oxen | £35 0 0 |
| Three cows, three young cattle | 17 0 0 |
| Two swine, fat, six shotes | 8 0 0 |
| Fifteen sheep, twelve bushels wheat | 13 0 0 |
| Forty bushels corn, three loads hay | 10 10 0 |
| Fifty acres land, house, and barn. | |

*Jonathan Wallace* is gone, and left one horse and mare and colt, one pair steers.

*Samuel Wallace* gone also to the Ministerial Army, a young man.

*Ezra Morehouse* likewise, and left one old mare.

*Jacob Wallace*, ditto.

*Nethaneal Palmer*, ditto.

*Nathan Osborn*, of *Salem*, gone, supposed to be a Cap-

tain in the Ministerial Army; has left a house and two barns, one hundred and ninety acres land, sixteen loads of hay, thirty bushels wheat, ten bushels oats, one pair oxen, four cows seven-year olds, five calves, and two colts, seven swine.

*Abraham Close*, also.—Three horse kind, £15; three cows and three steers, £24; three fat hogs, £6; twenty bushels wheat and loads hay, £14; some valuable land.

*Abraham Dun* gone also.—One pair of oxen, one cow, one horse, two loads of hay, forty bushels corn, seven bushels wheat, sixty pounds flax.

*Edward Jones*.—Thirty acres land, two horses, one cow, two one-year olds.

*George Butson*.—House and barn, one hundred and thirty acres land, one pair oxen, one horse, two cows, one year'd colt, two load hay, six sheep, four swine.

*Salem*, 6th *December*, in the year 1776. By order of the Committee:

EZEKIEL HAWLEY, *Chairman*.

To the honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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ROBERT YATES TO JAMES DUANE.

Claverack, December 6th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I enclose you a letter from Colonel *Van Schaick*, together with a list of such of his officers as decline the service. If you can possibly form a Committee, I would recommend the filling up the vacancies. Mr. *Cuyler*, who is now with me, informs me that he has left the papers in the hands of Mr. *Harpur*.

I have not yet received an answer from General *Schuyler* respecting the *Tryon* County company. I submit it to your consideration, whether room ought not to be left for the officers of that company in case the General should recommend them.

I am, gentlemen, with esteem, your most obedient servant,

ROBT. YATES.

To *James Duane*, Esq., and the other members of the Committee of Arrangement for the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Saratoga, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: Your favour, without date, covering certain resolutions of the Committee of Safety of the 30th ultimo, I received this day. It gives me great pleasure to find that my worthy friend General *George Clinton* is engaged in so necessary a work as that of obstructing the navigation of *Hudson's* river. My ideas on the subject I have already done myself the honour to convey to you in a letter of the instant.

Permit me to assure the Convention, that every assistance in my power shall be most cheerfully afforded on this as on every other occasion. If the stores are not already sent to *Albany*, I wish measures to be taken to expedite them to that place.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Honourable *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Vice President, &c.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO ROBERT YATES.

Saratoga, December 6th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your favour of the 28th ultimo was delivered me an hour ago. Captain *McKean* and Lieutenant *French* I believe to be good officers, and would wish their continuance in the service. The other two I can say nothing about, as I do not know them. I thank you for informing me that the Committee will be so good as to send me a copy of the arrangement as soon as it is completed.

I am very apprehensive that much evil will arise if a Government is not soon established for this State. The longer it is delayed the more difficult it will be to bring the unprincipled and licentious to a proper sense of their duty, and we have too many such amongst us.

I am, dear sir, with great respect and esteem, your obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To *Robert Yates*, Esq., Chairman of Committee of Arrangements.

GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO THE NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Fort Montgomery, December 6th, 1776.

TO THE GENTLEMEN OF THE CONGRESS OF THIS STATE:

Captain *Gregg* has applied to me for a recommendation in favour of *George Denniston*, who served this campaign a Sergeant in Captain *Jackson's* company, in my regiment. He wants him for an Ensign in his company, and I think he is deserving of the same, as he is a good scholar, and has behaved himself well since he engaged in the service.

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General*.

To the honourable the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO COLONEL LEWIS.

Saratoga, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: Yours of the 2d instant I did not receive until this day. If the Committee agrees to let Lady *Johnson* go down, I am sure I have no objection; but no person can be permitted to go to *New-York* without a pass from the General commanding the *American* troops in *Westchester* County. Her ladyship should therefore go to *Fishkill*, and from thence send for the necessary passport. No ill treatment I may have received can induce me to forget the laws of decorum and humanity. You will therefore, if Lady *Johnson* chances to be attended by an officer, apply in my name to Colonel *Gansevoort* for one. On your part you will see that she is properly accommodated for her passage.

I am, dear sir, your most humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

[Here are some lines erased.]

The erasures are some orders from General *Schuyler* to me, and no ways respect Lady *Johnson's* liberation.

MORGAN LEWIS,
*Deputy Quartermaster-General*.

To Colonel *Lewis*, Deputy Quartermaster-General, *Albany*.

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COLONEL JOSEPH WOOD TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Ticonderoga, December 6, 1776.

SIR: Captain *Henry O'Hara*, late of Colonel *Winekoop's* regiment, is a gentleman of good reputation and a soldier. He very much wants to join my regiment, and can bring a full company. He is determined not to serve again with the forces in the State of *New-York*. If his company could with propriety be joined to my regiment, it would be for the publick good. I should then have eight companies to perform all the manœuvres, and one company of Riflemen for light infantry. Our exercise would be much easier, and of course sooner learnt. The Rifle company would then be doing nothing else but scouting, which is very necessary here. I then should have eight companies on the ground, learning what we must at last come to—regular service—such as forming our men in a moment to face the enemy, with equal numbers, on any ground. When we are performing our evolutions with seven companies, it's left-handed work, very like advancing three steps backwards.

General *Gates* knows Captain *O'Hara* well, and that his character is that of a brave soldier. If the honourable Congress will order this company to join my regiment, I am convinced it would be greatly for the publick good. I beg I may have an answer soon.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOS. WOOD.

The Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the honourable the Congress.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *December* 6th, 1776—

Present, his Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Williams*, *William Hillhouse*, *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., *Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

There being a large fleet of men-of-war and transports at a little to the westward of *New-London* Harbour, and their design not being known, it was determined to be a prudent step to remove the Continental and Colonial property at *New-London*, up to *Norwich*, and also to take a

quantity of wheat on board a ship in *New-London*, commanded by Captain *Kennedy*, for publick use; and Captain *Ephraim Bill*, *Jabez Perkins*, and *David Mumford*, of *Norwich*, are appointed and desired to assist Mr. *Shaw* in taking and removing said wheat to the mills, to be floured, and the Continental and Colonial ships' stores, &c., to the places of the greatest safety that can be up *Norwich* river, and to secure the same as well as they can.

Orders were given to several regiments of the Militia to march to *New-London*, in the defence of this country against the invasion of the enemy; also letters sent to General *Washington* and others for the needful assistance, and steps to be taken in this alarming time of danger, &c.

*Elijah Sharp* is appointed Captain of a company in Colonel *Ely's* company, instead of *Ebenezer Holbrook*, who refuses.

*Voted*, To give an order on Colonel *Elderkin* and Mr. *Wales*, for one hundred and fifty pounds of Powder, in favour of the Selectmen of *Mansfield*. (Orders delivered Colonel *Storrs*.)

*Voted*, To appoint Captain *John Deshon* to be a Commissary to the Militia now marching to the defence of *New-London*, &c., with orders by all means to furnish supplies of Continental or Colonial stores as may best be obtained.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Lebanon, December 6, 1776.

Sir: It is some time since we have had any intelligence of your situation in the *Jerseys*, or of the enemy in that quarter. Indeed no certain account has arrived here since the evacuation of *Fort Lee* and our forces retiring to *Hackensack*.

We have to acquaint your Excellency that we now apprehend it highly probable that a very considerable part of General *Howe's* army intend a descent on some part of *New-England*, and finish this year's campaign here. We have intelligence that a large number, it is said some hundred, of the enemy's ships and transports have passed through *Hell-Gate* into the *Sound*. A few days since, ten of the enemy's capital ships-of-war came round *Montaug Point*, came up the *Sound*, just passed *New-London*, where they are since joined by about eighty transports, &c. This we have certain intelligence of, and that they lie off at present at anchor there, it is supposed waiting to be joined by numbers more. We are collecting our Militia as fast as possible; but how far we shall be able to repulse the enemy by this force, you'll judge, and doubt not of your utmost attention and exertion whenever the enemy demand the same, and must submit to your Excellency to give orders as you may think proper on this occasion. May it not be proper to send us some General Officers previous to the coming on of Continental troops? If the descent be on *New-London* or *Newport*, or both, a large body of them will be necessary, and of which there can be no doubt.

I am concerned for the recruiting service; wish it may be forwarded, and to be informed how it goes on. Four battalions are raising here, to serve till the 15th of *March* next.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Jon'th Trumbull.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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ANDREW ADAMS TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Reading, December 6th, 1776.

Honoured Sir: I am to inform your Honour that the 4th instant, one *John Sheapard*, who said he belonged to the State of *New-Hampshire*, was brought before the Committee for the trial of dangerous persons in this town. He was taken up at a publick house in *Newtown* upon suspicion, and the enclosed papers were found in his custody. Upon his examination he freely confessed that he set out from *New-Hampshire* upon the request of Governour *Wentworth*, with a design to join the Ministerial Army; that he had obtained the enclosed warrant from General *Howe*, in *New-York*; that he was sent on shore in a man-of-war's barge in the night season, a little eastward of the *Saw-Pitts*, and was on his return to *New-Hampshire* in order to prosecute the business of inlisting soldiers, according to the warrant, when he was taken up, as above. The common jail in *Fairfield* was not thought a safe confinement at this juncture, as an attack is apprehended, and the people are now in preparation to defend the sea-coasts in this part of the State. A number of men-of-war are now lying off in the *Sound*, against *Fairfield*, &c., and by information from General *Wooster*, it appears probable that several brigades of the enemy are about marching eastward by land. The state of *Litchfield* jail appears also to be improper for his confinement, on account of the numbers already there, &c. That upon the whole it was thought proper to send him to *Windham* jail, there to remain under the direction and at the disposal of your Honour and Council of Safety. As this is an instance aside from our usual proceeding, and yet a person most highly dangerous, 'twas adjudged most proper to send him forward as above, and refer the further disposition of him to your Honour.

I am, with great truth and sincerity, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant.

Signed per order: And'w Adams.

To Governour *Trumbull*.

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New-London, December 6, 1776.

The State of *Rhode-Island*, by a Committee which came here last week, have agreed upon an exchange of the prisoners in that State for a like number in the *British* fleet, which is to take place the 9th instant, at this port. An exchange of prisoners in this State is postponed for the present.

*Tuesday* last this town was alarmed by the appearance of eleven ships from the eastward, coming into the *Sound*, most of which appeared to be men-of-war, who, by their course for some time, it was apprehended, might be bound into this place; but they went further up *Sound*, and towards evening anchored under *Long-Island* shore, where they lay till yesterday morning, when being joined by other men-of-war and transports from *New-York*, to the number of near one hundred, they came to sail, and anchored near *Black-Point*, about eight miles west of this harbour, where they remain at this time. The appearance of such a formidable fleet within one hour's sail of the town, has thrown the inhabitants into great consternation.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Providence, December 6, 1776.

Sir: You will by the letter from Governour *Trumbull*, herewith enclosed, have the latest accounts of the strength and situation of the enemy, and his preparations thereupon. I have to inform that the Militia of this State are generally mustered and imbodied, and have no doubt of the most speedy and vigorous exertions of the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay* on this most important occasion.

I have likewise enclosed General *Lee's* letter of the 27th ultimo to Governour *Trumbull*. It points to an obstacle relative to raising the new Army, which really merits attention; and for the removal of which, think the Assembly of this State will readily concur in proper measures with the Assemblies of the States of *Massachusetts-Bay* and *Connecticut*.

I am, sir, with great truth and regard, your most obedient humble servant,

Nich's Cooke.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*.

P. S. With the assistance afforded us from your State, an experienced company of Artillerymen would be of most essential service.

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JAMES BOWDOIN TO PRESIDENT WEARE.

Boston, December 6, 1776.

Sir: The President of the Council of this State having received a letter from Governour *Trumbull* relative to our proposal of a conference of Committees from the *New-England* States respecting the further emission of paper currency, and for supporting the credit thereof, a copy of which letter is enclosed, whereby it appears that the State of *Connecticut*, for the reasons therein mentioned, have thought fit for the present to decline joining the Committee of the other States of *New-England*; and as it is apprehended by this State that the conference would be ineffectual unless all the States of *New-England* should join in it, we are therefore ordered to inform you that the Delegates from this State are

directed not to proceed upon said conference, that in case a Committee should have been appointed by your State, they may act accordingly. It is expected this matter will be taken up again.

I am, sir, with great respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

Honourable *Meshech Weare*, Esq., President of the Council of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

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WILLIAM DAWES TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Boston, December 6, 1776.

SIR: Agreeable to your request of yesterday, I would acquaint you that I have informed myself of the situation of the forts at *Dorchester* Heights, by going over myself this morning. I visited forts *Number Three* and *Two*, and found but one sentinel in each; and was informed by them, that there was so few over there, it came to them in turn to be one day on guard and one day off, and that but one sentinel at a time was at each fort, *Number Two* and *Three*, either by night or day; that there was but about six or eight men to take care of the whole three forts. Was likewise informed by one of the neighbours, that the night before last, a person or persons appeared lurking round one of the forts, upon which the sentinel hailed them, and no answer being given, the sentinel fired upon them, upon which they made off. From all which, sir, I would make only one observation of my own, which will be by way of contrast, viz: since the 25th of *October* we never had less than between fifty and sixty men for guarding those three forts constantly by night and by day. If the above intelligence will be of any publick utility, my end is fully answered.

Am, sir, with the profoundest respect and esteem, your dutiful servant,

WM. DAWES.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq.

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JAMES BOWDOIN TO MESHECH WEARE.

Boston, December 6th, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed papers were thought necessary to be communicated to the State of *New-Hampshire*. They are, therefore, sent to you for that purpose by order of Council; in whose behalf I am, most respectfully, sir, your most humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

Honourable President of the Council of *New-Hampshire*.

N. B. The papers sent were General *Lee's*, dated *November* 30th, enclosed in Governour *Cooke's*, dated *December* 5th, and Adjutant *Settler's*, of *December* 2d, 1776.

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JONA. JACKSON TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Boston, 6th December, 1776.

SIR: I find, upon trial, that a constant and close attendance (which is indispensably necessary) at the Board of War will be totally inconsistent with that little share of health I enjoy. In my apprehension, also, to hold a seat there and in the Assembly is incompatible with the duties belonging to both at this critical time, when both need the attendance of all their members, and will be frequently required at the same time.

You will therefore, sir, be so kind as to signify my resignation to both Houses of Assembly, begging the favour of their Honours to appoint some person in my stead, assuring them, that as I engaged in this service with a sincere desire to benefit the community, so now finding myself unable to do the service expected, I should think myself wanting in duty not to signify it to them and require a dismission.

With much respect for the worthy members of both honourable Houses, and my grateful acknowledgments to them for their favourable opinion in having appointed me to the trust I have now resigned, I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

JONA. JACKSON.

To Mr. Secretary *Avery*, to be communicated to both Houses of Assembly.

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WILLIAM KENNON TO GENERAL LEE.

[Read December 31, 1776: Referred to Mr. Hooper, Mr. Heyward, and Mr. Harrison.]

North-Carolina, Halifax, December 7, 1776.

SIR: The magazines you ordered are accordingly formed, and from a conversation of yours with Mr. *Southerland*, my agent at *Cross Creek*, and your letter to General *Moore*, I judged it to be your wish that I should form magazines in *Georgia*, *North-Carolina*, and *Virginia*. I immediately prepared for doing so, in such manner as I thought best from so imperfect a knowledge of your desires, and found occasion often to regret that you had not sent for me from *Cross Creek* to have met you on the road, or have wrote me a line; however, I have done what I believe will answer your design, and in such a way as must meet your approbation, since the Continent will be at no expense unless the provisions should be used; for things are laid in on such terms as to produce more than prime cost and charges, either by shipping to the *West-Indies* or selling to the merchant exporters.

I am just returned from the southern line of *Georgia*, and have formed magazines on the *Altamahau*, on the head of *Ocgechey*, at *Augusta*, and about forty miles above *Savannah*. In this State I've formed them so as to answer the service here, or transport to *Virginia*, at an easy rate, according to orders. Such provisions as I've laid in for *Virginia* and *North-Carolina* will, by a circumstance worth the attention of the Congress, be very dear, which is the vast number of commissaries, contractors, or purchasers, appointed by the imprudence of the *Virginians*, and the want of integrity of the *North-Carolinians;* for they, in order to enhance the price of provisions, by raising of which most in this Congress live, appointed so many competitors in the purchase that I am now paying double at least to what I did a few days ago; for there are now nine Commissaries in this State, of separate interests, with a number from *Virginia;* and the people here are combining to advance it to a most exorbitant height; and unless there is a single purchaser appointed for your district, which must chiefly be furnished from *North-Carolina* with pork and beef, the Continent will suffer one hundred per cent. in all the meat used by the troops. This, sir, I hope will deserve your particular attention, and that I shall hear from you as soon as your arduous situation will admit. I am not courting the place of Commissary-General of your district, though it would be acceptable to me, but it is my duty to lay before you, sir, this extraordinary and improper expense, as I wish the business done by me should be in a way the least burthensome to the State. There are variety of reasons which might be urged against the measure of so great a number of Commissaries; but one good reason is enough for Government: the exorbitant increase in the price of provisions by thirty or forty purchasing competitors. Would any private gentleman of the Congress, having occasion for twenty thousand barrels of beef and pork, to be bought up at one certain market, employ a single factor or agent to execute that trust; or would he order thirty different agents to purchase up the provisions, maintain each of them as bidders on each other at vendue, and risk beside the want of their knowledge and integrity? Too many fingers in the publick purse will endanger the State of *North-Carolina*, and the Congress, as far as in them lays, should prevent it.

This will be delivered you by Captain *Allen*, who can explain this, and every other matter, to your satisfaction. These Commissaries are now insisting to march to *Charlestown* with their different regiments; and I need not tell you, sir, what an effect such a competition will have at that market, already the highest on the globe; but can be lowered by the quantity of provisions in this State, provided the purchase is left to one upright, industrious, deserving man.

Your letter to Mr. *Harrison*, Paymaster in *Virginia*, was forwarded in a few days after date express by me, but no answer received. I am this day sending for the hundred thousand dollars mentioned therein, which I hope to receive. If I do not, Captain *Allen* will inform you, and you will order it from *Philadelphia* by immediate express, as I am in great want, having borrowed large sums from private people, who have some time expected payment. It would be also necessary for me to have a further credit on the Continental Treasury, and I am ready to enter into any security, if any should be required; and as to the hundred thousand, if it is necessary, I will give security for that sum also before it is paid me at *Charlestown;* in which case, it may be sent to the commanding officer, with direction as to the security. I have the fullest confidence that should Mr. *Harrison* decline sending this hundred thousand dollars you

will order it, so that I shall receive at least that sum in two months from this date. In the mean time, I shall borrow on the credit of this expectation. I have also purchased a quantity rum and osnabrigs, the latter of which the nakedness of the soldiers induced me to do. I have devoted my whole time to the service of you and your district, and shall on all occasions prove to you my desire of being serviceable to the Continent; but I wish not to be interrupted by injurious competitions, which can answer no other purpose but increase the price of provision to an intolerable height, and introduce confusion in the camp by a variety of agents.

I some time ago wrote by post from *Wilmington*, and lately sent you two letters, one from Mr. *Bryan* and the other from *Hispaniola*, which I hope you have received.

I have the honour to be, sir, with all duty and respect, your most obedient servant,

WILL. KENNON.

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War Office, December 7, 1776.

I am directed by the Board of War to order all officers on the recruiting service in this State immediately to march the men they have inlisted to *Philadelphia*, leaving none at the several places where they now are, but such as shall be absolutely necessary for the service. Returns of the number already recruited are desired to be forthwith transmitted to the Board. All officers in the service of the *United States* arriving in *Philadelphia*, are desired to attend at the War Office and make the proper returns.

By order of the Board of War:

RICHARD PETERS, *Secretary*.

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TO THE ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Would it not conduce to the immediate safety of the State of *Pennsylvania*, if a Dictator were appointed for three or six months, with full powers to exert the strength of the State in any way he should think proper against our enemies?

Has not the want of a suitable person, entrusted with such powers in time of war, ended in the ruin of several of the most flourishing Republicks of antiquity?

Are not the present ravages of the enemy in the States of *New-York* and *New-Jersey* owing to the want of suitable persons entrusted with absolute power to compel every individual of those States to concur in repelling the common enemy?

Does not the languor with which all the Legislatures in *America* move in the present alarming exigency of our affairs fully demonstrate that placing so little power in the hands of the executive branch of Government, is a most essential and fundamental fault in all our new Constitutions?

A CITIZEN.

Philadelphia, December 7, 1776.

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COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

SIR: We set out this morning for *Princeton*. In our way we met a messenger with the enclosed. The General ordered me back upon some necessary business. He has gone forward to *Princeton*, where there are about three thousand men, with which I fear he will not be able to make any stand. The *Jersey* Militia are so few that no dependence can be placed on them. The Militia of *Pennsylvania*, except from the city, have not appeared, and they are very confused, the time not having admitted of any arrangement. In short, sir, from all circumstances, I am inclined to think no opposition will be given till we cross the *Delaware*. Our whole force, if collected, will not exceed six thousand, and they are diminishing every moment by desertion.

I can get no other paper than this. You will please to excuse it, as well as the hurry of my letter.

I am, with much respect and regard, your most obedient, humble servant,

Jos. REED.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Princeton, December 7th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Lord *Stirling* will write by the same express that this comes by, and enclose to your Excellency several pieces of intelligence obtained of different people yesterday. His Lordship thinks the enemy are making a disposition to advance; for my part, I am at a loss to determine whether their disposition is to advance or for defence. The enemy have got a party advanced about seven miles this side *Brunswick*; another at *Bounbrook*, with an advance of guard two miles this side of the town. 'Tis reported by some of the country people that the enemy intend to advance in two columns, one this, the other *Bounbrook* road. General *Mercer* advanced upon this road, and I should think the *German* battalion might be advantageously posted on the other road.

Major *Clarke* reports General *Lee* is at the heels of the enemy. I should think he had better keep upon the flanks than the rear of the enemy, unless it were possible to concert an attack at the same instant of time in front and rear.

Our retreat should not be neglected, for fear of consequences. The bottom of the river should be examined, and see if the boats can be anchored in the ferry-way. If there is no anchor ground, the bridge must be thrown over below. Colonel *Biddle* had better make a trial immediately, that we may not be in confusion. If a bridge cannot be thrown over, forty boats should be manned, under the care of a good officer, and held in readiness; with these boats, prudently managed, the troops could be thrown over in a very short time. Methinks all the cannon that don't come forward with the Army might be well posted on the other side the river to cover a retreat.

I think General *Lee* must be confined within the lines of some general plan, or else his operations will be independent of yours. His own troops, General *St. Clair's*, and the Militia, must form a respectable body.

If General *Dickenson* would engage the Militia for some given time, there might be some dependence upon them; but no operation can be safely planned wherein they are to act a part, unless they can be bound by some further tie than the common obligation of a militiaman. I think if the General was at length to engage his Militia on some such plan, your Excellency might take your measures accordingly.

This moment a Captain has returned that went to reconnoitre last night, and it is beyond a doubt the enemy are advancing, and my Lord *Stirling* thinks they will be up here by twelve o'clock. I shall make the best disposition I can to oppose them.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

N. GREENE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL LEE TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Pompton, 7th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: As there is now no doubt of the enemy's directing a considerable force towards your island, my duty to the publick, and my regard for the welfare of your Colony in particular, urge me to every expedient which may be serviceable to you; and I must entreat you not to impute the freedom with which I shall offer my thoughts upon this occasion to a petulance of disposition, but to the most pure and disinterested zeal. I have, sir, from what I have observed of the *New-England* troops, the highest confidence in the valour of your men and common run of your officers, particularly those who are of the younger part. They have activity and fire, and in general more knowledge than those advanced in years, who are not only destitute of knowledge, but incapable, from a certain rustiness of mind and temper, of acquiring any. In fact, the only advantage of years in any profession is, that it enables us to add to our stock of knowledge. But if we do not avail ourselves of the days which nature has made a present of to us for this purpose, the more years have passed over our heads, the more disqualified are we for the profession of a soldier of any rank. Now it unfortunately happens in *New-England*, that to the most disqualified the highest trusts are committed. To speak directly, the appointments of Generals in your Provinces threaten destruction; but in fact it is impossible that you should have men equal to this arduous task. Theory joined to practice, or a heaven-born genius, can alone constitute a General. As to the latter, God Almighty indulges the modern world very rarely with the spectacle; and I do not know, from what I have seen, that he has been more

profuse of this ethereal spirit to the *Americans* than to other nations. But to come to the point: *Rhode-Island* will probably be attacked; your men and younger officers are good, but I am persuaded you have no man with you capable of conducting an army; no man who has sufficient knowledge as an Engineer. I have therefore resolved to send a gentleman, with whose great talents, activity, and zeal I am well acquainted. His name is *Malmadie*, a *Frenchman*. I entreat, if you cannot give him the entire command, to be directed by his counsels. You must excuse his heat of temper at times, as it is derived from a noble source of enthusiasm for your cause. Procure for him an able interpreter; and treat him, as I am sure you will, with all the respect and attention he deserves. God bless you, sir. Believe me to be, most devotedly, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

Governour *Cooke*.

P. S. I believe I shall send you Colonel *Varnum*, but I hope you will continue to give Mr. *Malmedie* high Colonial rank, which will lead him to Continental.

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COLONEL MALCOM TO GENERAL HEATH.

Niack, December 7th, 1776.

SIR: I had the honour to receive your most obliging letter of the 4th instant yesterday, and am exceeding happy that the conduct of the regiment under my command hath merited the approbation which your Honour very politely expresses.

A scouting party, which went down to hover on the verge of the enemy's quarters about *English Neighbourhood*, brought in a stout negro fellow, the property of a Tory, (one *Peck*,) who is now with the enemy; and the negro has been employed as a spy to bring them accounts of our motions. I beg to know how I must dispose of him.

I request your Honour will inform me if the Treasury is moved. I expect my abstracts from Head-Quarters to-day, and would be glad to get the cash here.

I have the honour to be, with due respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

W. MALCOM.

To Major-General *Heath*, at *Peekskill*.

I have forty men just going out again.

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WILLIAM PECK TO GENERAL HEATH.

North-Castle, 7th December, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: By express of General *Spencer*, just received your favour of the 6th instant. By his order would I inform you, that General *Wooster*, upon the first discovery of the movement of the fleet, sent forward an express to *Connecticut*, with a desire it might be forwarded to *Newport*, which occasioned my not sending. We are upon our march towards *Crum Pond*; shall this night be at *North-Castle* Church. Should you have any news from the *Jerseys*, pray forward it to the General as fast as possible. The stores are to be deposited at *Crum Pond*, where General *Wadsworth's* brigade will guard them until further orders.

No particular news at this post but what your Honour has been made acquainted.

In behalf of General *Spencer*, I am your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM PECK, *Aid-de-Camp*.

Major-General *Heath*.

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DIRECTIONS TO CAPTAIN EAYERS.

Peekskill, December 7th, 1776.

SIR: You are to proceed to *Fishkill* with the company under your command, and as soon as your company is under cover, you will constantly keep them employed in such business as you may have already in charge from the Colonel of Artillery, or that may be most necessary or beneficial to that department. You will quarter your company in the barracks, and Mr. *Duer* will direct you to those most proper for your business.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

W. HEATH, *Major-General*.

To Captain *Josh. Eayers*.

COMMITTEE AT NEW-WINDSOR TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

New-Windsor, 8th December, 1776.

SIR: The Convention of the State of *New-York* have not received any intelligence from the General Congress or his Excellency General *Washington*, and are much alarmed at the progress of the enemy, and the languor that prevails in the Militia of the State of *New-Jersey;* which they attribute in some measure to the presence of the enemy and the little prospect they have of receiving any assistance within their State. This Convention wish to use every means in their power, (consistent with the safety of this State, which in a great measure involves that of the Continent,) to induce the people of *New-Jersey* to make the proper exertions for their own preservation. To this they conceive nothing can contribute more than forming an army in *New-Jersey* out of the troops under your command, or those that are with Major-General *Lee*, and such Militia as can be collected in this or the neighbouring States; which we are very well satisfied would soon be formidable to the enemy, cut off their supplies, and overawe the disaffected, while General *Washington*, being reinforced by the Southern troops and Militia, would be in a state to meet them in front. What measures we have taken you will collect from the resolutions which we do ourselves the honour to transmit. In addition to this, we have written to Governour *Trumbull*, suggesting the propriety of sending at least six thousand of the Militia of that State into *New-Jersey*, and requesting them to write for further aid to the rest of the Eastern States. If it is consistent with your orders, to hang in the rear of the enemy. From these steps, and the means that may be used for raising the Militia of *New-Jersey*, we cannot but help thinking that General *Howe* may soon find cause to repent his temerity.

As we know not where to find Major-General *Lee*, we must beg the favour of you to transmit a copy of your letter by some careful person, and the enclosed resolutions, to him. If, sir, either you or General *Lee* will be pleased to suggest any necessary measures in addition to those we have taken, we shall think ourselves happy in coöperating therein.

We are, sir, with the utmost respect, your most obedient, humble servants.

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ROBERT PROVOOST, JUN., TO THE NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Fishkills, 7th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As there is a new arrangement lately been made to form four new regiments for the defence of the Province of *New-York*, which is to have a Paymaster to each regiment, and my being neglected in the return made by the Colonel unknown to me, has been the occasion of my not applying, gentlemen, before. I pray, gentlemen, that I may be again appointed to one of the new regiments. I have been in the service since last *April*, and was then Quartermaster, and in *July* was appointed by his Excellency General *Washington*, Esq., Paymaster to the Third Regiment, commanded by Colonel *Ritzema*, and expected to have continued, until I was informed two days ago that I should apply to this Convention for the office. I have lost my all in *Newark* by the enemy; I have a large family to support; likewise an aged father and mother, who relies upon me for subsistence. I beg, gentlemen, that you will be pleased to consider my situation, and grant me an appointment.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

ROBT. PROVOOST, JUN.

To the honourable gentlemen of the Committee of Safety, at *Fishkills*.

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ABRAHAM P. LOTT TO ROBERT BENSON.

Rhinebeck, December 7th, 1776.

SIR: I send by the bearer hereof three pair of cotton stockings, three pair plain thread, two pair thread ribbed, and four pair shoes. You will let Mr. Gouverneur *Morris* have the refusal of them. If you or Mr. *McKesson* wants a pair of shoes and stockings, you can have them from my house. You have the price at first cost underneath. I have been this four days about the woods looking for the

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salt. They have been so much frightened they don't know where the salt is sent.

Sir, I remain your friend to serve,

Abm. P. Lott.

To *Robert Benson*, Esq., at *Marble Town*.

Three pair cotton stockings, 31*s.* 8*d.*, *New-York*, - 42*s.* 3*d.*
Three pair thread, plain, - 26*s.* do. - 34*s.* 8*d.*
Two pair ribbed, - - - 28*s.* 4*d.*, do. - 37*s.* 9*d.*
Four pair shoes, *English*, - 26*s.* 8*d.*, do. - 35*s.* 6*d.*

N. B. If Mr. *Morris* don't take them you will sell them, and receive the money.

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ALBANY COMMITTEE TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Albany Committee Chamber, 7th December, 1776.

Sir: We were honoured with your resolution of the 30th *November* ultimo, respecting the two companies of Rangers commanded by Captains *Baldwin* and *Bradt;* and in answer thereto have only to inform you that we have this day served the said Captains with copy of the said resolution, and expect they will embark on *Tuesday* next.

We are, sir, your humble servant. By order:

John Barclay, *Chairman.*

To the President of the Convention of this State.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

State of Connecticut, Lebanon, December 7, 1776.

Sir: The General Assembly of this State, sensible of the vast importance of supporting the great cause in which you are so nobly struggling, have, at their session of the 19th of *November* last, made provision for raising by inlistment four battalions to serve under your command until the 15th of *March* next, before which time I have strong hopes our quota of the Continental Army will be completed; and I do earnestly recommend it to the brave officers and soldiers of this State now in your Army, freely and cheerfully to undertake in defence of so great, so just, and so good a cause. The misery and wretchedness to which they, their families, their friends, and their country must be reduced, if our enemies succeed, are dreadful in idea; how much more dreadful and how intolerable to be realized! How can they, how can my countrymen, born free, bred up and always possessing liberty and property, in one of the freest and happiest places under Heaven, endure the thought of submitting to the absolute will and pleasure of haughty masters, to do the drudgery of a conqueror, to drag out their lives as perpetual soldiers if he pleases, to fight against their friends and countrymen, and hold their native land in subjection to proud and imperious lords, to see every inch of soil and all other property adjudged forfeit, and the fair inheritance which God had given our fathers, and they had transmitted to them and us, wrested out of our hands and given to those who have been our betrayers and murderers! The Congress, ardently desirous to perpetuate a happy and blessed liberty to their countrymen, have offered a very large and great reward to those who will engage for the term of the war, or for the term of three years, if so long needed. Every considerate friend of his country will think it great, when they consider the whole amount, and as great as can be wished or borne by the country. 'Tis not for want of a good disposition that they did not offer more, but a virtuous mind would not expect or wish for more. We are not fighting for money, but to save our inestimable rights, which are above all price.

I trust the term will be no discouragement. It is not likely their service will be even wanted for so long as three years. It is extremely probably this controversy will be finished (we trust in God) happily before that time; and then who will grudge the labour and service of so short a period, for the unspeakably happy establishment of perpetual liberty, property, and religion? It was an exceeding grief and pain to the members of Congress, and to the Assembly of this State, that our friends, the soldiers, were obliged to suffer many hardships in the last campaign, owing to the great difficulty of procuring all the wished-for accommodations and necessaries, and to other unavoidable circumstances, which it is expected will be remedied in future, as many methods to provide and secure every suitable provision for the time to come. And, in addition to all that Congress for this purpose, our General Assembly have resolved their troops shall be provided with all proper accommodations for sick and well, and that all refreshments and clothing shall be furnished and delivered them at prime cost of purchase, which will be a great saving, beside giving them a blanket annually. I consider them as my friends and children, so do the General Assembly, and are most cordially disposed to treat them with all the tenderness of parents, and will assuredly exert themselves for their comfort. In these circumstances, and in a cause so just, so good, so great, I earnestly exhort them freely to offer themselves for the service of their country. The cause is certainly that of justice, liberty, and religion, and in which they may well expect the blessing and protection of God, almighty and all gracious. I would also most earnestly exhort them to a virtuous and religious behaviour, which will assuredly make them happy here and forever.

But should it so happen, on account of the busy scenes in which they are engaged, that there is not time to attend, or by any other means that the inlistments should not be full in season, and the General, or in his absence, the General Officers of this State, should think it necessary to request the soldiers of this State to continue in service longer than the term of their former inlistment till the quota can be completed, I have it in special charge from our General Assembly in their session the last week, and in their name, do most earnestly recommend it to the faithful soldiers of this State, to pay great attention to such request, and to be assured it will not be made but for the most pressing and important reasons; and, in behalf of said Assembly and the whole Colony, earnestly exhort them to consider the vast importance of a compliance. Perhaps the whole salvation of their country, themselves, their friends, and the families they have or may have, and all succeeding generations, may depend on their sacrificing a desire to see their friends a few days or weeks earlier; the indulging which desire may be the very means of entailing on those very friends and connexions, and on themselves, the dreadful miseries of everlasting poverty and slavery. I do also assure them, in the name of the Assembly, that they will not only gratefully remember their virtuous spirit and conduct, but will make them a reasonable consideration for their continuance over and above their other wages and allowance. What shall I say more? Let me conjure them by all the reasons and arguments aforesaid, and by every argument and motive that can render the enjoyment of life desirable, not to forsake their country in her greatest extremity, nor disappoint the hopes and earnest request of the General Assembly, the wishes and expectations of all their friends, for the sake of a supposed relaxation from fatigue, and thereby plunge themselves and country in perpetual hardship and slavery; but even this little advantage cannot be gained in the present situation of affairs, for the enemy have turned their force against *New-England*, and most of their ships, and near one hundred transports, with great part of their army as is supposed, are now lying against *New-London*, and their countrymen here are called, gone, and going with speed, in the same difficult season, to resist the enemy, and those who return from the Army must be called to join them, and can only exchange the place of service. But I trust and hope their friends, and their patrons the General Assembly, and all degrees of people, expect and believe the virtuous soldiers of this Colony will not turn a deaf ear to the pressing call and voice of Providence and their country, on this interesting and great occasion, nor let our enemies ever say there was not virtue enough among the *Americans* to save their country.

I am, with great esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Jonth. Trumbull.

His Excellency General *Washington.*

P. S. 8 *December.*—Since writing the above, the enemy's fleet have quitted *New-London* harbour, without attacking that place, and were yesterday, above one hundred sail, between the island of *Conanicut* and the main, steering directly to *Providence*, and about thirty sail going into *Newport* harbour, and have doubtless attacked them before this, and our Militia are turned that way, and we expect an army must be established in *New-England* also.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *December* 7th, 1776—

Present, his Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer, Jabez*

*Huntington, William Williams, Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., *Benjamin Huntington, William Hillhouse*, Esquires.

On receiving intelligence that the *British* Fleet have sailed from off *New-London* Harbour, eastward, his Honour the Governour gave orders to stop the several regiments ordered for the defence of *New-London*, but to hold themselves in readiness to march to any place that may be attacked, &c.

*Voted*, To suffer the Prisoners sent from General *Washington* when at *New-York*, under a guard commanded by Captain *Eells*, to return to *Long-Island*, they giving their parole to not give any intelligence to the enemy of what is done or doing here, nor take up arms, or say or do any thing against the *American* States; and that they will return back to this State, at any time when demanded.

*Resolved by this Board*, That the gentlemen sent to this State by General *Washington*, belonging to *Long-Island*, and placed at *Norwich*, and now residing there, be permitted, and have liberty to return to their several homes, for the present, upon their and each of them giving their parole as follows, viz:

"We do hereby severally and respectively promise and engage to the Governour of the State of *Connecticut*, on the faith and honour of gentlemen, that we will neither of us give notice or intelligence to the enemy of the *United States of America*, nor hold any inimical correspondence with them; that we will not take up nor bear arms against the *United States of America*, nor act an offensive part against them or either of them, but to conduct peaceably and quietly with respect to the present contest and troubles, and return back to this State when required by the Governour."

And the Committee of Inspection in the town of *Norwich* are hereby authorized to take their parole made and signed, and give copy thereof, and a permit to them to return.

*Voted*, That Captain *Ephraim Bill* be, and he is hereby, appointed to cause two-thirds of the Rum of the cargo taken on board the schooner *Hannah & Elizabeth*, to be guarded and stored for the publick use; and Captain *Bruce's* private adventure, as far as this State is concerned in the property or avails thereof, to be presented to him, and said schooner and the remainder of the cargo to be sold at publick vendue; and the sale of the ship *Sally*, if there should be any duck or spare rigging, cordage or sails, belonging to said ship or cargo, Mr. *Shaw* is desired to bid off the same for the use of this State, if to be had at a rate within the bounds of prudence in the purchaser.

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### RALPH ISAACS TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

New-Haven, December 7th, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR: I have sent by the young gentleman, the bearer of this, a memorial to your Honour and your Council of Safety, praying that I may have the limits of the town of *Glastenbury* or *Durham* for the place of my residence, as long as it shall be thought necessary for me to be removed from *New-Haven*. As I propose to take my family with me, it is necessary that I should be removing my effects as soon as possible. For which reason I should be extremely obliged to your Honour if the memorial could be heard without any delay, in order that I may be determined to which place to remove my effects. The young gentleman will wait to know the event of this matter, if there shall be a possibility of its being acted on.

I am, with great respect, your Honour's most obedient and humble servant, RALPH ISAACS.

Governour *Trumbull*.

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### MEMORIAL OF RALPH ISAACS.

*To the honourable the Governour and Council of Safety in and for the State of* CONNECTICUT:

*The Memorial of* RALPH ISAACS, *of* NEW-HAVEN, *humbly showeth:*

That by a late act of the General Assembly in *October* last he was ordered to be removed and confined to the Parish of *Pastbury*, under the law of the Civil Authority and Selectmen of the town of *Glassenbury*, and that the General Assembly, holden at *Hartford*, on the 19th day of *November* last, on account of the infirmity of your memorialist, did resolve "that his Honour the Governour, with the advice of the Council of Safety, might grant such further enlargement to the memorialist within said town of *Glassenbury*, or remove him to some other inland town at their discretion, as they should judge might consist with the safety and best good of the publick," as by said resolve may appear. Whereupon your memorialist begs leave to observe, that he still labours under great bodily infirmity, and thinks it necessary, in order to recover his health, that part of his family should remove with him to take care of and provide for him, and also might send for those physicians who have attended on him and are well acquainted with his constitution, as he is apprehensive a relapse or return of his disorder might prove fatal unless he could have the aid and relief of those physicians who have been so successful as to give him much relief. He also conceives that in said Parish of *Eastbury* he could not be accommodated with those necessaries which will inevitably be wanted to attain to a confirmed state of health.

Your memorialist, therefore, humbly prays your Honour to permit him to have the limits of the town of *Glassenbury*, or the town of *Durham*, under the care of the authority of the Selectmen of the respective towns, or under such regulations as to your Honour shall seem meet. And your memorialist more particularly requests the latter town, confident removing there will be attended with much less expense, as also that he can be supplied with many necessary articles of provision from his farm at *Branford;* and this indulgence, from principles of economy, your memorialist is the more embolden to ask, as he has been a great sufferer during the present struggles, in the loss of two vessels, and two more not at sea, from which he can have no returns. Your memorialist thinks there could be no detriment accrue to the State from this indulgence. If any was likely to rise, he would not ask it, but willingly suffer an abridgment of his own liberty, if judged necessary for the good of the publick; but as he hopes your Honour will be of opinion it may consist with the publick safety, he humbly prays your Honour that he may have the liberty of the town of *Durham*, otherwise that of *Glassenbury;* and your memorialist, as in duty bound, will pray, &c. Dated at *New-Haven*, the 7th day of *December*, 1776. RALPH ISAACS.

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### GOVERNOUR COOKE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Providence, December 7, 1776.

SIR: We have received a letter from General *Lee*, advising an embargo, in consequence of which the Committee sitting here have laid one upon all shipping until further orders.

The enemy's fleet, consisting of about one hundred and thirty sail, were seen last evening at sunset, about thirty-five miles distant from the harbour of *Newport*, and stretching directly for it. Yesterday morning they made a heavy cannonade upon *New-London*, and a feint of landing a body of troops near *New-London*, I suppose with a view of drawing our forces that way.

The troops before destined for the assistance of this State we have requested General *Warren* to march to *Bristol*. The formidable appearance of the enemy makes it absolutely necessary that a large force should be assembled in and about this town, and we must request the Great and General Court to give order immediately to such a body of troops as they shall think necessary to march directly for this town.

I beg the favour of you to deliver and forward the enclosed letters with all despatch; and am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant, NICH'S COOKE.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq.

I have the most sincere pleasure in acquainting you that Mr. *Hazard*, a Paymaster of one of the regiments of this State, hath just returned from the camp, and brings us intelligence of a severe check given the enemy in the *Jerseys*, General *Putnam* having attacked a body of about six thousand, entirely routed them, killed great numbers, and made many prisoners. I congratulate you on this success; and am, as above, &c.

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### GOVERNOUR COOKE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Providence, December 7, 1776—five o'clock, p. m.

SIR: By expresses and other channels, I have certain intelligence that between ten and eleven o'clock, a. m.,

thirty sail of ships were seen coming into the harbour of *Newport*, and that upwards of one hundred sail were between two and three o'clock between *Canonicut* and the main land, steering directly up the river. The General Court must be fully apprised of our dangerous situation, and of the fatal consequences of the enemy's effecting a lodgment upon the Continent, and need not any argument to excite them to exert the force of *Massachusetts-Bay* upon this most important occasion, upon the event of which the fate of *America* may depend. I must request that the forces you send may be furnished with arms, ammunition, blankets, and such provisions as they can bring. You will also take the necessary measures to send provisions, &c., to supply them, as this State cannot afford more than is sufficient for the forces of this State. We may be attacked before morning, therefore the utmost expedition is necessary.

In great haste, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq.

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PROCLAMATION BY GOVERNOUR COOKE.

State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.

I have just received, by express, authentick and undoubted intelligence, that the fleet of the enemy, consisting of about one hundred and thirty sail of men-of-war and transports, were seen last evening about sunset off *Charlestown*, in this State, about thirty-five or forty miles from *Newport*, and steering directly for that harbour. As it is clear that they are designed for this State, I most earnestly call upon all military officers and others of this and the neighbouring States, to exert themselves in the defence of their country.

NICHOLAS COOKE, *Governour*.

Providence, December 7, 1776.

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, December 7, 1776.

SIR: This Court have taken into consideration your important advices of *December* 5th, and are desirous of affording every assistance in our power. Agreeable to the resolves enclosed, you will find, that as one quarter part of all our able-bodied effective men now at home are raised for the purpose of reinforcing the Army at or near *New-York*, we have ordered those raised in the Counties of *Plymouth*, *Bristol*, *Barnstable*, *Suffolk*, *Middlesex*, and *Essex*, to be marched the lower post road to *New-York*, in order to be ready to give assistance either to *New-Port* or *New-London*, in case it is wanted. And lest that should not be sufficient aid, we have further given orders to *Joseph Cushing*, Esq., Brigadier for the County of *Plymouth*, at *Hanover*, and *George Godfrey*, Esq., Brigadier for the County of *Bristol*, at *Taunton*, to cause all their Militia in their respective Counties to be in readiness to march upon the shortest notice, with two days' provision, ready dressed, to the assistance of *New-Port*, *New-London*, or any place on the southern shore that may be attacked, and that those Brigadiers cause their Militia to march to *New-London* on any message or signal from your Honour for that purpose, without any further orders from us. And in case your Honour has provided any signal for an alarm, that will be sufficient to give them notice, please to advertise those gentlemen of the same, and we doubt not they will render all the assistance in their power. We thank you for all the intelligence you have afforded us, and hope we shall never be wanting in every suitable expression of respect and regard for your State. May Heaven direct your counsels, defend and protect you against all our common enemies.

We remain, with all due respect, your Honour's obedient servant.

P. S. To prevent any interference of orders to the Brigadiers, would inform that a similar letter has been sent to Governour *Trumbull*.

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COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Council Chamber, Boston, December 8, 1776.

SIR: Immediately on receiving your Excellency's intimations that it was necessary your Army should be reinforced with four thousand of the Militia from this State, orders were issued to raise the men. And since that, as our affairs grew more serious and alarming, the Court have given orders to augment the number to about six thousand. Every measure hath been adopted to forward the troops to you with despatch. We can't but indulge the pleasing hope that the intended reinforcement will arrive in season, and that they will afford every assistance and support that may justly be expected from them.

They are ordered to rendezvous at *Danbury*, in *Connecticut*, where General *Lincoln*, who is appointed to take the command of them, will wait your Excellency's orders.

The General Court of this State are determined vigorously to exert themselves in raising a new army, and render to your Excellency every support in their power, notwithstanding the alarm the enemy are spreading, by hovering round these coasts with a large number of ships-of-war and transports, perhaps with a view to divert us from these designs.

We congratulate you on the late happy success of our arms, and wish to be informed of the particulars of the battle near *Hackensack* river, and of every occurrence important to the *United States* which may take place.

We are, with great regard and esteem, your Excellency's most humble servants. In the name and by order of Council,

JAMES BOWDOIN, *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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EPHRAIM SPOONER TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

Plymouth, December 7, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The General Court of this State having appointed my partner, *William Watson*, Esq., to build the needful barracks on the *Gurnet* for the soldiers stationed there, we need for said business, besides the brick and lime lately wrote for per Captain *Hickling*, viz: 12 m. fourpenny nails, 7 m. ten-penny nails, 5 m. twenty-penny ditto, one hundred feet glass, 6 by 8. Must earnestly desire the favour you'll send them by the first vessel. Would propose they should come by Captain *Benjamin Bartlett*, now at *Boston*, in a schooner belonging to this place, as we can't proceed in building the barracks without the above articles, and the soldiers much exposed. Must beg the favour you'll send them by all means. Mr. *Watson* would have wrote you, but he is now confined to the hospital with the smallpox.

Am respectfully, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

EPH'M SPOONER.

To the honourable Board of War.

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BRIGADIER HARNDEN TO GENERAL WARREN.

Woolwich, December 7, 1776.

SIR: I received your Honour's orders, and have proceeded as far as I could; but not having no acts from the honourable Court, am at a loss how to proceed, and do request of you to send them to me as soon as possible, there being none in the County that I know of; nor is there any commissions ever come for the Militia, that they might be furnished with commissions for the First Regiment. If the County of *Lincoln* has had none, I would pray your Honour to send both the acts and commissions, if it be agreeable to your mind.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

SAMUEL HARNDEN.

To the Honourable Major-General *Warren*.

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ORDERS TO COLONEL WENTWORTH.

*State of* NEW-HAMPSHIRE *to* JOSHUA WENTWORTH, *Esq., greeting:*

Pursuant to a vote of the Council and Assembly, for raising and proportioning five hundred men out of the Militia in this State, to reinforce the Continental Army in the State of *New-York*, you are hereby requested to raise, by draft or otherwise, thirty-two able-bodied effective men, well equipped, out of the regiment under your command, to remain in the service until the first day of *March* next, unless sooner discharged.

In raising which men you are to call on the alarm list, as well as trained band.

The men that shall be raised, Colonel *Jonathan Moulton's*

regiment, are to be with you, and to form one company. The Field Officers of said regiments are to appoint one Captain and two Lieutenants. The non-commissioned officers to be appointed by the company. Each Captain is to have eight pounds, Lieutenants five pounds eight shillings, Sergeants three pounds eight shillings, Corporals, Drummers, and Fifers, three pounds four shillings, privates three pounds, for one month, advance wages, and two pence per mile for travelling expense. You are appointed muster-master and paymaster of the men to be raised in your regiment, and to make return to the Assembly or Committee in recess as soon as may be.

NATH'L FOLSOM,
*Chairman for Committee appointed for the purpose.*

Given at *Exeter*, the 7th of *December*, 1776.

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SILAS DEANE TO COUNT VERGENNES.

Paris, December 8th, 1776.

SIR: I received last evening a letter from my friend Dr. *Franklin*, at *Nantes*, which place he was to leave last *Sunday* morning, so that I expect him in *Paris* this day, or early to-morrow. Mean time I have and shall carefully attend to the hint given me, and am confident he will do the same. His arrival is the common topick of conversation, and has given birth to a thousand conjectures and reports, not one of which I have given ground for, having constantly declared that I am ignorant of the motives of his voyage or his business.

I have the honour to be, &c., SILAS DEANE.

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B. FRANKLIN TO JOHN HANCOCK.

Nantes, 8th December, 1776.

SIR: In thirty days after we left the Capes of *Delaware*, we came to an anchor in *Quiberon Bay*. I remained on board four days, expecting a change of wind proper to carry the ship into the river *Loire*; but the wind seeming fixed in an opposite quarter, I landed at *Auray*, and with some difficulty got hither, the road not being well supplied with means of conveyance. Two days before we saw land, we met a brigantine from *Bordeaux*, belonging to *Cork*, and another from *Rochefort*, belonging to *Hull*, both of which were taken. The first has on board staves, tar, turpentine, and claret; the other *Coniac* brandy and flax-seed. There is some difficulty in determining what to do with them, as they are scarce worth sending to *America*, and the mind of the *French* Court, with regard to prizes brought into their ports, is not yet known. It is certainly contrary to their treaties with *Britain* to permit the sale of them, and we have no regular means of trying and condemning them. There are, however, many here who would purchase prizes, we having already had several offers from persons who are willing to take upon themselves all consequences as to the illegality.

Captain *Wickes*, as soon as he can get his refreshments, intends a cruise in the Channel.

Our friends in *France* have been a good deal dejected with the Gazette accounts of advantages obtained against us by the *British* troops. I have helped them here to recover their spirits a little, by assuring them that we still face the enemy, and were under no apprehensions of their two armies being able to complete their junction.

I understand Mr. *Lee* has lately been at *Paris*, that Mr. *Deane* is still there, and that an underhand supply is obtained from the Government, of two hundred brass field-pieces, thirty thousand fire-locks, and some other military stores, which are now shipping for *America*, and will be convoyed by a ship-of-war.

The Court of *England*, Mr. *Penet* tells me, (from whom I have the above intelligence,) had the folly to demand Mr. *Deane* to be delivered up, but were refused.

Our voyage, though not long, was rough, and I feel myself weakened by it; but I now recover strength daily, and in a few days shall be able to undertake the journey to *Paris*.

I have not yet taken any publick character, thinking it prudent first to know whether the Court is ready and willing to receive Ministers publickly from the Congress, that we may neither embarrass her on the one hand, or subject ourselves to the hazard of a disgraceful refusal on the other.

I have despatched an express to Mr. *Deane*, with the letters I had for him from the Committee, and a copy of our commission, that he may immediately make the proper inquiries, and give me information. In the mean time, I find it is generally supposed here that I am sent to negotiate, and that opinion appears to give great pleasure, if I can judge by the extreme civilities I meet with from numbers of the principal people, who have done me the honour to visit me. I have desired Mr. *Deane*, by some speedy and safe means, to give Mr. *Lee* notice of his appointment.

I find several vessels here laden with military stores for *America*, just ready to sail. On the whole, there is the greatest prospect that we shall be well provided for another campaign, and much stronger than we were the last. A *Spanish* fleet has sailed with seven thousand land forces, foot and some horse. Their destination unknown, but supposed against the *Portuguese* in *Brazil*. Both *France* and *England* are preparing strong fleets, and it is said that all the Powers of *Europe* are preparing for war, apprehending a general one cannot be very distant.

When I arrive at *Paris*, I shall be able to write with more certainty. I beg you to present my duty to the Congress, and assure them of my most faithful endeavours in their service.

With the sincerest esteem and respect, I have the honour to be, &c.,

B. FRANKLIN.

To his Excellency *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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B. FRANKLIN TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Nantes, 8th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: After a short but rough passage of thirty days, we anchored in *Quiberon Bay*, the wind not suiting to enter the *Loire*. Captain *Wickes* did every thing in his power to make the voyage comfortable to me; and I was much pleased with what I saw of his conduct as an officer, when on supposed occasions we made preparation for engagement; the good order and readiness with which it was done being far beyond my expectation, and I believe equal to any thing of the kind in the best ships of the King's fleet. He seems to have also a very good set of officers under him. I hope they will all in good time be promoted. He met and took two prizes, brigantines, one belonging to *Cork*, laden with staves, pitch, tar, turpentine, and claret; the other, to *Hull*, with a cargo of flax-seed and brandy. The Captains have made some propositions of ransom, which, perhaps, may be accepted, as there is yet no means of condemning them here, and they are scarce worth sending to *America*. The ship is yet in *Quiberon Bay*, with her prizes. I came hither from thence seventy miles by land. I am made extremely welcome here, where *America* has many friends. As soon as I have recovered strength enough for the journey, which I hope will be in a very few days, I shall set out for *Paris*.

My letter to the President will inform you of some other particulars.

With great esteem, I have the honour to be, &c.,

B. FRANKLIN.

P. S. *December* 10th.—I have just learnt that eighty pieces of the cannon, all brass, with carriages, traces, and every thing fit for immediate service, were embarked in a frigate from *Havre*, which is sailed. The rest were to go in another frigate of thirty-six guns.

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CAPTAIN COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

December 8th, 1776.

HONOURED GENTLEMEN: Our people's time will expire some time this month, and the beginning of next; and as there is wages given as far as eleven pounds per month in the merchant service, it is very possible that many of them will leave the service of this State, without due encouragement. I'm informed that there is a resolve made by the honourable Convention of this State giving twenty dollars bounty for able seamen, and ten pounds for ordinary seamen. I'm in hopes this bounty will engage the whole of them, or the greatest part to the service, provided it's advertised. I hope for your instructions in this case, and

should take it as a singular favour you would provide for me the resolves of this State, or Congress, that is relative to the naval department, that I may act accordingly. I'm doing all I can to get the ship away before Christmas, and make no doubt of its being so, provided we can keep our people together.

Since I wrote the above, I received your favour of the 6th instant, and it gives me pleasure I can be supplied with canvas. Mr. *Hollingsworth* bid for the snow fourteen hundred pounds and upwards. I believe he went as far as he thought the value of her, but was overbid. The schooner *Nancy*, one of our prizes, I make no doubt will answer your purpose if large enough. The Captain of her informs me she is a good vessel and well found.

As I expect to see you in a few days, I shall have an opportunity of talking further with you, therefore shall trouble you no further at present, but am, honoured gentlemen, your very humble servant,

Geo. Cook.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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DR. SHIPPEN TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bethelem, 8th December, 1776.

My dear and honoured Sir: With much difficulty and a small loss I have got all the sick, except twenty who were too ill to remove, to *Easton*, *Bethelem*, and *Allenstown*, where in a few days I flatter myself they will be as happy as sick soldiers ever are.

I must mention to your Excellency that the moving of Doctor *Morgan's* stores, that have not been used these three months, have cost the Continent I verily believe as much as their first cost. Would it not be well to have them opened here, and the useful ones be employed for the many sick who want them, and the remainder stored up? You know, sir, how particular some folks are in doing business. Your orders will be necessary. The Congress have explained their resolves, and ordered Dr. *Morgan's* duty to lay entirely on the east of *Hudson's* river.

As it is possible that an action will happen between your and General *Howe's* Army, I have thought it necessary that some gentleman of eminence should be near your Excellency and the Army, in case of extraordinary accidents, for which purpose I know of no one more proper or better qualified than the bearer, Dr. *Cochran*, who will wait your Excellency's commands in this department.

As soon as my great family can be left with propriety, I shall do myself the honour of waiting on you also. In the mean time I sincerely wish success to your arms; and am, dear and honoured sir, your affectionate and very humble servant,

W. Shippen, Jun.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 9th.]

Mr. Berkley's Summer seat, December 8th, 1776.

Sir: Colonel *Reed* would inform you of the intelligence which I first met with on the road from *Trenton* to *Princeton* yesterday. Before I got to the latter, I received a second express, informing me that, as the enemy were advancing by different routes, and attempting by one to get in the rear of our troops, which were there, and whose numbers were small and the place by no means defensible, they had judged it prudent to retreat to *Trenton*. The retreat was accordingly made, and since to this side of the river.

This information I thought it my duty to communicate as soon as possible, as there is not a moment's time to be lost in assembling such force as can be collected, and as the object of the enemy cannot now be doubted in the smallest degree. Indeed, I shall be out in my conjecture (for it is only conjecture) if the late embarkation at *New-York* is not for *Delaware* river, to coöperate with the Army under the immediate command of General *Howe*, who, I am informed from good authority, is with the *British* troops, and his whole force upon this route.

I have no certain intelligence of General *Lee*, although I have sent frequent expresses to him, and lately a Colonel *Humpton*, to bring me some accurate accounts of his situation. I last night despatched another gentleman to him, (Major *Hoops*,) desiring he would hasten his march to the *Delaware*, in which I would provide boats near a place called *Alexandria*, for the transportation of his troops. I cannot account for the slowness of his march.

In the disordered and moving state of the Army, I cannot get returns; but, from the best accounts, we had between three thousand and three thousand five hundred men before the *Philadelphia* Militia and *German* battalion arrived. They amount to about two thousand.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL MAXWELL.

Falls of Delaware, South side, 8th December, 1776.

Sir: As it is a matter of the utmost importance to prevent the enemy from crossing the *Delaware*, and to effect it, that all the boats and water-craft should be secured or destroyed, I do hereby earnestly request and desire that you will take upon you the care and superintendency of the matter. At *Tinicum* a parcel of boats are to be collected for the transportation of the troops under the command of Major-General *Lee*; but of this as little should be said as possible, lest the enemy avail themselves of some advantage from the knowledge of it. These boats should be kept under a strong guard. The boats at other places ought, in my opinion, to be destroyed or removed to *Tinicum*, lest they should be possessed by some stratagem of the enemy.

You will see that the regiment sent up to guard the hither ferries are properly distributed and the officers instructed. At the places of passage above, you will endeavour, from the Militia of this State or that of *Jersey*, to obtain sufficient guards; in order to do which, I do hereby invest you with all the powers intrusted to me for that purpose, and do moreover authorize you in the strongest terms to invite the Militia of both States, as occasion may offer, to join this part of the Army, or that under the command of Major-General *Lee*, in the common defence of their rights, liberty, and property.

Trusting in your activity and care, in having all the boats as high up as there can be the least danger of their being procured by or for the use of the enemy, secured or destroyed, and wishing you much success in it, I am, with esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *Maxwell*.

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MATTHIAS WILLIAMSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morris-Town, December 8th, 1776.

Sir: I had the honour of receiving your Excellency's two letters of the 5th and 7th instant. I can declare to your Excellency with the greatest truth, that with the utmost punctuality and despatch on receiving Governour *Livingston's* orders, I wrote letters to the Commanding Officers of the Militia of this State, to draw out their battalions, and join the Army under your immediate command, or the corps under my care, as most contiguous. I am sorry to say, that although there was great necessity for them to exert themselves at this important crisis, very few of the Counties of *Essex* and *Bergen* joined my command.

At this time I have no influence in either of those Counties, but have it from good intelligence that many who bore the character of warm Whigs have been foremost in seeking protection from General *Howe*, and forsaking the *American* cause.

Colonel *Thomas*, of *Essex* County, is with us, but has no command of men. I don't think he has more than fifty men of his whole battalion.

Not above twenty privates from *Newark* have joined us; not one from *Acquacanunck*; nor a field officer from either place.

Colonel *Ford's* regiment makes up the principal part of the troops here, and it is chiefly owing to his zeal in the *American* cause, as well as his great influence with the people, that the appearance of defence at this post has been kept up.

Colonel *Simes*, of *Sussex*, has joined us, but his number of privates is inconsiderable. I should be glad to have made out a return of the brigade to your Excellency, but

my indisposition puts it out of my power. Colonel *Ford* has had the command since we arrived here; I took so great a cold on the late march, which fell into my limbs, as has in a great measure confined me to my room, and disabled me from joining the brigade. I rode out yesterday about four miles to *Passaick*, our chief post, and taking fresh cold, am now entirely confined to my room.

I feel sensible pain at some expressions in your Excellency's last letter, which imply that I had not done all in my power to assemble the Militia under my command. Could your Excellency be possessed of a knowledge of my solicitousness and endeavours to bring them out, I am sure you would conclude that the man who had informed or insinuated otherwise, had used me very cruelly. I can declare before God, I have worried myself to the heart in endeavouring to serve my country to the extent of my power. General *Mercer* is knowing to many difficulties I laboured under to keep the Militia together, while he had the command at *Elizabethtown*. Upon the whole, I am so entirely disabled from doing my duty in the brigade, by my lameness, that I have wrote to Governour *Livingston* to request his acceptance of my resignation, and have ventured to recommend Colonel *Ford* as the properest to succeed in that command.

I am, with the greatest truth, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

MATTHIAS WILLIAMSON.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, &c., at *Trenton*.

P. S. Enclosed is a copy of the orders I sent Colonel *Ford* the moment I received Governour *Livingston's* command to call out the Militia, &c. Similar to this was sent to all the commanding officers of the different Counties, in the eastern division of this State.

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Elizabethtown, 26 November, 1776.

SIR: By express just now received from his Excellency Governour *Livingston*, I am desired to call out all the Militia of this State; therefore, on the receipt hereof, you are ordered to bring out all the Militia in your County immediately, and march them down to *Elizabethtown*, and see that each man is furnished with a gun, and all his ammunition, accoutrements, blanket, and four days' provision, and when they arrive, to join their respective companies and regiments.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

M. WILLIAMSON.

To Colonel *Jacob Ford*, Jun.

P. S. SIR: You will please to send two men off to your County, express, with your orders to have these orders immediately put into execution. Order the express to call on me, to take a letter to *Sussex*.

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GENERAL LEE TO A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS.

[ Read 10th. ]

Morris-Town, December 8th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed is a return of the Militia already assembled. More are expected in. The whole will, it is said, make by to-morrow morning one thousand. My corps that passed the *North River* will amount (for we are considerably diminished) to seven-and-twenty hundred; in fact our Army may be estimated at four thousand. If I was not taught to think that the Army with General *Washington* had been considerably reinforced, I should immediately join him; but as I am assured he is very strong, I should imagine we can make a better impression by beating up and harassing their detached parties in their rear, for which purpose a good post at *Chatham* seems the best calculated. It is at a happy distance from *Newark*, *Elizabethtown*, *Woodbridge*, and *Boundbrook*. We shall, I expect, annoy, distract, and consequently weaken them in a desultory war; but we are so ill shod and destitute of light-horse, that the troops are in a bad condition for this species of service. I must do 'em the justice to say, that they have noble spirits, and will, I have no doubt, render great service to their country.

I am, gentlemen, with the greatest respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

CHARLES LEE.

The Honourable *Richard Henry Lee* and *Benjamin Rush*, Committee of Congress.

GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morris-Town, December ye 8th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Colonel *Humpton* will give you a return of the Militia already assembled, and of those (if it can be called a return) expected. The whole will, as it is said, make by to-morrow morning one thousand. My corps that passed the *North River* will amount (for we are considerably diminished) to seven-and-twenty hundred; in fact our Army may be estimated at four thousand. If I was not taught to think that your Army was considerably reinforced, I should immediately join you; but as I am assured you are very strong, I should imagine we can make a better impression by hanging on their rear; for which purpose, a good post at *Chatham* seems the best calculated. It is at a happy distance from *Newark*, *Elizabethtown*, *Woodbridge*, and *Boundbrook*. It will annoy, distract, and consequently weaken 'em. As to your Excellency's idea of surprising *Brunswick*, the post I propose taking offers the greatest probability of success. But we are so ill shod and destitute of light-horse that this desultory war is hard upon the poor soldiers; but must do 'em the justice to say that they have noble spirits, and will, I have no doubt, render great service to their country.

God bless you, General. Yours, most sincerely,

CHARLES LEE.

His Excellency General *Washington*, *Trenton*.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Chatham, December ye 8th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Major *Hoops* has just delivered to me your Excellency's letter. I am certainly shocked to hear that your force is so inadequate to the necessity of your situation, as I had been taught to think you had been considerably reinforced. Your last letters proposing a plan of surprises and forced marches convinced me that there was no danger of your being obliged to pass the *Delaware;* in consequence of which proposals I have put myself in a position the most convenient to coöperate with you by attacking their rear.

I cannot persuade myself that *Philadelphia* is their object at present, as it is almost certain that their whole troops lately embarked have directed their course to the Eastern Provinces; for *Spencer* writes me word that half of it has passed the *Sound*, and the other half turned the southwestern end of *Long-Island* and steered eastward. I detached Colonel *Warner* and Mons. *Malmadie* to take the direction of the *Rhode-Island* troops, who are without even the figure of a General. It will be difficult, I am afraid, to join you; but cannot I do you more service by attacking their rear? I shall look about me to-morrow, and inform you further.

I am, dear General, yours,

CHARLES LEE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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*A Return of the First* PENNSYLVANIA *Regiment of Foot in the service of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *commanded by Colonel* JOHN P. DE HAAS.

| COMPANIES. | OFFICERS PRESENT. | | | | | | | | | | Rank and File. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Con'ssioned. | | | | Staff. | | | Non-Comm'd. | | | | |
| | Colonel. | Lieutenant Colonel. | Major. | Captains. | Subalterns. | Adjutant. | Quartermaster. | Doc. Mate. | Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Present, fit for duty. | Sick, present. |
| Captains. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jones | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 1 |
| Williams | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| Harmer | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 7 | 4 |
| Dorsey | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Jenkins | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | - |
| Willitt | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 1 |
| Lamar | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Davis | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 6 | 3 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 47 | 17 |

N. B. The First *Pennsylvania* Regiment was raised to *October* 27th, 1776.

JOHN PATTERSON, *Adjutant.*

New German-Town, December 8th, 1776.

JOHN HARING TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

Clarkstown, December ye 9th, 1776.

SIR: I just now came to this place, where I found several members of our County Committee assembled together, who requested of me to send you the enclosed letter, which I now do, with much pleasure, and do not doubt but you will do every thing in your power to procure us protection.

I am, sir, your sincere friend and very humble servant,

JOHN HARING.

Brigadier-General *George Clinton*.

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GENERAL M'DOUGALL TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Haverstraw, 9 December, 1776.

SIR: The rainy weather in our march from the *White-Plains* brought on a fit of the rheumatism, which has detained me here, but I am now in a fair way to get rid of it.

This State consists of but fourteen Counties. The enemy have five Counties, and part of two others. If they get possession of these, they will get a representation of the majority of the State, and make a surrender of our rights. It is therefore of the utmost importance that they should be prevented of that advantage, which they will not fail to avail themselves of, if some exertion is not made by you. The southernmost part of this County is ravaged by the enemy, plundering the friends of the country of their property, and disarming them, at *Orange-Town*. Some of them are flying to the country, others flying for that protection to the enemy which we do not afford them. If some speedy relief is not afforded them, I fear they will all, or the greatest part of them, submit to the enemy; and if this event takes place, they will greatly aid the enemy in crossing the mountains, to show the sincerity of their submission. The securing these passes will be greatly assisted by advanced posts; and whatever corps are there, can easily retire to the last stand. For these reasons, as well as for the honour of the State, it is absolutely necessary that three or four hundred men should be posted at *Orange-Town*. General *Lee* cannot at present give any protection to that part of the country, because he is ordered to advance as far as *Morristown*, if not to join General *Washington*. It was with great reluctance he quitted *West-Chester*, as he saw the lower part of the County would be exposed to the enemy, from which they can derive great support. I write this in haste, and must refer you for particulars to the bearer.

I have the honour to be, your very humble servant,

ALEX. MCDOUGALL.

To the Honourable the President of the Convention, or the Chairman of the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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COLONEL HAY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Haverstraw, December 8th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed I send you a letter from Colonel *Magaw*, which was delivered to me by Mr. *Livingston*, who came up to the place in a schooner with a flag of truce. I have consented that the schooner might proceed as far as *Verplank's Point*, and there wait for your answer whether they might proceed any further up the river.

I beg you will despatch the bearer as soon as possible.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

A. HAWKES HAY.

To Major-General *Heath, Peekskill*.

N. B. The gentlemen want to go to the Convention of this State.

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JOHN COE AND OTHERS TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

December 9th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: We are somewhat doubtful whether you have received any true state of the condition we are in, and how distressed many of our neighbours are; therefore, we beg leave to inform you, that the King's troops, our cruel and merciless enemies, have last *Saturday* been in *Orange-Town*, have taken some prisoners and robbed others. The *English* troops and the Tories make great havock; the latter insult and abuse the Whigs in a manner not to be borne with. Part of the Militia of *Bergen* County are now taking up arms against us, and unless we soon get assistance the southern part of *Orange* County will be laid waste. We beg you would consider how hard it is for the men to be taken away, their effects destroyed, and the women and children suffering. This is now the case, and will continue unless we have assistance, or unless the men will agree to take up arms against their country.

Pray lay our case before the General, who commands where you are, and endeavour to get relief for us under our present situation. If a body of men should be sent, we hope nothing shall be wanting on our part to drive the enemy out of our neighbourhood.

We are, sir, your most obedient servants,

| | |
|---|---|
| JOHN COE, | JOHN COLEMAN, |
| JOHN SMITH, | DIRCK VANDERBELT, |
| THEORUS POLHEMUS, | JOHANNES VANDERBELT. |

Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, at or near *Fishkill*.

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GENERAL WADSWORTH TO GENERAL HEATH.

North-Castle, December 8th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: By order of General *Spencer* I send, under the care of Lieutenant *Paine*, a number of persons taken up as dangerous to the *American* States, a particular account of which I suppose he has or will transmit to you, he being now at *Bedford* and expected here to-morrow. Nothing new here. It is rumoured the enemy's fleet lately sailed are lying off *New-London*.

I am, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

JAMES WADSWORTH.

Major-General *Heath, Peekskill*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, December 8th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Yesterday afternoon Lieutenant-Colonel *Vose* arrived here from *Albany*, with *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's* regiments, making in the whole between five and six hundred men, on their way to join your Excellency. I am furnishing them with tents, provisions, &c.; and not a moment's time shall be lost in facilitating their march. They do not disembark here, but fall down to *Haverstraw*, and will begin their march this day.

Generals *Gates* and *Arnold* will be at *Goshen* this night, with *Patterson's*, *Stark's*, *Poor's*, and *Read's* regiments.

We have information, that besides the ships which sailed through the *Sound* to the eastward, several large ones, the *Asia*, *Eagle*, &c., sailed round *Long-Island*. It is conjectured by many that they are bound to *Halifax* to winter, and that barracks for the reception of a large body of troops have lately been built there.

A number of valuable prizes have been taken to the eastward, in particular one with arms, clothing, &c.

General *Spencer* is removing to *Crom-Pond*, where the stores which were at *North-Castle* are deposited. The heavy artillery, consisting of one brass twenty-four pounder and seven iron twelve-pounders, is at this place.

General *George Clinton* is pushing the obstructions in the river. I have ordered Colonel *De Roussie's Canadian* detachment to join him.

A great number of convalescents left here by General *Lee*, and others collected from the *Jerseys*, *North-Castle*, *Stanford*, &c., many of whom can never be of any service, but a burden to the publick, I think had better be discharged, return home, and recruit, after which many of them will inlist.

I think the recruiting service is pretty successful. Should be glad to be informed if the men belonging to one State are to inlist under officers belonging to another, as there is a diversity of opinions on the matter. My own opinion is, that they ought not; but perhaps I am mistaken.

We are impatient to hear from your Excellency, and to know the truth of things, as many reports prevail here: one day that you are retreating before the enemy, the next that you have obtained some signal advantage, killed some principal officers, &c.

By a person who has just made his escape from the enemy, I am informed that they are building barracks in *Fort Independence*, near *King's Bridge*.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, at *Trenton*.

GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL LEE.

Peekskill, December 8th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Yesterday afternoon Lieutenant-Colonel *Vose* arrived at this place from *Albany*, with *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's* regiments, making in the whole between five and six hundred men. I have advised them not to lose a moment's time, but to follow you immediately. I am furnishing them with provisions, tents, &c., and they will begin their march this day.

Captain *Williams*, of *Greaton's*, informs me this morning that General *Gates* had sent forward orders for the troops to rendezvous at *Goshen*. He had not received your letter until he heard from you that they might know what route to take.

I have advised the troops here to proceed, as it is most probable General *Gates*, who is to be at *Goshen* this night, will join them on the road.

I submit it to you, sir, if it would not be best to send an express back, with such directions as you may think proper, either to halt them on the road from *Goshen*, until General *Gates* comes up, or march forward and join you without loss of time.

I am, dear General, your most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

Major-General *Lee*.

P. S. General *Gates* has with him *Paterson's*, *Stark's*, *Read's*, and *Poor's* regiments.

GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL HAY.

Peek's Kill, December 8th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have just received your favour, enclosing a letter from Colonel *Magaw*. I would have you treat the flag with the utmost politeness and respect, at the same time with as great precaution.

The schooner is not to proceed farther up the river. You will acquaint the gentlemen, that if they have any letters to the Convention, they shall be safely conveyed there by a messenger who shall be appointed for that purpose; but that they are not to be permitted to pass there themselves. It will be best to converse with them at the shore; or if it should be necessary for them to advance to an house, it ought to be the first; and if any stores, provisions, &c., are at the place, it will not be amiss to blindfold those who land until they arrive at the house. But I think it will be best to treat with them at the beach.

You will give notice to Colonel *Tupper* to keep a vigilant look-out this night.

I am, dear sir, yours affectionately, W. HEATH.

To Colonel *Hay*.

NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, December 8th, 1776. }

SIR: The confusion into which every thing has been thrown at *Philadelphia* by the enemy's rapid progress, has, we suppose, prevented the Congress from applying to us or you for aid, much as they at present want it, of which you will judge when we inform you that General *Howe* is at *Brunswick* with ten thousand men; that General *Washington* is at *Trenton* with an army of about six thousand strong. We think it, therefore, our duty to mention these facts to you, and to entreat you, by that regard you have hitherto testified for the glorious cause in which we are engaged, on this occasion speedily to exert your whole force. Should six thousand men cross into the *Jerseys*, where General *Lee* now is with two brigades, and unite themselves to him, or General *Gates*, who is likewise on his march with some troops, the panick which universally prevails in *New-Jersey* would be removed; a considerable body of the Militia would probably flock in to your assistance, and the enemy, shut in between two armies and having their supplies cut off, might dearly pay for their temerity. The fleet that is sailed up the *Sound* is evidently designed as a feint, to draw your attention from the object that ought principally to engage it, and to keep any part of the force of the *New-England* States from where it is most manifestly wanted. Though this embarkation ought not to be neglected, yet from the number of troops in *New-Jersey*, those that have gone up the *Sound* cannot be very formidable. We cannot but hope that so fair an opportunity of distressing the enemy will not be foregone, especially as there is no telling what consequences may attend the enemy's uninterrupted progress through a country by no means free from disaffection.

All that can be expected from us in our present weak and dismantled state has and shall be done. Nine hundred of our Militia, well armed and appointed, are ready in the field, and occupy some passes at which General *Washington* has directed them to be stationed. The Militia of two Counties were put under General *Heath's* command, and are under marching orders.

You will be pleased immediately to write to the Eastern States on this important subject, and to let us know what number of troops you are like to collect, and whether we can give you any assistance in purchasing or forwarding provisions for them.

I am, with great respect, your Honour's most obedient and very humble servant.

By order of the Committee of Safety:

PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT, *Vice President*.

The Honourable *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Connecticut*.

COMMITTEE TO COÖPERATE WITH GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

At a meeting of the Committee appointed by the Representatives of the State of *New-York*, in Committee of Safety assembled, agreeable to a Resolution of the said Committee of *December* 8, 1776:

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, December 8, 1776. }

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three gentlemen be requested to go immediately to General *George Clinton*, at *New-Windsor*, vested with full powers in conjunction with General *Clinton*, to call out the Militia of *Ulster* and *Orange* Counties, and to station them at such places as they may think will contribute most to the safety of this State and the general interest of *America*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Robert R. Livingston*, General *Scott*, and Mr. *Duer*, be the said Committee.

Extract from the Minutes:

ROBERT BENSON, *Secretary*.

Present: Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, Brigadier-General *Scott*, *R. R. Livingston*, Esq., *William Duer*, Esq.

*Resolved*, That all the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster*, not at present in the Continental service, and which compose the brigade commanded by Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, be forthwith ordered to march, properly armed and accoutred, and with four days' provision, to *Chester*, in *Orange* County, there to receive further orders from Brigadier-General *Clinton*. That the said Militia be allowed Continental pay and rations, and one penny per mile in lieu of rations till they come to the place of rendezvous.

*Resolved*, That General *George Clinton* be empowered to make use of the Arms and Accoutrements belonging to this State and now at *New-Windsor*, for the purpose of equipping such of the said Militia as are not armed.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Malcom* be requested and authorized to exert all the influence which he possibly can to induce the men under his command, and such others as he can procure, and to continue in service till the last day of *December*, and that he be annexed to the brigade commanded by Brigadier-General *Clinton*.

*Resolved*, That General *George Clinton* be empowered to give a gratuity of one dollar to each man of Colonel *Malcom's* regiment who will consent to remain in service till the first day of *January*.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that General *Clinton* march with his Militia the companies of Rangers raised in the County of *Ulster*, under the command of Captain *Jacob De Witt* and Captain *Hasbrouck*.

And whereas, in the opinion of the honourable General Congress, and from the measures pursued by the enemy, it is evident that the security of the *United States* depends principally upon the preservation of the State of *New-York*, which can only be effected by preventing the passes of the Highlands, on *Hudson's* river, from falling into the hands of the enemy; yet it is the firm intention and earnest desire of the Convention of this State to give every assistance pos-

sible to any of their sister States, or to the *United States* in general, consistent with that grand object.

*Resolved, therefore,* That it is the opinion of this Committee, that General *George Clinton* be ordered either to join the Army under the command of Major-General *Lee* or Major-General *Gates*, provided it be the intention of either of these officers to form a separate army for the purpose of falling upon the enemy's rear, or cutting off their supplies, and that he vigilantly attend to the motions of the enemy in such a manner that he may be able to retain the passes of the Highlands on *Hudson's* river.

*Resolved,* That if it shall be the orders or intentions of Major-General *Lee* or Major-General *Gates* to join the main body of the Continental Army, that nevertheless General *Clinton* do forthwith march into the State of *New-Jersey*, as far as he think consistent with the preservation of the passes of the Highlands, and that he exert himself to the utmost in collecting and rousing the spirits of the Militia of the said State, and in overawing and curbing its disaffected or revolted subjects, whenever he shall be called upon by a proper civil or military authority of said State.

*Resolved,* That Colonel *Duboys* be requested to attend General *George Clinton* on this expedition.

*Resolved,* That a copy of the above Resolutions be transmitted to General *Heath*, and that he be requested to give every necessary assistance to General *Clinton* in carrying the same into execution.

*Resolved,* That, in the opinion of this Committee, the regiments commanded by Colonel *Huntington* and Colonel *Tyler* may be safely put under the command of Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, as he will take care, from time to time, in case the motions of the enemy should require it, that the pass at the *Ramapo* should be properly secured.

*Resolved,* That in case General *Clinton* shall be permitted to draw off the above-mentioned regiments from the pass at *Ramapo*, that he be empowered to supply their place with as many of the Militia under his command as he shall think necessary.

*Resolved,* That it is the opinion of this Committee that General *George Clinton* should be supplied with two field-pieces, forty-five thousand cartouches, tents for fifteen hundred men, and as many small-arms as shall be necessary for supplying such of the Militia who may stand in need of them, and that the same ought to be issued from the Continental stores.

*Resolved,* That it is the opinion of this Committee that a Deputy-Commissary and one of the Assistant Quartermaster-Generals of the Continental Army, should attend the brigade of Militia under the command of General *George Clinton.*

*Resolved,* That it is the opinion of this Committee that the sum of six thousand pounds should be advanced to General *George Clinton* from the Treasury of this State, in order to supply any expense which may accrue in the execution of the above-mentioned Resolutions, which is before unprovided for.

*Resolved,* That a Letter be sent by express to Major-General *Gates*, enclosing copies of these Resolutions, and that he be requested to forward copies of the same to Major-General *Lee*.

By order Committee: ROB. R. LIVINGSTON.

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New-Windsor, 8th December, 1776.

SIR: The Convention of the State of *New-York* have not received from the General Congress or his Excellency General *Washington*, and are much alarmed at the progress of the enemy and the languor that prevails in the Militia of the State of *New-Jersey*, which they attribute, in some measure, to the presence of the enemy, and the little prospect they have of receiving any assistance within their State.

The Convention wish to use every measure in their power, consistent with the safety of this State, which in a great measure involves that of the Continent, to induce the people of *New-Jersey* to make the proper exertions for their own preservation. To this they conceive nothing can contribute more than forming an army in *New-Jersey* out of the troops under your command, or those that are with Major-General *Lee*, and such Militia as can be collected in this or the neighbouring States, which we are very well satisfied would soon be formidable to the enemy, cut off their supplies, and overawe the disaffected, while General *Washington*, being reinforced by the Southern troops and Militia, would be in a state to meet them in front.

What measures we have taken, you will collect from the resolutions which we do ourselves the honour to transmit. In addition to this, we have written to Governour *Trumbull*, suggesting the propriety of sending at least six thousand of the Militia of that State in *New-Jersey*, and requesting him to write for further aid to the rest of the Eastern States. If it is consistent with your orders to hang on the rear of the enemy, from these steps and the means that may be used for raising the Militia of *New-Jersey*, we cannot but help thinking that General *Howe* may soon find cause to repent his temerity.

As we know not where to find Major-General *Lee*, we must beg the favour of you to transmit a copy of your letter and the enclosed resolutions by some careful person to him. If, sir, either you or General *Lee* will be pleased to suggest any necessary measures, in addition to those we have taken, we shall think ourselves happy in coöperating therein.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient, humble servant.

By order of the Committee: ROB. R. LIVINGSTON.

To the Honourable *Horatio Gates*, Major-General.

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Dalston's Tavern, December 9, 1776, ten o'clock at night.

SIR: Since the resolutions which are referred to and enclosed in the above letter were agreed to, General *Clinton* and myself were requested by the Committee to proceed to *Goshen*, where we understood you was expected this evening, in order to know the route which the troops under your command propose taking, and to confer with you on other matters, which are the objects of these resolutions.

I am sorry we were not fortunate enough to meet with you; but from the intelligence we have received from your Aid-de-Camp, Major *Pearce*, and from the route which we find General *Lee* has taken through *Princetown*, we find that the intentions of both your Armies is to join General *Washington*, and not to form a separate Army in order to fall on the enemy's rear.

In compliance, therefore, with his orders, General *Clinton* will be under the necessity of confining himself to the objects specified in the resolution marked No. 7, unless he should learn from either General *Lee* or yourself, that your intentions are to form another army on the rear of the enemy. For this purpose he desires me to inform you, that he will immediately order his troops to rendezvous at the place called *H City*, near *Kakeat*, in *Orange* County, at the parting of the road which leads to *Tappan* and *Paramus*, where he will be ready to obey your orders, so far as they are consistent with the objects of the enclosed resolutions. The force he will have with him will consist of about fifteen hundred men.

By the latest accounts, we hear that General *Washington* is daily receiving strong reinforcements from the Militia of *Jersey* and *Pennsylvania;* in consequence of which, he might probably be induced to form an army for the purpose of hemming in the enemy in the rear, were he made acquainted with the measures pursued by the Convention of the State of *New-York*. I have therefore to request the favour of you to have copies of the Committee's letter to you and of the enclosed resolutions, transmitted immediately by express to his Excellency General *Washington* and to Major-General *Lee*, in order that they may pursue such measures as they shall judge best calculated for the general good.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient, humble servant,

WM. DUER.

Major-General *Gates*.

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SAMUEL TUDER TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Poughkeepsie, December 9, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. *Ivers* having declined doing any more for the ships, and your orders being to fit them for sea by spring, would inform you that after the rigging we have

spared, shall fall considerably short to fit the ships out; we shall therefore be under the necessity to get some person to relay what rigging may be wanted, out of the old rigging on board the brig *Polly*, Captain *Redfield*; for which purpose would recommend the bearer, Mr. *Degrushe*, who, we think, very capable. Mr. *Ivers* being willing to serve the cause, will either sell his tools he has here, or let them on reasonable terms. Captain *Anthony Rutgers* can give you Mr. *Degrushe's* character as a rope-maker. As the season is so favourable, we should be glad of your answer by first opportunity, that Mr. *Degrushe* may go to work, if you approve of him.

We expect the stuff for the gun-carriages soon; and as we must have the dimensions of the guns before the carriages can be made, should be glad to know where the guns are, and whether it would not be prudent to send a person to take measure of them.

There will be wanted a number of stores to fit the ships for sea. Would submit it to your honourable House, whether it would not be prudent to appoint Captain *Anthony Rutgers* to assist in providing them. Agreeable to your desire, we have appointed Mr. *Stephen Hendricks* of this place to take care of the stores. Should be glad you would let us know whether we shall agree with him, as you stipulate his wages, to go to the yard once a day.

I am, with great esteem, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

SAMUEL TUDER.

To the Honourable *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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JAMES CUYLER TO JAMES DUANE.

Albany, December 9th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Colonel *Van Schaack* has returned to the Committee of Arrangement Mr. *Van Valkenbrugh* amongst the number that declined to serve. Mr. *Van Valkenbrugh* is now here, and has requested me to write you, and begs his name may not be taken off the arrangement, and in the company he was fixed to, and that he now has consent from his parents. I think him a very fine young fellow, and should be sorry to lose him. He also assures me that Mr. *Samuel Thorn* will accept. He has received a letter from him. Mr. *Henry Devandorph*, who was given up to us as indifferent, has, since we were at *Saratoga*, done some very extraordinary services. This I have from Colonel *Van Schaack*; and I believe he will make a good officer. He is full of spirit and pride I know, and from what I can learn, he is sorry for the offence he has given some time ago to one of his Field Officers.

I am, sir, your most obedient,

JAS. CUYLER.

To the Honourable *James Duane*, *Fishkill*.

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GENERAL WOOSTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Saw-Pitts, Rye, Connecticut, December 8th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have not had a line from you since I left *Philadelphia*, therefore conclude I am entirely forgotten by Congress; but, however, I have not forgot the interest of my distressed country. If the honourable Continental Congress has any further service for me, I shall take it as a favour to be informed of it. This, sir, will be handed you by an express which have forwarded from Governour *Trumbull* to his Excellency General *Washington*, General *Lee*, &c., to acquaint them that on the 5th instant a fleet of about eighty transports and eight large ships-of-war, anchored off *New-London*, and were there on the 6th, being the last accounts from them. They passed this place on the 4th, in the evening. I learn by deserters from *Long-Island*, who left the fleet, that they have about eight thousand men on board—a bad situation for our eastern people, and not a General Officer in that part of the country; but I hope Providence will work deliverance for us. The express must go on; I can therefore only add, that I am, sir, with the greatest esteem, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

DAVID WOOSTER.

His Excellency *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Continental Congress.

PROVIDENCE (RHODE-ISLAND) TOWN MEETING.

At a town meeting of the town of *Providence*, especially called and convened by warrant on *Sabbath* day morning, *December* 8th, A. D. 1776, the Hon. *Stephen Hopkins*, Esq., Moderator.

Whereas a large body of the enemy have arrived in the *Narraganset-Bay*, and it is probable soon intend to attack this town; and in order that proper defence may be made: *It is voted*, That the Hon. *Stephen Hopkins*, Esq., Colonel *Jonathan Arnold*, Colonel *John Mathewson*, Mr. *Joseph Browne*, Colonel *Barzillai Richmond*, Colonel *Joseph Nightingale*, Colonel *James Angell*, and Mr. *Sumner*, be, and they hereby are, appointed a Committee to examine the most suitable places for erecting and making proper Batteries and Intrenchments for the defence of the publick against the enemy. And they, or the major part of them, agreeing to make report to his Honour the Governour, in order that if he sees fit he may direct the troops under his command immediately to go to erecting said Batteries, &c. That the same Committee, after having agreed upon proper places, proceed to mark out the ground, in order that said troops may as soon as possible proceed to work thereon.

*Voted and Resolved*, That *William Wheaton*, Esq., Mr. *Paul Allen*, Mr. *Benjamin Cushing*, Jun., *Edward Thurber*, Esq., be, and they hereby are, appointed a Committee immediately to collect all the Tools in town proper for making Intrenchments, taking down in proper lists the names of those who furnish the said Tools, with the particular articles supplied by each person.

*Resolved*, That all the male inhabitants of this town, of sixteen years of age and upwards, appear under the commanding officers of their respective companies, at the Court-House parade, at three o'clock this afternoon, all those who are equipped with arms, accoutrements, knapsacks, and blankets, and those who are not fully provided with those articles that they can furnish. And it is expected that no person whatever who is an inhabitant, and capable of bearing arms, will neglect to appear at time and place aforesaid. And that the Town Sergeant and the Town Crier immediately publish this vote through the town.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *David Lawrence* be empowered to procure a number of Bakers immediately, to bake a quantity of Bread sufficient for the men assembled on the present alarm.

THEODORE FOSTER, *Town Clerk*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

On board the Warren, off Patuxet, December 8th, 1776, at 8 o'clock, a. m.

SIR: I received yours this morning, dated *November* 7th, and think we can secure what prisoners you may please to send, provided they are sailors, or to be treated as such. That or any other service which the State requires that is in my power, shall be done with pleasure. I have nothing new since my last. Have not heard any disturbance last night nor guns. You mention a handbill enclosed, but there was none in your letter. If there should be any sailors that are idle, think I could employ them to advantage. I have sent a boat to *Newport* for intelligence, but she is not yet returned.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Hon. *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Rhode-Island*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

On board the Warren, off Patuxet, December 8th, 1776, at 5 o'clock, p. m.

SIR: About twelve o'clock this day the *English* fleet came in to the westward of *James-Town*, all but three, who stood to the eastward for *Secunnet Point*. There is in the whole upwards of one hundred sail. Some of them anchored at the north end of *Connanicut*, and the rest were under sail at four o'clock.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Hon. *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Rhode-Island*.

COMMODORE HOPKINS TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

On board the Warren, Patuxet, December 8th, 6 o'clock, p. m.

SIR: Captain *Hacker*, in the sloop *Providence*, went down this afternoon below *Providence*, and a ship gave him chase, but she run ashore. He saw one ship down by *Dutch Island* and one off *Hog Island*. And Mr. *Barron* has returned from *Rhode-Island*, and says the enemy landed at eight o'clock this morning eight thousand men, and took possession of the whole island, without opposition, and he thinks have got most of the stock. How many of our men have got off he can't tell.

I think if the galleys are manned they would be of service down here. Captain *Chase* is up *Taunton* river. If the men could be prevailed upon to come here, they would be of service, as it is not likely they will go far out of protection of the ships.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Hon. *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Rhode-Island*.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Providence, December 8th, 1776, ten o'clock, p. m.

SIR: It is with great concern I inform you that the great force of the enemy obliged the small body of troops we had upon *Rhode-Island*, to quit it with precipitation. They have left about fifteen or twenty cannon, having taken off a great part of the stock, and all the ammunition and stores. The enemy are now in full possession of that island. A detachment marched to the north end of the island, and fired upon our last boats, but without killing any body. By a letter from General *West*, who was upon the island, and by information from Lieutenant *Baron*, they have landed about eight thousand men, a force too formidable to have no other object in view than *Rhode-Island*. I must entreat the General Court to exert the force of the State with all possible expedition, as the fate of *America* may depend on the present moment. And I can't help acquainting you, that no troops from the *Massachusetts* had arrived at or near *Rhode-Island* when it was yesterday evacuated. We have also intelligence of sixty sail more of transports coming down the *Sound*. Without any view of giving a lead, I would beg leave to mention to you that General *Lincoln* possesses the confidence of the people of this State, and would be a most acceptable officer.

I am, with great esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

To the Hon. *James Bowdoin*.

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Providence, December 8th, 1776. Past ten o'clock, p. m.

SIR: It is with great concern that I give you the disagreeable intelligence that the enemy, with a fleet consisting of seventy-eight ships-of-war and transports, entered the harbour of *Newport* yesterday. We had about six hundred men upon *Rhode-Island*, who were obliged to evacuate it with the loss of about fifteen or twenty heavy cannon, having taken off the ammunition and stores and the greatest part of the stock. The enemy having full possession of the island, I am informed by General *West* and Lieutenant *Baron*, of the *Providence*, that they landed this morning, about eight o'clock, with eight thousand men, who marched in three divisions, one towards *Newport*, the second towards *Howland's Ferry*, and the third to *Bristol Ferry*, where they arrived time enough to fire upon the boats that brought over our last men, but without doing any damage. I have sent repeated expresses to the *Massachusetts-Bay* and *Connecticut*. The forces of the former are upon their march, as I believe the latter one also.

In great haste, I am your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

P. S. We have also intelligence of sixty sail more of transports coming down the *Sound*.

JAMES WARREN TO THE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Plymouth, December 8, 1776.

SIR: I beg leave to represent to you that there have been seventy or more *Irishmen* prisoners in this town for several weeks, and that I think it high time the Council or the Court should take some order about them. If they are not permitted to go home, they must be removed from here without delay. They grow very troublesome. The inhabitants are much alarmed, and I fear some disagreeable consequences will soon ensue, either from their insolence and numbers, united with the many Tories here, or from the necessity the people may think there is for attending to their own security. This must surely be the most improper place in the world for such a number of prisoners. I beg your attention to this matter; and am, with great respect, your most humble servant,

J. WARREN.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq.

I dare not leave home unless they are removed or secured.

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Council Chamber, Boston, December 8th, 1776.

SIR: Immediately on receiving your Excellency's intimation that it was necessary your Army should be reinforced with four thousand Militia from this State, orders were issued to raise them. And since that, as our affairs grew more serious and alarming, the Court have given orders to augment the number to about six thousand. Every measure hath been adopted to forward the troops to you with despatch. We can't but indulge the pleasing hope that the intended reinforcement will arrive in season, and that they will afford every assistance and support that may justly be expected from them. They are ordered to rendezvous at *Danbury*, in *Connecticut*, where General *Lincoln*, who is appointed to take the command of them, will wait your Excellency's orders. The General Court of this State are determined vigorously to exert themselves in raising a new army, and render to your Excellency every support in their power, notwithstanding the alarm the enemy are spreading by hovering round these coasts with a large number of ships-of-war and transports, perhaps with a view to divert us from their designs.

We are, with great regard and esteem, your Excellency's most humble servants. In the name and by order of Council,

JAMES BOWDOIN, *Pres't.*

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MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY TO GENERAL LEE.

Boston, December 8, 1776.

SIR: The General Court have received your favours of 21st, 22d, 27th, and 30th *November* last, and gratefully acknowledge your care in favouring us with all necessary intelligence. With pain we read the disasters that have befallen us, but yet are not dispirited. Immediately on receipt of your first letter, we forwarded to the camp supplies, in addition to what we had sent before, of shoes, stockings, and blankets. Are now exerting, and shall continue to exert, ourselves for affording to the Army every species of clothing in our power. We had issued orders for raising a part of all our able-bodied effective men at home when your first letter was received, and we have pursued every means we could devise for expediting their march, and hope they will all seasonably arrive in camp, to support our common cause, and that their number will not fall short of six thousand men. We are now contemplating the most effectual measures for raising with vigour our quota of the Continental Army, and are determined to call into action every power and strain every nerve in support of our liberties. We earnestly request your frequent correspondence, which will give us great pleasure. The alarming accounts we have for four or five days successively received, of a large naval force near *New-Port*, though it may embarrass our proceedings, yet will not divert us from our purposes. Our ardent wish is, that you may be succeeded in your exertions in the common cause, in which we shall not fail to coöperate with you.

To General *Lee*.

P. S. The General Court have just laid a general embargo on all shipping.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

December 8, 1776.

SIR: Immediately upon the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, communicating the important intelligence of the enemy's movements towards *New-London* or *New-Port*, and your apprehension of their designs against one or both those places, requesting the assistance of this State, the General Court took the necessary measures for succouring their sister States, by a reinforcement from our Militia, which was ordered to march for the State of *Rhode-Island*, &c., or *Connecticut*, or both, as the exigency of affairs should require. But being since informed by Governour *Cooke* that the enemy had cannonaded *New-London*, made a feint of landing there, quitted it, and were actually entering the harbour of *New-Port*, and proceeding with their whole force up the river, we have issued new orders, and directed our Militia to proceed to *Bristol* and *Providence*, agreeable to the most earnest request of Governour *Cooke*, thinking the movements of the enemy since your favour have rendered it unnecessary to throw any part of our Militia into your State. You may rely upon it the General Assembly of this State have a grateful remembrance of the virtuous and patriotick exertions of *Connecticut* in favour of *Massachusetts* in the days of our more immediate tribulation, and will in their turn vigorously exert themselves for the relief and assistance of any of the neighbouring States, more especially for yours. We thank you for your intelligence, and beg the favour of being informed of any future essential motions of the enemy.

In the name of the Council, I have the honour to be, with great respect, &c.,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

To Governour *Trumbull*.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Boston, December 8, one o'clock, p. m., 1776.

SIR: This just serves as a cover to letters from Governour *Cooke*, of *Rhode-Island*, and General *Lee*, and a resolution of this State laying an embargo on all outward-bound vessels, and to request your State to pass a similar resolution.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

December 8, 1776.

SIR: Since our last of this day, sent by your express who arrived here yesterday, the General Court have further ordered the Honourable *Joseph Cushing*, Esq., of *Hanover*, Brigadier of the County of *Plymouth*, and *George Godfrey*, Esq., of *Taunton*, Brigadier of the County of *Bristol*, immediately to march the whole Militia of their respective Counties to *Bristol* or *Providence*; and have also ordered Colonel *Wood's* and Colonel *Holman's* regiments from *Worcester* County, and Colonel *Wheelock's* regiment from this County, and also a company of train, consisting of fifty men, officers included, to march forthwith to *Providence*. The whole are to take orders from you or the commanding officer from this State, and directed to march, equipped with arms, necessary accoutrements, and ammunition. The train take only three days' provision, and are to apply to you for further necessaries.

We thank you for the intelligence you have communicated, and beg the favour of being informed of all the important movements of the enemy.

In the name of the Council, I have the honour to be, with much esteem, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN, *President*.

To Governour *Cooke*.

COLONEL MITCHELL TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

[December 8th, 1776.]

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: In obedience to the establishment I have ordered a Sergeant's guard, consisting of a Sergeant and nine men, to *Saco* river; a Sergeant and ten men to *Kennebeck* river; and the like number to *Harpswell*; who proceeded for their several stations eight days since. I should have sent out guards before, but apprehended the necessity of the works carrying on here, which are now considerably forward, demanded the presence of all the troops stationed at this place. Larger numbers, I thought, could not be spared consistent with the publick service; but if I have erred herein, your Honours' orders will determine my future conduct.

I take the liberty to represent to your Honours, that cannon are much wanting, without which our fortifications must be rendered useless, except to the enemy. I need urge no further to your Honours the necessity of having a supply of cannon, and you are not unacquainted with the importance of this post, not only to the Province of *Maine*, but to the preservation of all the *United Colonies*.

I am, with profound respect, your Honours' very humble servant,

JONATHAN MITCHELL.

To the honourable the Council and House of Representatives of the Colony of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

CAPTAIN AYRES TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

Lynch, Cape-Ann, December 8, 1776.

SIRS: As I found it impossible to get a pilot for the shoals in *Boston*, and having your orders to look into *Cape-Cod* harbour, concluded I should be furnished there, and yesterday at forty minutes after twelve, discovered a ship and schooner at anchor there, stood in to be fully satisfied till past one o'clock, then I saw the ship loose her topsails and sheet them home; I hove about and stood to the northward, and anchored here about nine o'clock last night. Shall get a pilot and pursue my voyage instantly. I believe it's the *Milford* or *Liverpool*, with *Burk's* schooner.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN AYRES.

To the Honourable Board of War.

Spithead, England, December 9, 1776.

Arrived this day from *Quebeck* his Majesty's ship the *Isis*, Commodore *Douglas*, with General *Burgoyne*, his Aids-de-Camp, Sir *Francis Clerke*, and Captain *Gardner*, as also Mr. *Alexander Davison*, and Mr. *Thomas Ainslie*, and bring accounts of our Army having returned from *Crown-Point*, to go into winter quarters at *St. John's*, *Montreal*, *Chamblé*, and *Quebeck*. They also bring accounts of the Rebels at *Ticonderoga* having put a twenty-gun ship on the stocks, and are making great preparations for another engagement on *Lake Champlain* next spring. The *Isis* left *Quebeck* the 8th of *November*, when General *Carleton* was expected there hourly. Sailed from *Quebeck* at the same time the *Blonde* frigate, Captain *Pownall*, who is ordered on a cruise on the banks of *Newfoundland* for a few weeks. Left at *Quebeck* the *Triton* frigate, the *Garland*, and the *Viper* sloop-of-war, which are to winter there, as are also about twenty transports. On the 7th instant, spoke with the *Thames* ship-of-war, with fourteen sail of transports under convoy for *New-York*, off the *Land's End*, all well.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore-Town, December 9th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I desired Mr. *Stephen Steward*, who I saw some time ago in *Baltimore*, to acquaint you that it was time to send up masters for the gondolas. Anchors and cables we ought to have immediately; we cannot launch them without. One of them is in my way, where I want to raise a ship. It is best to have masters before they are launched, as they sometimes want some alterations.

Captain *Matthews*, of *Harford*, mentioned to me he had some reason to expect one of them. I imagine he will be ready as soon as you please.

Your answer will oblige, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

ARCH. BUCHANAN.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

STEPHEN STEWARD TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

December the 9th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I understand you have some ship-bread in town. The yard is now without. I shall be much obliged to you to order five or six barrels down by Captain *Hamond*, and the tallow I mentioned to you some time ago.

I am your most obedient servant,

STEPHEN STEWARD.

For the honourable Council of Safety.

N. B. When am I to get guns for the galley?

JOHN CAREY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Schooner Resolution, December 9th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honour to inform you that I am arrived safe at the Capes, and with a promising fair wind; also the pleasure to inform you that the vessel goes exceedingly better than was imagined; as coming down the bay I have had an opportunity of trying her on a wind and before it, and in all manners, but going with the wind quartering, have run the *Ninety-Two* hull down in less than five hours, and have several times shortened sail for the pilot boat, and of which the pilot can assure your Honours of the truth of the above.

Your Honours may depend on my doing my utmost endeavours in making the best of my way to *Martinique*, and in every respect fully fulfilling the orders that you have been pleased to honour me with.

I am, and shall ever remain, your Honours' most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN CAREY.

The honourable Council of Safety for the Province of *Maryland*.

P. S. The pilot is an able, serviceable man, and has conducted the vessel in every respect to my entire satisfaction.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

"In Congress, December 9, 1776.

"Whereas General *Washington* hath repeatedly applied, and yesterday has renewed his application, for an immediate reinforcement for the defence of this city and State:

"*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety be requested this day to send expresses, that may be relied on, to the several Counties in *Pennsylvania*, earnestly requesting that they march what troops they can collect, armed and provided in the best manner possible, to the Army under command of General *Washington*.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 9, 1776.

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN: By all that is dear and valuable, we entreat you to march, without delay, to join General *Washington's* Army, now in *Bucks* County, agreeable to the above resolve of Congress. Every thing that is interesting to human nature depends upon it. Do not hesitate, or repentance may succeed to inactivity. Our citizens have exerted themselves like men. Let their examples prevail upon you to act vigorously, and we may yet be free, and be happy. Do not wait to collect large bodies, but send off such as are ready by detachments.

By order of Council:

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 9th, 1776—half-past 8 o'clock, p. m.

SIR: We have undoubted intelligence that a body of the enemy's Light-Horse was at a place called the *Cross-Roads*, about nine mile above *Burlington*, and a report prevails that an advance party are at *Burlington*. From circumstances it may be too true; we therefore wish to call your Excellency's attention to a ferry about four miles below *Burlington*, called *Dunk's Ferry*, where the river is narrow, and may afford the enemy a better chance to pass and cut off the communication between this city and your Army than any other on the river. We intend to order one (and the only one that is now here) of the galleys up to that place to intercept their passage if they should attempt it. We submit to your Excellency the propriety of ordering the galleys down towards that pass. If you should approve it you will please to give orders accordingly.

By order of Council:

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

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JAMES MEASE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

December 9th, 1776.

SIR: The demands on me for money for pay of the *Maryland* troops and your Militia, are so considerable, that I want a further supply to answer them, as well as to discharge some debts incurred for the purchase of necessaries. I beg, therefore, you will be pleased to apply for a draft for fifty thousand dollars, that I may have some money in the chest in case a removal of the Treasury should be thought necessary shortly.

I am, with infinite respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

JAMES MEASE.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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THE MEMORIAL OF ELISHA PAINTER.

[Read 10 January, 1777: Referred to the Board of War.]

*To the honourable the Delegates of the Thirteen* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *in General Congress assembled:*

*The Memorial of the subscriber humbly showeth:*

That your Honours' memorialist being honoured with a commission from your Honours on the fifth day of *July* last, to serve as a Major in a regiment ordered by your Honours to be raised for the Continental service, whereof *Seth Warner*, Esq., was appointed Colonel; and your Honours' memorialist being endowed with grateful sentiments, hath ever been disposed to pay that grateful acknowledgment which is due for the notice your Honours have taken of the faithful and arduous services of your Honours' memorialist in the defence of the rights and liberties of *America*, the promotion of which darling cause hath been the study and pursuit of your Honours' memorialist from the beginning of the unnatural war between *Britain* and the *American* States unto this time, and still continues disposed to the same; yet your Honours' memorialist feels himself much mortified to find (after all his unceasing endeavours to serve the publick cause, and the fatigues and hardships he hath endured therein) that two of the Captains appointed to serve in the aforesaid regiment hath manifested much uneasiness and dissatisfaction by reason your Honours' memorialist hath a commission, which they think should have been given to one of them in preference to your Honours' memorialist, which groundless uneasiness and dissatisfaction has occasioned the representation which was made to your Honours by Colonel *Warner* on the 10th day of *September* last, whereupon your Honours, on a report from the Board of War on the 12th day of the same month, resolved that your Honours' memorialist be directed to repair to the city of *Philadelphia*, that the matter might be inquired into. In obedience to which direction, your Honours' memorialist is now come to the aforesaid city, waiting your Honours' orders to be inquired of concerning the matter aforesaid, which matter of uneasiness and dissatisfaction represented by Colonel *Warner* is not through any fault or blame of your Honours' memorialist; neither is any crime or fault charged on him in said representation; and as your Honours' memorialist hath done nothing to occasion any uneasiness with the dissatisfied Captains above-mentioned, or any other person concerned in the matter, and as he is not accused of doing any thing to occasion the said dissatisfaction, he rests on your Honours' impartial inquiry into the matter; and the just settlement of the same is not doubted by your Honours' most obedient and devoted humble servant,

ELISHA PAINTER.

December 9th, 1776.

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I, *Giles Gaylord*, who served in the Continental Army in *Canada* last fall, through the winter, and last spring, do certify, that I was a Lieutenant of Captain *Elisha Painter's* company, in General *Wooster's* regiment, from *December* last to the expiration of the time said regiment engaged for. I was at the siege of *St. John's* last fall, when the said Captain *Painter* belonged to Colonel *James Easton's* regiment, who was in the said siege also; but Captain *Painter* being sent on command to *Sorell*, with his Colonel, we did not meet again until the beginning of *December*, at *Montreal*, at which place I engaged to serve with him as Lieutenant, in General *Wooster's* regiment. We soon filled our company, and served out the time of our engagement, but no commissions was sent to us, nor to the other officers in the regiment; and I understood that to be the case with the officers of Colonel *Easton's* regiment, to which Captain *Painter* belonged previous to his engagement for the winter campaign. Indeed, I understood the officers in general who

served in *Canada* received no commissions there; and about the time Captain *Painter* received orders to raise his company, many men in that Army, who thought themselves not well used by their officers, determined to go home when their times were out; on which the General, knowing our conquest in *Canada* could not be secure without men, gave orders that those men who would engage for the winter campaign might inlist into what corps, regiment, or company they should choose; on which, many of the men who would not reëngage with their old officers, being acquainted with Captain *Painter's* character as an officer, repaired to him to inlist, to that degree that his company soon filled up, by which means Captain *Painter* suffered the reproach, resentments, and ill-will of a number of those officers whose men left them and inlisted with him, some of which officers have not been wanting to try to hurt and injure Captain *Painter* in his character, while other men acquainted with the matter, thought their resentment ill-grounded. However, to do justice to Captain *Painter*, and to whom it may concern, I will describe something of a character which I think him entitled to. He is an officer who sets good examples to his men, and discountenances and reproves their bad conduct. He never uses bad language himself, or approves of it in those under his command. Hard drinking, gaming, and night routs I never knew or heard of his being guilty of; but applied himself with attention to his duty in the service of his country. He is a friend to good order, regulation, and discipline; at the same time treats his men with that tenderness and care that becomes an officer to do. He appears to be on prinipcle an established friend to the cause of liberty, and to act from a principle of honour. I found him, during my whole acquaintance with him, to be just and honest. He never detained his men's wages in his own hands, but frequently paid them faster than he received money for them. He is of a steady, regular behaviour, governed rather by judgment and reason than by passion and humour. He is an officer of true and steady courage. I never heard cowardice imputed to him, even by those who have tried to injure him. He served faithfully in *Canada* during the time of his service there, which was till about the last of *May*, at which time he came away with credit, and in as good standing as the other officers of the said Army, and about the beginning of last *June* I left him at *Albany*, on his way down, and have not since seen him till lately.

Attest: GILES GAYLORD.

October the 5th, 1776.

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Camp on Harlem Heights, October 6th, 1776.

*To whom it may concern:*

We, the subscribers hereto, being acquainted with the above subscriber to the foregoing certificate, do esteem him to be a person of truth and veracity, and believe he is esteemed to be so in general, whose testimony may be depended upon.

Attest: SIMON ADAMS, *Lieutenant.*
STEPHEN DEWEY, *Captain.*
STEPHEN GOODWIN, *Captain.*

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Camp on Harlem Heights, October 8th, 1776.

The above-named *Giles Gaylord*, doth now before me, on honour, solemnly affirm, declare, and testify, that the above and within certificate by him subscribed (to the best of his knowledge) is the truth, and nothing else.

Attest: JOHN FELLOWS, *Brigadier-General.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read the 10th.]

Head-Quarters, Trenton Falls, 9th December, 1776.

SIR: I did myself the honour of writing to you yesterday, and informing you that I had removed the troops to this side of the *Delaware* soon after the enemy made their appearance, and their van entered just as our rear-guard quitted. We had removed all our stores, except a few boards. From the best information, they are in two bodies, one at and near *Trenton*, the other some miles higher up, and inclining towards *Delaware;* but whether with intent to cross there, or throw themselves between General *Lee* and me, is yet uncertain.

I have this morning detached Lord *Stirling*, with his brigade, to take post at the different landing-places, and prevent them from stealing a march upon us from above; for I am informed if they cross at *Coriel's Ferry*, or thereabout, they are as near to *Philadelphia* as we are here.

From several accounts I am led to think that the enemy are bringing boats with them. If so, it will be impossible for our small force to give them any considerable opposition in the passage of the river; indeed, they make a feint at one place, and by a sudden removal carry their boats higher or lower, before we can bring our cannon to play upon them.

Under these circumstances, the security of *Philadelphia* should be our next object. From my own remembrance, but more from information, (for I never viewed the ground,) I should think that a communication of lines and redoubts might soon be formed from the *Delaware* to the *Schuylkill*, on the north entrance of the city; the lines to begin on the *Schuylkill* side, about the heights of *Springatsbury*, and run eastward to *Delaware*, upon the most advantageous and commanding grounds. If something of this kind is not done, the enemy might, in case any misfortune should befall us, march directly in and take possession. We have ever found that lines, however slight, are very formidable to them. They would at least give a check till people could recover of the fright and consternation that naturally attends the first appearance of an enemy. In the mean time, every step should be taken to collect force, not only from *Pennsylvania*, but from the most neighbourly States. If we keep the enemy from entering *Philadelphia*, and keep the communication by water open for supplies, we may yet make a stand, if the country will come to our assistance till our new levies can be collected.

If the measure of fortifying the city should be adopted, some skillful person should immediately view the grounds, and begin to trace out the lines and works. I am informed there is a *French* Engineer of eminence in *Philadelphia* at this time. If so, he will be the most proper.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

P. S. I have just received the enclosed from General *Heath*. General *Mifflin* is this moment come up, and tells me that all the military stores yet remain in *Philadelphia*. This makes the immediate fortifying of the city so necessary, that I have desired General *Mifflin* to return to take charge of the stores, and have ordered Major-General *Putnam* immediately down to superintend the works, and give the necessary directions. G. W.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Chatham, December ye 9th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I am very much obliged to you for your welcome tidings, and have only to beg that you will direct the regiments you speak of to march without loss of time to *Morris-Town*. I sent an express to you last night from the General, ordering your division over the river, which, I confess for my own part, I am heartily sorry for, as I think we shall be strong enough without you, and *New-England*, with your district, will be too bare of troops. I am in hopes here to reconquer (if I may so express myself) the *Jerseys*. It was really in the hands of the enemy before my arrival.

Adieu, dear sir, CHARLES LEE.

To Major-General *Heath, Peekskill.*

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TIMOTHY PARKER AND OTHERS (PRISONERS) TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Whitby Prison-Ship, New York, 9th December, 1776.

SIR: I make no doubt but your Honour long before this hath been apprised of our being prisoners in *New-York*. That our present situation is most wretched, your Honour need not doubt, which I likewise hope you will soon be assured of from men of undoubted veracity. There are more than two hundred and fifty prisoners of us on board this ship, (some of which are sick, and without the least assistance from physician, drug, or medicine,) all fed on two-thirds allowance of salt provisions, and all crowded promiscuously together, without distinction or respect to person, office, or colour, in the small room of a ship's between-decks; allowed only to walk the main deck from about sunrising till sunset, at which time we are ordered below deck, and suffered only two at once to come on deck

to do what nature requires, and sometimes we have been even denied that, and been obliged to make use of tubs and buckets below deck, to the great offence of every delicate, cleanly person, as well as to great prejudice of all our healths.

These, sir, with many other miserable circumstances too lengthy and tedious to enumerate, are the just portrait of our present situation. In short, sir, we have no prospect before our eyes but a kind of lingering inevitable death, unless we obtain a timely and seasonable release.

From your Honour's well-known character of humanity and justice, we humbly hope that your authority will be exercised in procuring us an exchange. As Lord *Howe* hath set at liberty all his prisoners taken in the merchant service, but refuseth (as we hear) to exchange those taken under arms but by a like number taken in arms also; therefore, from your Honour's clemency, candour, and benevolence, we cannot but hope and expect (as we were in the service of our country, and cannot be deemed as from a common privateer) that such an exchange will be put forward, and in due time accomplished, if possible. In the mean time we rest in confidence that your authority and influence will be exerted in our behalf; and beg leave, with the utmost respect, to subscribe ourselves your Honour's most obedient, humble servants,

| | |
|---|---|
| Tim'y Parker, | William Swan, |
| William Davall, Jun., | Thomas Coffin, |
| John Tucker, | Joseph Holly. |

To the Honourable *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq.

These belong to the schooner *Spy*, and were taken in the ship *Hope*. They are now prisoners with me; the others I suppose to be on board some of the men-of-war, but what ships or where I cannot tell.

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COLONEL MALCOM TO GENERAL HEATH.

Niack, December 9th, 1776.

Sir: I had the honour to write you a few lines on *Saturday*. A few hours thereafter, I was alarmed by repeated expresses, with accounts that a large body of the enemy were advancing within about three miles to cut off my detachment. I formed, and took post in the gorge of the mountains, the field-pieces in the road, and the wings of my little party extended to the heights on each side. Under this disposition, I ventured out three small scouts to give me timely notice of their approach; however, they returned, after the notable exploit of cutting down a liberty pole at *Toppan*, making prisoner the father of one of my Lieutenants, and stealing a horse and two oxen. Yesterday I marched a party within three miles of the new bridge, at *Hackensack*, raised a terrible uproar among the Tories as well as in the enemy's little camp. They abandoned their houses and guard-houses as the party advanced; however, one was not so light-footed as his companions, and got taken. His name is *Pierson*, an arch Tory, and was with the party who came up on *Saturday*. I have sent him and the negro to Colonel *Hay's*, to wait your orders. My men seem to expect something to fall to them out of the value of the *Ethiopian*. If they should be destined for *Fishkill*, Colonel *Hay* can send them over very speedily.

The fleet is gone down last night, so that I shall be of little use here. I have some thoughts of moving up to *Clerktown* to-day. If your Honour should think fit to reinforce me, I would move downward; but dare not, (to make a road,) with my present force. I have harassed them so much that I have some doubts whether they will not endeavour to rout me, which they have threatened several days past. The country in general appears to be against us, either through fear or inclination, and I can get no intelligence upon which I can depend. I shall follow your Honour's orders; and am, with due respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. Malcom.

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GENERAL M'DOUGALL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Haverstraw, 9th December, 1776.

Dear General: The rheumatism has detained me here, but I am now in a fair way to get rid of it. I have taken the liberty to direct a letter to your care, for my son-in-law, *Jno. Lawrence*, which I beg you to take care of till he calls for it. Small parties of the enemy, with some Tories, have lately made incursions into *Orange-Town*, and plundered the friends of the country, and disarmed them. This practice will in all probability continue, to the great distress of the County, if some means of relief is not afforded to them. But the mischief will not end here; for the inhabitants, finding themselves stripped of their property, without any prospect of protection, will become discouraged, and yield themselves up to our common enemy for that protection which we don't afford them; and its to be feared the southernmost part of this County will be reduced to take the same disagreeable relief. It is therefore of the utmost importance that a Field-Officer's command should take post down there, to cover the country until the Congress of this State can devise some means to relieve them; and there is none what can give the necessary succour now but you.

I have taken the liberty to mention the state of this part of the County to you, from a regard to the service; and doubt not you will do every thing in your power for it. I hope you will excuse this liberty; and believe me to be, with great respect, dear General, your very humble servant,

Alex. McDougall.

To Major-General *Heath*, at *Peekskill*.

P. S. For particulars I refer you to the bearer.

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ORDERS TO GENERAL PARSONS.

Peekskill, December 9th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have this moment received orders from General *Washington* to move over the *North River* with the Continental troops under my command, to wit: your brigade. You will therefore immediately give orders to *Prescott's*, *Ward's*, and *Wylly's* regiments, to be ready to march to-morrow, at ten o'clock; tents, kettles, and light baggage only to be carried. The heavy baggage to be left with the men who are unfit for duty. Four days' provisions to be taken. Hard biscuit may be drawn.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

W. Heath, *Major-General*.

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CHAIN ACROSS THE NORTH RIVER.

Fort Montgomery, December 9th, 1776.

These are to certify, that the chain that has been stretched across the *North River*, at this fort, has been broken twice; the first a swivel broke, which came from *Ticonderoga*, which was not welded sound. The second time a clevin broke, which was made at *Poughkeepsie*, in a solid part of the clevin, and no flaw to be seen in any part of said chain; which we do certify at the request of Messrs. *Odle* and *Vanduzer*.

James Clinton, *Brigadier-General*,
Abram Swartwout, *Captain*,
Ja. Rosekrans, *Captain*,
Dan'l Lawrence, *Lieutenant*.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO EZEKIEL HAWLEY.

Fishkills, 9 December, 1776.

Sir: Your favour of the 6th instant has this day been laid before the Committee of Safety. I am directed to acquaint you that they highly approve of the conduct of the Committee of *Salem*, and of the prudent measures they have taken to ascertain and secure from waste and embezzlement the property of the disaffected, who have joined the enemy. They request that you will continue your care of those effects, allowing a provision for the families who are left behind. The Convention have under consideration a report for the security and disposal of all effects under the like circumstances. It will not be long before you shall be furnished with these regulations.

I am, &c.,

Pierre Van Cortlandt, *Vice President*.

Mr. *Ezekiel Hawley*, Chairman of the Committee of *Salem*.

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JOHN HULBERT TO THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Fishkill, December 9th, 1776.

Gentlemen: I have not the opportunity of returning you my thanks for the honour done me in my appointment by

waiting upon your Committee, but take this method to acknowledge the favour; at the same time am under the necessity of informing you that it is not in my power to serve, consistent with other affairs that interfere, not from any dislike to the service. Gentlemen, I would presume to recommend *Benj'n Marvin* as an officer of merit, if any vacancy for an officer of his rank should offer. He has served as a First Lieutenant in Captain *Griffin's* company the last two campaigns, one of which I was with him, and well acquainted with his conduct.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

JOHN HULBERT.

To the Committee of Arrangement.

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NATHANIEL HAZARD TO THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Fishkill, 9th December, 1776.

Mr. *Hobart* desired me at *Fairfield* to inform Mr. *Duane* or Mr. *Duer* that he had taken the liberty to open a letter from the Committee of Arrangement appointing *John Grenell* a Captain, who, he said, was at *Providence;* and he was so confident Mr. *Grenell* would decline, (as he resigned a company of Artillery,) that he begged the commission might not be kept vacant, and begged to recommend Captain *Nathaniel Platt*, who served in Colonel *Smith's* regiment, as an excellent officer.

NATH'L HAZARD.

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MATTHEW ADGATE TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE LEAD MINE.

Fishkill, 9th December, 1776.

SIR: *John McDonald* has reported the state he finds the lead mine in the *Great Nine Partners*, in his further exploring said mine, on which the Committee appointed to superintend that business have resolved not to prosecute the exploring of said mine any farther at present, and accordingly have settled with Mr. *McDonald*. We must desire you to take charge of the leaden ore dug from said mine until it shall be determined what to do with it. Mr. *McDonald* handed to the Committee your account for superintending at said mine; and as the account is without your signature, thereby prevents our being able to pass it. We trust you will not impute this to any want in us of serving you, as all our accounts must be so vouched as to stand fair with the publick. On receiving it properly vouched with your signature, we will endeavour to get it allowed, and pay it to you or your order.

We are, with respect, sir, your very humble servant,

MAT. ADGATE, *Chairman.*

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TEMPERANCE COOK TO CAPTAIN PLATT.

December 9th, 1776.

SIR: I received a letter from the Doctor, requesting the favour of Captain *Platt* to use his influence towards procuring him an appointment in one of the four regiments in our Province to be raised during the war. He was not informed who are our present members of Congress, or he would have wrote on that head to you. The Doctor gives his best regards to Captain *Platt*.

From your friend, TEMPERANCE COOK.

To Captain *Platt*, *Fishkills*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *December* 9th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Williams*, *William Hillhouse*, *Nathaniel Wales*, Jr., *Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

On receiving intelligence that a large Fleet of *British* men-of-war and transports are pushing up *Narragansett Bay*, and towards *Newport* and *Providence*, orders were given to the Eastern Regiments to make ready, and march into the State of *Rhode-Island*, to the defence of the country against any depredations from said Fleet.

Colonel *Henry Champion* was sent for, and directed to make provision for the support of the Troops now to march into the State of *Rhode-Island*.

Colonel *Elderkin* and Lieutenant-Colonel *Storrs*, not being in suitable circumstances to march with the Fifth Regiment in the present emergency, the command of said Regiment was, by his Honour and this Council, given to Major *Brown* for the present emergency.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Lebanon, 9th December.

SIR: This morning received your favour of the 6th. The fleet you mention appeared off the harbour of *New-London* the 5th instant. The 7th instant Governour *Cooke* informs that upwards of one hundred sail of men-of-war and transports have entered *Narraganset Bay*, and were steering directly for *Providence*. When they were seen they were between *Canonicot* and the main. Besides these, thirty sail were seen coming into *Newport* harbour.

Our eastward Militia are ordered to their aid. I could wish you had given me intelligence concerning our Army in *New-Jersey*.

I am, with esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH TRUMBULL.

Major-General *Heath*.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Lebanon, December 9, 1776.

SIR: Is *America* to be lost? Is she to fall a victim to the rage of a lawless tyrant? Is *New-England*, that once happy land of civil and religious liberty, dearly purchased by the blood of our worthy ancestors, and for a long time continued under the smiles of Divine Providence, by their prudence, valour, and virtue, to be subjected to the worst of slavery? God Almighty forbid. What means that languor, inertion, and dispiritedness, that seems to overwhelm the *New-England* States? Our Army to the westward naked and barefoot, fleeing before the enemy, the last we hear as far as *Trenton*; a fleet of the enemy, of upwards of one hundred sail, pushing up *Narraganset Bay*, and no doubt a large land force on board, to get footing in that quarter. We have the strongest intimations, from General *Lee* and others, besides the same demonstrations in our own breasts, that unless the *New-England* Colonies renew their exertions by redoubled vigour, all is lost. A most melancholy prospect indeed! We may reflect on our past errours to no other valuable purpose but to steer our course with greater propriety for the future. We now see our errours in inlisting our forces or detaching them for so short a time, to have so many thousands drawing off from our Army in the very crisis of the season, since which, the enemy have continually drove and dispersed our thus mutilated Army. We were unhappy in your not consulting us, nor so much as directing your Committee, sent with your proposals for raising a new Army, to call upon us, though our Assembly was then sitting at *New-Haven*, whereby our counsels are divided, our modes and encouragement for raising a new army not only diverse from the General Congress, but from one another, whereby the whole plan of raising our army, if not confounded, yet we fear almost fatally delayed.

We have accounts in the publick papers that large quantities of clothing and shoes have been taken from the enemy and brought into your State and *Rhode-Island*. Have, or must not, our destitute Army be immediately supplied with them?

It is now but a very few days before the time of the inlistment of our present Army is expired. We are in this State raising four battalions, with all speed, to supply the deficiencies in the inlistments in the new Army, until the 15th of *March* next. For the encouragement for the new, it readily occurred to us that difficulties would arise in putting the same army on different pay; we have therefore, besides the Continental encouragements, undertaken to supply those who shall be raised from this State with all necessaries, besides their rations, at the first cost here, free from the charge of transportation; and that the price may not be extravagant, we have stated the price of the most necessary articles, viz: wheat not to exceed six shillings per bushel; rye three shillings six pence; Indian corn not to exceed three shillings; *West-India* rum of merchantable proof not to exceed six shillings per gallon per hogshead; *New-England* rum three shillings six pence; molasses three shillings; *Muscovado* sugar of the best quality not to exceed three pounds per

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hundred per hogshead; pork from three pence one farthing to three pence three farthings; best grass-fed beef not to exceed twenty-four shillings per hundred; butter ten pence; cheese six pence; other articles in proportion. This is done not only to convince the soldiers that while they are fighting for the country, they and their families may not at the same time be ruined by the extravagant demands of the people, and further, to check that fatal excess that seemed to prevail among almost all ranks in this time of general calamity and distress, and that overbearing oppression, so hateful to God Almighty, as well as ruinous and destructive to all civil communities. How far your leading State will see the prudence of those measures and coöperate with us therein, we must leave to your wisdom and good discretion. This we are convinced, that it is high time for us to awake out of our sleep and security, and for publick bodies to endeavour, by precept and every exertion, to bring about a general reformation in the people, to suppress every licentious oppressive spirit, and while God's judgments are abroad in the land, threatening indeed, the inhabitants thereof may learn righteousness.

When we had an intimation from you a few weeks past for Commissioners from the *New-England* States to meet at *Providence*, to confer on the affair of our currency, it was then thought, for prudential reasons given you in answer then, to decline; but I beg leave to suggest whether, in the present aspect of affairs, our main army drove to the southward, the communication being greatly interrupted and in danger of being totally obstructed between the Southern and *New-England* Colonies, whether it will not be best, as soon as the enemy are retired into winter quarters, for the *New-England* States to meet by their Commissioners to consult on the great affairs of our safety, and of counteracting the enemy in their future operations. We have a hint of this in a late letter from General *Lee*. We hope we shall soon hear from you on this subject. May God Almighty give us a spirit of wisdom, fortitude, and resolution, in this evil day; and as the day is so may our strength be; but every means and exertion must be used. Will it not be well to call for town meetings in every town, endeavour to inspirit the people, know their sentiments in the present days, whether they will yield up their lives and properties and sacred liberties to the imperious demands of *Britons*, and submit to that base, ignominious yoke of slavery, from which, perhaps, it will never be in their power to emerge; or will they, looking to the God of armies for help, and his blessing on their utmost exertions, stand forth in the cause of their country, and engage in the glorious struggle? If the latter should happily be their choice, it would give an encouraging presage that God Almighty will yet save his people from utter ruin and destruction, and not suffer our merciless enemy any longer to triumph over us.

I am, with great esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

JON'TH TRUMBULL.

Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq., President of the Council in *Massachusetts* State.

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PAROLE OF DANIEL KISSAM AND FOURTEEN OTHERS.

We, the subscribers, do hereby severally and respectively promise and engage to the Governour of the State of *Connecticut*, on the faith and honour of gentlemen, that we will neither of us give notice or intelligence to the enemy of the *United States of America*, nor hold any inimical correspondence with them; that we will not take up or bear arms against the *United States of America*, nor act an offensive part against them, or either of them, but to conduct peaceably and quietly with respect to the present contest and troubles, and return back to this State when required by the Governour.

As witness our hands, this ninth day of *December*, A. D. 1776.

DAN'L KISSAM, Jun.,
A. SEABURY,
DAVID BROOKS,
CHARLES HICKS,
WHITEHEAD CRONWELL,
CHAS. NICOLL,
JOHN CHAVE,
THOMAS JONES,
JOHN WILLETT,
AUG. N. HORNE,
JOSEPH GRESWOLD,
BENJ'N HOWLOTT,
DAVID BATTY,
WILLIAM THORNE,
ISAAC SMITH.

COLONEL LIVINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

New-Haven, 9th December, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR: The Convention of the State of *New-York* having required the arms taken on *Long-Island* to be sent immediately to them at *Fishkill*, part of those arms, if your Honour remembers, were, on your order, delivered out to Colonel *Coit's* regiment, with this proviso, that the arms should be returned on demand, as the want of them in the State of *New-York* was great, and they could in no way be supplied for the value affixed to them, owing to great want of judgment in the appraisers. The arms, when lent, were quite complete, cartouch-boxes, and bayonets, belts, &c.

As those arms were only a loan, I would be extremely obliged to your Honour if you would order those arms to be collected and delivered to the bearer, Captain *Plat*, who will take care to forward them to our State.

A list of the above arms are deposited in his hands, of which a duplicate was delivered your Honour.

I am, sir, your Honour's obedient humble servant,

HENRY B. LIVINGSTON,
*Colonel Fourth Regiment.*

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*An Account of the Arms and Ammunition brought off from the east end of* LONG-ISLAND *by Colonel* HENRY B. LIVINGSTON, *and delivered by his order to Captain* NATH'L PLATT, *the 9th December*, 1776, *agreeable to the directions of a Committee of the Convention of the State of* NEW-YORK, *numbered and valued by us.*

THOMAS TREDWELL,
DANIEL ROE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. 1, valued at $8 | No. 28, valued at $4 | No. 55, valued at $3 |
| No. 2....do.... 5 | No. 29....do.... 5 | No. 56....do.... 3 |
| No. 3....do.... 4 | No. 30....do.... 4 | No. 57....do.... 2 |
| No. 4....do.... 5 | No. 31....do.... 4 | No. 58....do.... 3 |
| No. 5....do.... 4 | No. 32....do.... 4 | No. 59....do.... 4 |
| No. 6....do.... 4 | No. 33....do.... 3 | No. 60....do.... 3 |
| No. 7....do.... 4 | No. 34....do.... 4 | No. 61....do.... 3 |
| No. 8....do.... 4 | No. 35....do.... 2 | No. 62....do.... 2 |
| No. 9....do.... 3 | No. 36....do.... 4 | No. 63....do.... 4 |
| No. 10....do.... 4 | No. 37....do.... 3 | No. 64....do.... 3 |
| No. 11....do.... 3 | No. 38....do.... 5 | No. 65....do.... 3 |
| No. 12....do.... 3 | No. 39....do.... 4 | No. 66....do.... 3 |
| No. 13....do.... 2 | No. 40....do.... 4 | No. 67....do.... 2 |
| No. 14....do.... 4 | No. 41....do.... 2 | No. 68....do.... 3 |
| No. 15....do.... 3 | No. 42....do.... 3 | No. 69....do.... 3 |
| No. 16....do.... 2 | No. 43....do.... 3 | No. 70....do.... 3 |
| No. 17....do.... 3 | No. 44....do.... 3 | No. 71....do.... 3 |
| No. 18....do.... 3 | No. 45....do.... 4 | No. 72....do.... 3 |
| No. 19....do.... 2 | No. 46....do.... 2 | No. 73....do.... 3 |
| No. 20....do.... 3 | No. 47....do.... 3 | 33 bayonets at 8s. |
| No. 21....do.... 4 | No. 48....do.... 3 | each.....$33 |
| No. 22....do.... 2 | No. 49....do.... 3 | 9 swords at 8s... 9 |
| No. 23....do.... 3 | No. 50....do.... 3 | 6 cartouch boxes |
| No. 24....do.... 4 | No. 51....do.... 4 | at 8s..... 6 |
| No. 25....do.... 3 | No. 52....do.... 4 | 3 quarter casks of |
| No. 26....do.... 3 | No. 53....do.... 2 | powder. |
| No. 27....do.... 1 | No. 54....do.... 3 | 2½ boxes of ball. |

*New-Haven, December* 10th, 1776.—Received the above articles of Colonel *Henry B. Livingston*, by the hand of Captain *John Davis*.

Pr. NATH'L PLATT.

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Received, *New-Haven, December* 10th, 1776, of Captain *Henry B. Livingston*, by the hands of Captain *John Davis*, 28 guns, 33 bayonets, 33 cartridge-boxes, 8 cutlasses, one large box of bullets, 4 or 500 wt., part of another box which were taken from the Tories on *Long-Island*.

Per me: NATHANIEL PLATT.

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*A Return of Arms, Ammunition, &c., taken on board of the sloop.*

| Guns. | Bayonets. | Cartouch boxes. | Swords. | Boxes of bullets. | Packs of oz. ball. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 84 | 46 | 22 | 12 | 1<br>1<br>1<br>1 No. 21<br>1 No. 23<br>1 No. 26 | 75<br>65<br>72<br>49<br>78<br>57 | 1 cask of loose cartridges, quantity unknown.<br>3 small casks powder.<br>3 boxes and 1 small bag of ball. |
| 84 | 46 | 22 | 12 | 6 | 396 | Total. |

New-Haven, November 9th, 1776.

In Congress, December 21st, 1776.

*Resolved*, That Officers of Troops raised for three years or during the war, receive pay on the new establishment from the time of their being appointed by their respective States, in consequence of the Resolution of Congress passed the 16th of *September* last.

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COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO CAPTAIN TRACY.

Norwich, December 9th, 1776.

Sir: Whereas Governour *Trumbull* has received application from Governour *Cooke*, of *Providence*, to afford what aid he can from this State to repel the enemy now pushing their fleet up *Providence* bay, and thereupon has ordered some of the eastern regiments of this State to march immediately to *Providence*, for their assistance, and directed me to send forward some ammunition, &c., and to appoint some proper person to proceed forward to issue the same to our Militia that shall march on this occasion: I have accordingly sent forward to Captain *Eaton's*, in *Plainfield*, one load of powder, ball, and flints, as per invoice delivered you; have ordered two loads of salt pork to be carried and delivered you at said *Eaton's*. There is thirty barrels of flour at , in *Voluntown*, which would have you take and improve for said Militia. Further provision will be ordered per Governour *Trumbull*, as shall be necessary. As soon as you arrive at *Plainfield*, leave word at *Eaton's* that these articles are coming on from *Norwich*, then proceed to *Voluntown*, and find the state of that flour, and if by any means not to be found, send a post immediately to *Andrew Huntington*, of *Norwich*, to send on flour from here. When at *Voluntown*, send on a post to *Providence*, to Governour *Cooke*, to let him know you are attending this business at *Plainfield*, and know of him the state of the enemy, where our Militia are to rendezvous, what provision of barracks or tents and cooking utensils are provided for them, and acquaint Governour *Trumbull* accordingly. Deliver out the above stores to the Militia in a prudent manner, taking into your assistance what help you have occasion for to execute the same, and keep proper accounts of your proceedings, and advise Governour *Trumbull* how you succeed, and observe such further directions as shall be given.

Given under my hand, in *Norwich*, this 9th day of *December*, 1776.

Jz. Huntington.

To Captain *Jared Tracy*, of *Norwich*.

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LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CLINTON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAINE.

Newport, Rhode-Island, December 9, 1776.

My Lord: Having received General *Howe's* order to embark with two brigades of *British* and two brigades of *Hessian* troops, and, in conjunction with Commodore Sir *Peter Parker's* fleet, to make a descent upon this island, in the most effectual manner for the full possession of it, and for the security of the town and harbour, we sailed from *New-York* on the first of *December*, and arrived at *Weever's Bay*, on the west side of this island, on the evening of the 7th following. On the 8th, at daybreak, the Commodore having made such a disposition of the fleet as he thought proper to cover the landing of the troops, they disembarked at the above-mentioned bay without the least opposition; when, being informed that the Rebels had quitted the works in and about the town of *Newport*, and were retiring towards *Bristol Ferry*, I detached Major-General *Prescott* with the Grenadiers and Light-Infantry, to intercept them, sustaining him with a body of troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Earl *Percy*. Major-General *Prescott* took two pieces of cannon, a few prisoners, and obliged them to quit their fort on this side the ferry, and retire to the continent; I likewise sent a battalion to take possession of *Newport*, the capital of the island, in which were found some cannon and stores, which the Rebels in their sudden retreat had left behind them.

I shall, as soon as possible, send troops to the island of *Conanicut* and *Prudence*, and occupy such other posts as may be necessary for the security of the harbour.

Having had it in command from General *Howe* to give your Lordship the earliest intelligence of the success of his Majesty's troops, I have the honour to transmit this to your Lordship by Captain *Drummond*, one of my Aids-de-camp, to whom I beg leave to refer your Lordship for any particulars which you may wish to be informed of.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

H. Clinton.

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JOHN AVERY TO COMMITTEE OF DARTMOUTH.

In Council, December 9th, 1776.

Gentlemen: The honourable Board being apprehensive that the military stores in your town, the property of the Continental Congress, which were brought into your port by a vessel from *France*, are in danger, have directed me to acquaint you that if *John Bradford*, Esq., Continental agent, should direct the removal of them into some interior part of the country, that you would give him every needed assistance. The enemy being in your neighbourhood, makes it expedient that you should assist said *John Bradford*, Esq., without delay, or immediately to follow the directions he shall give you relative to their removal.

John Avery, *Deputy Secretary*.

To the Committee of Safety in *Dartmouth*.

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MAJOR LITHGOW TO JOHN AVERY.

Boston, 9th December, 1776.

Sir: Being informed that you wrote me some time since on the subject of my appointment to a Majority in one of the new regiments now raising in this State, on the Continental establishment, under the command of Colonel *Ebenezer Francis*, which I had not the honour to receive, and as it is my opinion that no private or interested views are a sufficient apology, at this critical and important day, to decline the service of our oppressed, insulted country, I take this method to express my gratitude for the honour done me, and also to signify to the honourable Board, though not without the most humiliating sense of my own inexperience and want of military knowledge, my cheerful acceptance of the appointment, however repugnant it may be to my private advantage or emolument.

I have the honour to be, with the most profound respect, your Honour's very humble servant,

William Lithgow, Jun.

To the Secretary of the honourable Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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MAJOR BULLARD TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

*To the honourable Council of the State of the* Massachusetts-Bay:

The following humbly sheweth: That the subscriber having received a handbill from the Governour of *Rhode-Island* yesterday morning, representing that the town of *Providence* was in the utmost danger of being attacked by the enemy, I immediately alarmed the town of *Walpole*, and ordered every able-bodied man, except the quarter part that was drafted to reinforce the army near *New-York*, to be ready to march, equipped with arms, &c., and four days' provisions, by one o'clock in the afternoon; but before that time I received verbal orders from Major *Metcalf*, to meet him with the men from *Walpole*, at *Cumberland*, in order to join the regiment, as he had sent the like orders to the rest of the towns in the regiment. After finding that Major *Metcalf* was able to take the command of the regiment, I thought it was not so proper for me to go with the regiment to *Providence*, as I was appointed to go with the detachment that was drafted for *New-York*, but be preparing for that march; I accordingly ordered the men to march yesterday about two o'clock for *Cumberland*, in order to join the regiment. About ten o'clock last evening I received an express from the honourable Board with orders to march the Fourth Regiment to *Providence*, except the quarter part as before mentioned; but as Major *Metcalf* had already marched with the regiment, I thought it was not prudent for me to follow after, for the reasons already mentioned; however, lest Major *Metcalf* had taken some of the drafted men with him, I immediately forwarded the express to him, that he might govern himself accordingly. I have also sent to the Selectmen of the several towns in the regiment, to follow their men with the necessary supplies, according to law. If I should be so happy as to meet with the approba-

tion of the honourable Board, it will afford much satisfaction.

I am, with all proper regards, your Honours' and the State's humble servant,

SETH BULLARD,
*Second Major of Fourth Regiment.*

Walpole, December 9th, 1776.

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C. BEATTY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Frederick Town, December 10th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The bearer hereof, Mr. *Boon*, the overseer of the gunlock factory, waits on you in order to get some money to enable him to carry on the factory, for it cannot be supported any longer without.

Mr. *Hanson*, who keeps the books, is not at home, so that I cannot get to see them, in order to draw for the money the factory is entitled to; but I am clearly satisfied that it must be about four hundred dollars, by the accounts rendered, and the locks now in the factory; which sum please to forward by Mr. *Boon*. We have now in the factory one hundred and fifty-six locks, completely finished, as will appear by the enclosed certificate. For nearly two months past I was compelled to take money on interest to support the factory, or let the hands go idle. It is not in my power to borrow any more for that purpose here. Pray don't fail sending the money, or I shall be compelled to sell locks to pay the money that I have taken up, and let the servants shift for themselves, which will be a great loss to the publick.

I am, gentlemen, your ready friend and well-wisher,

C. BEATTY.

The Honourable Council of Safety, *Maryland*.

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ROBERT CHRISTIE, JUN., TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.

December 10, 1776.

SIR: On *Wednesday* night I was served by a Mr. *Hopkins* with a written paper, of which the following is a copy:

"Your conduct has been such in this State during our struggle for liberty, that we are at this present moment determined that unless you leave the town instantly, and the State within six days, your life shall be sacrificed by an injured people. LEGION."

Directed to *Robert Christie*.

Soon after the receipt of this paper, *Hugh Scott* and myself went into a room at *Grant's*, and told the people we should leave town in the morning; but this was refused, and we obliged to take our horses and leave town at eleven o'clock at night. We inquired what we had done to merit such treatment, but no reasons were given. The only thing which can be laid to my charge is the not having taken up arms; and I defy any man to say (at least to prove) that I have, directly or indirectly, done any thing in opposition to, or to the prejudice of, the present measures. Besides, if I had been ever so criminal, I surely was entitled to a hearing before condemnation.

It may be necessary to inform your Board of some of the persons who were present at this extraordinary transaction: Commodore *Nicholson*, Lieutenant *Aquila Johns*, Captain *John Martin*, of the armed brig, (a very busy man,) *David Stewart*, *Daniel Bowly*, *Charles Ridgely*, (son of *John*,) *William Hammond*, *John McLure*, *Barnet Eichelberger*, Doctor *Baird*, Doctor *Swoope*, *Nicholas Norwood*, *Thomas Elliot*, tavern-keeper, *Fell's Point*, (who I thought seemed to assume some command,) *James Cox*, and *John McLellan*, members of the Committee, and one *Poe*, a wheelwright, (who seemed at the head of the lower class,) composed this body, or at least such part of it as I can at present remember. In justice to Commodore *Nicholson*, I must observe that he declared in my presence his sole reason for coming there was to prevent injury to our persons, and he actually forbid the people from insulting us when we went out to mount our horses.

My chief reason for troubling you is, that *Baltimore* County is deprived of a Sheriff by my expulsion, and there is a considerable number of prisoners confined in jail, who must be supplied with provisions; therefore you will take such steps as you may judge proper on this occasion. After such unmerited treatment as I have experienced, I cannot again trust myself in *Baltimore*, nor will I come there till times alter. Since I left town it has been reported that I went off in debt to the County, which is a scandalous falsehood. On the contrary, I am considerably in advance for the year 1775; and although I cannot exactly say how the account stands for 1776, yet I am perfectly certain, after deducting my own claim against the County, which was allowed last Levy Court, I have paid away more than I have received. I shall appoint a person of character and property to transact the collection business during my absence, with directions to pay off the publick creditors as fast as he receives the money.

I sincerely wish peace and prosperity to the Province of *Maryland*; and am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Jun.

To the Hon. *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*.

I am told Captain *Nathaniel Smith*, *Robert Buchanan*, and *John McHenry*, were all of the party.

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN J. PAUL JONES.

In Marine Committee, Philadelphia, December 10th, 1776.

SIR: We expect this will find the ship under your command in readiness for service, and therefore you are hereby directed to proceed to sea with all possible despatch, and in a cruise of six weeks or two months to intercept as many of the store-ships and supply vessels going to the enemy at *New-York* as you may fall in with. You will in this cruise do as much injury to the enemy and service to the *United States* as it may be in your power to accomplish. When this cruise is finished, you will return to the most convenient port in the *United States*; and if no further orders are there lodged for you from this Board, you will proceed on a new cruise for the purpose above mentioned.

We are persuaded it is not necessary to recommend to you the practice of humanity to those whom the fortune of war may make your prisoners. We expect to hear from you by every opportunity; and wishing you success, we are, sir, your humble servants,

ROB'T MORRIS, RICHARD HENRY LEE,
FRANCIS LEWIS, WILLIAM ELLERY.
WILLIAM WHIPPLE,

To Captain *John Paul Jones*.

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GEORGIA DELEGATES TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

10th December, 1776.

SIR: We have received accounts of our reappointment to represent the State of *Georgia* in Congress, and will be ready to take our seats in a day or two. In the mean time we request an order on the Treasury for two thousand dollars, on account of the State we are appointed to represent.

We are, sir, your most obedient servants,

LYMAN HALL,
GEORGE WALTON.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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WILLIAM ELLERY TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Philadelphia, December 10th, 1776.

SIR: Since the enemy took possession of *Fort Lee*, General *Washington*, with the division under his immediate command, hath been constantly retreating, until they have at length passed the *Delaware*, and I suppose mean to make a stand on the banks of the river, opposite to *Trenton*. To prevent their being hemmed in at *Hackinsack*, they passed the river of that name, and the river *Pasaick*, and retired to *Newark*. The enemy advanced, and upon their approach our Army, being insufficient to withstand them, retreated to *Woodbridge*; the enemy followed. From thence our Army marched to *Brunswick*; the *British* Army soon appeared on the side of the *Rariton*, opposite to that town. A cannonade ensued, but without any hurt on either side, saving the killing of an *Hessian* officer by one of our cannon shot. As the river is fordable, it would not do to continue there. Our troops decamped, and marched to *Prince-Town*, where General *Washington* left a body of twelve hundred men, under Lord *Stirling*, and with the rest moved to *Trenton*, and sent over the *Delaware* his principal stores, to secure them from the enemy. After this was effected, he sent a reinforcement to Lord *Stirling*; and hoping that he should be joined by the Militia of the *Jersey* and this State, and

by General *Lee*, who, it was said, with his division, had passed the *North River*, and was advancing to join him, intending to make a stand at *Prince-Town*; but by a strange dilatoriness, and the confusion which took place in the *Jersey* on the enemy's penetrating their State, and the lukewarmness (not to give it a worse name) of this, the enemy had approached *Prince-Town* before a sufficient number of Militia from these States had joined General *Washington* to enable him to make an effectual stand there; he therefore retreated to *Trenton*, and crossed the river with his Army last *Saturday* night. On *Sunday* the enemy appeared at *Trenton*, and a cannonade ensued as at *Brunswick*. Yesterday, Generals *Putnam* and *Mifflin* came to town, and inform that the enemy had disappeared from *Trenton*, but they could not tell whither they were gone. I imagine we shall soon see them in that part of the *Jersey* opposite the city, and perhaps hear the thunder of their cannon and mortars, and feel the effects of shot and bombs. We don't hear of a fleet yet in the Delaware, which I have for some time expected. I imagine the enemy durst not venture it, for fear they shall have ice as well as chevaux-de-frise to encounter.

I hope we shall be able to keep them out of this State; and we should be able to do it, if the country would exert themselves with a tenth part of the spirit which the city hath manifested on this occasion, or if General *Lee* should join General *Washington* with five or six thousand men, which I most devoutly wish for and expect. Where he is, or what delays his coming, is unknown. I find, by a private letter from *Newport*, (for I have had intelligence of a higher nature for a long time,) that General *Lee* had wrote to our State that he thought that the embarkation at *New-York* was intended for *Rhode-Island*, and that this intelligence had thrown the town of *Newport* into great confusion, and that the inhabitants were all upon the wing. We have heard of transports being prepared to receive troops various ways, and for six weeks past, and that sometimes troops were really embarked, and sometimes that they have sailed for *South-Carolina* or *Rhode-Island*; but I can't find that they have ever embarked any troops, nor do I think they will, for either of these places, while they pursue such high game, and mean to secure the posts and places they have and may possess. They have not men enough to spare at present, nor do I think they will have them this winter, for any distant expedition. However, as I have often said, it is wise and prudent to be on our guard.

Captain *Garzia*, who will hand you this letter, cannot wait a moment longer, which obliges me to close abruptly.

I am, with great respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

WM. ELLERY.

*Nicholas Cooke*, Esq.

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### DONALD CAMPBELL TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Philadelphia, 10th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The critical situation of this town makes it necessary for me to receive your directions for the preservation of the publick accounts of the campaign 1775 in *Canada*, being ordered by General *Schuyler* at *Crown-Point* to repair with them to this place. The cruel situation which I am in with respect to the court-martial obliges me to request your order and direction where to proceed with my charge till a full settlement is made.

The early and conspicuous part I have taken in the *American* cause, (well known to the enemies of my country,) and at this time deprived of the power of acting with them in the open field, urge this double prudence. I wait your resolve; and am, gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble servant,

DONALD CAMPBELL.

To the honourable the Continental Congress.

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### ADDRESS OF CONGRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

*The Representatives of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *in Congress assembled, to the People in general, and particularly to the Inhabitants of* PENNSYLVANIA *and the adjacent States.*

FRIENDS AND BRETHREN: We think it our duty to address a few words of exhortation to you in this important crisis. You are not unacquainted with the history of the rise and progress of this war. A plan was carried on by the *British* Ministry for several years in a systematick manner to enslave you to that kingdom. After various attempts in an artful and insidious manner to bring into practice the laying you under tribute, they at last openly and decisively asserted their rights of making laws to bind you in all cases whatsoever.

Opposition was made to these encroachments by earnest and humble petitions from every Legislature on the Continent, and more than once by the Congress representing the whole. These were treated with the utmost contempt. Acts of the most unjust and oppressive nature were passed and carried into execution, such as exempting the soldiers charged with murder in *America* from a legal trial, and ordering them to be carried to *Britain* for certain absolution, as also directing prisoners taken at sea to be entered on board their ships, and obliged either to kill their own friends or fall themselves by their hands. We only mention these from among the many oppressive acts of Parliament, as proofs to what horrid injustice the love of dominion will sometimes carry societies as well as men. At the same time to show how insensible they will be to the sufferings of others, you may see by the preambles to the acts and addresses to the King, that they constantly extol their own lenity in those very proceedings which filled this whole Continent with resentment and horrour.

To crown the whole, they have waged war with us in the most cruel and unrelenting manner, employing not only the force of the *British* nation, but hiring foreign mercenaries, who, without feeling, indulge themselves in rapine and bloodshed. The spirit indeed of the Army in general is but too well determined, by their inhuman treatment of those who have unhappily fallen into their hands.

It is well known to you, that at the universal desire of the people, and with the hearty approbation of every Province, the Congress declared the *United States* free and independent, a measure not only just, but which had become absolutely necessary. It would have been impossible to have resisted the formidable force destined against us last spring, while we confessed ourselves the subjects of that State against which we had taken arms. Besides, after repeated trials, no terms could be obtained, but pardon upon absolute submission, which every publick body in *America* had rejected with disdain.

Resistance has now been made with a spirit and resolution becoming a free people, and with a degree of success hitherto which could scarce have been expected. The enemy have been expelled from the Northern Provinces where they at first had possession, and have been repulsed in their attempt upon the Southern by the undaunted valour of the inhabitants. Our success at sea, in the capture of the enemy's ships, has been astonishing. They have been compelled to retreat before the Northern Army. Notwithstanding the difficulty and uncertainty at first of our being supplied with ammunition and military stores, those we have now in abundance, and by some late arrivals and captures there is an immediate prospect of sufficient clothing for the Army.

What we have particularly in view in this address is not only to promote unanimity and vigour through the whole States, but to excite the inhabitants of *Pennsylvania*, *New-Jersey*, and the adjacent States, to an immediate and spirited exertion in opposition to the Army that now threatens to take possession of this city. You know that during the whole campaign they have been checked in their progress, and have not till within these two weeks ventured above ten miles from their shipping. Their present advances are owing not to any capital defeat, or a want of valour in the Army that opposed them, but to a sudden diminution of its numbers from the expiration of those short inlistments which, to ease the people, were at first adopted. Many have already joined the Army to supply the deficiency, and we call, in the most earnest manner, on all the friends of liberty to exert themselves without delay in this pressing emergency. In every other part your arms have been successful, and in other respects our sacred cause is in the most promising situation. We think it proper to inform and assure you that essential services have been already rendered us by foreign States, and we have received the most positive assurances of further aid. Let us not, then, be wanting to ourselves. Even a short resistance will probably be effectual, as General *Lee* is advancing with a strong reinforcement, and his

troops in high spirits. What a pity is it, then, that the rich and populous city of *Philadelphia* should fall into the enemy's hands, or that we should not lay hold of the opportunity of destroying their principal Army, now removed from the ships of war, in which their greatest strength lies.

It is certainly needless to multiply arguments in such a situation. All that is valuable to us as men and freemen is at stake. It does not admit of a question what would be the effect of our finally failing. Even the boasted Commissioners for giving peace to *America* have not offered, and do not now offer, any terms but pardon on absolute submission. And though (blessed be God) even the loss of *Philadelphia* would not be the loss of the cause, yet while it can be saved, let us not, in the close of the campaign, afford them such ground of triumph; but give a check to their progress, and convince our friends in the distant parts that one spirit animates the whole.

Confiding in your fidelity and zeal in a contest the most illustrious and important, and firmly trusting in the good providence of God, we wish you happiness and success.

Given at *Philadelphia, December* 10, 1776.

By order of the Congress:

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

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GENERAL ARMSTRONG TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Head-Quarters, 10 December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Since my coming up to the Army, I have wrote two short letters to town; the first rather gloomy, arising from a view of our Army and the credit paid to the magnitude of that on the other side. The second, of this morning, somewhat more sanguine, was built on the flattering opinion that the numbers of the enemy had been exaggerated, and the expectations of being joined by General *Lee* and a respectable body of Militia. These reinforcements we still hope for, and wish it may be soon; but with respect to the enemy's numbers, there is reason to apprehend they are rather above than below the first estimation, as I have lately seen an Ensign of ours, who, by the violation of his parole, has made his escape from *York*, where he saw General *Howe's* horses put into the boat for *Elizabeth-Town*, to which place the General came on *Wednesday* last, and that he is undoubtedly at the head of his Army, consisting, according to this officer's information, as he had heard, of fifteen thousand men. But although they should not be so many, we cannot suppose on an errand of so much consequence, that *Howe* will throw himself at the head of diminutive numbers. There are eight battalions, consisting chiefly of *English* and *Hessian* Grenadiers and Light-Infantry, with a few pieces of artillery, at *Penny-Town;* whether with a design to pass above General *Washington*, or whether with a design to intercept the junction of General *Lee*, is yet uncertain. On the other hand, we have heard this afternoon that they have repaired a bridge the General had torn down betwixt *Trenton* and *Bordentown*, on the *Jersey* side, and that a body of Infantry have already passed over it; in short they are spread for many miles along the *Delaware*, perhaps to distract General *Washington*, that he may not know what point to attend to. Your worthy General, however, maintains the full possession of himself; is indefatigable by day and night, taking every precaution, I think, as well to prevent surprise as to discover the place they intend to cross, that he may derive every advantage from the river, which if once crossed, could not, with his comparatively small army, be expected at any other place. He has sent a party to reconnoitre the creeks on the *Jersey* side, lest the friends of tyranny should have boats concealed in them to aid the common enemy; but thinks the Council of Safety would do well to send also some fit persons, lest such secreted boats might escape the party he has sent; and who knows but *Howe's* design may be to march on the *Jersey* side as far as *Billingsport*, and there meet some of his own shipping and small craft for purposes too obvious to mention; or by taking the *Bordentown* route, he may design to pass over below the mouth of *Shamaney*. A passage in the night is to us the most dangerous, and what he probably will attempt. I had, without consulting the General, wrote for Colonels *Kosciusko* and *Romond;* but as General *Putnam* is sent down for purposes on their way near town, I suppose they can't be sent here.

After your reading, please to send this to the Council of Safety, and believe me to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

To the Board of War and Ordnance.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 11th.]

Head-Quarters, Falls of Delaware, December 10, 1776.

SIR: Since I had the honour of addressing you yesterday, nothing of importance has occurred. In respect to the enemy's movements, I have obtained no other information than that they have a number of parties patrolling up and down the river, particularly above. As yet they have not attempted to pass; nor do any of their patroles, though some are exceedingly small, meet with the least interruption from the inhabitants of *Jersey*.

By a letter received last night from General *Lee*, of the 8th instant, he was then at *Morristown*, where he entertained thoughts of establishing a post; but on receiving my despatches by Major *Hoops*, I should suppose he would be convinced of the necessity of his proceeding this way with all the force he can bring.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

P. S. *Nine o'clock, a. m.*—I this minute received information that the enemy were repairing the bridges three or four miles below *Trenton*, which seems to indicate an intention of their passing lower down, and suggests to me the necessity that some attention should be had to the fort at *Billingsport*, lest they should possess themselves of it, the consideration of which I beg leave to submit to Congress. I have wrote to the Council of Safety on the subject.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head-Quarters, Trenton Falls, 10th December, 1776.

SIR: Yours of last evening reached me at four o'clock this morning. I immediately sent orders to Commodore *Seymour* to despatch one of his galleys down to *Dunk's Ferry*, and I shall dispose of the remainder in such manner and at such places as will be most likely not only to annoy the enemy in their passage, but to give the earliest information of any attempt of that kind. Parties of the enemy have been reconnoitring both up and down the river, and I imagine it has been one of those parties that have appeared near *Burlington:* for as they have not found the least opposition from the people of *Jersey*, they venture very far from their main body, which, from the best information, still lays about *Trenton* and above it.

I have desired Colonel *Humpton*, who is the bearer of this, to apply for a party of men to go up *Cooper's* and *Ancocus* creeks, and bring down all the craft he may find there; for it is in vain to cut down bridges if the boats are left. They cannot be trusted to the owners; for if an enemy was to appear, such is their fear that they would deliver them up upon the first demand.

I think that the fort began at *Billingsport* should be attended to. If there is not a party already there, one should be sent under a good officer, who would not too readily take the alarm, and come off; for you may depend that only small bodies will be sent to that distance. But I have always found that the intelligence brought by people not used to see men in arms has always magnified numbers exceedingly, and on this head the officer should be guarded not to trust to report, but be well satisfied himself before he gives up his post.

Having sent down Major-General *Putnam* to throw up necessary works for the defence of your city, I hope you will coöperate with him, and give him every assistance in your power to expedite so necessary an operation.

I have the honour to be, sir, yours, &c.,

GO. WASHINGTON.

The Honourable *Thomas Wharton*, Jun., Esq., President of the Council.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Trenton Falls, December 10th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I last night received your favour by Colonel *Humpton;* and were it not for the weak and feeble state of the force I have, I should highly approve of your hanging on the rear of the enemy and establishing the post you mention. But when my situation is directly opposite to what you suppose it to be, and when General *Howe* is pressing forward with the whole of his Army except the troops that were lately embarked, and a few besides left at *New-York*, to possess himself of *Philadelphia*, I cannot but request and entreat you, and this too by the advice of all the General Officers with me, to march and join me with all your whole force, with all possible expedition. The utmost exertions that can be made will not be more than sufficient to save *Philadelphia*. Without the aid of your force, I think there is but little, if any, prospect of doing it. I refer you to the route Major *Hoops* would inform you of. The enemy are now extended along the *Delaware* at several places. By a prisoner who was taken last night, I am told that at *Pennytown* there are two battalions of Infantry, three of Grenadiers, the *Hessian* Grenadiers, Forty-Second of Highlanders, and two others. Their object, doubtless, is to pass the river above us, or to prevent your joining me. I mention this that you may avail yourself of the information. Do come on. Your arrival may be happy; and if it can be effected without delay, may be the means of preserving a city whose loss must prove of the most fatal consequences to the cause of *America*.

I am, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee*.

P. S. Pray exert your influence and bring with you all the *Jersey* Militia you possibly can. Let them not suppose their State is lost, or in any danger, because the enemy are pushing through it. If you think General *St. Clair* or General *Maxwell* would be of service to command 'em, I would send either.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, December 10, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: The last evening, about eight o'clock, I received the honour of yours of the 7th instant, and immediately gave orders for the regiments of General *Parsons's* brigade which are on this side *Hudson's River*, to pass over, which they will do this day. I shall also order *Huntington's* and *Tyler's* to join them, and pursue the effecting the purposes which your Excellency has been pleased to point out. This post will now be left in a very defenceless condition as to men: not a single Continental regiment on this side of the river, and nearly all the field artillery gone over the river.

The enemy's fleet, which sailed eastward a few days since, by the last accounts lying off *New-London*, ninety-one in number. The account in *Gaine's New-York* paper of *December* 2d, is as follows:

"*Thursday* last several transports, full of troops and military stores, passed up the *East River* into *Connecticut Sound;* at the same time Sir *Peter Parker* and Mr. *Hotham*, with the *Asia*, *Renown*, and other men-of-war, fell down to the *Narrows*, in order to join the above transports, as 'tis supposed, about the east end of *Long-Island*. Various conjectures are raised about their destination."

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Peekskill, December 10th, 1776.

SIR: The day before yesterday a schooner came up the river with a flag, having on board the Rev. *Charles Inglis* and one Mr. *Moor*, who have come up to solicit their families. I have given orders for the vessel to stop at *Verplanck's Point*, the flag to be treated with the utmost politeness and respect, and at the same time with as great precaution. I informed the gentlemen that they were not to proceed either by land or water to *Fishkill*, but that if they had letters to send they should be carefully conveyed to the honourable Convention. I have accordingly sent forward a number.

For my own part I think the present to be a time so critical, that should I permit any persons to advance further than to such place as may be convenient to treat with them, or to consent to any going in to the enemy, would be acting entirely beside my duty. The arts and stratagems of our enemies are many; it behooves us ever to be on our guard. The *French* maxim, *La mefiance est la mère de la sureté*, which your Honour knows in *English* is, "Distrust is the mother of security," is worthy of our attention.

The last evening I received orders from his Excellency General *Washington* to cross the *North River*, with the Continental troops under my command, to wit: *Parsons's* brigade; they will pass the river this day. My orders are to "move on so as to give all possible protection to the country and vigour to the cause."

In consequence of my moving from this place and taking so many troops with me, the passes both on this and the other side of the river will be but weakly manned. However, I hope my stay on the other side of the river will be but short. Should I go any distance beyond the river, General *James Clinton* will command here, unless General *Spencer* should move up.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most obedient and very humble servant,

W. HEATH.

Honourable *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq.

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REV. CHARLES INGLIS TO JAMES DUANE.

North River, December 8th, 1776.

SIR: The calamities which threatened the city of *New-York* induced me to send my family to *New-Windsor* last *October* was a twelvemonth, and when two men-of-war went up the *North River* last summer, I judged it prudent to remove them back to *Goshen*, where they have remained ever since. It were needless to tell you that so long a separation and absence from their home must be exceedingly painful, and attended with much anxiety and distress, as well as numberless inconveniences to them and me.

Having obtained a flag of truce from the Right Honourable Lord *Howe*, I have come up as high as *Peekskill* in a hired schooner, in order to apply to the honourable Convention sitting at *Fishkill*, for their leave that my family may return. My request of you, sir, is, that you would lay my case before the Convention, and obtain their permission and consent that my family may come from *Goshen* to *New-Windsor*, and from hence by water in some sloop, or other fit vessel, to this place, where I shall receive them.

I flatter myself that this indulgence will appear reasonable in itself to the Convention; especially as a similar indulgence has been granted at *New-York* to women whose husbands are absent. Two recent instances I beg leave to mention: Mrs. *Lewis*, wife of the Honourable *Francis Lewis*, has got leave from General *Howe* to go to her husband, and carry with her such furniture and other articles as she chooses; she is also to be escorted by a military gentleman as far as the advance guards of the King's troops in *New-Jersey*. I mention these particulars the rather, as I myself was not only privy but aiding to Mrs. *Lewis* and her daughter, Mrs. *Robertson*, in the several steps that were taken for the above purpose. Mr. *John Smith's* wife, of *Throg's Point*, who lately came to town with her family, upon being sent for by her husband by a flag of truce, has obtained General *Howe's* permission also to remove with her children, furniture, and whatever else she pleases to take with her, as she herself assured me. So far as I can learn, women with their children and effects may, if they choose it, go from hence whenever they please.

With my family, I sent to *New-Windsor* a part of my furniture, beds, linen, books, and papers. If the Convention would be pleased to permit the return of these along with my family, it would greatly enhance the favour and increase my obligation.

It may be proper to inform you that my family at *Goshen*, besides Mrs. *Inglis*, consists of Mrs. *Crooke*, my mother-in-law, three children, the eldest not quite three years, the youngest about three months old, two white servant women, a nurse, and a white servant boy. Should the Convention grant them leave to come down, I would beg that they would also please to give such directions and orders as they

think necessary to prevent any difficulty or obstruction in their way down.

I shall wait here to receive your answer. Your laying these particulars before the Convention, and their compliance, will greatly oblige, sir, your most obedient servant,

CHARLES INGLIS.

To the Honourable *James Duane*, Esq., or in his absence to the Honourable *Robert R. Livingston*, *Charles De Witt*, *William Duer*, or *Anthony Hoffman*, Esquires, or either of them, at *Fishkill*.

P. S. Enclosed is a letter from Colonel *Magaw*, a gentleman with whom I had the pleasure to be acquainted formerly, and whom I attended during a severe fit of sickness since the surrender of *Fort Washington*. He is now recovering, and I flatter myself past danger. He politely gave me this letter, which I thought proper to lay before you.

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JOHN MOORE TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

On board the Hope, Flag of Truce, Verplank's Point, 9th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Having obtained leave from Lord *Howe* to come up with a flag, in order to ask leave for my family to accompany me to *New-York*, I was in great hopes I could have been allowed to wait on the honourable Convention on that errand, but General *Heath* thinking it improper I should go forward, must apologize for the trouble of this letter. Being so happy as to be intimately connected with you by marriage, I must beg the favour of you, my dear sir, to solicit the honourable Convention in behalf of myself and family, that they will be so indulgent as to grant my wife liberty to come down with her child, servants, and house furniture. Your humanity, my dear sir, will plead for me, and I cannot but indulge the hope that the Congress will be favourably pleased to grant me this request. I take the liberty of mentioning to you that Mrs. *Lewis* (lady of the honourable Delegate at *Philadelphia*) and Mrs. *Smith* (wife of Mr. *Smith*) were last week permitted to go with their family and effects, flags of truce having come to demand them. The State of *New-Jersey* have also permitted many ladies to come from thence.

I write this letter not certainly knowing you to be at the Convention, and therefore take the liberty of directing it in case of your absence, to some other gentlemen, with some of whom I have the honour of an intimate acquaintance, and of others I know so much as to depend upon their humanity.

The connection (though more distant) between Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Duane*, and Mr. *R. Livingston*, and my wife's family, will, exclusive of my own character and the inoffensive line of my deportment, plead in her behalf, and obtain for me the only portion of happiness which these wretched times can in their nature afford me. Should the honourable Congress grant me this indulgence, I could wish for leave to go myself to bring my family down; indeed, at present I know not where they are, whether at my father's, at *West-Point*, in the Highlands, or at her father's, at *Poughkeepsie*. If I cannot go myself, I earnestly entreat the favour of you to send this letter by express to my father-in-law, *Jas. Livingston*, Esq., *Poughkeepsie*, enclosed in a line from yourself, desiring him, should my wife not be there, instantly to send this letter to her, desiring her to come down by land or water, with as much of her effects as she may be permitted to bring. I am obliged to repeat my earnest request to be allowed to wait upon you, on my way for my family. I am willing to go in any way the Congress or General may please, and am ready to pay the expense of one or more guards to accompany me.

Enclosed are two letters from Mr. *Elliot* to his friends Messrs. *Duane* and *Jay*; to Mr. *Duer* also he desires his compliments. I hope that gentleman also, and any others who may be at Congress, and who knows me, will solicit this favour for me. I need not say how highly I shall be obliged, and how much happiness it will afford a woman at present very unhappy.

Mr. *Ph. I. Livingston* is here on the same errand, as is Mr. *Inglis*; and we have sent to General *Heath* a letter in our favour, from the very worthy Colonel *Magaw*, who commanded at *Fort Washington*. We hope that letter also will be laid before you.

I have not time to add, but to beg pardon for this liberty, and to assure you that I am, very respectfully, your affectionate and obedient servant,

JOHN MOORE.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*; in his absence the Hon. *James Duane*, *John Jay*, *Robt. R. Livingston*, Mr. *Duer*, or *Anthony Hoffman*, Esqrs., or either of them, *Fishkill*.

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PHILIP I. LIVINGSTON TO JAMES DUANE.

Verplank's Point, December 9th.

DEAR SIR: I am thus far in a vessel with a flag of truce, with an intention of proceeding by land from hence to the Congress, to ask their permission for the removal of my family to *New-York*, in any way that may be most agreeable to them. As General *Heath* is averse to my going to Congress without their express permission, allow me to ask the favour of your interposition and interest with the Congress for the removal of my family and their baggage to *New-York*. As the season is far advanced, I must entreat your immediate application on their behalf, and that they may be indulged with a sloop for their removal, as women and young children will be exposed to great inconveniences in travelling so considerable a distance by land.

As many difficulties will attend the removal of my family without my presence, even if permission is obtained from the Congress, allow me further to entreat the permission of Congress to pass to them. Any restrictions or limitations in my progress towards them, or during my stay with them, I shall willingly submit to; besides, I wish once more to see my old friends, as I propose embarking for the Island of *Jamaica* as soon as a convenient opportunity offers; and am therefore desirous (as far as may be) of adjusting my late official business. You will easily conceive of how much importance an allowance to pass to my family will be of to me. I must however submit to the decision of Congress. I should be glad Mr. *Walter Livingston* was acquainted with my intention of going to *Jamaica*, as I think he will wish to see me before my departure. In case I am not permitted to go from hence, be pleased to forward the enclosed letter to Mrs. *Livingston*. An answer by express, which I shall most willingly defray the expense of, as soon as conveniently may be, will exceedingly oblige, dear sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

PHILIP I. LIVINGSTON.

To the Honourable *James Duane*, *John Jay*, *Robert R. Livingston*, Mr. *Duer*, and *Anthony Hoffman*, Esqrs., or either of them, *Fishkill*.

If the desired permission is obtained, be pleased to furnish Mrs. *Livingston* with the necessary passports. As she is unacquainted with my design of going to *Jamaica*, I wish it may for some time be concealed from her.

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GOVERNOUR TYRON TO REV. DR. INGLIS.

Governour *Tryon* presents his compliments to the Rev. Doct. *Inglis*, will be obliged to him if he will take charge of a packet for Mr. *William Smith*, and forward by the most publick opportunity that may offer while on his own business under the flag of truce, also the last newspaper, herewith enclosed.

New-York, 4th December, 1776.

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MR. ELLIOT TO JAMES DUANE.

Mr. *Elliot* presents his compliments to Mr. *Duane*, and will be much obliged to him could he procure liberty for his son-in-law, Mr. *James Jauncey*, Jr., his wife and servant, to return to *New-York*. They are at present at *Middletown*, in *Connecticut*.

To *James Duane*, Esq., at *Fishkill*.

New-York, 6th December, 1776.

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JACOB WATSON TO DANIEL BIRDSALL.

New-York, 12th mo. 4th, 1776.

RESPECTED FRIEND: When I last wrote thee, I requested thee not to sell my salt and molasses, which I sent

to thy care; but now, as I expect these articles will be much wanted in your neighbourhood, please to dispose of them at the going price and lay the money out in flax-seed, pork, or good firkin butter. The first I should prefer. I hope thee'll get it at four shillings per bushel. There is no purchasers at any price.

If any is already sold, please to lay the money out in these articles.

A line from thee would much oblige thy respectful friend,

JACOB WATSON.

To *Daniel Birdsall*, Merchant at *Peekskill*.

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LETTER FROM MURRAY, SIMPSON & CO.

Philadelphia, 4th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Mr. *Lindsey* informs me that he had left the goods in your care, with orders to dispose of some part of them; but as times now seem exceedingly precarious, we would not wish to have any Continental on hand, therefore desire that you will not dispose of any of the goods until you hear further from us. If you have sold any of them, please to lay out the money in wheat or flour or staves, but by no means keep any on our account.

In haste, your real friends,

MURRAY, SIMPSON & CO.

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JACOB WATSON TO DANIEL TARBOSS.

New-York, 12th mo. 4th, 1776.

RESPECTED FRIEND: When I last wrote thee, I requested thee not to sell my salt in thy hands, as I intended to have purchased pork in your County to barrel; but as I expect it is an article which will be much wanted, I am willing thee should dispose of it for pork, flax-seed, or good firkins of butter. If it is already sold, please to lay the money out for flax-seed at the current price going.

If I could be favoured with a line without giving any umbrage, would much oblige thy respectful friend,

JACOB WATSON.

*Daniel Tarboss*, at *Fishkill* Landing.

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LEVI DE WITT TO COLONEL CHARLES DE WITT.

Newborough, December 10, 1776.

SIR: Lieutenant *Lounsberry*, and (as he tells me) some more of the Captains of the Second Regiment, not serving, of consequence there will be some vacancies, and if it could be, would be glad that I might be appointed. Yet I leave it with you; and am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

LEVI DE WITT.

Colonel *Charles De Witt*, Member of the Provincial Congress, at *Fishkill*.

P. S. Notwithstanding the above, I am sensible of the favour done me by the former appointment as Quartermaster. If *Lounsberry* resigns, would recommend *Charles Newkirk*, now Lieutenant under *Lounsberry*, as a Captain.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

December 10th, 1776.

SIR: You are to assemble the Militia of your brigade as soon as possible, at *Chester*, in the County of *Orange*, and to march them from thence into the State of *New-Jersey*, if it can be done consistent with the security of the passes through the Highlands, which you are on no consideration ever to put it out of your power to regain. You are either to join Generals *Lee* or *Gates*, if they should command separate bodies in *New-Jersey*, to hang on the rear of the enemy, provided they are now and shall continue to be in such places as will enable you to do it without endangering the loss of the above passes, the regaining of which you are ever to have in view. If neither of those Generals should command such separate bodies, or be in such a situation as will enable you to join them consistent with the safety of those passes, or should, after you had joined them, or either of them, make such a movement as will leave this State exposed, you are then to form a separate corps, and to coöperate with them as far as lays in your power, in distressing the enemy, and raising and collecting the well-affected and curbing and overawing the disaffected subjects of the State of *New-Jersey*, and to concur in every other measure with them which may, in your opinion, contribute to the general welfare of *America*, without at any time losing sight of the necessity of having open your return to the above passes in the Highlands.

To General *George Clinton*.

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LADY JOHNSON'S PASS.

The bearer, Lady *Johnson*, is permitted to go to *Fishkill*, in order to apply for a pass to go to *New-York*; and it is requested that she may pass thither unmolested.

By order:

JOHN BARCLAY, *Chairman*.

To all concerned.

Albany, 10th December, 1776.

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COLONEL BROWN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 26, 1776.]

Albany, 10th December, 1776.

SIR: Enclosed is transmitted a copy of the second petition I preferred to Major-General *Horatio Gates*, praying a compliance with the order of Congress for a Court of Inquiry on myself, together with a complaint against, and petition for the trial of, General *Arnold*, for the crimes therein mentioned, as also a copy of the answer, which I obtained with difficulty, as will appear by the copies herewith transmitted; which puts me under the necessity of troubling you on a subject which ought to have been considered and determined by a different tribunal, agreeable to the rules of war. I must therefore once more request a peremptory rule of Congress for my own as well as General *Arnold's* trial, at such time and place as the honourable Congress shall think proper to appoint. I must nevertheless take the liberty of observing, that I think myself to have been treated in a most extraordinary and singular manner; and should my treatment be adopted as a precedent in the Continental Army, Congress would have nothing to do but hearing the trifling complaints of the officers in their service.

I must also request that proper provision be made for summoning, and compelling if need should be, such witnesses to attend the trial as shall be thought necessary.

I am, sir, with respect, your humble servant,

JOHN BROWN.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Continental Congress, at *Philadelphia*.

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*To the Hon.* HORATIO GATES, Esq., *Major-General in the Army of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *Commanding at* ALBANY, *humbly showeth:*

That in the month of *February* last, Brigadier-General *Arnold* transmitted to the honourable Continental Congress an unjustifiable, false, wicked, and malicious accusation against me and my character, as an officer in their service, at the time when I was under his immediate command. That had there been the least ground for such accusation, the author thereof had it in his power, indeed it was his duty, to have brought me to a fair trial by a General Court-Martial in the country where the pretended crime is said to have originated. That I was left to the necessity of applying to Congress, not only for the charge given in against me, but an order for a Court of Inquiry on my own conduct with respect thereto. That in consequence of my application, I obtained a positive order of Congress to the then General commanding the Northern Department, for a Court of Inquiry, before whom I might justify my injured character. That the said order was transmitted to your Honour, at *Ticonderoga*, in the month of *August* last, and notwithstanding the most ardent solicitation on my part, the order of Congress has not yet been complied with. That upon my renewing my application to your Honour for a Court of Inquiry, you was pleased to refer me to the Board of War. Thus I have been led an expensive dance from Generals to Congress, and from Congress to Generals, and am now referred to a Board of War, who, I will venture to say, have never yet taken cognizance of any such matter, nor do I think it, with great submission to your Honour, any part of their duty. I therefore must conclude that this information, from the mode of its origin, as well as from the repeated evasions

of a fair hearing, is now rested on the author's shoulders. I therefore beg your Honour will please to order Brigadier-General *Arnold* in arrest, for the following crimes, which I am ready to verify, viz:

1st. For endeavouring to asperse your petitioner's character, in the most infamous manner.

2d. For unwarrantably degrading and reducing the rank conferred on your petitioner by his (General *Arnold's*) superiour officer, and subjecting your petitioner to serve in an inferiour rank to that which he had been appointed.

3d. For ungentleman-like conduct in his letter to General *Wooster*, of the 25th of *January* last, charging your petitioner with a falsehood, and in a private manner, which is justly chargeable on himself.

4th. For suffering the small-pox to spread in the camp before *Quebeck*, and promoting inoculations there in the Continental Army.

5th. For depriving a part of the Army under his command of their usual allowance of provisions ordered by Congress.

6th. For interfering and countermanding the orders of his superiour officer.

7th. For plundering the inhabitants of *Montreal*, in direct violation of a solemn capitulation agreement entered into with them by our late brave and worthy General *Montgomery*, to the eternal disgrace of the Continental arms.

8th. For giving unjustifiable, unwarrantable, cruel, and bloody orders, directing whole villages to be destroyed, and the inhabitants thereof put to death by fire and sword, without any distinctions to friend or foe, age or sex.

9th. For entering into an unwarrantable, unjustifiable, and partial agreement with Captain *Foster* for the exchange of prisoners taken at *The Cedars*, without the knowledge, advice, or consent of any officer than those present with him on the spot.

10th. For ordering inoculation of the Continental Army at *Sorel*, without the knowledge of, and contrary to the intentions of, the General commanding that Northern Department, by which fatal consequences ensued.

11th. For great misconduct during his command, from the camp at *Cambridge*, in the year 1775, until he was superseded by General *Montgomery*, at *Point-aux-Tremble*, near *Quebec*.

12th. For great misconduct in his command of the Continental fleet in *Lake Champlain*, which occasioned the loss thereof.

13th. For disobedience of the orders of his superiour officers, while acting by a commission from the Provincial Congress of the Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, and for disobedience of the orders of a Committee of the same Congress, sent from that State to inspect into his conduct; and also for insulting, abusing, and imprisoning the said Committee; as also for a treasonable attempt to make his escape with the navigators then at or near *Ticonderoga*, to the enemy at *St. John's*, which obliged the then commanding officer of *Ticonderoga* and its dependencies to issue a positive order to the officers commanding our batteries at *Crown-Point* to stop or sink the vessels attempting to pass that post, and by force of arms make a prisoner of the said General *Arnold*, (then a Colonel,) which was accordingly done.

JNO. BROWN, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

Albany, 1st December, 1776.

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Albany, December 2d, 1776.

SIR: Having been put to the necessity to present your Honour with a petition yesterday, must beg your answer to the same.

I have the honour to be, with respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

JNO. BROWN, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

To General *Horatio Gates.*

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Albany, December 2d, 1776.

SIR: I am sorry that necessity once more obliges me to trouble your Honour on the present occasion. I really thought that the petition which I gave you yesterday contained matters of so much importance, as either to entitle me to the prayer thereof, or an answer in writing, setting forth the reason why it was rejected; as the one would have been satisfactory, the other enabled me to lay the petition at large, and your answer, before Congress. Must therefore humbly request your Honour to give me your answer in writing.

I am, sir, with respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

JNO. BROWN, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

To General *Gates.*

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GENERAL GATES TO COLONEL BROWN.

Albany, 2d December, 1776.

SIR: Since you are so importunate for an answer in writing to your petition of yesterday, I think proper to acquaint you that I shall lay your petition before Congress, who will, when they see fit, give such orders as they think necessary thereupon.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Brown.*

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Saratoga, December 10th, 1776.

SIR: I do myself the honour to enclose you sundry returns, which Colonel *Wayne*, agreeable to my orders, has just transmitted. Congress will perceive from those the strength of the garrison at *Ticonderoga* and *Mount Independence*, and how very capital our wants are in this quarter.

I have every reason to believe that the troops at *Ticonderoga* and the other posts above will not tarry five days after the term of their inlistment is expired; and what makes this the more alarming is, the very little probability of replacing them with others. Should that unfortunately be the case, General *Carleton*, who cannot fail of being minutely informed of whatever passes there, will most certainly possess himself of that fortress as soon as *Lake Champlain* is so frozen as to be rendered capable of carrying horses on the ice. Let me, therefore, most earnestly entreat Congress to take measures to prevent a disaster which would be attended with the most terrible consequences. I have written on the occasion to the Eastern States. I have urged the necessity of hastening up the troops; but I fear, unless my application, which went by express on the 3d instant, enclosing the resolution of Congress of the 22d ultimo, is seconded by the order of Congress, it will be of little avail, as I am informed the levies are making very tardily, and that the troops will not march unless the corps are complete, for which they should not by any means wait, as there is now a plentiful stock of provisions at *Ticonderoga*, and nothing to fear from the enemy until the time I have mentioned. I would repair to Congress, but if I quit this quarter before the garrison of *Ticonderoga* is relieved, and the accident I dread should happen, the misfortune will be imputed to me. I am, therefore, under the disagreeable necessity of deferring my journey for some time.

I beg leave to inform Congress that not one General Officer is left with me. I therefore wish that some were sent up, and hope, if General *Gates* cannot come, that General *Arnold's* business at Congress may be expedited; for much, very much, is to be done, and great exertions to be used, in providing the various necessaries for the next campaign. And although whilst I continue in the command I shall most cheerfully devote every moment to this important business, yet I have too many affairs on hand to pay to each its proper attention.

Colonel *Baldwin* and Major *Stevens*, who had obtained General *Gates's* leave of absence, called on me in their way down. I have given them orders to procure as many of the articles mentioned in their respective lists in the Eastern States as they possibly can, but I fear all they may be able to collect will be very trifling; nor do I expect that General *Ward*, to whom I have also wrote, will be able to give me any material aid. I must, therefore, entreat Congress to send whatever they can from *Pennsylvania*. The articles marked A, I have taken measures to procure here, and hope to succeed.

Since Colonel *Warner* called upon me, I have received a letter from Mr. *Sherman*, assuring me that Congress had resolved to let Colonel *Warner* raise a regiment, and urging me to order him money. Although such a letter is not a sufficient authority, I have nevertheless ventured to give a warrant for half the bounty. The Colonel assures me he

can raise a regiment in a few days. I must, however, confess that my expectations of his completing one at all are very little.

Since the date of the Commissary's return, about one hundred barrels of flour have been sent across *Lake George*. I am informed that all the care is not taken of it that ought to be. The Commissary complains that he wants storehouses.

From the account that Lieutenant-Colonel *Varick* gives me, who is just returned from mustering the troops to the northward, the necessity of the most pointed instructions to the Paymasters is absolutely necessary. I have long since requested of Congress to know who was to give these. Last winter I threw together my thoughts on the subject, but do not recollect whether I sent a copy to Congress or not.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *December* 10th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Williams*, *William Hillhouse*, *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., *Benjamin Huntington*, and *Thomas Seymour*, Esquires.

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table for £1400 in favour of Captain *Harding*, of the brig *Defence*, and for the use of said brig; to render his account.—(Order given *December* 10th, 1776, delivered Captain *Harding*.)

*Voted*, To give order to *Prosper Wetmore*, Esq., Sheriff, on Captain *Harding's* producing and lodging with him his power-of-attorney from the officers and men on board the brig *Defence*, in the capture of the prize ship *John*, taken by them and brought into *New-London*, and condemned, that first deducting the charges of condemnation and all other expenses, and then one-twentieth part of the net proceeds of the avails of the ship and cargo, being the Admiral's part, settled by Congress, then the one-third of the remainder to be by him paid to Captain *Harding* for his and brig's crew, their share in said prize, taking his receipts therefor, and to call upon Captain *Bill* for the bill of expenses, and to see that they are all properly collected in order to make settlement.—(Order given out *December* 13th, 1776.)

Directed *Prosper Wetmore*, Esq., to pay to Captain *Harding* £716 12*s*. 10*d*., of the State's money in his hands, which, together with £683 7*s*. 2*d*., makes the sum of £1400 contained in the order given as above, on this page, to Captain *Harding*.

*Voted*, To order Captain *Jabez Huntington*, of *Windham*, to deliver to the Selectmen of *Coventry*, as town stock, twenty-five pounds of Powder, for the use of the Militia of *Coventry*, now marching towards *Providence*.—(Order delivered *Eph'm Root*, Esq.)

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DOCTOR EUSTIS TO GENERAL HEATH.

Norwalk, December 10th, 1776.

SIR: Having under my care in this place a very considerable number of the sick troops, I think it my duty to make you acquainted with their situation, that you may determine whether some measures cannot be taken which will be advantageous to the publick, and agreeable, at the same time, to the sick soldiers.

We have in town of the new levies and Continental troops about four hundred sick, a great proportion of which are convalescent, able to walk abroad, but not so well accruited as to be able to cope with the duties of the camp. The new levies, whose term of inlistment expires the 25th of this month, I recommended for discharges as fast as they chose to take them, and had friends to carry their recommendations to camp. They belonged principally to this State, and most of them had parents or friends to assist them in getting home. With the established troops the case is very different. There are many sick from the regiments who marched from *Boston* in the spring, who have borne the burthen of the campaign, who have no money and no friends; or if they have them, they are at such a distance that it is out of their power to serve them. Many of them are getting their health, and are willing to be discharged; and it will certainly be for the benefit of the publick to let them go home as fast as they are able. The Continent will by this means save their pay and save their provisions, not to mention that the men will be able to take the field earlier the next campaign. None of the troops, except Colonel *Ward's* regiment, are engaged after the expiration of *December*. The time is almost gone; and whether it will not be for the good of the service to have the men discharged from the hospital as fast as they are able and willing to go home, is submitted to the superiour judgment of General *Heath*, by his most respectful, humble servant,

WILLIAM EUSTIS,
*Surgeon of the General Hospital at Norwalk.*

To the Honourable Major-General *Heath*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO THE MARINE COMMITTEE.

On board the Warren, five miles below Providence, December 10th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Three days ago the *English* fleet, of about fifty-four sail of transports and sixteen sail of men-of-war, arrived in this bay; and two days ago they landed, I believe, about four thousand troops, and took possession of the island of *Rhode-Island*, without opposition. The inhabitants of the town of *Newport* favoured their operation, I believe, too much. The Militia are come in, in order to prevent their further operations. I thought it best to come up the river after the fleet was within about two leagues of us, with the *Warren*, *Providence*, *Columbus*, brigantine *Hampden*, and sloop *Providence*. The inhabitants are in daily expectation of an attack on the town of *Providence*. I have got the ships in the best posture of defence we can make them, without they were fully manned, which they are not more than half. We lay where the ships can't come up that draw much more water than we do. If we get the ships manned, shall take some favourable opportunity, and attempt getting to sea with some of the ships; but at present think we are of more service here than at sea without we were manned.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Marine Committee at *Philadelphia*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

On board the Warren, off Patuxet, December 10th, 1776.

SIR: There is now at *Providence* of our men belonging to the fleet, *Robert Relf*, *William Lenn*, *Philip Gordin*, *William Sceaner*, *Peter Cane*, *Pierce*, *J. Lambert*, *Jos. Merre*, and five of the *Cabot's* people, with a number of others, which should be glad you will send with my officer, the Sheriff, or his Deputy, in order that they may be brought on board, where they will be of service. Nothing new transpires this day.

I am your Honour's humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To the Hon. *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Rhode-Island*, at *Providence*.

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M. DE GAIAULT TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Translation.]

Roxbury, December 10, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I came from *France* to this Continent with Mr. *Couleaux*, who will deliver you this, and many others, by which you will see who we are. I thought, gentlemen, that I acted for the advantage of your affairs, in pursuing my journey to *Philadelphia* and passing through your different armies, where probably they will be pleased to hear of the lively interest my country takes in the grand cause for which you contend. I shall join General *Lee*, and from thence I will go to General *Washington*, whose order I will take, and offer him my services. What has particularly determined me to this conduct, is the report of an action being soon expected, and of the great number of your brave countrymen now under arms, with whom I shall think myself happy to fight, and to be useful by the military knowledge I have acquired.

In regard to the letter of Dr. *Dubourg*, and to the me-

moirs included, I shall not conceal from you that it is necessary I should give you a just idea of what you ought to think on that head. Dr. *Dubourg* is a man of great probity and attachment for you; he has a great deal of knowledge, but full of this confidence, influenced by the rectitude of his heart. I fear, too, he yields his belief too easily, without examination, and that the constant study of his closet opposes in him the progress of experience, by which his zeal may suffer illusion. When I shall have the honour to see you, I will give you a detail of matters. I wait for this time with impatience; until then I shall endeavour to employ myself usefully to my country—permit me to call yours by that appellation; my sincere attachment to it gives me that right.

I am, &c.,

DE GAIAULT.

To the General Congress of the *United States of America*, at *Philadelphia*.

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Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.:

I am directed to acquaint the President of the honourable Congress of the sums advanced to the Sieur *Gaiault*, Chevalier, and Sieur *Couleaux*, on account of the Congress; which you'll perceive by the enclosed resolve that I have now the honour to transmit to you.

I am, sir, with great esteem, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN AVERY, *Deputy Secretary*.

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*Resolve on the Petition of* LE SIEUR GAIAULT, *&c. Passed* NOVEMBER 16, 1776.

*Resolved*, That there be paid out of the Publick Treasury to the Sieur *Gaiault*, Chevalier, and to the Sieur *Couleaux*, the sum of sixty-six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, to enable them to procure horses and carriages necessary for their journey to the Congress at *Philadelphia*, and that the said sum be charged to the Continental account; and that the Secretary be directed to acquaint the President of the Congress of the sum advanced to the said Sieur *Gaiault*, Chevalier, and Sieur *Couleaux*, on account of the Congress, that they may take such order thereon as they shall think best.

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WILLIAM THOMPSON TO RICHARD DEVENS.

Stoughton, Tuesday morning, December 10th, 1776.

SIR: I set out yesterday at sunset and travelled here last night, and saw two of the Selectmen, who with the utmost readiness have procured a carriage to transport the powder to *Attleborough*. It is now ready to be loaded in the cart, and will be set out by ten o'clock this forenoon, in Mr. *Blackman's* cart, (one of the Selectmen,) who goes with it himself with an armed guard. So doubt not it will have proper despatch and security. I shall set out before, and hope to see all at *Attleborough* this afternoon or evening.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

WM. THOMPSON.

*Richard Devens*, Esq.

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MESHECH WEARE TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

State of New-Hampshire, Exeter, 10 December, 1776.

SIR: Having received certain intelligence that a large number of the enemy's ships had made their appearance at *Rhode-Island*, the General Court of this State have sent orders to the Colonels of our Militia to hold their respective regiments in readiness to march on the shortest notice to the relief of that State, if necessary, and have in the mean time despatched the bearer, Major *Samuel Philbrick*, to *Boston*, to gain further intelligence of the enemy, and to transmit the same to us with the greatest despatch.

I am, with all due respect, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

MESHECH WEARE, *President of the Council*.

To the Honourable *James Bowdoin*, Esq., President of the Council of *Massachusetts* State.

P. S. Major *Philbrick* can inform you that the General Assembly of this State have just passed a resolve for an embargo on our navigation, agreeable to the resolve of your State. Also, that orders have issued for the raising five hundred men from our Militia, to march forthwith to *New-York*, to reinforce the Army there.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 11th, 1776.

SIR: I sent you a parcel of nails by Mr. *Speer*, and have bought a parcel of the rum that was on board the schooner, about five hundred pounds worth; and as soon as any of the vessels is to be sold, I will purchase the schooner or the brig, or both. I would have purchased the snow, but the best judges thought her too old. The prize ship that came yesterday is a very fine one for the *Old France* trade.

Captain *Martin* will sail to-morrow without fail. Hands are so scarce it is almost impossible to get them. I have beef enough salted, I suppose, for some time. I am picking up all the pork I can for the *Defence*. Butter and cheese is very high. I think Captain *Martin* and hands will expend in wages and repairs two hundred pounds. Please send me fifteen hundred or two thousand pounds. Money is paid away surprisingly, but I can't do with less.

From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

P. S. Mr. *Speer*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Turnbull*, or Captain *Cook*, will be good hands to send money by. Send it soon, as I am out.

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CHARLES THOMSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 11, 1776.

SIR: The President being necessarily engaged with his family, I have the honour to inform you that your letter of the 10th was duly received and laid before Congress, and to transmit you a resolution of Congress passed this day.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

CHA. THOMSON.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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*Resolve of Congress recommending a day of Fasting and Prayer.*

In Congress, December 11, 1776.

Whereas the just war into which the *United States of America* have been forced by *Great Britain* is likely to be still continued by the same violence and injustice which have hitherto animated the enemies of *American* freedom; and whereas it becomes all publick bodies as well as private persons to reverence the Providence of God, and look up to him as the Supreme Disposer of all events, and the Arbiter of the fate of nations:

Therefore the Congress hereby *Resolve*, That it be recommended to all the States, as soon as possible to appoint a day of solemn Fasting and Humiliation, to implore of Almighty God the forgiveness of the many sins prevailing among all ranks, and to beg the countenance and assistance of his Providence in the prosecution of this just and necessary war.

The Congress do also, in the most earnest manner, recommend to all the members of the *United States*, and particularly to the officers, civil and military, under them, the exercise of repentance and reformation; and further, do require of the said officers of the military department the strict observation of the articles of war in general, and particularly that of said articles which forbids profane swearing and all other immoralities; of which all such officers are desired to take notice.

It is left to each State to issue out Proclamations fixing the day that appears most proper for their several bounds.

Extract from the Minutes:

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*.

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MEMORIAL OF LEWIS DE LINKENSDORFF.

*To the honourable the Continental Congress:*

*The Memorial of* LEWIS DE LINKENSDORFF, *Adjutant of the* GERMAN *Battalion:*

Humbly begs leave to refer to his petition lately presented to your honourable House, for advancing him six months' pay. The duties of an Adjutant in the present situation of affairs can hardly be performed without a horse and some equipage, of which he has lately had the misfortune to lose a considerable part, and cannot afford to replace it without some advance.

And your memorialist, as in duty, &c.,

LEWIS DE LINKENSDORFF.

Philadelphia, December 11, 1776.

THOMAS WHARTON TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 11th, 1776.

SIR: The present situation of this State makes it necessary to remove all the State prisoners from this city; and the honourable Board of War has advised us to send part to your care, to dispose of them in such safe place of confinement as you may think proper. In consequence of which we have sent you ; a list of their names you have annexed. They have been very active and dangerous enemies to these States, and it is of great importance that they be prevented from making an escape. Being apprised of these facts, we have no doubt of your care and attention to have them secured.

We are, sir, your humble servants. By order of Council:

THO. WHARTON, *President.*

To the honourable President of the Council of Safety of *Maryland.*

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SAMUEL CHASE TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON.

Wednesday morning, Philadelphia, December 11th, 1776.

SIR: It has been reported that you was coming up to this city with a body of seamen and marines. One of the frigates is ready for the sea. The other three may be soon ready for a short voyage, if men could be procured. You would render essential service if you could immediately come up with a body of seamen; and an attempt might be made to bring round all the frigates here to *Baltimore* town. It cannot be doubted the Council of Safety would lend the hands belonging to the *Defence* for this very important service. You will send an express to the Council of Safety. Not one moment is to be lost. I write this by the order of Congress.

We were informed yesterday morning that the enemy were at *Burlington, Monday* evening. We have certain intelligence just now, that the enemy were not there last night. It is reported and believed that some of their Light-Horse were seven miles above that place on *Monday.* Not one of the enemy are on the west side of the *Delaware.* It is believed that the main body of General *Howe's* Army is at *Maidenhead,* about six miles above, to the west of *Trenton.* General *Lee,* with between five and six thousand men, was at *Morriss-Town* last *Sunday* evening; he will join General *Washington,* who is with his Army opposite *Trenton.*

The Congress will not quit this city but in the last extremity. To prevent false reports, publish the above.

Inform Mr. *Purviance* that Mrs. *Hancock* will set off this day.

Let it be known that arms furnished to our Militia, but the want of them be no excuse.

Your obedient servant, SAM'L CHASE.

Captain *James Nicholson, Baltimore* Town, *Maryland.*

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CAPTAIN NICHOLSON TO MR. AUTHENBECK.

In absence of Captain *Cook,* I would recommend to you to consider the necessity of immediately sending off all the *Defence's* hands that lays in your power. I will assist your officer that you shall think proper to send with them.

Please to show this to Mr. *Purviance,* and conduct him on the occasion, that he may send word of to the Council of Safety. I shall make the best of my way to *Philadelphia.*

I am yours, &c., JAS. NICHOLSON.

Mr. *Authenbeck.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Referred 12 December to the Board of War.]

Head-Quarters, Falls of Delaware, 11 December, 1776.

SIR: After I had wrote you yesterday I received certain information that the enemy, after repairing *Croswick's* bridge, had advanced a party of about five hundred to *Bordentown.* By their taking this route it confirmed me in my opinion that they have an intention to land between this and *Philadelphia,* as well as above, if they can procure boats for that purpose.

I last night directed Commodore *Seymour* to station all his galleys between *Bordentown* and *Philadelphia,* to give the earliest intelligence of any appearance of the enemy on the *Jersey* shore.

I yesterday rode up the river about eleven miles, to Lord *Stirling's* post, where I found a prisoner of the Forty-Second Regiment, who had been just brought in. He informed me that Lord *Cornwallis* was at *Penny-Town* with two battalions of Grenadiers, and three of Light-Infantry, all *British,* the *Hessian* Grenadiers, the Forty-Second *Highland* Regiment, and two other battalions, the names of which he did not remember. He knew nothing of the reason of their being assembled there, nor what were their future intentions; but I last night received information from my Lord *Stirling,* which had been brought in by his scouts, which in some measure accounted for their being there. They had made a forced march from *Trenton* on *Sunday* night to *Coryel's* Ferry, in hopes of surprising a sufficient number of boats to transport them; but finding themselves disappointed, had marched back to *Penny-Town,* where they remained yesterday. From their several attempts to seize boats, it does not look as if they had brought any with them, as I was at one time informed. I last night sent a person over to *Trenton,* to learn whether there was any appearance of building any; but he could not perceive any preparations for a work of that kind; so that I am in hopes, if proper care is taken to keep all the craft out of their way, they will find the crossing *Delaware* a matter of considerable difficulty.

I received another letter from General *Lee* last evening; it was dated at *Chatham,* which I take to be near *Morriss-Town,* the 8th of this month. He had then received my letter sent by Major *Hoops,* but seemed still inclined to hang upon the enemy's rear; to which I should have no objection, had I a sufficient force to oppose them in front; but as I have not at present, nor do I see much probability of further reinforcement, I have wrote to him in the most pressing terms to join me with all expedition.

Major *Sheldon,* who commands the volunteer Horse from *Connecticut,* waits upon Congress to establish some mode of pay. I can only say that the service of himself and his troop has been such as merits the warmest thanks of the publick, and deserves a handsome compensation for their trouble. Whatever is settled now will serve for a precedent in future. From the experience I have had this campaign of the utility of Horse, I am convinced there is no carrying on the war without them, and I would therefore recommend the establishment of one or more corps, in proportion to the number of Foot, in addition to those already raised in *Virginia.*

If Major *Sheldon* would undertake the command of a regiment of Horse on the Continental establishment, I believe he could very soon raise them; and I can recommend him as a man of activity and spirit, from what I have seen of him.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Trenton Falls, December 11th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your favour of the 8th instant, by the Light-Horseman, reached me last night. Having wrote you fully respecting my situation just before it came to hand, it is unnecessary to add much now. I shall only say that *Philadelphia,* beyond all question, is the object of the enemy's movements, and that nothing less than our utmost exertions will be sufficient to prevent General *Howe* from possessing it. The force I have is weak and entirely incompetent to that end. I must therefore entreat you to push on with every possible succour you can bring. Your aid may give a more favourable complexion to our affairs. You know the importance of the city of *Philadelphia,* and the fatal consequences that must attend the loss of it.

I am, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL THOMPSON.

Trenton Falls, December 11th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Being desirous of effecting an exchange of prisoners as far as circumstances will admit of, I shall be much obliged by your transmitting to me, by the earliest opportunity, the names and ranks of the officers who were

released on parole by General *Carleton*. I presume you have a list in which they are specified, and without which I cannot point out to General *Howe* the officers who should be discharged from their paroles, in lieu of those who have been and will be sent in by us.

I am, dear sir, with great respect, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *Thompson*, Prisoner.

P. S. Your exchange for Governour *Franklin* has been proposed to General *Howe*, who has returned no answer as yet.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morris-Town, December, ye 11th, 1776.

We have three thousand men here at present; but they are so ill shod that we have been obliged to halt these two days for want of shoes. Seven regiments of *Gates's* corps are on their march, but where they actually are, is not certain. General *Lee* has sent two officers this day, one to inform him where the *Delaware* can be crossed above *Trenton*, the other to examine the road towards *Burlington*, as General *Lee* thinks he can, without great risk, cross the great *Brunswick* post road, and by a forced night's march make his way to the ferry below *Burlington*. Boats should be sent up from *Philadelphia* to receive him. But this scheme he only proposes if the head of the enemy's column actually pass the river. The Militia in this part of the Province seem sanguine. If they could be sure of an army remaining amongst 'em, I believe they would raise a very considerable number.

[The original is endorsed "From General *Lee*."]

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Morris-Town, December ye 11th, 1776.

Sir: I would recommend to you, if you are at *Ramapouch* or *Pompton*, to take your route either by the Great or Little Falls; if by the Great Falls, you may come by *Hachquacknock*. If by the Little Falls you may inquire for *Newark* Mountains, and come a route at a small distance from the river; but had better send an express to *Springfield*, seven miles west of *Elizabeth-Town*, where about one thousand Militia are collected to watch the motions of the enemy. Their subsequent motions must be directed according to circumstances.

Charles Lee, *Major-General*.

P. S. The gentlemen to whom you are to address yourself for intelligence are Colonel *Ford*, at or near *Springfield*, or the Rev. *James Caldwell*, near *Chatham*.

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GENERAL SULLIVAN'S ORDERS.

December 11, 1776.

The whole Army to strike their tents to-morrow morning, at half past seven, and to parade in order to march by eight.

*Hitchcock's* brigade to march in front, Colonel *Glover* in the centre, and Colonel *Seargent* in the rear.

The wagons to march between the centre and rear brigades.

General *McDougle's* brigade is annexed to Colonel *Seargent's*, and to be commanded by him till further orders.

The same order of march to be observed as yesterday.

The Adjutants immediately to make proper returns of the troops to the Brigade-Majors, and they to the Deputy Adjutants-General.

In case an attack should be attempted by the enemy in our front, *Hitchcock's* and *Glover's* brigades are to form the first line, *Hitchcock* on the right and *Glover* on the left. *Seargent* to form a second line in the rear, and parade the baggage wagons in a line in his front.

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REV. CHARLES INGLIS TO GENERAL HEATH.

Verplanck's Point, December 11, 1776.

Sir: Majors *Huntington* and *Pullen* favoured me with a visit to-day, and gave me information concerning the mode of procedure in accomplishing the business on which I came here, (and with which your Excellency is now acquainted,) which I was not so fortunate as to know before. After the best inquiry at *New-York*, I understood that the members of the Convention at *Fishkill* were the principal persons to whom I should apply for leave to bring home my family and furniture, but could not learn what gentleman was vested with chief military command at *Peekskill*. Even after I came here and was told that your Excellency commanded at that place, I was assured that it would be quite sufficient you should see my letter to the honourable Convention, without any particular application to yourself. The above gentlemen, however, gave me to understand that the management and transaction of such matters is committed to you. This being the case, I could not be satisfied with my own conduct till I had assured your Excellency that my omission of addressing you on the occasion did not proceed from any want of deference or respect to you, but purely from not knowing the steps that were proper to be taken; and I flatter myself that this will serve as an apology for the omission.

The gentlemen above-mentioned intimated that some difficulty in suffering my family to come away might arise from an apprehension that they would give some information respecting the country; to which I shall only say, that I am perfectly willing your Excellency should order an oath of secrecy to be administered to those of them who are to the years of discretion; and I here solemnly promise, on the word of a gentleman and a Christian, that so far from desiring them to violate their oath, I shall inculcate on them the sacredness of an oath in general, and their duty to observe this one in particular. Mrs. *Antill* was lately permitted by General *Dickinson* to come from *Brunswick* to *New-York*, on taking such an oath, and I believe she has religiously observed it. Such precautions are certainly prudent, though I am of opinion that there is much better intelligence conveyed to both armies in this unhappy contest than could be given or communicated by women.

My family have been absent from home near fifteen months. I am distressed beyond expression at the thought of their being absent another winter; and bringing them home is, believe me, the only object I have in view, without the least desire or intention of interfering with either military or political matters. Women have liberty to remove with their children, servants, and effects, from *New-York*. I flattered myself that the Convention and officers in the Continental service would grant a similar indulgence to such women as would choose to move from the country to *New-York*; and I cherished the hope of such an indulgence to my family, the rather as I had been instrumental myself in assisting some families to remove from *New-York* to their friends who were engaged in the Continental cause. The brave are no less distinguished by their humanity than their valour; and I am persuaded of you, sir, to use the words of Alexander, commonly called the Great—"That you do not make war on women or captives." If you are a husband and a father, your own bosom will tell you what mine must feel at this time by the absence of a wife and three helpless infants so long, and on the prospect of leaving them among strangers in such calamitous times. Place yourself in my situation one moment, and I only appeal to the feelings of your heart to decide on my case. Yet far be it from me to desire you would in the least depart from what you conceive to be your duty. I only request that after taking such precautions as prudence dictates to prevent injury to yourself, you would permit the innocent, the feeble, and helpless, to take sanctuary in the arms of those who love and would willingly protect them.

The distance at which my family is at present is so great, and there will be so many difficulties in removing them, that if I had liberty now to remove them, it would not be possible for them to be here in less than ten days. This circumstance makes me the more anxious that the matter should be speedily determined, as from the advanced season we may expect the *North River* will be closed by ice near that time.

Two gentlemen, Mr. *Philip I. Livingston* and Mr. *John Moore*, are concerned with me in the flag of truce, and are here with the same intention to bring home their families. I have read this letter to them, and they beg that your Excellency would consider what I say of my case as applicable exactly to theirs. Mr. *Livingston* desires me to inform you that he intends speedily to remove from this Continent to

*Jamaica*, in the *West-Indies*, where he has an estate, which makes him the more anxious to remove his family, as he proposes to carry them with him.

I hope you will excuse any inaccuracies that may be in this letter, which is written in the dark cabin of a schooner that is agitated by wind and tide.

I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

CHARLES INGLIS.

His Excellency General *Heath*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Haverstraw, December 11th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I received your orders night before last for the march of General *Parsons's* brigade, and yesterday noon the three regiments at *Peekskill* began their march, making about five hundred men, which are now here. I have ordered *Huntington's* and *Tyler's* to join me. They may make about three hundred men, after leaving a Captain and fifty men as a guard at the pass in the mountains. Colonel *Vose*, with *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's*, is now seven miles advanced. I have sent to him to halt until I come up, unless he should have received orders for his conduct either from your Excellency, General *Lee*, or *Gates*. He has about five hundred men, which will make in the whole about thirteen hundred men.

I find the inhabitants to be in the utmost distress; the Tories are joining the enemy, and insulting and disarming the Whigs, stripping them of their cattle, effects, &c. Complaints, petitions, &c., are continually presenting for relief; and the greatest complaints are from *Orange-Town*, *Clecky-Town*, and the neighbourhood of *Hackensack*. I cannot pass, therefore, without securing this neighbourhood. I think, therefore, to move by the way of *Orange-Town* and *Paramus*, to curb the disaffected; and if by any means it should appear that the enemy have not a body of troops at *Fort Lee* or the *English Neighbourhood*, and but a small detachment at *Hackensack*, to endeavour to dislodge them, if it should be possible. I should be glad to know your Excellency's further pleasure.

On *Saturday* last a schooner with a flag came up the river, with the Rev. *Charles Inglis* and one Mr. *Moore* on board, to solicit of the Convention their families, which are now at *Fish-Kills*, or in that vicinity. I gave orders for the flag to be treated with the utmost politeness and respect, and at the same time with as great precaution. I have forbid their going up either by land or water, and have stopped the vessel below the ferry. I sent the letters to the Convention after examination, and have wrote to them that I shall not consent to either of the persons going to *Fish-Kill*, or to their families being permitted to be sent to the city, as it appears to me that the cause may receive injury thereby. Distrust is the mother of security.

The flag waits an answer from the Convention; but my consent shall not be given unless directed by your Excellency.

I have ordered the galley to lie near the schooner, and to keep her boats rowing round her all night.

The men-of-war have sailed down the river.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, at *Trenton*.

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COLONEL SCAMMELL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, Morris-Town, December 11th, 1776.

MUCH RESPECTED SIR: By order of General *Lee*, I beg leave to inform you that we have no rum for the soldiery, and but very little flour. As the Army is continually increasing, I am apprehensive that the Army must suffer. General *Lee* therefore recommends that you order a large quantity of the above-mentioned articles on after the Army.

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

ALX'D SCAMMELL, *D. A. G'l.*

Major-General *Heath*.

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GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Fort Montgomery, December 11, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Yours of the 8th I received by Mr. *Leonard*, desiring me to send up a parcel of stoves and sheet-iron to *Albany* for the use of the troops at *Ticonderoga*. The last of them was brought down here from the furnace yesterday, and with some difficulty I have engaged a sloop to bring them to *Albany*, if they can possibly get up this far on account of the season. She will go off to-night or to-morrow morning.

I have but a small garrison here at present, consisting of five companies of my regiment, except the artillery, and many of them without shoes and other necessary clothes. They have received no pay since the 1st of *August* last; and if they had money there is no clothing nor shoes to be purchased here. The chief of Captain *Swartwout's* company insists that their times were out the first of this instant, and their officers acknowledge it to be so. Five of his company went off this morning without leave, almost barefooted. I have sent a party after them; but if they are taken they will be of no service here, and many more of them without shoes, and some other necessaries, which, if they were provided with, I believe they would serve a while longer contentedly; if not, in my opinion it would be better to discharge them. I wish there could be some shoes and stockings sent here for the men. The value of them should be stopped out of their wages.

My situation is not very agreeable here at present, as I can't get business to go on to my mind, on account of the new arrangement and the inlisting of men; for the officers that are appointed are inlisting as fast as they can; and those that are left out is not so forward as I could wish, on account of it. But without shoes and some clothing, we will not be able to keep up our guard and get firewood, and do the other necessary duty of a garrison. I think it would be best that the chain was taken away from here before the river freezes, and brought to some safe place. I have this day ordered the fire sloops and rafts in the *Puplopen* creek, for fear of the ice; and all the iron chains, &c., belonging to them, will have carted up and put in store.

Captain *Israel Smith* tells me he has no Ensign in his company as yet, and he is desirous to have *Isaac A. Rosa*, who is at present an Ensign in Captain *Jackson's* company, appointed in his. Mr. *Smith* applies to me to recommend him to Congress. I believe he is a good young fellow, and will make a good officer; but Mr. *Smith* is rather better acquainted with him than I am, and if he had not a good opinion of him, he would not be desirous of having him appointed. They both belonged to one company before.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General.*

Excuse haste and incorrectness.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, President of the Provincial Congress, State of *New-York*, *Fishkill*.

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ORDERS FOR SECURING SERGEANT TRIPP AND OTHERS.

Peekskill, 11 December, 1776.

SIR: You will take into your custody Sergeant *Tripp*, Sergeant *Hatherway*, Corporals *Sears* and *Gray*, of Captain *Ford's* company, Colonel *Brewer's* regiment of Artificers, and them safely keep—they being guilty of plundering.

EBEN. HUNTINGTON,
*Deputy Adjutant-General.*

To the Captain of the Main Guard.

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COLONEL BREWER TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peekskill, December 11th, 1776.

SIR: As your Honour was pleased some time ago to recommend me as proper to command a regiment, and as you may imagine I have been placed in that station by the new arrangement, which is not the case, I have taken the liberty to trouble your Honour with this, knowing there is a regiment in the *Bay* Government not filled, and being informed that it is left to your Honour to nominate the Colonel, my request therefore is, that if you should think proper to bestow the command on me, I shall exert my utmost abilities to serve my country, and consider myself obligated in the very highest manner to your Honour.

I am, with due respect, sir, your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

J. BREWER.

To the Hon. *William Heath*, Esq., Major-General.

MATTHEW CANTINE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Fishkill, December 11, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by the Convention of the State of *New-York* to transmit to your Excellency the enclosed resolves, by which it will appear that we have made every exertion in favour of our sister States which our present situation will admit. But we are extremely sorry to find by a letter received last night from General *Heath*, that he is ordered over to the west shore; by reasons of which the most important passes in *America* will be left unguarded, though within a short distance of the enemy. Your Excellency must be fully satisfied, that though they, by marching through the flat country, may distress the inhabitants, yet that measure will be productive of nothing decisive; whereas the fate of this country will probably depend upon their occupying the State of *New-York*, which is now in a great measure abandoned to them. We must therefore take the liberty to entreat your Excellency to countermand an order which, in our humble opinion, is putting every thing to the hazard, and leave the northwestern parts of the State of *New-Jersey* to be strengthened in the way proposed by the within resolutions.

If your Excellency should not be inclined to grant this request, we must beg to be favoured with your immediate answer, that we may not, by suffering our Militia to march, and leave this State entirely defenceless, and thus abandon, with ourselves, the cause of *America*.

Your Excellency will pardon the freedom with which we write. Our sanguine hopes of creating a diversion by the means pointed out in the enclosed resolves, without endangering the safety of this State, are, by the order to General *Heath*, entirely vanished.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your Excellency's most obedient servant.

By order:

MATTHEW CANTINE, *pro t. Chairman.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fishkill, December 11th, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of yesterday, with the several despatches enclosed, were this day laid before the Committee of Safety. I am directed to inform you that they highly approve of the precaution you have used with respect to the flag of truce, and which you will be pleased to continue until we have had time to consider of the applications mentioned in the despatches. They are now under the consideration of a Committee, and I hope a decision will take place to-morrow.

The defenceless condition to which the Highlands will be reduced on your withdrawing the Continental troops, gives us very great concern. Ardently as we wish to cooperate with General *Washington*, in opposing the progress of the enemy in our sister State of *New-Jersey*, we are compelled, by a regard for the publick safety, to direct our Militia, who were before ordered to march into that State, to be reserved for the security of the Highlands. We have at the same time despatched an express to General *Washington*, requesting that you and the troops you more immediately command, may be directed to resume your late stations. We hope this request will meet with your approbation.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant.

By order:

MATTHEW CANTINE, *pro t. Chairman.*

Major-General *Heath, Peekskill.*

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CAPTAIN DUTCHER TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Fishkill, December ye 11th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The 22d of *October* last the Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq, Governour of the State of *Connecticut*, upon a desire from his Excellency General *Washington*, ordered *Elisha Sheldon*, Major of the Fifth Regiment of Light-Horse of the State of *Connecticut*, to march with said regiment to this place, here to wait General *Washington's* orders; then was ordered to march to the *White-Plains*, and I with my company were left to the direction of this Convention, where we still remain.

I have sent to Major *Sheldon* for orders. He says I must apply to you, gentlemen. *John Canfield*, Esq., our Adjutant, has informed me by writing, that General *Lee*, when applied to, refused giving any orders, as my company were at the disposal of the Convention; and says you, gentlemen, have a right to order said company into business, or to return home, as you judge best. As my men are not clothed fit for the winter season, and some of them are a mind to go into the Continental Army, and some of my company being already discharged and gone to work at building barracks in this place, forage for horses being very scarce, hardly to be purchased at any price—I have sent near ten miles round and cannot get any suitable grain for horses at present—my company staying here greatly augmeats the publick cost, and at present, as I apprehend, are of no service. My company being small, would humbly pray you, gentlemen, to discharge me and company, or give a furlough to me and company, and send a despatch to Governour *Trumbull* of your proceedings, which I am ready to forward; but if you judge not best to grant my request, please to give me some directions, as you in your wisdom shall judge best.

I am, gentlemen, with the greatest respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

RULUFF DUTCHER, *Captain.*

To the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York.*

N. B. My company being men of business, are very uneasy to stay here under present circumstances.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO COLONEL LIVINGSTON.

[Secret.] Fishkill, 11th December, 1776.

SIR: It is apprehended that a successful attack may be made against such of the enemy, principally if not solely consisting of *Rogers's* Rangers, as are now ravaging without restraint or remorse the suffering inhabitants of the County of *West-Chester*. I am therefore directed to request you, if it is any wise consistent with your instructions from his Excellency General *Washington*, immediately to repair to that State, with the troops under your command, in order to coöperate with the forces which are imbodying for this expedition. I need not add that no time is to be lost, as the operations of the enemy in *New-Jersey* give a favourable opening for a sudden and vigorous enterprise, which we have no reason to expect can be of long continuance.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

By order.

Colonel *Henry B. Livingston.*

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Fishkill, 11th December, 1776.

SIR: The Convention of the State of *New-York*, alarmed at the rapid progress of the enemy, and not without apprehension for the safety of *Philadelphia* and *New-Jersey*, waited with anxiety for directions from the honourable the Congress, or requisitions from his Excellency General *Washington*; which having not yet been happy enough to receive, owing, as they imagine, either to the confusion occasioned by the retreat of our Army, or the little hopes that was entertained of any assistance from a State which had sustained so many and such severe losses, they therefore ventured to pass the enclosed resolutions, which appeared to them the most likely means to rouse the depressed spirits of the Militia of *New-Jersey*, to curb the disaffected, and divert the attention of the enemy from their principal object, as far as it is consistent with the safety of this State, on which, in a great measure, depends that of all *America*, and to the attack of which the enemy will most undoubtedly return, if their designs are frustrated in *New-Jersey*. These they hope will meet with the approbation of Congress.

They some time since represented to the honourable the Congress the impossibility of finding clothing for the troops raised in this State, owing to the enemy's possessing their only sea-port, and a variety of other causes, stated in a letter to their Delegates, of the last, praying that orders might be issued to supply them from the Continental store. This request they take the liberty to repeat, otherwise the new levies which they are daily raising must become useless,

and be unable to sustain a winter's campaign, which, in all probability, they will be called upon to undergo. As much clothing has been purchased in the Eastern States, they cannot but hope that sufficient supplies to clothe at least two thousand troops may be immediately sent to this place, which, in order to prevent delays, the Convention will undertake to get made up and distributed, if none that is already made can be procured.

I have the honour to be, sir, with the utmost respect, yours, &c.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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*Colonel* DUBOIS's *recommendation for Officers, December 11, 1776.*

Lieut. Col., Jacobus S. Bruyn. Captain James Stewart.
Major, Jacob Morris.
Aid-Major, Levi Paulding.

Captain, Jacobus Rosekrans.
Lieutenant, Henry Dogg.....Lieutenant, Colonel Dubois.
2d Lieutenant, Samuel English.....Ensign, do.
Ensign, Edward Weaver.....Sergeant, do.
Captain, Wm. J. Smith, Jun.....Swarthout's Regiment.

Captain, Brinton Pain.....Colonel Graham's Regiment.
Lieutenant, Henry Vandenburgh...Lieutenant, Col. Dubois's do.
2d Lieutenant, James Butts.....Lieutenant, Col. Graham's do.
Ensign, Thomas Lewis.

Captain, Amos Hutchinson.....Rikeman's Regiment.
1st Lieutenant, Patten Jackson..... do. do.
2d Lieutenant, Jeremiah Clark.....Ensign, do. do.
Ensign, Henry Vanderburgh.....Sergeant, Colonel Swartwhout.

Captain, Henry Goodwin.....Captain, Colonel Swarthout.
1st Lieut., Thomas J. Brinkle.....2d Lieutenant, Dubois.
2d Lieut., John Formen.....2d do. Dubois.
Ensign, Nathaniel Buchem.

Captain, Philip Dubois.
1st Lieutenant, John Burnet.
2d Lieutenant, Ebenezer Mott.....2d Lieutenant, Col. Graham.
Ensign, Jacobus Sleght.....Sergeant, Colonel Humphrey.

Captain, Thomas Lee.
1st Lieutenant, Henry Polling.....2d Lieutenant, Humphrey.
2d Lieutenant, Samuel Dogg.....2d in Clinton.
Ensign, Arch'd Thompson.....Sergeant.

Dubois.....Paymaster.
John Coates.....Surgeon.
Henry Dubois.....Adjutant.
John McClaghry.....Quartermaster.

LEWIS DUBOIS, *Col.*

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DANIEL GRIFFING TO NEW-YORK CONGRESS.

GENTLEMEN: I understanding that I am neglected in the last appointments by not being duly represented, I would therefore take upon myself to inform your Honours of my proceedings and of my usage, and leave it to your wisdom whether my usage has been agreeable to my deserts.

Gentlemen, I was in seven or eight campaigns the last war, and served from a soldier to a Captain of a company, which offices I sustained two of the last campaigns, and in this war I have served two years in the same capacity, having the command of the first company in the regiment both years; and for every thing that I can tell, have served to acceptance, both to officers and men. The last year I marched with my company to *Ticonderoga*, being myself so unwell that the General blamed me for exposing my life to the degree that I did; but the cause of my country lay so near my heart, that I was willing to hazard my life and fortune in so glorious a cause. And the last spring, when I took a company, I then was promised my rank; but no such thing being done for me, and my inferiour officers constantly rising above me in rank, hath almost worn out my patience of serving any longer; but although I leave the service, I cannot quit the cause, which I am sure is so just and righteous. I would, therefore, gentlemen, be glad if you would take my cause into your wise consideration; and what you in your wisdom shall think proper to bestow upon me in my proper rank, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by your Honours' most humble servant,

DANIEL GRIFFING.

To the honourable Congress at *Fishkill*.

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COLONEL MALCOM TO GENERAL HEATH.

Clerk-Town, December 11th, 1776.

SIR: I had the honour to receive your letter of the 9th upon my way to this place, which, very fortunately, was answered by mine of same date, which I sent under cover to Colonel *Hay*, and I hope was duly forwarded. Your Honour very justly observes that I am "almost in an enemy's country." I cannot get intelligence beyond the circle of my quarters but what is brought by my scouts. I sent off at three o'clock this morning fifty men and three officers, with design to surprise a Tory guard-house. I hope they'll succeed, and I move downward in about an hour, with the residue of the party. I beg your Honour will send over, as soon as possible, at least two hundred or two hundred and fifty men. The country from *Tappan* is all in arms. On *Sunday* they were called together, and had King's arms and ammunition delivered out among them. Whether there is any of the enemy's regular troops below, about *Fort Lee* and *English Neighbourhood*, I cannot find out, and I really think my party insufficient to take post at *Tappan;* but our friends are so distressed thereabouts that I think it an indispensable duty to attempt supporting them. My people are now almost unfit for duty, on account of their clothes, and so much marching as we have had this way hath rendered them barefooted; so that I really do not think they can stay after the middle of the month. If the reinforcement appears to-day, I hope before *Monday* to run over the Tory ground, and scatter their gangs. They are recruiting from *Hackensack*, round by *Pyramis*, to *Tappan*, and even up towards *Ringwood*. The owner (one *Peck*) of the negro fellow I sent up is one of their Captains, and *Parcells*, the Tory prisoner which accompanied the negro, was one of their guides and spy. I have thought it my duty to remind your Honour of the near approach of my people's being disbanded, that we may be able to effect something before, and that a party may be here to supply our duty; which, be assured, sir, is very necessary, at least for the present.

I have the honour to be, with due respect, your Honour's much obliged and most obedient servant,

W. MALCOM.

The Honourable General *Heath*.

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MRS. BRUCE'S PERMIT TO GO TO FISHKILL.

The bearer, Mrs. *Jude Bruce*, is permitted to go to *Fishkill*, in order to apply for a pass to go to *New-York;* and it is requested that she may pass thither unmolested.

By order: JOHN BARCLAY, *Chairman*.

To all concerned.

Albany, 10th December, 1776.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Saratoga, December 11, 1776, eight o'clock in the evening.

SIR: I am this moment honoured with yours of the 8th instant. I wish it was in my power to send down any considerable body of troops, agreeable to the request of the Committee of Safety. The garrison at *Tyconderoga*, which I had supposed to consist of twenty-five hundred men, is reduced by sickness, &c., to less than seventeen hundred. None of the other Northern posts are garrisoned by more than a hundred men, and, what is much worse than all, I have every reason to believe that not a man will remain at any of the fortresses after the last of this month, except *Dayton's* and *Burrell's* regiments, who are engaged to the 19th of *January*, and both together amount to only four hundred and thirty effectives; so that what few recruits have been raised in this quarter will be absolutely wanted to the northward, and indeed, unless the Eastern States, to whom I have wrote by express on the 3d instant, send up a body of troops, *Tyconderoga* will not remain in our possession until spring, as General *Carleton* will be minutely informed of whatever passes there, and doubtless improve every advantage. My apprehension on this head I have communicated to Congress in a letter of yesterday, which goes by this express, and have requested them to back my application to the Eastern States. In this situation of affairs it would be highly imprudent to draw any men from this communication. I shall, however, order Colonel *Nicholson* with his corps from *Johnstown*, where he may be wanted this winter.

I am astonished that General *Washington* should not be better supported by the States of *New-Jersey* and *Pennsylvania*. It appears as if they intended to give up the cause; and I am equally surprised that Congress should have moved until there was the utmost necessity. Such a step cannot fail of giving a most general alarm.

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I enclose my letter to Congress under flying seal, for the perusal of the Committee. They will see that it contains information which ought not by any means to be known to the enemy. I therefore wish to have it forwarded by a very safe hand, and by such a route as to take away every probability of its being intercepted by them.

I am, sir, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Honourable *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., Vice-President.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *December* 11, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer, Jabez Huntington, William Williams, William Hillhouse, Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., *Thomas Seymour, Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

*Voted*, To draw an order on the Pay Table for the sum of £674 2*s*. 3½*d*., in favour of Captain *Theophilus Stanton*, it being the balance due in full settlement of his Pay Rolls and amounts of the galley *Shark*, whilst in service of the publick under his command.—(Order drawn and delivered Captain *Stanton*, *December* 11th, 1776.)

Whereas *Ralph Isaacs*, of *New-Haven*, on complaint before the General Assembly of this State, at their session at *New-Haven* in *October* last, for acting in divers instances unfriendly to this and the *United States*, was by said Assembly sentenced to remove to the society of *Eastbury*, in the town of *Glastenbury*, there to abide and remain under the direction of the Authority and Selectmen of said town; and application to a special Assembly since held at *Hartford*, the said *Isaacs* was indulged the liberty of the town of *Glastenbury*, or such other place as the Governour and Council of Safety should think proper; and whereas the said *Isaacs* has made his application to this Board, for special reasons therein given, viz: his being still in a very ill state of health, and his need of the help of his physicians, and has a farm at *Branford*, from whence he must partly draw his supplies for support, to both which the town of *Durham* would be much more convenient, praying that he might have liberty of residing in the town of *Durham*, &c.; whereupon liberty is hereby granted to said *Isaacs*, when his health will permit, to be removed to the town of *Durham* instead of *Eastbury*, and under the same restrictions of the Authority and Selectmen of the town of *Durham* as was to those of the town of *Glastenbury*, during the pleasure of the General Assembly or this Board.

*Lebanon*, *December* 11th, 1776.—This day was chiefly spent in writing Letters to General *Wooster*, Governour *Cooke*, and others, on the publick concerns of the present times, &c.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Lebanon, 11th December, 1776.

SIR: Enclosed are copies of a letter and resolve of the Committee of Safety for the State of *New-York*, for your observation. Agreeable to their request, four battalions are raising here till the 13th of *March*, designed for the Continental service to the westward. Major-General *Wooster* is now at *Saw-Pitts*, with about seven hundred and fifty men from this State, and he will have orders to call in more of the Militia from the western regiments. The utmost exertions appear necessary at this alarming crisis. I need add no further.

I am, with great esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JONTH. TRUMBULL.

Honourable President *Bowdoin*.

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COMMODORE SIR PETER PARKER TO MR. STEPHENS, SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY.

Chatham, Rhode-Island Harbour, December 11, 1776.

SIR: The Commanders-in-Chief in *America* having thought proper, while the season would admit of it, to employ a considerable number of his Majesty's ships and troops for the purpose of making descents on the Colony of *Rhode-Island*, and Lord *Howe* having done me the honour to appoint me to the command by sea, (Lord *Shuldham* having leave to return to *England* by the most early conveyance,) I directed Commodore *Hotham* (agreeable to my instructions from the Vice Admiral) to proceed with his Majesty's frigates the *Brune*, *Mercury*, and *King-Fisher*, and also all the transports with the troops under the command of Lieutenant-General *Clinton*, (the Grand Duke of *Russia* excepted, which was judged to be too large,) by the way of the *Sound*, whilst I proceeded with the great ships, some frigates, and the last-named transport, by *Sandy-Hook*, to the southward of *Long-Island*. I sailed the 1st instant, and on the 5th joined Commodore *Hotham* in the *Sound*, in *Black-Point Bay*, a place he had judiciously chosen for the protection of the transports against the violence of a strong N. W. wind, which blew the night before. The 6th I turned down with the fleet, to be as near as possible the place of our destination. At four the next morning the wind sprung up at W. S. W., and by three o'clock in the afternoon the whole fleet came to an anchor off *Weaver's Cove*, *Rhode-Island*. The following morning, Captain *Caulfield* (who had the direction of the flat-boats) landed all the troops without opposition; and I have the pleasure to inform their Lordships, that *Rhode-Island*, with the isles adjacent, are now in possession of General *Clinton*.

Captain *Wallace*, of the *Experiment*, led the fleet by the west of *Narragansett* passage. An arrangement was made for covering the transports; but we only passed two works, without guns, and intercepted a brig of one hundred and sixty tons, (which the *Experiment* took,) laden with pipes and hogshead staves and beeswax. On the first appearance of the fleet, three Rebel privateers, of thirty-four, thirty, and twenty-eight guns, went up from *Newport* to *Providence*, where they are now, with several others; and I shall hope to put an effectual stop to any further mischief from the nest of Pirates. General *Clinton* sends one of his Aids-de-Camp in the *Mercury*, with his despatches, and I have directed Captain *Montague* to send his Lieutenant express with mine. Enclosed is a list of the Rebel privateers at *Providence*, commonly called the Continental fleet.

I am, sir, &c.,

P. PARKER.

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*A List of Rebel Ships and Privateers at* PROVIDENCE, *commonly called the Continental Fleet.*

*Warren*, *Hopkins*, and *John Hopkins*, commanders, thirty-two guns. *Columbus*, *Otney*, thirty guns. *Providence*, *Abraham Whipple*, eighteen guns. *Blarze Castle*, *Monro*, twenty-two guns. Ship *Jane Chase*, (privateer,) twenty six-pounders. A brig, twelve guns. Sloop *Providence*, *Hoisted Hacker*, twelve guns.

P. PARKER.

Chatham, Rhode-Island, December 11, 1776.

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TO THE PUBLICK.

At the present day there seems to be a very extraordinary dullness and inattention to the present state of our publick affairs; each one seems to be "looking for gain from his quarter," and all striving to be beforehand with each other in raising the price of the necessary articles of consumption among us. The merchants (many of them) first engross the saleable commodities, and then set their price as pleases them. The farmer, finding the rig they run, sets such a price upon his pork, beef, butter, flour, wool, and wood, as he thinks is in proportion to the advanced price demanded by the merchants. Thus they respectively strive to gain the topmost round of the ladder.

By this means those who have the misfortune to be poor are likely to starve, especially those poor families, the heads of which are in the Army—soldiers' wages at this time of day being far from equivalent to the maintenance of a family.

At this rate, what will become of thousands of people who depended on their absent friends in the Army for a subsistence? Must not some measures be adopted by the majesty of the people to prevent the entire death of publick virtue and the progress of internal oppression and extortion?

Shall the trader make the necessity of the buyer his opportunity, and so fleece the indigent and the needy? We have some naturally honest, fair traders, among us, but if they trade at all, they must swim with the stream, and the reason is, that a great number of forestallers and regraters

have infested the country, and are the plagues and pests of society.

The same spirit of biting, in some degree, has infected the minds of many of those who are in a capacity of going into the service of their country. Though they have nothing material to urge in excuse of their inactivity, yet stand out and refuse to assist their bleeding country, unless they are allured thereto by offers or actual receipts of enormous sums of money!

In short, one would be ready to think there is a confederacy and resolution among many, not to stir in the common cause unless they can fatten themselves upon the estates of their neighbours.

Is there no love of our country left in such breasts? Can they, unconcerned, see civil war spread havock over their country, and be calm spectators of the ravages of sworn enemies? It seems they can! otherwise they would never make an extraordinary bounty the condition of their defending all that is dear! I have more to say on the subject, and will only now aver, that unless sordid self is laid aside we may never expect the smiles of Heaven!

Worcester, Massachusetts, 11 December, 1776.

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J. WARREN TO SAMUEL A. OTIS.

Plymouth, December 11, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I received yours by Mr. *Crocker*, and have accordingly received the ship you mention. I find her a very pretty, and, I think, good ship, of about two hundred and thirty to two hundred and fifty tons, as near as I can judge. Her rigging looks well, and by the inventory I send herewith, she will appear to be tolerably provided. I wrote you before that she was sold for eight hundred pounds, and that I thought her cheap. I don't know of any hands for her here, though if I could see the old master I should like to engage him, and might then get hands. I have no prospect of a cargo here, unless it be the logwood and mahogany now landing out of another ship which we have condemned, may be bought cheap. I have a prospect of engaging two or three schooners, but the confusion has prevented my completing the business.

I am, in haste, your friend, &c., J. WARREN.

Mr. *Samuel Allyne Otis*, merchant, *Boston*.

I have sent to the furnaces about shot they are casting there, and shall know soon what quantity.

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JAMES BOWDOIN TO MESHECH WEARE.

Boston, December 11, 1776.

SIR: The Council have received your letter of the 10th instant. They have not since the 7th instant received any intelligence with respect to the movement of the enemy's ships at *Rhode-Island*, excepting a letter from *Dartmouth*, a town belonging to this State, which informs that the enemy landed about three thousand troops on the morning of the 8th instant, near the town of *Newport*, in *Rhode-Island*; but as we have not as yet received any confirmation of this report from *Providence*, the truth of it is not fully credited.

Enclosed you have a copy of a letter we have just received from General *Schuyler*, and the resolution passed by the General Assembly of this State in consequence of it.

In the name of the Council. I am, with great respect, sir, your most humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

The Hon. *Meshech Weare*, Esq., President of the Council of *New-Hampshire*.

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PHILIP DALTON AND OTHERS TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN: We all return you our most kind thanks for thus liberating us, and we shall so behave as not to give you any reason to repent of this your lenity to us; at the same time we most humbly beg leave to lay before you the situation of Mr. *March*, a gentleman that has been long confined. He likewise is much surprised at his particular confinement, and should be glad to know if any person has asserted any thing against his character, that he might be able of vindicating himself. And as he is now left alone, hopes you will take it into your consideration. It is very agreeable to him to be under the most strict inspection of the Committee, and as for his conduct hitherto, it will bear the strictest examination; and as to signing his parole, he is very ready so to do.

And we remain, with great submission, your much obliged, humble servants,

PHILIP DALTON, DAVID LAING,
RICH'D FISHER, BASIL COWPER.

To the honourable gentlemen of the Council.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN MELVIL.

War Office, Boston, 11th December, 1776.

SIR: There is an order of Court directing this Board to appoint a meet person for a temporary Commissary for our Militia about *Rhode-Island*. Accordingly we have thought fit to appoint you to that business, if consistent with your other duties. We enclose you a copy of the Court's order, and also a schedule of the subsistence, by which your business is delineated. We have sent you this by Mr. *Wendell*, who, if you need, will readily afford you his assistance.

Should be glad to know what number of men are from this State in the various ports, as well under your command as from the brigade of *Suffolk*, *Bristol*, and *Plymouth*, and what quantity of provision is further necessary. Milk, rice, beer or cider, peas, beans, soap, and vinegar, you had better send round and purchase in the vicinity, and draw upon us for the amount. We have sent forward only bread, beef, and pork.

By Mr. *Wendell* we remit you £107 16*s*., for which you are to account to the Board. You will let the Board hear from you as soon as possible, and send your return.

By order of the Board:

S. P. SAVAGE, *President p. t.*

Captain *Thomas Melvil*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN MELVIL.

War Office, 11th December, 1776.

SIR: The bearer, Mr. *James White*, is sent forward with a number of cattle for the immediate supply of the troops belonging to the State now in *Rhode-Island*. He will, we imagine, continue to supply you until you again hear from us. We have sent forward one wagon-load of bread; we have engaged several more wagons, and shall take all possible care to supply you with what is necessary from time to time.

By order of the Board:

S. P. SAVAGE *President p. t.*

Captain *Thomas Melvil*.

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WILLIAM THOMPSON TO RICHARD DEVENS.

Wednesday, December 11th, 1776, 11 o'clock, a. m.,
Attleborough.

SIR: At sunset yesterday I reached this place, where the carriage with the eighteen casks of powder is just arrived. The other carriages are not come up yet. I know not where our Militia are stationed, therefore I have desired the Selectmen of this town (who have accepted) to receive the ammunition into their care, until I go to *Providence*, (to which I am this moment setting out,) to inform myself what place or places it may be needful to remove it to if wanted. One of the Selectmen has told me that our Militia have received directions to be supplied out of the *Rhode-Island* magazines; so perhaps it may not be needful to proceed any further.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

WM. THOMPSON.

*Richard Devens*, Esq.

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EMBARGO IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

State of New-Hampshire,
In the House of Representatives, December 11th, 1776.

*Voted and Resolved*, That a general Embargo immediately take place, and continue until the further order of this Court, on all Vessels of every denomination, excepting such as may be fitted out by order of the *United States*, or either of them, or such as may go coast-wise from one harbour in this State to another in this State, or that may go or come for the purpose of bringing firewood from any harbour in the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay* to the town of *Portsmouth*, or such as may be permitted by the General Assembly, or

in the recess thereof, by the Committee of Safety in this State.

And that all Vessels departing in violation of the foregoing resolution shall, with their cargo, tackle, and appurtenances, be forfeited to and for the use of this State, and recovered by a libel to be filed for that purpose in the Maritime Court of this State at any time within one year after the offence committed, by the naval or maritime officer of this State. And in case any Vessel departing as aforesaid shall not be seized in one year after her departure, the owner or freighter thereof shall forfeit and pay the value thereof, to be sued for and recovered in the Inferiour Court of Common Pleas in the County where the offence may be committed, by the naval or maritime officer of this State, one-third to his own use, and the other two-thirds to the use of this State.

And in all trials in the Maritime Court, or Inferiour Courts, in consequence of this resolution aforesaid, any party aggrieved may appeal to the Superior Court of Judicature in this State.

*Resolved*, That the Naval or Maritime Officer of this State be ordered and empowered to see the foregoing resolution put into execution.

Sent up for concurrence.

SAMUEL CUTTS, *Speaker pro tem.*

*In Council, December* 12*th*, 1776: Read and concurred.

M. WEARE, *President.*

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SILAS DEANE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 12th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Just as I had closed my despatches by the Generals *Du Coudray* and Baron *De Kalb*, I was most agreeably surprised with a letter from Doctor *Franklin*, at *Nantes*, where he arrived after thirty days passage, with two prizes. I hourly expect him here; but knowing of his arrival, I despatch this, with a duplicate, to *Havre de Grace*, to go by the ships sailing thence; and have only time to inform you that I sent an express instantly to Mr. *Lee* to join us here without delay; for the news of Mr. *Franklin's* arrival may occasion his friends being forbid coming from *London* to *France*.

Nothing has for a long time occasioned greater speculation than this event, and our friends here are elated beyond measure, as this confirms them you will not negotiate with *England*; and for me, I will not attempt to express the pleasure I feel on this occasion, as it removes at once difficulties under which I have been constantly in danger of sinking. I may not add, as I shall miss the post; but am, with the most grateful and respectful compliments to the honourable Congress, &c.,

Per order: SILAS DEANE.

The King of *Portugal* is dead. The Comte *Grimaldi*, Prime Minister of *Spain*, has resigned, which will tend to accelerate a rupture in *Europe*, which I think unavoidable.

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BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO COMMITTEE AT ANNAPOLIS.

In Committee, Baltimore, December 12th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By a letter received by the post from Mr. *S. Chase*, we are directed immediately to send up to the *Head-of-Elk* and *Charles-Town* all the craft that can be got, in order to assist in bringing down all the publick stores, the sick, &c., which were to be removed from *Philadelphia*; and were requested to transmit you the same requisition, which doubt not you'll readily comply with.

We are, with much respect, gentlemen, your most humble servants. Per order,

JAS. CALHOUN, *Chairman.*

To the Committee of Observation at *Annapolis*.

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CHARLES THOMSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 12th, 1776.

SIR: The President still being necessarily engaged with his family, I have the honour to inform you that your letter of yesterday was received and laid before Congress.

I enclose you sundry resolutions passed this day; and am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

CHAS. THOMSON.

His Excellency General *Washington*, at Head-Quarters.

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GENERAL PUTNAM TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, 12 December, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: Your favour of yesterday I have received. All things in this city remain in confusion, for want of men to put them into order. The citizens are generally with you. The Continental recruits are clothing and arming as fast as possible, and are employed on guard and fatigue duty, for which there is scarce a relief. A party are now going to the *Jerseys*, to bring off all the craft out of the creeks.

The Council of Safety have this day issued orders for every able-bodied man to be enrolled and put to work on throwing up the lines. I have reconnoitred the ground round the city, in company with General *Mifflin*, and the *French* Engineers, who are preparing a draft of the lines, which we are to begin to-morrow. The principal stores are removed to *Christiana Bridge*, by orders from Congress to General *Mifflin*, who sets out to-morrow by directions from that body, with a Committee of the Assembly and Council of Safety, to endeavour to animate the inhabitants of the Province to come in to your relief, which, through some unhappy circumstances, has been too long delayed.

The Continental frigate, commanded by Captain *Biddle*, ordered by Congress on a cruise, since the arrival of the *Roebuck* and two other ships in our bay, is countermanded, and, with four or five privateers, ordered to be stationed in the river.

Major *Mifflin* remains with me as a deputy in the Quartermaster-General's department.

Enclosed is Colonel *Wybert's* commission; for want of which I am credibly informed he is confined in the provost guard in *New-York*, because he refused to enter into the service of the enemy. Captain *Herbert* and other officers lately released from *New-York*, mention his hard treatment with great regret.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

His Excellency General *Washington*, at Head-Quarters.

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IN CONGRESS: The Delegates of the *United States of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina*, and *Georgia*: To *Anthonie Felix Wiebert*, Esq.

We, reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, valour, conduct, and fidelity, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be an Engineer, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, in the Army of the *United States*, raised for the defence of *American* liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof. You are, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Engineer, by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under your command, to be obedient to your orders as Engineer. And you are to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the *United States*, or Committee of Congress for that purpose appointed, or Commander-in-Chief for the time being of the Army of the *United States*, or any other your superiour officer, according to the rules and discipline of war, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you.

This commission to continue in force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

Dated at *Philadelphia, June* 24th, 1776.

By order of the Congress:

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Attest: CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*

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GENERAL ORDERS.

Philadelphia, December 12, 1776.

All Officers of the Continental Army who are now in this city by furlough or order, (those only excepted who are on the recruiting service, or who may have leave of absence in writing from the Commander-in-Chief,) are hereby required to join their respective corps before to-morrow evening.

Officers who have the charge of any sick soldiers, in or near this city, and who are included in the foregoing order, are directed to make returns to Dr. *Jonathan Potts*, at Mr.

*John Biddle's*, in *Market* Street, of the numbers and places of residence of their sick, that proper care may be taken of them.

The late advances of the enemy towards this place oblige the General to request the inhabitants of this city not to appear in the streets after ten o'clock at night, as he has given orders to the piquet-guard to arrest and confine all persons who may be found in the streets after that hour. Physicians and others having essential business abroad after the hour, are directed to call at Head-Quarters for passes.

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 12th, 1776.

SIR: The Council are obliged to your Excellency for the intelligence of Colonel *Humpton*, and you may be assured of our strict attention to every object which your Excellency shall think proper to recommend.

The enclosed copy of a letter just received, advising of the appearance of two vessels of war at our capes, we thought it of importance to communicate it to you, and have sent off Lieutenant *Butler* express therewith. We are sorry to inform you that the want of men is such that we are unable to furnish Colonel *Humpton* with a proper number to execute your purposes fully; nevertheless we shall detach a party, who may at least answer the purpose of observation.

By order of Council.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your very humble servant,

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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Lewis, December 11th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Last evening came in and anchored in our road the *Roebuck* and a sloop-of-war, and remain here still. If they should move upwards, I shall give the general alarm by water and land. When the ships came in, they had the wind to the eastward, and might have fetched up the bay if they were inclined so to do.

Your humble servant, HENRY FISHER.

To the Council of Safety in *Philadelphia*.

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MAJOR IRVING TO MAJOR BLAND.

Valley Forge, December 12th, 1776.

SIR: Captain *Langsdale*, to whom I found it necessary to apply for a halting day, informs me it is out of his power to grant my request, as your orders to him are so positive. I am persuaded, when you are informed that not half my division are arrived, nor, I believe, any of the baggage, you will join me in opinion that a halt of one day is unavoidable; and if we are to pay any attention, either to the health or comfort of the officers as well as men, a second becomes absolutely requisite, to wash linen and other purposes. We have had no halt since we left *Sussex*, and that was so uncertain, we could not receive any benefit from it. The officers are without their bedding; part of their baggage arrived this morning at *North-Wales;* there we were to change our wagons, which delayed us until one o'clock, at which hour we marched, and about a mile from our quarters we were stopped by a Provincial guard, by order of Major *Correll*, who was not to be found till near three o'clock, at which time we were forced to march to this place, a distance of fifteen or sixteen miles. I think it necessary to acquaint you of this matter, to enable you to prevent such disagreeable mistakes in future.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant, &c.

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COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

December 12, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The gentlemen of the Light-Horse, who went into the *Jersey*, have returned safe. They proceeded into the country till they met an intelligent person directly from *Trenton*, who informed them that General *Howe* was then with the main body of his Army; that the Flying Army, consisting of the Light-Infantry and Grenadiers, under Lord *Cornwallis*, still lay at *Penny-Town*, and there was no appearance of a movement. That they are certainly waiting for boats from *Brunswick;* that he believed they would attempt a landing in more places than one; that their artillery park has thirty pieces of cannon, all field-pieces. They are collecting horses from all parts of the country. Some movement was intended yesterday morning, but laid aside; but what it was, and why they did not proceed, he does not know.

I sent off a person to *Trenton* yesterday morning with directions to return by *Penny-Town*. I told him to go to and get what intelligence he could from him. He is not yet returned. I expect him every moment. I charged him to let know that if he would watch their motions, and could inform us of the time and place of their proposed landing, he should receive a large reward, for which I would be answerable.

I cannot but think their landing will be between this and *Trenton*, for these reasons:

1. That Lord *Cornwallis*, with that part of the Army which he will lead, keeps at *Penny-Town*, within four miles of the river.

2. They will by that means avoid the ferry at *Shaminy* and the fords, which at this season of the year must be disagreeable to their troops.

3. They will derive much more assistance from the country, which is but too favourable to them.

4. They know our principal artillery is near *Trenton*, and the passage through the woods to *Bristol* must be unfavourable to them. On the road above they will find all clear, and the distance nearly the same.

The river is not, nor, I believe, cannot be sufficiently guarded. We must depend upon intelligence of their motions; to obtain which no expense must be spared. If it were possible to fix signals answering to their different movements, that would be most speedy and effectual.

The Militia are crossing over in parties. I fear they do not mean to return. I do not know by whose orders, but if their Colonels have power to give permission, in a little time there will be none left.

I do not like the situation of things at and above *Coryell's Ferry;* the officers are quite new, and seem to have little sense of the necessity of vigilance. I shall wait a little to see my man return, and then, unless your Excellency think my stay here of service, I will return to Head-Quarters.

I enclose you a proclamation which I got from the other side. I suppose it is one of the same kind General *Dickinson* saw.

I am, in haste, most respectfully, dear sir, your obedient, humble servant, JOS. REED.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

Mr. *Moylan* desires me to mention to your Excellency the propriety of his meeting General *Lee*, to inform him of the state of things; and wishes to know your pleasure by the return of the Light-Horse.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 20th.]

Trenton Falls, December the 12th, 1776.

SIR: I last night received the favour of Mr. *Thomson's* letter, enclosing the proceedings of Congress of the 11th instant. As the publication of their resolve, in my opinion, will not lead to any good end, but, on the contrary, may be attended with some bad consequences, I shall take the liberty to decline inserting it in this day's orders. I am persuaded if the subject is taken up and reconsidered, that Congress will concur with me in sentiment. I doubt not but there are some who have propagated the report; but what if they have? Their remaining in, or leaving *Philadelphia*, must be governed by circumstances and events. If their departure should become necessary, it will be right; on the other hand, if there should not be a necessity for it, they will remain; and their continuance will show the report to be the production of calumny and falsehood. In a word, sir, I conceive it a matter that may be as well disregarded, and that the removal or staying of Congress depending entirely upon events, should not have been the subject of a resolve.

The intelligence we obtain respecting the movements and situation of the enemy is far from being so certain and sat-

isfactory as I could wish, though every probable means in my power, and that I can devise, are adopted for that purpose. The latest I have received was from Lord *Stirling* last night. He says that two Grenadiers of the *Inniskilleng* Regiment, who were taken and brought in by some countrymen, inform that Generals *Howe, Cornwallis, Vaughan,* &c., with about six thousand of the Flying Army, were at *Penny-Town,* waiting for pontoons to come up, with which they mean to pass the river near the *Blue Mounts,* or at *Coryel's Ferry;* they believe the latter. That the two battalions of Guards were at *Brunswick,* and the *Hessian* Grenadiers, Chasseurs, and a regiment or two of *British* troops, are at *Trenton.* Captain *Miller,* of Colonel *Hand's* regiment, also informs me that a body of the enemy were marching to *Burlington* on yesterday morning. He had been sent over with a strong scouting party, and at daybreak fell in with their advanced guards, consisting of about four hundred *Hessian* troops, who fired upon him before they were discovered, but without any loss, and obliged him to retreat with his party and to take boat. The number of the whole he could not ascertain, but they appeared to be considerable. Captain *Miller's* account is partly confirmed by Commodore *Seymour,* who reports that four or five hundred of the enemy had entered the town. Upon the whole, there can be no doubt but that *Philadelphia* is their object, and that they will pass the *Delaware* as soon as possible. Happy should I be if I could see the means of preventing them. At present I confess I do not. All military writers agree, that it is a work of great difficulty, nay, impracticable, where there is any extent of coast to guard. This is the case with us; and we have to do it with a force small and inconsiderable, and much inferiour to that of the enemy. Perhaps Congress have some hope and prospect of reinforcements. I have no intelligence of the sort, and wish to be informed on the subject. Our little handfull is daily decreasing by sickness and other causes; and without aid, without considerable succours and exertions on the part of the people, what can we reasonably look for or expect, but an event that will be severely felt by the common cause, and that will wound the heart of every virtuous *American*—the loss of *Philadelphia?* The subject is disagreeable, but yet it is true. I will leave it, wishing that our situation may become such as to do away the apprehensions which at this time seem to fill the minds of too many, and with too much justice.

By a letter from General *Heath,* dated at *Peekskill,* the 8th, I am advised that Lieutenant-Colonel *Vose* was then there with *Greaton's, Bond's,* and *Porter's* regiments, amounting in the whole to between five and six hundred men, who were coming this way. He adds, that Generals *Gates* and *Arnold* would be at *Goshen* that night, with *Stark's, Poor's,* and *Read's* regiments; but for what purpose he does not mention.

The enclosed extract of a letter, which I received last night, contains intelligence of an agreeable nature. I wish to hear its confirmation by the arrival of the several prizes. That with clothing and arms will be an invaluable acquisition.

I shall be glad to be advised of the mode I am to observe in paying the officers: Whether they are to be allowed to draw the pay lately established, and from what time, and how long they are to be paid under the old establishment? A pay-roll which was presented yesterday being made up for the new, has given rise to these propositions. Upon my objecting to it, I was told that Congress or the Board of War had established the precedent, by paying the Sixth Regiment of *Virginia* troops, commanded by Colonel *Buckner,* agreeable to the latter, as they came through *Philadelphia.*

I have the honour to be, with much esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

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*Extract of a Letter from* Boston, *dated November* 27, 1776.

You may depend upon the following: Got into *Dartmouth,* a snow with wine, cheese, &c., being the last of eight vessels taken by the *Columbus* and *Alfred* in the gut of *Canso,* bound to *Quebeck* for the Army. The fleet consisted only of eight. The snow parted with a ship mounting sixteen guns, having on board three thousand stand of arms, and ten thousand suits of clothes for the soldiers, ten days before she got into *Dartmouth.* The ship was one of the eight. We are longing to hear of her being safe in.

ORDERS TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL DICKINSON.

Sir: You will post your troops at *Yardley's Ferry,* or somewhere near it. Find out the fording place there, and have a redoubt thrown up immediately. You and General *Ewing* must divide the ground between *Trenton Falls* and your post, and establish the proper guards and patroles to watch the enemy's motions. You will spare no pains or expense to obtain intelligence. All promises made or moneys advanced, shall be fully complied with and discharged. Every piece of intelligence worthy notice you obtain, forward it to me by express. Let the troops always have three days' provision cooked beforehand, and keep them together as much as possible, night and day, that they may be in readiness in the shortest notice to make head against the enemy. Should they attempt to land on this side, you will give them all the opposition in your power. Should you be routed from your post, you are to repair to the strong grounds at *German-Town,* unless you can possibly join the upper or lower division of the Army, which, if practicable, you are to do. Be particularly attentive to the boats and other vessels, and suffer no person to pass over to the *Jersey* shore without a permit.

Given at Head-Quarters, at *Trenton Falls,* this 12th day of *December,* 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *Dickinson, New-Jersey* Militia.

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ORDERS TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL EWING.

Sir: Your brigade is to guard the river *Delaware,* from the ferry opposite to *Borden-Town,* till you come within two miles or thereabouts of *Yardley's* Mill, to which General *Dickinson's* command will extend.

About one hundred or a hundred and fifty men will, I should think, be sufficient at the post opposite to *Borden-Town.* The principal part of your force should be as convenient as possible to the fort above *Hoops's* Mill, in order that if a passage should be attempted at that place you may give the earliest and most spirited opposition; the success of which depending upon good intelligence and the vigilance of your guards and sentries, will induce you to use every means in your power to procure the first, and every endeavour to enforce and encourage the latter.

Between *Borden-Town* and the mill, and from the mill to the extent of your line above, you are to have intermediate guards and sentries, who are to be as attentive as possible in discovering and informing you of every movement of the enemy: constant patroles are also to pass. In a word, so much depends upon watchfulness, that you cannot possibly be too much upon your guard.

As the fort from the *Jersey* shore leads on to the upper end of the island adjoining the mill, you are to throw up a breastwork for musketry near the landing-place, and secure your communication with it. Besides this work, another on the height on this side for a field-piece or two should be erected. Be particularly careful of your field-pieces, and do not suffer them to be left, if there is a possibility of avoiding it.

You are, as I before said, to give every possible opposition to the enemy, particularly at crossing the river; but if you should be overpowered, and obliged to retreat, join that part of the troops under my immediate command, or the other under Colonel *Cadwalader;* in the latter case, the best stand possible is to be made at *Neshamini Ferry,* bridge, and fords; but you are unable to hold these, then seize the strong grounds in the neighbourhood of *German-Town,* unless you receive orders to the contrary from me or some other your superiour officer.

Spare no pains nor cost to gain information of the enemy's movements and designs. Whatever sums you pay to obtain this end, I will cheerfully refund. Every piece of information worthy of communication transmit to me without loss of time. A part of Colonel *Hart's* battalion I have ordered to join your brigade. Keep your troops always supplied with three days' provisions, and prevent them from straggling, that they may be ready at a moment's warning to oppose the enemy in their passage of the river. Be particularly attentive to the boats and other vessels, and suffer no person to pass over to the *Jersey* shore without a permit.

Given at Head-Quarters, at *Trenton Falls,* this 12th day of *December,* 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *Ewing, Pennsylvania* Militia.

ORDERS TO COLONEL JOHN CADWALADER.

Sir: You are to post your brigade at and near *Bristol*. Colonel *Nixon's* regiment to continue where it is at *Dunks's Ferry;* but if you find, from reconnoitring the ground or from any movement of the enemy, that any other disposition is necessary, you'll make it accordingly, without waiting to hear from me; but to acquaint me of the alterations, and the reasons for it, as soon as possible. You'll establish the necessary guards, and throw up some little redoubts at *Dunks's Ferry*, and the different passes in *Neshamini*. Pay particular attention to *Dunks's Ferry*, as its not improbable something may be attempted there. Spare no pains or expense to get intelligence of the enemy's motions and intentions. Any promises made or sums advanced shall be fully complied with and discharged. Keep proper patrols going from guard to guard. Every piece of intelligence you obtain worthy notice, send it forward by express. If the enemy attempt a landing on this side, you'll give them what opposition in your power. Should they land between *Trenton Falls* and *Bordentown Ferry*, or any where above *Bristol*, and you find your force quite equal to theirs, give them what opposition you can at *Neskamini Ferry* and fords; in a word, you are to give them all the opposition you can, without hazarding the loss of your brigade. Keep a good guard over such boats as are not scuttled or rendered unfit for use; keep a good look out for spies; endeavour to magnify your numbers as much as possible; let the troops have always three days' provisions cooked beforehand; endeavour to keep your troops as much together as possible, night and day, that they may be ever in readiness to march upon the shortest notice. You'll consult with the Commodore of the galleys, and endeavour to form such arrangement as will most effectually guard the river. To your directions and prudence I submit any further regulations, and recommend the greatest degree of vigilance.

If you should find yourself unable to defend the passes on the *Neshamini*, or the enemy should rout you from your post, you are to repair to the strong ground near *German-Town*, unless you have orders from me or some other General Officer to the contrary.

Be particularly attentive to the boats and vessels, and suffer no person to pass over to the *Jerseys* without a permit.

Given at Head-Quarters, at *Trenton Falls*, this 12th day of *December*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Colonel *John Cadwalader, Pennsylvania* Militia.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, near Trenton Falls, December 12th, 1776.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 8th instant has come duly to hand, and I am glad to hear that *Greaton's, Bond's*, and *Porter's* regiments are coming forward to join me; at the same time, I must acknowledge I should have been much better satisfied if they had contained a greater number of men than what you have mentioned. Your sending them on, with all possible expedition, was exceedingly proper; indeed, no time is to be lost, as the necessity of our affairs at present requires an immediate augmentation of our force.

I have observed in your letter you have mentioned the arrival of Generals *Gates* and *Arnold* at *Goshen*, with *Patterson's, Stark's, Poor's*, and *Read's* regiments, but have not mentioned whether they are on their march to join us, though I conjecture that this is the case, from the route they have taken. As every thing ought to be attempted for the preservation of *Philadelphia*, I hope these troops will make all imaginable haste to get here in time to be of service. Our situation at present in this quarter is truly critical. Our Army (as you have been informed) has been greatly diminished. The troops composing the Flying-Camp have mostly gone home, and we have as yet received very little assistance, except from the *Philadelphia* Militia. The enemy, under the command of Generals *Howe, Cornwallis*, and *Vaughan*, amounting to about twelve thousand, are posted at *Trenton, Penny-Town*, and downwards towards *Borden-Town*, waiting for an opportunity to cross over. Their views are to get possession of *Philadelphia*. However, it is very probable they will considerably extend them, unless we can procure a sufficient force to oppose their progress.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Heath*.

P. S. With respect to the officers of one State inlisting the soldiers of another, it is not to be allowed of; and as to the convalescents, you will use your own discretion.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO DOCTOR SHIPPEN.

Head-Quarters, near Trenton Falls, December 12th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated at *Bethlehem*. the 8th instant. Your proposition of opening Dr. *Morgan's* stores I entirely approve of, and which you are authorized to do immediately, as it is, in every instance, my ardent wish that the sick be provided for in the most happy and comfortable manner our circumstances will admit of, and I know of no good reason why stores should be preserved for a future day when they are so much wanted at present.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Dr. *William Shippen*, Jun., D. General F. Hospital.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Head-Quarters, Trenton Falls, 12th December, 1776.

Sir: I was a few days ago favoured with yours of the 30th of last month, and this is the first opportunity that afforded me the pleasure of answering it. The event has shown that my opinion of General *Howe's* intentions to make an excursion into *Jersey* was not ill-founded. Immediately after the reduction of *Fort Washington*, he threw a body of men, consisting of about six thousand, over the *North River*, with an intention to surprise the garrison of *Fort Lee;* but they withdrew before he could accomplish his purpose. Finding the few troops I had with me insufficient to oppose the enemy, and knowing that my numbers would still be diminished by the expiration of the service of the Flying-Camp men from *Jersey, Maryland*, and *Pennsylvania*, which would take place on the last day of *November*, it was determined to retreat as far as *Brunswick*, where I hoped to receive a reinforcement from the Militia of the State of *New-Jersey*, sufficient to check the further progress of the enemy. But in this I was cruelly disappointed. The inhabitants of this State, either from fear or disaffection, almost to a man refused to turn out, and I could not bring together above one thousand men; and even on these very little dependence was to be put. My numbers were now reduced to three thousand men, and that of the enemy considerably increased by fresh reinforcements. I had sent General *Mifflin* down to *Philadelphia*, to raise what force he could in that Province, and send them on with all speed to my assistance. I fell down myself to *Trenton*, in order to wait for supplies, hoping that such numbers would come in from *Pennsylvania* as would enable me to turn upon the enemy, and recover most of the ground which they had gained. General *Mifflin* was very successful with the Militia of *Philadelphia*, who turned out in a very spirited manner, and immediately marched about fifteen hundred men up to *Trenton;* but the remainder of the Province continues in a state of supineness, nor do I see any likelihood of their stirring to save their own capital, which is undoubtedly General *Howe's* great object.

The *Delaware* now parts the two armies, and nothing hinders the passage of the enemy but the want of boats, which we have been lucky enough to secure. General *Lee* is still in the rear of the enemy, with about four thousand men, with whom he is on his march to join me. If he can effect this junction, our Army will again make a respectable appearance, and such as, I hope, will disappoint the enemy in their plan upon *Philadelphia*. I sent down General *Putnam*, a few days ago, to begin upon some works for the defence of that city, upon the salvation of which our cause almost depends.

I am informed that the inlistment of the new Army goes on very successfully to the Eastward and Southward; little or nothing can be expected from *New-York* or *Jersey*, which are, the far most part, in the hands of the enemy. Every thing must depend upon the regular force we can bring into the field in the spring; for I find, from fatal experience, that Militia serve only to delude us.

As my distance from the Eastern Governments makes me ignorant of their present circumstances, I will not undertake to direct the disposition of the four regiments you have ordered to be raised till the 15th *March*. I would only recommend, if they can be spared, that they should march and take post at the Highlands, and at the forts upon the *North River*, as much depends still upon keeping possession of the upper part of that river.

I highly approve of your plan for supplying your new Army with necessaries; our old one has suffered considerably for want of some such wholesome regulations. You may depend upon my giving due countenance to such a commendable scheme.

I am, with great truth and sincerity, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To Governour *Trumbull, Connecticut.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HOWE.

Bucks County, December 12th, 1776.

Sir: The enclosed lists, which I have taken the liberty of transmitting, comprehend the officers belonging to your Army who were returned on the 4th, 7th, and 8th current, by Colonel *Moylan*, in pursuance of my direction. I have affixed against their names such belonging to us as I wish to have released, and who are of the same rank, except in the instance of Colonel *Allen*. His exchange, on account of his long imprisonment, I have been particularly instructed to propose.

The officers whose enlargement I now require, are chiefly on parole, and of those who were sent from *Canada* by General *Carleton*. In respect to the privates, you will be pleased to direct an equal number to be returned out of those who were made prisoners on *Long-Island*, on the 27th of *August*, including six volunteers described in one of the lists.

I thank you for the ready attention that was had to the return of Major *Bird*, and others who came out with him, in exchange for the officers who went from *Brunswick;* but I must request that upon any future occasions the particular officers to be returned shall be of my appointment, or some person authorized for that purpose.

I cannot conclude this letter, without mentioning the severe treatment of Mons. *Wiebert*. This gentleman was made prisoner on the 16th ultimo, with the garrison on *York Island*, and who holds the rank of a Lieutenant-Colonel in our service, I am credibly informed has been committed to the provost guard, and is there suffering all the inconveniences of a gaol. I am persuaded this treatment is without your knowledge, and that the complaint will be removed as soon as it is discovered.

I am, sir, with due respect, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Lieutenant-General *Howe.*

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A GENTLEMAN IN CONNECTICUT, DATED HEAD-QUARTERS, TRENTON FALLS, DECEMBER 12, 1776.

My last to you was by Captain , of the 5th instant, from *Trenton*. I was then in hopes my next would have acquainted you we were advancing on the enemy. My reason for presuming this was a speedy arrival of General *Lee*, with his division of the Army. Our enemy, knowing how far he was in the rear, and our weak situation, made a forced march to come up with us, and were within two miles of *Princetown*, when Lord *Stirling* began his retreat with two brigades. Boats from every quarter were collected, and our stores, together with the troops remaining at *Trenton*, were immediately conveyed over the *Delaware*. On *Sunday* morning, having every thing over, we crossed the *Delaware*, and took our quarters about half a mile from the river. About eleven o'clock the enemy came marching down, with all the pomp of war, in great expectation of getting boats, and immediately pursuing; but of this we took proper care by destroying every boat, shallop, &c., we could lay our hands on. They made forced marches up and down the river, in pursuit of boats, but in vain. This is *Thursday;* the enemy are much scattered, some in *Trenton*, directly opposite, from that on their left to *Bordentown* and *Burlington*, on the river banks. The enemy are at least twelve thousand strong, determined for *Philadelphia*, for which purpose they are transporting flat-bottom boats from *Brunswick* to *Trenton* by land.

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CONDUCT OF THE BRITISH AND HESSIAN TROOPS IN NEW-JERSEY.

Bucks County, December 12, 1776.

The progress of the *British* and *Hessian* troops through *New-Jersey* has been attended with such scenes of desolation and outrage as would disgrace the most barbarous nations. Among innumerable other instances, the following are authenticated, in such a manner as leaves no doubt of their truth:

*William Smith*, of *Smith's* farm, near *Woodbridge*, hearing the cries of his daughter, rushed into the room, and found a *Hessian* officer attempting to ravish her. In an agony of rage and resentment, he instantly killed him, but the officer's party soon came upon him, and he now lies mortally wounded at his ruined, plundered dwelling.

On *Monday* morning they entered the house of *Samuel Stout*, Esq., in *Hopewell*, where they destroyed his deeds, papers, furniture, and effects of every kind, except what they plundered. They took every horse away, left his house and farm in ruins, injuring him to the value of two thousand pounds in less than three hours. Old Mr. *Phillips*, his neighbour, they pillaged in the same manner, and then cruelly beat him.

On *Wednesday* last three women came down to the *Jersey* shore in great distress; a party of the *American* Army went and brought them off, when it appeared that they all had been very much abused, and the youngest of them, a girl about fifteen years of age, had been ravished that morning by a *British* officer.

A number of young women in *Hopewell*, to the amount of sixteen, flying from the ravaging and cruel enemy, took refuge on the mountain near *Ralph Hart's;* but information being given of their retreat, they were soon brought down into the *British* camp, where they have been kept ever since.

The fine settlements of *Maidenhead* and *Hopewell* are entirely broke up; no age nor sex have been spared; the houses are stripped of every article of furniture, and what is not portable is entirely destroyed. The stock of cattle and sheep are drove off; every article of clothing and house linen seized and carried away. Scarce a soldier in the Army but what has a horse loaded with plunder. Hundreds of families are reduced from comfort and affluence to poverty and ruin, left at this inclement season to wander through woods without house or clothing.

If those scenes of desolation, ruin, and distress, do not rouse and animate every man of spirit to revenge their much-injured countrymen and countrywomen, all virtue, honour, and courage must have left this country, and we deserve all we shall meet with, as there can be no doubt the same scene will be acted in this Province upon our property, and our beloved wives and daughters.

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FROM AN ENGLISH BOOK OF ORDERS FOUND AT TRENTON.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief orders that all inhabitants that shall be found with arms, not having an officer with them, shall be immediately taken and hung up.

From another book found at *Princeton:*

Head-Quarters, Trenton, December 12th, 1776.

Small straggling parties not dressed like soldiers, and without officers, not being admissible in war, who presumes to molest or fire upon soldiers or peaceable inhabitants of the country, will be immediately hanged without trial, as assassins.

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LORD STIRLING TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Blue Mounts, December 12, 1776.

Dear Sir: The intelligence which the two Grenadiers brought, is in many things confirmed; first, by the extensive fires of their encampment, which appeared last night to be about *Penny-Town;* and other intelligence from the other side, particularly by one person who has passed through all their encampment, and came out of *Trenton* about eleven

o'clock yesterday, who says that the Flying Army is in and about *Penny-Town*, under the command of Lord *Cornwallis*. That General *Howe* is at *Trentown*, with some *British* and some *Hessian* troops, and thirty pieces of cannon, placed at the church; that there was to have been some movement, he understood, downward yesterday morning; why it was delayed he knows not, but they remained quiet when he came away. That there was a very long cannonade heard yesterday while he was on the road, supposed to be at or near *Brunswick*.

I have sent off one piece of cannon to Colonel *Weeden*, and as the three regiments here now lie compact and well covered with boards, and nearly centrical to *Yardly's* and to *Corriel's* ferries, I believe it best to let them be in their present situation, till some movement of the enemy makes it necessary to alter it.

I have this moment seen the two persons who sent me the two Grenadiers yesterday evening; they have reconnoitred the enemy, and conversed with several of their neighbours, who have been in every part of the Flying-Camp, which they say is scattered for two or three miles round *Penny-Town* in the utmost security. I shall therefore send Captain *Taylor* over this evening with about thirty men, to try his hand among them.

If our troops were not so much worn out, I would propose to your Excellency that about twelve hundred good men should cross over at *Tinicum*, and come down upon them suddenly from the north. If General *Lee* is in their rear this would greatly coöperate with him, and tend to disconcert their measures much. I would gladly try the experiment.

I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

STIRLING.

I cannot find that any of the persons who have been among them know any thing of their pontoons, or that they are building any boats.

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REV. JAMES CALDWELL TO GENERAL LEE.

Turkey, December 12, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I thank you for your favour from *Baskenridge* of this morning, and intended to do myself the honour to wait upon you, and set out for that purpose, but found my horse would not perform the journey with sufficient expedition, and cannot procure another here. And indeed I find this the best place to observe the enemy's motions. From sundry persons who have been upon the road between *Brunswick* and *Princeton*, I learn the Army has very generally marched forward; indeed, all except guards of the several posts. Yesterday they sent a reinforcement to *Elizabethtown* from *Amboy*, of near one thousand. Some say the whole at *Elizabethtown* are about one thousand; others say fifteen hundred. They are carrying off the hay from *Elizabethtown* to *New-York*. At *New-York* there are but about five hundred men left at *Fort Lee*; it is said a battalion of the *Scotch*. At *Hackensack*, and from thence to *Elizabethtown*, none. I believe *Elizabethtown* is their strongest post, as they were afraid of our Militia, who have taken off many of the most active Tories, made some prisoners, and among others, shot their *English* Foragemaster, so that he is mortally or very illy wounded. A company of our Militia went last night to *Woodbridge*, and brought off the drove of stock the enemy had collected there, consisting of about four hundred cattle and two hundred sheep. Most of those cattle are only fit for stock. Colonel *Ford* begs your directions what to do with them. I advised that those not fit to kill should be sold, recording the marks, that Whig owners might receive the money for which they sell respectively. It will cost more than the value of them to keep them in a flock. They are driven up the country to be out of the enemy's way, and the Colonel will follow your directions as to the disposition of them.

At a council of the Field Officers this morning, a majority of them advised to remove the brigade of Militia back again to *Chatham*, for which they assigned these reasons: Many of the Militia, rather fond of plunder and adventure, kept a continual scouting, which kept out so many detached parties that the body was weakened; and the enemy being now stronger at *Elizabethtown* than they are, they thought they would better serve the cause by lying at *Chatham* till the expected army approaches for their support.

Colonel *Ford* also desires your directions with respect to the arms, horses, or other property taken with any of the enemy. The parties who take them think themselves entitled to these things.

I enclose you some examinations. Colonel *Ford* thinks, from the circumstances of the wagons taken up at *Brunswick* to go empty to *Trenton*, that the enemy intended to retreat. I hope their retreat will be guarded against. I have very much suspected as soon as our whole Army is over the river they will return to reduce this Province, leaving only part of their Army at the river to prevent ours returning, till they have plundered us at their pleasure.

With every kind wish for your prosperity, dear sir, your unfeigned friend and most obedient and humble servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

The Honourable General *Lee*.

P. S. I have sent you *Jacob Vincent* and two or three more Light-Horse, in whom you can depend.

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GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Van Kemp's, fifteen miles from Sussex Court-House, 12 December, 1776.

SIR: In obedience to General *Schuyler's* commands, I left *Albany* the 2d instant, with *Stark's*, *Poor's*, *Read's*, and *Paterson's* regiments, *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's* having sailed from thence the day before; *Bedel's* remaining to embark the next day, as sloops were not then ready to receive them. Upon my arrival at *Esopus*, I sent Brigade-Major *Stoddard* to *New-Windsor*, to order *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's* regiments to join me upon the march by the way of *Goshen*; I thereupon marched from *Esopus*, and sent my Aid-de-Camp, Major *Peirce*, to *Goshen*, to direct the march of those regiments. He met me yesterday, and acquainted me that Major-General *Lee* had sent an order to those regiments to join him by a prescribed route; I therefore pursued my march by this route with the four other regiments, and hope to rendezvous them all the day after to-morrow at *Sussex* Court-House. I send the bearer, Brigade-Major *Wilkinson*, for your Excellency's orders in respect to the route you would have me take; at present, I propose marching by that delivered to Major *Wilkinson*.

I shall strictly observe the directions contained in Mr. Secretary *Harrison's* letter to Major-General *Schuyler*, of the 26th ultimo, a copy of which is now before me.

There was a deep snow last night at this place; it is now mild, and promises rain; in that case we shall be able to go in boats down the *Delaware*, which will save much time and fatigue.

With every ardent wish for your Excellency's prosperity, I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HORATIO GATES.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL GATES TO THE OFFICERS COMMANDING GREATON'S, BOND'S, AND PORTER'S REGIMENTS.

Esopus, December 8th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: On receiving this by Major *Peirce*, the General's Aid-de-Camp, you are immediately to continue your march from *Goshen*, or whatever place you shall receive this at, for the *Minisink*, on *Delaware*, where you will be joined by the troops from this place, and will wait the General's arrival.

By the General's Command:

JOHN TRUMBULL, *D. A. General.*

To the Officers commanding *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's* Regiments.

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MAJOR WILKINSON TO GENERAL GATES.

Sussex Court-House, 12 December, 1776.

SIR: The information of a person who has escaped from the enemy, corroborated by the report of an inhabitant of *Gotian*, just from *Philadelphia*, obliges me to inform you that the enemy are arrived at *Trent-Town* on *Saturday* or *Sunday* last, and that General *Washington* was on the opposite shore. The numbers of either Army I have not been able to collect, and am in equal uncertainty respecting General *Lee's* present situation or force. The latter inform-

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ant left *Philadelphia* on *Monday* morning last, (the Congress sitting, the city in great confusion,) and crossed the *Delaware* about forty miles distance, though I can't learn how far above *Trent-Town*. Pursuant to your orders, I shall proceed to General *Washington* with all possible speed, by the most convenient route, and making every necessary precaution, and flatter myself I shall be able to meet you at *Bethlehem*.

I am, sir, with every respect, your much obliged, most obedient, humble servant,

JAS. WILKINSON.

N. B. The troops who have marched for this place I have ordered to stop. I believe it will be as convenient for them to pass from this to *Bethlehem* or *East-Town* as by any other route.

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ISAAC NICOLL TO JOHN M'KESSON.

Peekskill, 12th December, 1776.

SIR: I received two letters to-day from Convention, one for General *Heath* and one for General *McDougall*, which I have sent forward to them, they having both passed to the west side of the river, together with the principal part of troops under their command, except three regiments of General George *Clinton's*; so that we have but a very few men at this station. General *Heath* left the command with me until he returns, which expect will be in a few days. No news material.

I am, in haste, your most obedient, humble servant,

ISAAC NICOLL.

To *John McKesson*, Esq.

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HENDRICK WYCKOFF TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Fishkill, December 12th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Being appointed some time ago to act as Commissary for the *New-Hampshire* troops and artificers, the *Hampshire* troops being now discharged; and whereas a number of troops have here arrived these two days past, some of them artificers, the best chiefly invalids out of different brigades and out of different regiments and companies, as their returns will show, which I will produce whenever required, these troops are all applying to me for provisions, and I would willingly act safe. Thought proper to petition to your honourable House to know whether I must supply them all at the usual rations; and if they must be supplied here, how I shall get some salt for them to season their fresh provision with, understanding the salt at Mr. *Week's* will not be more than enough for the artificers.

Begging further to know whether it will be your pleasure to continue me longer in this business, the reason why, because that if I am certain to continue any longer, it would be high time for me to buy up a number of fat cattle, which if I do now neglect, almost all the cattle among us will be engaged, so that I shall be at a nonplus for beef.

And lastly, I must beg leave to acquaint your honourable House, that whereas I have not as yet drawn any cash from Convention, and have expended all my ready money which I had with me, am now out of cash. Have applied to Major *Schenck*, who tells me that he cannot pay out any of the money he has in hand to me, unless it be by an order from your honourable House. Must therefore beg of your honourable House, if I am continued, for an order to draw some money. In hearing your humble petitioner's request, will greatly oblige and ever be acknowledged, by your most humble and obedient servant,

HEND'K WYCKOFF.

To the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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MAJOR LEDYARD TO THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Fishkill, December 12th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I take the liberty to recommend Lieutenant *Theodosius Fowler* to your notice for an appointment in the new arrangement. Having served a twelvemonth's campaign with him in late Colonel *McDougall's* regiment, I know his merit as a good active officer, and a sincere friend to his country, standing firm against all the persuasions of his father and unfriendly relations. Captain *Walker*, I understand, wants a First Lieutenant, who would be well suited with Mr. *Fowler*.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

BENJA. LEDYARD,
*Major of the Fourth N. Y. Regiment.*

The respectable the Committee of Arrangement for the State of *New-York*.

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SAMUEL TUDER TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Poughkeepsie, December 12th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your resolve of 5th instant, also yours of yesterday by Mr. *Degrushe*, we have this moment received, and note the contents. We shall use our best endeavour to get the cannon and other necessary stores. As to the cables and anchors ordered to General *Clinton*, we would acquaint you that in a few hours after we received your orders, we put on board a sloop four anchors and two cables, which was all we had on board the ships that would answer; and the reason they are not down is, that Mr. *Livingston* thought it best for the sloops to go down with a raft of timber for the docks which were then ready, by which we imagine the sloop must be detained.

We should have sent the other two cables, which we must have taken from the privateer sloops, but could not then be spared, as they were going up to *Esopus* with the ships, and it would not do to leave them at single anchor.

As soon as our sloop returns, (which is all the boat we have,) we shall send the other two cables down. The ship *Congress* got into *Esopus* creek yesterday, and we have reason to think the ship *General Montgomery* has got in this day, as the tide has been much higher to-day than it has been for some time past.

I am, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

SAM'L TUDER.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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HENRY SHERBURNE TO GENERAL GATES.

Esopus, December 12, 1776.

SIR: Captain *Paterson* arrived here, with about two-thirds of the men that were put on board the river sloop, last evening; the remainder of them are coming in this morning. The vessel proving very leaky and without a pilot, they were obliged to land at the distance of forty miles from this place, and march the men down here by land, which has greatly fatigued them. I have provided the detachment with three days' provision, and design they shall march for the *Minnisinks* to-morrow morning, by which am in hopes they will be sufficiently refreshed.

By a gentleman from *Skeensborough* am told that *Bedel's* regiment has gone home, he having met a considerable number of them near *Wood* creek. This information I think probable, as I have not heard nor seen any thing of them since you left this place, more than this gentleman informs me. The same person further adds, that there was not any troops in *Albany* when he passed through, which is now four days since.

I shall leave no stone unturned to expedite the forwarding those troops now here with the greatest despatch.

I am, with respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

HY. SHERBURNE.

Major-General *Gates*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, of *Connecticut*, *December* 12th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *William Williams*, *William Hillhouse*, *Thomas Seymour*, *Benjamin Huntington*, *Nathaniel Wales*, Esquires.

*William Howard* is appointed Lieutenant and Commander of a company of Militia and others, in the Second Society in *Windham*, to march into the State of *Rhode-Island* for the present expedition, and to be under the Commander-in-Chief. A commission is granted, *December* 12th, 1776.

GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Lebanon, December 12th, 1776.

SIR: Among the variety and important objects which I have no doubt every moment press on your mind and command your attention, I beg leave to suggest to you the distress of our prisoners in *New-York*, which, upon every principle of humanity as well as policy, demands the most speedy method to be come into and accomplished for their relief.

Major *Wells*, of one of the battalions of this State, among the prisoners in *New-York*, is now suffered, on his parole, to come from thence into this State to solicit relief for the prisoners there. By him I understand Colonel *Miles* is permitted to go to *Philadelphia* on the same errand. The representation made to us by Major *Wells* is, that we have in *New-York* between three and four thousand prisoners, the privates all close confined, upon about half allowance; great number of them almost naked; their confinement is so close and crowded that they have scarce room to move or lie down, the air stagnate and corrupt; numbers dying daily, arising principally from their close confinement. Applications have been made to General *Howe* for relief, but in vain. He expresses himself with great humanity, but yet the number is so great, and not having a country to dispose them in, as we have for our prisoners, and giving enlargement in *New-York* would be attended with great hazard, he most heartily wishes for an exchange; and that it does not lie at his door that it is not accomplished before this time; he has been both ready and willing, but the delay is on our part; besides, he is willing to exchange officer for officer of equal rank, private for private; and when that is done, to release the remainder to return to their homes on their parole. We entertain not the least doubt of your great humanity, and that the relief of these unhappy sufferers lies near your heart. We are also in some measure sensible of the amazing weight and burthen that has, especially for some months past, lain upon you; and also of the disadvantages you have been under to accomplish this exchange. We are convinced of your inclination, by the early attention you have paid to that subject, manifested by your letter to me, to make the necessary preparations therefor; but, sir, you will suffer me to give one hint more to your Excellency, to show the necessity of speedily attending to this matter if possible, that is, the privates suffer so amazingly, their lives in danger every moment, though they abhor the thought, and it is only despair drives them to it—as "skin for skin; all a man has he will give for his life"—if they cannot soon be relieved, they must yield to the offer made to them, and inlist themselves into the King's service. Necessity will soon compel them. About three hundred have already yielded to the temptation. The effect a delay of this matter has upon the present inlistments for the new Army, will not escape your consideration.

I thought it my duty to acquaint your Excellency with these matters, and have no doubt you will attend to every object according to its weight and merit. It may be convenient to send the prisoners in this State, from the several towns where they are kept, under guard of the troops of our four new-raised battalions, who are to continue in service till the 15th of *March* next. Parties from those several towns going on to their service may very conveniently do it, and the prisoners going in such small parties will not be dangerous, and it may be so concerted that they arrive at the place appointed near at the same time.

I have sent forward Mr. *Alden* with this, who will wait on you for your answer, and advice for my future conduct herein, with such other intelligence as you may think convenient to transmit me.

I have to advise you that the enemy seem to be spreading in every quarter. A few days since about ten of their ships of war, with about eighty transports, lay off *New-London* harbour; since which they have proceeded to *Rhode-Island* and up *Providence* bay, having from five, and some say to eight thousand land forces with them. An attack upon *Providence* is every day expected. We are alarmed for our neighbours and the near approach of the enemy. Are sending forward all the force we can from our Militia nearest that State for their relief, and at the same time we are called upon for an additional force westward, on the borders of *New-York*, as by the removal of so great a part of the Continental forces west of *Hudson's* river, leaves us in a great measure naked and defenceless on this side.

Hope to hear your Excellency is supported by a numerous accession to your Army, from *Pennsylvania* and the *Jerseys*; and that God Almighty may yet so prosper our arms as to give a check to the rapid progress of the enemy, and that he will yet crown this year with victory over the enemies, and salvation to his oppressed people.

I am, with great esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH. TRUMBULL.

To his Excellency *George Washington*, Esq., General and Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the *United States, New-Jersey*.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Lebanon, December 12th, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 3d instant was received not till this day. The approaching expiration of the term of the troops at the garrison of *Ticonderoga*, *Fort George*, and under the circumstances you mention, and the danger of losing these important posts, is truly alarming and demands our first attention. The calls for aid from this, in the various threatened quarters, eastward as well as westward, of which you must by this have been made sensible, and for which we are making provision, will prevent our doing all that could be otherwise wished or expected for the Northern department. Every reasonable exertion, however, shall be made. I have therefore this moment issued the most pressing orders to the officers expected to go in the Northern service, to engage and fill up their companies, and move them forward in small parties. We shall rely upon your chest for the premiums and encouragements offered by Congress to induce the inlistments. This will be a most essential point for the speedy effecting the desired purpose, and your earliest advice upon the subject will be material. For if the money cannot come from you, don't know when or how it will be had from Congress in the present situation of affairs.

Some of the officers for the new Army are now at *Ticonderoga*, and am in hopes they may engage some men on the spot, especially if the money could be had. Am fully sensible of the great advantages the enemy have in gaining intelligence from your quarter, and the improvement General *Carleton* will make of our every weakness.

A large fleet of the enemy have lately been upon our coast, consisting of more than one hundred sail, which much alarmed us. They are now at *Newport*, and actually taken possession of that island, with some say five, others eight thousand troops. The town of *Providence* is much threatened and the ships tending that way. We are, as you must reasonably think, sending troops to their relief.

I wish you to find every expedient for manning the posts at *Ticonderoga* and *Mount Independence*. Permit me to mention Colonel *Elmore's* regiment. I know not yet its destination. Also, may not Colonel *Warner* be able to raise a regiment on the *Grants*, of good and faithful men, for the purpose? May not some of the Militia in *Albany* city and County be a temporary relief?

This express is to go forward to *Ticonderoga*, with letters to some of our officers there, to be recruiting.

I am, with esteem and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JONATHAN TRUMBULL.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Lebanon, December 12th, 1776.

SIR: We received yours of the 8th instant by express last evening, acquainting us with the critical situation of our Army at the westward, the advantage which might arise by reinforcing Generals *Lee* and *Gates* in the *Jerseys*, your efforts on this occasion, and the necessity of further and speedy aid from this and the other *New England* States, &c. We are of opinion with you, that the enemy's fleet sailing up the *Sound* is designed to draw off our attention from our western Army, and to prevent our throwing in our force that way; and it is impossible to prevent its effect in some measure. That fleet, consisting of eight or ten capital ships of war, and eighty or ninety transports, first came to anchor off *New-London;* which gave us the alarm, and obliged us to rally our Militia and send them forward to that place. The fleet, after a day or two, came to sail, and steered their course for *Newport*, and with their land forces, to the amount of five,

and some say eight thousand, took possession of that island, part of the fleet pushing up the bay towards *Providence*. This gave a most sensible alarm to *Providence*, a considerable part of the Continental fleet, with the two new frigates, a large number of privateers and prize ships, being in that port; the town full of the wealth of the enemy, which had been taken from them, whereby their apprehensions were greatly raised, that the design of the enemy was to attack that place. We were immediately earnestly called upon for aid, as were the *Massachusetts*, who have sundry valuable towns lying on the eastern side of that bay. But we learn that the *Massachusetts* are drafting every fourth man to send westward to supply the deficiency of their proportion in the new Army. We have ordered, and are raising, four battalions for the same purpose, and have directed their march in parties as they are raised, as soon as twenty are inlisted in a company. We are in great hopes so many of the troops raising in this and the *Massachusetts* States will soon arrive, as to be a guard and check against the enemy on the eastern part of *Hudson's* river; and should hope some part of General *Heath's* division might be sent forward to reinforce Generals *Lee* and *Gates;* but that must submit.

We immediately sent off an express with a copy of yours to the *Massachusetts*. Hope the advanced season will soon put a stop to the further progress of the enemy.

Thank you for your kind offer of assistance in purchasing or forwarding provisions. Shall give notice when there is occasion.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH. TRUMBULL.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esquire, President of the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Lebanon, December 12th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In consequence of your application for that purpose, I encouraged the Committees in the seaport towns within this State to give all possible assistance in the time of it to the good people on *Long-Island*, in the removal of their families and effects here for a shelter from the enemy. That in pursuance hereof, as well as from other laudable motives and a concern for their suffering brethren in your State, the Committees exerted themselves much in their favour and at considerable expense.

An account of what was done from the port of *New-London* now enclose you, in order for your allowance and reimbursement. Among the particular undertakers employed by the Committee who have signed the account, and are gentlemen of character, you'll find a certain *John Field*, the bearer of this, amount of his bill being forty-four pounds five shillings, lawful money. As he is a native of *New-Jersey*, and in want of his pay, have referred him to your Board for satisfaction. The rest of the undertakers being generally in want of their dues, you will please point out in what method and when they may apply. The other bills of expense in the same service, in other parts, will be forwarded you, and have no doubt of your proper attention to the whole. Have also enclosed you a second account of *John Vails*, come to hand since the first, for the same service.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

JON'TH. TRUMBULL.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, Esquire, President of the Committee of Safety of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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New-London, December 13, 1776.

The fleet of men-of-war and transports from *New-York* came to sail on *Friday* morning, the wind easterly and small. At about twelve o'clock they came abreast of the harbour, making a very formidable appearance, and for the space of half an hour it was apprehended were bound in; but after that they stood out, and that night anchored the south side of *Fisher's Island*, and the next night came to near *Rhode-Island;* since which we learn they have landed about eight thousand men at *Newport*, and taken possession of that town.

It is reported that about forty sail more of transports, &c., came through *Hell-Gate* a few days ago, bound this way, it is probable to join the above fleet.

Last *Monday*, Captain *Thomas Chester* arrived here from *Demerara*, with a cargo of rum. The day before he got in he was chased by a *British* frigate, but his vessel being a good sailer got clear.

Last *Wednesday*, three *British* frigates were seen in the offing, and yesterday one appeared off *Goshell* reef.

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EBENEZER WILLIAMS TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Pomfret, December 12th, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR: Your several orders of the 5th, 7th, and 8th instant, I have received and executed as far as was in my power. My infirm state of health rendered it impossible for me to enjoy the honour of leading out my regiment in the present campaign. The prospect at present is, that I shall not be further serviceable in the military department. While I was able, I ever rejoiced to serve my country, but esteeming it highly proper and reasonable that those who are called out into action should receive the honour and the reward due to their services, I would by no means stand in the way of others. But after properly acknowledging the honour conferred on me by the authority of the State, and expressing my gratitude for it, I crave leave to resign my commission into more suitable hands. To such I could wish it might be given; and am, sir, with proper respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

EBENEZER WILLIAMS.

To the Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State of *Connecticut*.

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WILLIAM THOMPSON TO RICHARD DEVENS.

Attleborough, December 12, 1776, Thursday Evening.

SIR: Yesterday, after taking necessary measures for safely depositing the ammunition that arrived here from *Stoughton*, and that which was expected from *Watertown*, (which is since arrived,) I rode forward to *Providence*, where I found only a regiment of our Militia, of about two hundred and thirty men, just arrived from *Uxbridge* and that neighbourhood, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel *Nathan Tyler*, who had taken up present quarters in the College, and were waiting for further orders. Him I informed of my charge, and desired him to inform all other officers he could. From thence after dark I rode to *Rehoboth*, and this morning to *Warren*, next town to *Bristol*, where I saw Brigadier-General *Godfrey*, and acquainted him of my business. He has desired me to send forward the ammunition to *Rehoboth Green*, that being, in his judgment, the most suitable place to accommodate all the Militia, who are posted in different places. I am now returned, and have applied for carriages to remove it thither, and expect they will take it on to-morrow morning if fair weather. This supply will be welcome, for I understand numbers are deficient. I shall conform to the letter of my instructions as near as possible, but in any instances wherein that may be impracticable, I shall endeavour to fulfill the spirit of them, by delivering to regiments or detachments agreeable to applications I may have from commanding officers, informing them of the obligations they will be under to return or account for whatever ammunition shall not be necessarily expended in the service. In this I hope for your approbation, and beg you would write me about it as soon as possible. A letter directed to be left at Mr. *James Daggett's* house, in *Rehoboth*, will be duly forwarded to, sir, your humble servant,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

*Richard Devens*, Esq., Commissary-General.

*Friday, eleven o'clock.*—The carts are loading, and will go on immediately to *Rehoboth*.

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SILAS DEANE TO C. W. F. DUMAS.

Paris, December 13th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I am indebted for two letters, and the same cause of my neglect, viz: a hurry of business still subsisting, I cannot make amends by a long letter in this, but the substance will be agreeable, which is, that Dr. *Franklin* is arrived at *Nantes*, and I expect him at *Paris* to-morrow. He left *Philadelphia* the last of *October*, and every thing

was favourable in *America*. On his passage the ship he was in made two prizes on this coast. I received a letter from my venerable friend on his landing, who was in high spirits and good health. Here is the hero, and philosopher, and patriot, all united in this celebrated *American*, who, at the age of seventy-four, risks all dangers for his country. I know your heart rejoices with me on this occasion.

I am, with respect, &c.,

SILAS DEANE.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN AT BORDEAUX, DATED DECEMBER 13, 1776.

Doctor *Franklin* arrived at *Nantz*, in *France*, on the 7th instant, in a ship of sixteen guns, and has gone to *Paris*. His business, which must certainly be very important, is matter of much speculation among the *French*. I am very glad he has got here safe, as his superiour abilities and experience will probably at this juncture be of the greatest advantage to *America*. The ship brought in two prizes with her, taken in the bay. The *French* are now, and have been for four months past, preparing both by sea and land. Their marine force is at this day very formidable, and the *Spaniards* are not much behind them. A war with *Spain* and *Portugal* is thought to be unavoidable; should that take place, *France* and *England* will necessarily be engaged in it. The arrival of Dr. *Franklin* will probably hasten it. It is very confidently reported, and said to come from good authority, that *Russia* has engaged to furnish *England* with twenty thousand men for the *American* service in the spring. *France* and *Spain* will not, I think, see this, and remain idle spectators. The *Dutch*, who are attached to their interest, seem very generally disposed to retard and clog the *Americans*, both in their publick and private business, as much as they can. Lord *Chatham* is said to be very near his end. We have not yet heard of the fate of *King's Bridge*. The *French* and *Spaniards* will greatly rejoice to hear of a decisive action in favour of *America*. Hope they will soon have that pleasure. Hearing that lead was much wanted in *America*, induced me to purchase so large a quantity; should there be occasion for it, I hope it will do good execution.

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CAPTAIN WICKES TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Quiberoon Bay, 13th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I take this opportunity to inform you of my safe arrival in twenty-nine days, as from *Cape Henlopen*, at *Quiberoon Bay*, where I landed Doctor *Franklin* and his suite in good health. He has been very kindly received in *France*, as I am informed, but had no letter from him as yet, but expect one every hour.

We have taken two prizes on our passage, both small brigs, one from *Bordeaux*, loaded with fifteen thousand pipe and barrel staves, thirty-five hogsheads claret, bound for *Cork*; the other from *Rochefort*, loaded with four thousand bushels flax-seed and sixty-three hogsheads *Cogniack* brandy, bound for *Hull*. I have no doubt but we shall be allowed to sell our prizes here, as there has been ten or a dozen merchants on board to purchase the two prizes now in my possession.

We have been detained here this fifteen days, waiting a wind to proceed to *Nantes*, and I am in hopes of getting there soon, where I shall be able to give you a more full and satisfactory account of my reception and proceeding. I am informed that there is now sixteen sail line-of-battle ships and ten frigates manned and fitted at *Brest*, ready for sea, but cannot learn their destination. They also inform me they are now fitting a large fleet of ships in *England*, but don't hear of any more soldiers raising for the *American* service. I can form no idea yet of my future proceedings, as I shall proceed according to the information I may hereafter receive; but shall take particular care to give the earliest information of every thing in my power. It is reported that Captain *Anderson* is arrived at *Nantz*, in the ship *Success*, from *Philadelphia*. Our people is all well and in good spirits.

From, gentlemen, your most obliged, humble servant,

LAMB'T WICKES.

To the honourable Committee of Secret Correspondence at *Philadelphia*.

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ROBERT CHRISTIE, JUN., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Nottingham Furnace, 13th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I did myself the honour of writing to your President the 10th instant, acquainting him that on the night of the 4th of this month, myself and a number of the inhabitants of *Baltimore* have been drove from their houses by a mob. I mentioned all the circumstances of the transaction so fully then, that it is useless to say any thing more on the subject now. I have every reason to believe that none of us can return again to *Baltimore* with any prospect of safety to our persons until times alter. For my own part, I am so fully convinced of this, that I am determined to retire into some remote corner of the Province, at least for some little time. By my absence the publick business of the County will be thrown into some confusion, especially the collection; not above one fourth of which is yet made, and consequently many of the publick creditors are unpaid. If the Council of Safety think proper that I should finish the collection, I propose putting it into the hands of Mr. *Moses Galloway*, who is a person of property and unexceptionable character; and I shall give him directions to apply every shilling he collects to the payment of the County debts, and I am content to wait for my own claim until the others are paid. Or if you think proper to take it out of my hands, I am ready to settle an account with the County; and if, after deducting my own claims, which have been levied by the Court, there appears any balance due by me, I am ready to pay it to any person you direct. The last mode will be most agreeable to me. I apprehend it will be necessary to publish some resolve on the subject, as too many of the people are ready to catch at any excuse, and will not pay without something of this sort is done.

It has been said by some of my enemies since my departure, that I am considerably indebted to the County. The contrary will appear to be the case upon examination; for I am considerably in advance for 1775; and although I cannot exactly say how the account stands for the present year, yet from the smallness of the collection, I am pretty confident, that after deducting my own claims, which were allowed at the Levy Court, little or nothing remains in my hands; which, as I said before, I am able and willing to pay.

It is necessary something should be speedily done in this affair. And as you are much better judges of the mode than I can pretend to be, I shall say nothing further on the subject.

Please to favour me with an answer by Mr. *Galloway*; and believe me, with much respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

ROB'T CHRISTIE, JUN.

The honourable the Council of Safety at *Annapolis*.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read, December 20, 1776: Referred to Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. S. Adams.]

Philadelphia, December 13, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed letter from the General was delivered to me open by Mr. *Walton*, who judged it prudent to examine the contents before it went forward, and in which I concur with him, as it was probable some service might result to this place from their being known; and I flatter myself that essential service will be rendered to the Continent thereby. As soon as I saw this authentick account of the enemy's design to cross *Delaware* above the falls, I waited on General *Putnam* and proposed that the frigate *Randolph* and sloop *Hornet* should be sent to sea immediately, as it was plain to me they would be of no use here, and I had received certain advice that there was not any *British* men-of-war in our bay. The General very readily consented; and I have this afternoon given Captain *Biddle* and Captain *Nicholson* their instructions, signed by me on behalf of the Marine Committee. They will depart early in the morning, and I entertain the most sanguine hopes of their escape. The *Hornet* goes for *Carolina* with the shot; but part of the flour was landed previous to this new determination. I have presumed to go one step farther in this Navy business, and flatter myself I shall be entitled to the approbation of Congress, whether I meet it or not, for my intentions are good, and I procure myself much trouble with the sole view of serving the cause: On viewing the frigate *Delaware*, I thought it possible to get her away before General *Howe* could get here. I have therefore set about it

stoutly. A number of people, scarce as they now are here, are at work on her. The sails will be bent, anchors to the bows, stores on board, and every thing in some forwardness to-morrow. I have sent an express to the General, informing him of my design, and requesting him to send down Captain *Alexander*, his officers, and such seamen as are willing to go with him; and if it is possible to get her away I shall order her to *Baltimore*, under your own care. If I fail in this attempt you only add a little expense of labour to the loss, for the ship may in that case be destroyed. However, if General *Howe* will but give me a few days more, and Lord *Howe* keep away his myrmidons, I shall have the pleasure to despatch the *Randolph*, *Hornet*, *Delaware*, *Security*, *Fly*, and a large ship laden with tobacco; all which you may deem as saved from the flames. The removal of Congress has left me much other business. I am paying your debts, at least those of the Marine Committee, and directing fifty necessary things to be done; and, with General *Howe's* permission, shall be glad to finish the business you would wish to have done here. But if Mr. *Howe* advances, I shall push off, and leave him to finish the business in his own way.

I am told there is a letter in town that mentions General *Clinton's* arrival at *Rhode-Island*, and that he took peaceable possession of it, as all the inhabitants to a man abandoned the island; but tell Mr. *Ellery* I have not seen this letter, nor will I vouch for its authenticity.

You will please to receive enclosed some pleasing letters for the Marine Committee; and with perfect esteem and respect, I remain, sir, yours and the Congress's most obedient and most humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, 13th December, 1776.

SIR: At the particular desire of General *Mifflin*, we have undertaken to give you a detail of our publick affairs, as Major-General *Putnam* is otherwise engaged in his very important department, and General *Mifflin* about setting off on a tour through the Counties, to try his influence with our Militia, too many of whom remain in a state of supineness and infatuation, which is altogether unaccountable, especially in the Counties of *Philadelphia*, *Bucks*, *Berks*, *Lancaster*, and *Northampton*. These Counties lie nearest to this city, and from them we have but little prospect of drawing much succour. What the frontier Counties will afford we cannot determine, as we have no certain intelligence of their disposition.

Our Assembly has offered a bounty to draw out the Militia. Enclosed is a copy of their resolutions for the purpose. We know not what effects can be promised from it; possibly it may influence some. All our fencible men are already drawn from this city, who can be prevailed upon to take an active part in our favour; indeed, the city is amazingly depopulated by the detachments made to Head-Quarters, and the fears of the timid and disaffected, who have sought an asylum in the country.

General *Putnam* is preparing to draw out the people which remain, to throw up works of defence. What numbers he will be able to procure cannot as yet be ascertained; a day or two perhaps will determine. A floating bridge will be finished to-morrow over the middle ferry at *Schuylkill*. Mr. *Casdrop* has been employed by order of this Council for some days about that business. We cannot spare or raise men to station at *Billingsport*. That place is entirely evacuated, and in fact, we have drawn almost the whole of our force from below this city to reinforce the Army at Head-Quarters.

Our stores are in some confusion, and we are uneasy about our powder magazine at the Continental mill, which has been filled from hence; and a great many valuable stores are at *Norrington*, which must inevitably fall into the enemy's hands, should our Army retreat to *Philadelphia* without allowing a few days to prepare for them, as we cannot draw a sufficient number of wagons from the country to remove the inhabitants, their effects, and those publick stores. Our tenderness to our fellow-citizens has induced us to suffer them to make use of a part of the wagons to remove their families and effects.

We fear if our Army retreats to *Philadelphia*, the Militia of this city will not be prevailed upon to leave it again, should your Excellency think proper to evacuate the city; by which means the Army will be much reduced. General *Mifflin* desired us to hint this matter.

The Council have exerted every nerve to raise the Militia, and are still devising means to support our opposition, and shall from time to time give such intelligence as they may think useful.

By order of the Council. I am your Excellency's very humble servant,

OWEN BIDDLE, *Chairman*.

His Excellency General *Washington*, near *Trenton Ferry*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM ATLEE.

In Council of Safety, December 13, 1776.

SIR: We received yours of the 11th instant, and are happy to find that you have taken the proper measures to procure wagons to be sent to this city. We send you by express some resolves of the House of Assembly and of this Board, which we hope will contribute to induce the Militia to turn out in defence of their country. You will distribute them with all speed through your country. The enemy are now obstructed by the river *Delaware*; but if not discouraged by the numbers we may collect to oppose them, will probably pass the river into this State on the first opportunity. Your utmost exertions we are persuaded will not be wanting with the Militia of *Lancaster*. We have sent express to the wagons who conveyed the prisoners' baggage.

By order of Council. I have the pleasure to subscribe myself, sir, your very humble servant,

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

*William Atlee*, Esq.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 13, 1776.

Major-General *Putnam* being arrived in this city, and having taken upon him the command by General *Washington's* orders, this is therefore to give notice to all Officers of the Militia who arrive from the country, to apply to General *Putnam* immediately, and receive his directions.

By order of the Council:

T. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, Philadelphia, December 13, 1776.

The General has been informed that some weak or wicked men have maliciously reported that it is the design and wish of the officers and men in the Continental Army to burn and destroy the city of *Philadelphia*. To counteract such a false and scandalous report, he thinks it necessary to inform the inhabitants who propose to remain in the city, that he has received positive orders from the honourable Continental Congress, and from his Excellency General *Washington*, to secure and protect the city of *Philadelphia* against all invaders and enemies. The General will consider every attempt to burn the city of *Philadelphia* as a crime of the blackest dye, and will, without ceremony, punish capitally any incendiary who shall have the hardiness and cruelty to attempt it.

The General commands all able-bodied men in the city of *Philadelphia*, who are not conscientiously scrupulous against bearing arms, and who have not been known heretofore to entertain such scruples, to appear in the State-House yard to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, with their arms and accoutrements. This order must be complied with, the General being resolutely determined that no person shall remain in this city an idle spectator of the present contest who has it in his power to injure the American cause, or who may refuse to lend his aid to the support of it, persons under conscientious scruples, as before mentioned, only excepted.

All persons who have arms and accoutrements which they cannot, or do not, mean to employ in defence of *America*, are hereby ordered to deliver them to Mr. *Robert Towers*, who will pay for the same. Those who are convicted of secreting any arms or accoutrements will be severely punished.

ISRAEL PUTNAM, *Major-General*.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 20th.]

Head-Quarters, Trenton Falls, 13th December, 1776.

SIR: The apparent designs of the enemy being to avoid this ferry, and land their troops above and below us, have induced me to remove from this place the greater part of the troops, and throw them into a different disposition on the river, whereby I hope not only to be more able to impede their passage, but also to avoid the danger of being enclosed in this angle of the river. And notwithstanding the extended appearances of the enemy on the other side, made, at least in part, to divert our attention from any particular point, as well as to harass us by fatigue, I cannot divest myself of the opinion that their principal design is to ford the river somewhere above *Trenton*, to which design I have had particular respect in the new arrangement, wherein I am so far happy as to have the concurrence of the General Officers at this place.

Four brigades of the Army, under Generals Lord *Stirling*, *Mercer*, *Stephen*, and *De Fermoy*, extend from *Yardley's* up to *Coryel's Ferry*, posted in such a manner as to guard every suspicious part of the river, and to afford assistance to each other in case of attack. General *Ewing*, with the Flying Camp of *Pennsylvania*, and a few *Jersey* troops under General *Dickinson*, are posted from *Yardley's Ferry* down to the ferry opposite *Bordentown*. Colonel *Cadwalader*, with the *Pennsylvania* Militia, occupies the ground above and below the mouth of *Neshaminy* river, as far down as *Dunk's Ferry*, at which place Colonel *Nixon* is posted, with the third battalion of *Philadelphia*. A proper quantity of artillery is appointed to each brigade, and I have ordered small redoubts to be thrown up opposite every place where there is a possibility of fording. I shall remove further up the river, to be near the main body of my small Army, with which every possible opposition shall be given to any further approach of the enemy towards *Philadelphia*.

As General *Armstrong* has a good deal of influence in this State, and our present force is small and inconsiderable, I think he cannot be better employed than to repair to the Counties where his interest lies, to animate the people, promote the recruiting service, and encourage the Militia to come in. He will also be able to form a proper judgment of the places suitable for magazines of provisions to be collected. I have requested him to wait upon Congress on this subject; and if General *Smallwood* should go to *Maryland* on the same business, I think it would have a happy effect. He is popular and of great influence, and I am persuaded would contribute greatly to that State's furnishing her quota of men in a little time. He is now in *Philadelphia*.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

Honourable *John Hancock*.

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GENERAL LEE TO GENERAL GATES.

Basking-Ridge, December ye 13, 1776.

MY DEAR GATES: The ingenious manœuvre of *Fort Washington* has completely unhinged the goodly fabrick we had been building. There never was so damned a stroke; *entre nous*, a certain great man is most damnably deficient. He has thrown me into a situation where I have my choice of difficulties. If I stay in this Province, I risk myself and Army; and if I do not stay, the Province is lost forever. I have neither guards, cavalry, medicines, money, shoes, or stockings. I must act with the greatest circumspection. Tories are in my front, rear, and on my flanks. The mass of the people is strangely contaminated. In short, unless something which I do not expect turns up, we are lost. Our counsels have been weak to the last degree. As to what relates to yourself, if you think you can be in time to aid the General, I would have you, by all means, go. You will, at least, save your Army. It is said that the Whigs are determined to set fire to *Philadelphia*. If they strike this decisive stroke, the day will be our own; but unless it is done, all chance of liberty, in any part of the globe, is forever vanished.

Adieu, my dear friend. God bless you.

CHARLES LEE.

Hartford, December 23, 1776.

On *Friday*, the 13th instant, about eleven o'clock, his Excellency General *Lee*, being at a house in *Baskenridge*, in *New-Jersey*, at a great distance from the enemy's Army, the house was on a sudden surrounded by sixty of the Light-Horse, who immediately fired sixty or seventy shot into the house, when his Excellency, seeing there was not a possibility of making his escape, surrendered himself a prisoner of war. Upon this, the enemy mounted him upon a horse, without hat or cloak, and rode off with the utmost expedition.

Intelligence of General *Lee's* unguarded situation was given to the enemy the evening before by an inhabitant of *Baskenridge*, personally known to the General, and who had made great pretensions of friendship for the *American* cause, though at heart the greatest villain that ever existed. This *Judas* rode all the preceding night to carry the intelligence, and served as a pilot to conduct the enemy, and came personally with them to the house where the General was taken.

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WILLIAM CLAJON TO GENERAL GATES.

SIR: About half an hour after we came to this place, Mr. *Demont* brought a man, whom he intends to conduct this night to you, that you may examine him. That man, who believes Mr. *Demont* an officer in the King's service, declares he is an emissary from General *Howe*, sent up into these parts to purchase flour, iron, &c. The enemy's Light-Horse are to be here to-morrow, and their parties will stop the ferries between this place and *Trentown*. I can scarcely believe this; and as your positive orders are that we do not move from this place before you come, or send orders, I shall not attempt to break through them, without greater certainty of danger than we have hitherto obtained. However, we shall move towards the shortest cut to *Delaware* river, if to-morrow, before noon, we receive no orders from you; for then we shall suppose you have left Mr. *Van Camp's*, before Mr. *Demont's* arriving to that place from this.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

WM. CLAJON.

P. S. Our wagoner cannot get food for his horses, because the people here say the Congress money is not good. You may judge how uneasy our situation must be.

The Honourable Major-General *Gates*.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL, COMMISSARY GENERAL, TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Morris-Town, 13th December, 1776.

SIR: I came on to this place, intending to wait on General *Washington* and Congress; but find here that it will delay my time too much to go forward. I have determined to return into *New-England*, where my presence is very necessary at this time, and send forward Captain *Doughty* and Mr. *Bate*, to General *Washington* and Congress. I have been making preparations for salted provisions in *New-England*, agreeable to order of Congress. Now is killing time, and I am out of cash. I shall need six or seven hundred thousand dollars for that purpose and paying off the troops, their rations, &c., at the 1st *January*, which is near. I also wrote Congress some time since, and mentioned to General *Washington* my sending to *Virginia* and *Maryland* for flour, to be brought into *New-England* during the winter. To this I have had no answer or direction. I must beg Congress to give me directions thereon, and also to send me by Captain *Doughty* and Mr. *Bate*, who come with this, the cash above-mentioned, and such other directions as may be thought necessary. I conceive they had best return through the back country to *Fishkill*, with a good escort.

I have secured my books and papers, and sent them all to *Hartford*, where I hope to have some time to prepare them for the inspection of Auditors from Congress, who, I hope, will attend the business there some time in *February*, by which I hope to be in forwardness for them. I hope that place will be convenient to them, as I have already near two wagon loads of books and papers, vouchers, &c.

The fleet that left *New-York* and sailed eastward some time since, come to near *New-London*, lay there two or three days, weighed anchor the 6th instant, and stood eastward. A boat from *New-London* dogged them till they doubled round *Point Judith*, the same day, and stood in for *Newport*, since which I hear nothing certain from them.

We have unhappily lost General *Lee*, who was this day taken prisoner by a party of Light-Horse, led by a Tory Spy, near *Baskenridge*, about nine miles from this place; particulars of this unhappy event you'll have from General *Sullivan*.

I wish all possible despatch may be given Captain *Doughty* and Mr. *Bate*. In the mean I will endeavour to borrow cash of the State of *Connecticut* or individuals, or both, till their return, that the service may not suffer.

I am, with greatest respect to yourself and Congress, sir, your most humble servant,

JOS. TRUMBULL.

I left General *Heath*, with about two thousand, at *Haverstraw*, going down to *Hackensack*. I have wrote to and empowered Mr. *Carpenter Wharton* as my Deputy with the Army. Hope it will be agreeable, and that he will have such direction and support from Congress, from time to time, as may be necessary.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morris-Town, 13th December, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: The night before last I left *Haverstraw*, with intent to come to Head-Quarters, expecting by the intelligence we had then, to have found your Excellency at *Brunswick*. But on my arrival here, I find matters in a very different situation in this quarter, and that I can't expect to see your Excellency without going by *Easton*, and thence I know not whence. Therefore, on the whole, I have engaged Captain *Doughty* to come to your Excellency with this, and then go on to Congress, or stop, as you shall direct.

I conceive, in the present situation of affairs, that the great supplies of salted provisions for the Army another season must be made in *New-England*. The killing season is now fast advancing, and will soon be passed. I have been making preparations; have salt procured; but am nearly or rather quite out of cash for that purpose, and have little or none to pay off the return troops at the 1st *January*, which will soon be here. I have also in charge from the officers to say to your Excellency, that their men would inlist fast, but they have no money. I must also mention the matter of sending to *Virginia* for flour during the winter, to be brought into *New-England* by water. These matters I wished to see your Excellency upon, and to have gone to Congress, but the situation of affairs in *New-England*, with respect to cash for salted provision, the uncertainty where I shall find yourself, or Congress, (who I am told here are gone to *Lancaster*, and by some that they are gone even to *Yorktown*)—therefore for me to go on will spend too much time and be of no especial service—have determined me to write and send Captain *Doughty* on to yourself and Congress, and get back to *New-England* as soon as I can, and borrow money of the Colony of *Connecticut* or individuals, till I can receive a supply from Congress. I conceive six or seven hundred thousand dollars will be necessary for me. The *Boston* and *Albany* chests, I conceive also will need to be supplied for my Deputies in those departments. I wish your Excellency to forward Captain *Doughty* to Congress, and write on these subjects as you shall think proper. In mean time I shall return to *Peekskill*, and so to *New-England*, and pay the utmost attention to laying in the best magazines in my power, and to preparing my accounts to lay before Continental Auditors, who I hope will attend that business at *Hartford*, where I have sent all my books and papers, and hope by some time in *February* to be ready to attend them.

I have a letter from Mr. *Shaw*, dated the 7th instant, by which I am informed that the fleet which was off *New-London*, consisting of about eighty sail of transports and near twenty sail of armed vessels of different sizes, with about five thousand troops, sailed from thence the day before. They sent a boat to dog them, which had just returned, and informs that the fleet doubled round *Point Judith*, and were standing in for *Newport*. The country were all alarmed and flocking in to support the country.

I came to this place this day, about ten o'clock, and stopped with Colonel *Remsen* to feed my horse, and inquire the way to follow General *Lee*. Captain *Doughty* told me he would pilot me in two hours. Before that time was expired, a gentleman came in and told us that a party of the enemy's Light-Horse, led by a Tory, who had dogged General *Lee* for two or three days passed, had taken General *Lee* a prisoner, at *White's* Tavern, near *Baskenridge*, about ten o'clock this morning; which disagreeable account is since confirmed by several of his guards who have escaped, some wounded, some not. I sincerely condole with your Excellency on this unfortunate loss to the country. They said the Light-Horse used General *Lee* very ill, off by the hair of his head. Major *Bradford* is come in. At present it seems no body about the General was taken but himself, one Light-Horseman, and one of the *French* gentlemen.

Since writing thus far, Mr. *Bates*, one of my clerks, is come up with me, who comes on with Captain *Doughty*, and will go on to Congress, if necessary.

I shall be exceeding glad to receive your Excellency's commands; and am, with greatest respect, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JOS. TRUMBULL.

I have constituted Mr. *Carpenter Wharton* my sole Deputy with the Army, with power to employ such persons as are necessary, and beg your Excellency's directions and support to him accordingly, in money, &c., as needed.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL NICOLL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peekskill, 13th December, 1776.

SIR: That day you crossed the river, General *Wadsworth* came here, and has ordered the two regiments of his brigade to march to *North-Castle*; in consequence of which the fatigue party is much reduced. Should be glad of your instructions in the matter as early as possible. As the guard at General *Parsons's* was ordered to march, I have sent another guard there.

I am, with the most profound respect, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

ISAAC NICOLL, *Commanding Officer*.

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REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF JOHN MOORE, CHARLES INGLIS, AND OTHERS.

Your Committee, appointed on the 11th instant to consider the Letters brought by the flag of truce for the purpose of procuring liberty for sundry persons to go with their effects to the city of *New-York*, having deliberately considered the above several matters committed to them, do report thereon as follows, to wit:

1st. With respect to the application of *John Moore*, your Committee is well informed that he demeans himself in *New-York*, ever since the commencement of the present controversy, as an insolent opponent to the *American* cause; that he held appointments under the Crown of *Great Britain* in the departments of the Customs and Revenue; and your Committee have no doubt that, in adherence to the enemies of the *United States*, he still holds those appointments, and that he is publickly advertised, as your Committee is credibly informed, as being Deputy Secretary of the State of *New-York*, appointed by authority derived from the King of *Great Britain*, to officiate in that office during the absence of *Samuel Bayard*, Jun., who was formerly Deputy Secretary of this State, and is now a State prisoner.

2d. That with respect to the Reverend *Charles Inglis*, your Committee has the utmost reason to believe that he has ever been a dangerous and insidious enemy to the liberties of the *United States*, and that he was strongly disposed to adhere to their enemies, otherwise he would doubtless have removed into *Ulster* County, where his connexions by marriage would have rendered his residence with his family much more agreeable than at *New-York;* and which he probably would have preferred, had not his attachment to the unjust designs of the King and Parliament of *Great Britain* overbalanced all other considerations. That your Committee have been credibly informed, that through his connexions in

*Ulster* County, he has maintained a dangerous correspondence with the disaffected in that part of this State, and that he has been lately in *Dutchess* County, for no other purpose, as your Committee conceives, than to invigorate the seeds of disloyalty to this and the other *United States*, which have been so plentifully disseminated in that County; and that to finish his political character, your Committee is well informed, that under the sacred protection of a flag of truce, he is now possessed of a great number of copies of the late proclamation of Lord *Howe* and General *Howe*, calculated to debauch the subjects of the *United States* from their most just and righteous allegiance, and which your Committee conceives he would not have brought with him under that protection but for the purpose of dispersing them by his agents through the country.

3dly. With respect to the application of *Philip I. Livingston*, your Committee report, that he has been Sheriff of the County of *Dutchess*, which office has, from its nature, given him great influence in the County; that while he resided in it, he committed sundry overt acts of disloyalty to this and the other *United States*, and not only fled, from a sense of guilt, but voluntarily put himself into the hands of the enemy.

4thly. With respect to the application of *James Jauncey*, Jun., Esq., your Committee do report, that he lately was, and doubtless still claims to be, one of the Council and Master of the Rolls under the late Government of the State of *New-York*, and was apprehended and conveyed into the State of *Connecticut* as a prisoner, not only on account of his holding those offices, but also on account of his connexions by marriage with Sir *Gilbert Elliot*, a member of Parliament, active against the liberties of *America*, and one of the Cabinet, as well as of the Privy Council, of the King of *Great Britain*.

5thly. That with respect to his father, no application being personally made by him, it would, in the judgment of your Committee, be a depreciation of the honour of this Convention to take any notice of the application of his son in his behalf.

6thly. That with respect to *Frederick Philips*, your Committee are well informed that he has exerted himself in promoting an association in *West-Chester* County, highly injurious to the *American* cause; that his great estate in that County has necessarily created a vast number of dependents on his pleasure, and that your Committee verily believe that the shameful defection of the inhabitants of that County is in a great measure owing to his influence.

7thly. With respect to *Jacob Watson*, your Committee, or some of them, know him to be a *Briton* born, a Quaker by profession, and in principle inclined to submit to the *British* Government. That his religious profession has exempted him from all services in this State, by which means he has had ample leisure and opportunity to pursue his private interest; which, they have been informed, he has industriously improved, by monopolizing large quantities of salt and other articles of merchandise, the distribution of which, by sale in small quantities, in due season, would have tended much to the health and happiness not only of the Continental Army, but also of the loyal inhabitants of this State. That from his two letters, the one to *Daniel Terboss*, the other to *Daniel Birdsell*, referred to your Committee, it appears as follows: That he had deposited in the hands of the former a quantity of salt, which he had forbade him to sell, intending to apply it in the package of pork; but that since, understanding the salt was much wanted, he directs him to dispose of it for pork, flax-seed, or good firkin butter, and that if the salt should already be disposed of, his consignatory should lay out the money in flax-seed; and it also appears that he had deposited in the hands of his other consignatory, *Birdsell*, not only a quantity of salt, but also a quantity of molasses, which, expecting they will be much wanted in *Birdsell's* neighbourhood, he directs him to sell, and lay out the money in flax-seed, pork, or good firkin butter; and further, that if any of the salt or molasses should be already sold, to lay out the money in those articles. From all which it appears to your Committee, that while the said *Jacob Watson* voluntarily lives under the protection of a Government inimical to this and the other *United States*, he is pursuing a commerce unfriendly to the inhabitants of this State, and in its prosecution dangerous to the liberties of *America*, as it affords the means of a communication which may be improved by the enemies of the *American* cause to the injury of the *United States*. That your Committee has been further informed that the said *Jacob Watson* is possessed of large quantities of salt in the County of *Albany*, and that the inhabitants of this State are very much distressed by the want of salt and molasses.

8thly. With respect to the case of Mrs. *Jane Knox*, as she is a widow, enjoying no great affluence, your Committee conceives, that though she has evinced her attachment to them by voluntarily remaining in *New-York*, when she had it in her power to remove herself, with her effects, into the country, yet that she cannot do mischief to the *American* cause.

9thly. That the case of Lady *Johnson* merits, in the opinion of your Committee, a particular attention. They are informed that she is a lady of great art and political intrigue; of great firmness of mind, and most warmly attached to that interest which is so inimical to the freedom and independence of the *American* States, and has, in your Committee's opinion, done great mischief, by her address, to the *American* cause. That her situation at *Albany* renders the communication between herself and her husband, who has, by a breach of his parole, forfeited both his honour and estate, extremely easy, and therefore dangerous to the publick safety.

Your Committee, having thus stated the political characters of the several persons whose cases have been submitted to their consideration, beg leave to advise:

1st. That the applications of *John Moore*, the Reverend *Charles Inglis*, and *Philip I. Livingston*, be rejected, not only because they conceive it would be dangerous to permit them to pass up into the country, but because a permission to their families to go to *New-York*, with their effects, would, besides furnishing a dangerous channel of intelligence, prove an incentive to rebellion, and be an act of direct aid and comfort to the enemies of the freedom and independence of the *United States of North America*.

2dly. With respect to the application of *James Jauncey* and *Frederick Philipse*, your Committee beg leave to advise that a permission to the former to go to *New-York* would imply the consent of this Convention to his exercise of two most important offices under a Government which, on account of its tyranny, the good people of this State have thought proper to reject; and that a like indulgence to the latter, who requests liberty to return to his family at *Philipsburgh*, would put it in the power of a professed enemy of the *American* cause not only further to disaffect the inhabitants of *West-Chester* County, but to put many of them in arms against the *United States of America*.

3dly. With respect to *Jacob Watson*, your Committee are of opinion that, independent of his personal attachment to that Government which the enemies of *American* liberty aim at establishing over us, discovered by his voluntary continuance among the enemy, his commercial scheme, in which he may have monopolized at least two necessary articles of consumption, and his intention to dispose of them at high prices, not for Continental money, but for articles either fit for exportation, under the countenance of the enemy, or for their consumption, recommend his case to the particular attention of this Convention, not only on account of a dangerous intercourse that may be maintained through a mercantile channel, but from the evident proofs of his intending to exact high prices for the most necessary articles, and his clear intention to maintain a commerce prejudicial to the *American* States. Your Committee do therefore advise, that proper commissioners be appointed, to seize such commodities within this State belonging to the said *Jacob Watson*, as may be necessary either for the consumption of its inhabitants or the use of the Continental Army, and to inventory, report, and detain the same, subject to the order of this Convention.

4thly. With respect to Mrs. *Jane Knox*, your Committee beg leave to recommend that her effects may, by permission of this Convention, be conveyed to her by the vessel provided with a flag of truce, and now lying at *Cortlandt's Point*, under the command of the Continental galley; but that previous to their embarkation, proper persons may be appointed carefully to inspect the same, to the end that no dangerous intelligence may be secretly conveyed in any of the packages.

5thly. Your Committee further report it as their opinion, that all the applications above committed to them, whether consisting in letters or memorial, except the case of *Jane*

*Knox*, be rejected, and that the flag of truce, and the persons who came up with the same and are now protected thereby, be immediately ordered to return in the most direct manner to the city of *New-York;* and that Major-General *Heath*, or the officer commanding in his absence at *Peek's Kill*, be furnished with a copy of as many of the resolves of this Convention on the above subject as respect the matters referred by Major-General *Heath* to the consideration of this Convention, and be requested to attend to the return of the said flag of truce in such manner as, if possible, to prevent the communication of any person on board with others on the land.

6thly, and lastly. Your Committee being fully of opinion that the residence of Lady *Johnson* at *Albany*, under the above-mentioned circumstances, may be highly detrimental to the *American* cause, and that a permission to her to return home will be equally if not more injurious to it, do therefore earnestly recommend her immediate removal to one of the *New-England* States, under such circumstances as may be consistent with her rank and her sex.

By order of the Committee:

AB'M YATES, Jun., *Chairman.*

Fish-Kill, December 13th, 1776.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut, December* 13th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer, Jabez Huntington, William Williams, William Hillhouse, Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., *Thomas Seymour, Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

*Voted*, That a Letter of Credit for £500, be drawn on Messrs. *Rapalje* and *Miles Sherbrook*, of the State of *New-York*, in favour of Major *Levi Wells*, for the use of the *Connecticut* troops in captivity in *New-York*, to be by Major *Wells* paid out as wages among said captives, at his discretion, as their necessities require, and to take their receipts, and keep his account thereof, and lay the same before the Paymasters of the several regiments to which they belong. (Letter of Credit delivered Major *Wells, December* 13th, 1776.)

*Voted*, To refer a number of Sick bills from *New-Haven* Selectmen to the Committee of Pay-Table for adjustment, and to draw for what is due thereon.

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table for £12 10*s.*, in favour of Mr. *Hezekiah Sabin*, of *New-Haven*, for his expense in mounting a Field-Piece for publick use.—(Order delivered *Timo. Jones*, Jun., *December* 13th, 1776.)

*Voted*, To refer the liquidation of the Accounts of Captain *Jehial Tinker*, of the row-galley *Crane;* the Accounts of Mr. *James Rice*, for the row-galley *Whiting;* the Accounts of cost of Gaol yard at *Hartford*, and *Lynde Lord's* Account for mustering Soldiers, to the Committee of Pay-Table.

On application to this Board, by Mr. *Timothy Jones*, Jun., and Colonel *Thompson*, a Committee from *New-Haven*, &c.:

*Ordered*, That the six Field-Pieces left at *New-Haven* by the *Minerva*, be properly fitted up and furnished with suitable field-carriages at the expense of the State, provided said carriages be well and properly made, at a reasonable price, not exceeding £10 for each; and that the sum of £12 10*s.* be paid Captain *Sabin*, of *New-Haven*, for the carriage and apparatus to a Field-Piece which he has lately procured to be done there, and that the same be for the use of this State.—(N. B. There is a vote and order drawn on the preceding leaf for the sum of £12 10*s.*, above-mentioned.)

Whereas by an act of the General Assembly at *New-Haven*, at their session in *October* last, among other things, it is provided, that the Militia of said town of *New-Haven* hold themselves equipped and in constant readiness to defend said town, and not be liable to be removed:

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Thompson* take the most effectual care that the Militia of said town be every way equipped and accoutred, and in constant readiness, according to the true intent and design of said act.—(Order delivered Colonel *Thompson, December* 13th, 1776.)

*Voted*, That *Nathaniel Shaw*, Jun., Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered and instructed to propose and negotiate an exchange of the following prisoners, taken on board the ship *John*, the ship *Clarendon*, and ship *Sally*, brought into this State, for prisoners of equal rank and degree, as near as may be, to wit: Captain *Dunbar*, of the ship *John*; *James Watta*, passenger on board; Captain *Jackson*, of the ship *Sally*; *John Wright*, Surgeon, Captain *John Deniston*, of the ship *Clarendon*; *Peter Hunter*, passenger on board do.; *Daniel Crawford*, Mate, *Thomas Moore*, Boatswain, *James Deniston*, a boy, *Murdock McCloud*, a sailor, and divers others whose names are unknown. And that he take their parole not to give any intelligence, act, or do any thing against the *United States of America;* and in case such exchange cannot be effected, that they return immediately to this State again.—(Copy delivered Captain *Jackson, December* 13th, 1776.)

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GOVERNOUR COOKE TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY.

State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, In General Assembly, Providence, December 13, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: We have not as yet perfect intelligence of the force of the enemy upon *Rhode-Island*, but by the best accounts we have been able to collect, their numbers do not exceed eight, nor fall short of five thousand men.

The Militia of the *Massachusetts-Bay* and *Connecticut*, with a spirit and an ardour that does them honour, have marched to our assistance; and with the Militia of this State amount to between six and seven thousand, who are at present posted in many different places around the bay, but without form, not having a leader nor any general plan of offence or defence.

In this situation of affairs, being sensible that although the blow hath first fallen upon us, the safety of *New-England*, and perhaps the fate of *America*, depends upon establishing an Army with the utmost expedition, capable of opposing that body of the enemy which hath taken possession of *Rhode-Island;* and fully convinced that the authority of this State will prove inadequate to the giving form to and regulating an army collected from different States and to the directing of their operations, we have appointed a Council of War, with full power to exert the force of this State, in concurrence with Committees that may be appointed from the other *New-England* States, in the necessary measures for the common defence, &c.

We transmit you by express a copy of the vote, not doubting your immediate attention to this most important object, and the most vigorous exertions of the powers of your State for the publick safety.

We are, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant.

Signed at the request, and in behalf of, the General Assembly.

NICH'S COOKE.

Honourable General Assembly of the State of *New-Hampshire.*

P. S. The Legislature of this State have appointed a Committee to draft a bill for fixing the price of necessaries for the Army and the inhabitants, as we have intelligence the State of *Connecticut* have done; and we hope your State will enter into a like measure.

[Same to General Court of the *Massachusetts-Bay.*]

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*Resolve of the* RHODE-ISLAND *General Assembly, December* 13, 1776.

*To the House of Magistrates:*

GENTLEMEN: Whereas a large body of the enemy have taken possession of the Island of *Rhode-Island*, and are endeavouring to penetrate the country, so that it has become necessary for the publick utility of this State that a Council of War be immediately appointed:

Therefore *Voted and Resolved*, That his Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy Governour, the Honourable *Stephen Hopkins*, Esq., *Ambrose Page*, Esq., Mr *John Fanner*, *John Dexter*, Esq., the Honourable *Joshua Babcock*, Esq., Mr. *Cromel Child*, the Honourable *William Greene*, Esq., and *Henry Ward*, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a Council of War; that they, or the major part of them, be fully empowered to do, act, and transact, all and every thing and matter for the well-being and security of this State and the *United States* in general. That

they make and ordain all such rules, orders, and regulations for the well-governing, ordering, disciplining, clothing, and supplying the Army now raised or about to be raised by this State, and the other neighbouring States, in conjunction, if such an Army should be raised, as to them shall seem right and just. And that all such rules, orders, and regulations by them made in the recess of the General Assembly shall be of as full force and authority to all intents and purposes as though made and passed by this General Assembly.

Voted and passed.

Per order: J. LYNDON, *Clerk.*

In the Upper House, read the same day and concurred.

Per order: R. J. HELME, *Secretary p. t.*

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December 13, 1776.

*To the House of Magistrates:*

GENTLEMEN: *Resolved*, That his Honour the Governour be requested to write to the States of *New-Hampshire*, *Massachusetts-Bay*, and *Connecticut*, enclosing the resolve of this General Assembly appointing a Council of War, and requesting that each of said States appoint a Committee to meet the twenty-third day of this instant, or as much sooner as possible, in the town of *Providence*, in this State, with said Council of War, to confer upon the expediency of raising an Army for the immediate defence against the *British* Fleet and Army now within this State, whereby the Militia may be relieved; and in general to consult upon every measure necessary to be taken for the support of the common cause.

Voted and passed.

Per order: J. LYNDON, *Clerk.*

In the Upper House the same day, read and concurred.

Per order: R. J. HELME, *Secretary p. tem.*

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

SIR: Your important letter of the 9th instant was received yesterday. We join with you most fervently in your prayer that *America* may not be lost, nor fall a victim to the rage of a merciless tyranny; on the contrary, we trust there is virtue and spirit enough in the *United States* to produce exertions sufficient, with the blessing of Heaven, to prevent it. It has been a capital errour to inlist or detach our forces for so short a time; but as you well observe, to reflect upon past errours answers no other valuable purpose than to produce a propriety of conduct in future. We are sorry our Committee did not take *New-Haven* in their way to General *Washington*, which would have given them an opportunity of informing you of the terms on which it was intended they should reinlist the troops belonging to this State, which might have prevented some of the inconveniences that have happened. Our Assembly, from the advanced price of things, apprehended it highly improbable our men would again engage in the service unless their wages were increased, which induced them to add twenty shillings per month to the Congress allowance; and afterwards, in consequence of a resolve of Congress disapproving the addition to the wages, they granted a bounty of twenty pounds to each soldier inlisting for three years or during the war; which mode of encouragement they hoped would not appear so exceptionable to Congress. The inconveniency of different establishments for different corps of the same Army was foreseen, but the necessity we were under of raising our quota, without which the common cause might suffer, obliged us to risk it. The regulation of the price of things, (the mode you have adopted,) was thought of, and might have been the best, but many objections arose, which at that time prevented it. However, as we have renewed our application to you to join with the other States of *New-England* in the appointing a Committee to consider this and other matters, we hope you will approve the measure, and that great good will result from it. By our proposal their commission is to be so extensive as to include the important business you mention of consulting on the great affairs of our safety, and counteracting the enemy in their future operations. But if this is not expressed in terms sufficiently explicit, you can agree to our proposal with such additions as you think proper, and there is no doubt we shall concur with you.

The General Court was on the 11th instant adjourned to *Tuesday*, the 24th instant. Besides providing for the inlistment of our quota of the new Army, they passed an act for raising a fourth part of the Militia at home, to march as soon as may be to recruit the Army, and be in service for three months from their march, before the expiration of which time it was hoped and expected that our said quota would be inlisted, and at the place of their destination. Since the invasion of *Rhode-Island*, the said fourth part from the Counties of *Barnstable*, *Plymouth*, and *Bristol*, with all the Militia from the two latter Counties, also the said fourth part of the Counties of *Suffolk*, *Middlesex*, and *Essex*, with one regiment most contiguous from *Suffolk*, and two of the nearest regiments from *Worcester* County, together with one company from our train of artillery, have had orders to march to the assistance of that State, and were intended, either in part or whole, as circumstances should require, for your State, as we informed you in our letter of the 8th instant in answer to yours of the 5th. The said fourth part, in case they are not needed there, General *Lincoln*, the commanding officer, after consulting with Governour *Cooke*, is to order to join the Army to the southward, with the fourth of our other Militia, except *Berkshire*, whose fourth, and except *Hampshire*, one half of whose fourth, are ordered to *Ticonderoga*, by way of *Albany*, in consequence of a letter received the 11th instant from General *Schuyler*.

It is true that there has been a quantity of clothing and shoes taken from the enemy and brought into this State, but not so large as the publick papers represented it. However, our Committee for providing clothing have been directed to take it, and procure as much more of the like articles as they possibly can, and send them to the Army. A quantity is already on the road.

We understand there is a cartel now at *New-London* for the exchange of prisoners; and as we have a number of them in this State, we wish to be informed upon what terms the exchange is to be made, that we may know what rank or condition of prisoners it will be proper to send; particularly whether sailors taken on board merchantmen will be received in exchange for sailors taken on board privateers.

At the next meeting of our Assembly your letter will be laid before them, and they will consider the other matters contained in it.

Since writing the above, we have received your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing copies of a letter and resolves of the Committee of Safety for the State of *New-York*. We are fully sensible of the critical situation of affairs at the westward, and shall afford all the assistance in our power. The fourth part of our Militia, ordered to be raised as aforesaid, it is supposed will amount to about six thousand men. About half of these are ordered to march by the way of *Providence*, to assist the States of *Rhode-Island* and *Connecticut*, if necessary, otherwise to proceed immediately to *New-York*; about nine hundred are to march to *Albany*, to be under the direction of General *Schuyler*; the remainder, about two thousand, are to take the middle road, and the rendezvous is to be at *Danbury*, in *Connecticut*. We are informed that some regiments marched this day, and it is expected that several others will begin their march on *Monday* next. On every occasion we shall heartily cooperate with you in support of the great cause we are engaged in.

In the name and by the order of the Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

I have the honour to be, with very great esteem, sir, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN, *President.*

Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of the State of *Connecticut*.

The twenty pounds bounty above-mentioned, is by notes given by our Treasurer, each for ten pounds, and payable with interest at six per cent.

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JOHN MURRAY TO SAMUEL A. OTIS.

Winnisimmet Ferry, December 13th, 1776.

SIR: At the instance of Captain *Paul Reed*, the bearer of this, I write you on this scrap, that he and his brother *David* are my neighbours, and men of good reputation. That I know they were the sole owners of the brig *Rosanna* when I left *Booth-Bay*; that she was then unrigged and hauled up a creek in *Booth-Bay*, to avoid the hands of the enemy; that the said *David* then proposed sending her to

the *West-Indies* as soon as his brother returned from sea, and I never heard of the property of said brig being altered, either in whole or part; and I do not believe it ever has.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most humble servant,

JNO. MURRAY.

To *Samuel A. Otis*, Esq., at the honourable the Board of War.

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Boston, December 13, 1776.

*Thursday* last the Militia of *Salem* were ordered to muster, in order to draft every fourth man to reinforce the Army at the southward, when eighty-seven turned out volunteers, among whom were gentlemen of the first character in the place.

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ORDERS TO COLONEL BELLOWS.

State of New-Hampshire, Exeter, December 13, 1776.

Pursuant to directions from the Committee of Safety for this State to me, you are hereby required and authorized to take up any soldiers inlisted by this State for the Continental service, who have neglected to march forward to join their respective companies, or any who have deserted, or may desert hereafter, and confine or send them forward to the corps they belong to as occasion or convenience offers, and to call on the military officers under you to assist therein.

NATH'L FOLSOM, *Major-General.*

To Colonel *Benjamin Bellows*, Jun.

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E. THOMPSON TO MATTHEW THORNTON AND WM. WHIPPLE.

Exeter, December 13th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The new General Court is to meet next *Wednesday*. The votes for the members of Council were examined by the Committee appointed for that purpose for the County of *Rockingham*, on *Wednesday* last, when they declared *Meshech Weare*, *Josiah Bartlett*, *Nicholas Gilman*, *George King*, and *Timothy Walker*, Jun., Esqs., to have the majority of votes. I hear *John Langdon*, *John Pickering*, and *George Gains*, Esquires, are elected members for *Portsmouth*. *Londonderry* have chosen the same as last year. The election of Councillors in the other Counties are not come to hand. Captain *John Emery*, of this town, is just arrived from *Nantz*, in *France*, but last from *Bilboa*, in *Spain*, and brought a very valuable cargo. Says greater preparations for war appear in *Spain* than has ever been known there in the memory of those he was conversant with. That the present commotions, din of war, and shedding human blood, might cease in *America*, and justice, truth, peace, and happiness, be the portion of this land, is the prayer of your most humble servant,

E. THOMPSON.

Hon. *Matthew Thornton* and *William Whipple*, Esqrs.

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London, December 14, 1776.

On *Tuesday* last Lieutenant-General *Burgoyne* arrived from *North-America*. When he left *Crown-Point*, Sir *Guy Carleton* was preparing to put his Army into winter quarters in *Canada*.

The reason publickly assigned for the return of General *Burgoyne* was, that the season was so far advanced it was impossible to proceed in the intended operations of the campaign; but it was pretty generally understood that the true reason was, a difference had arisen between him and Sir *Guy Carleton*, which prevented the former from carrying into execution the orders he had been entrusted with at home.

A packet (the *Swallow*, Captain *Marshal*) sailed from *Falmouth*, *September* 1, with despatches for Sir *Guy Carleton* and General *Burgoyne;* but meeting with very violent north winds on the coast of *America*, she could not get into the river *St. Lawrence*, and was blown away to the *West-Indies*, and after again attempting it, and finding it impracticable, she returned, and arrived at *Falmouth* on the 1st of *December*. The despatches were reported to be orders to Sir *Guy Carleton* to return to the Civil Government of *Quebeck*, and to General *Burgoyne* to continue and go on with the Army; the appointment of Mr. *Livius*, Chief Justice, &c.

At the same time sailed the *Union*, Captain *Hamilton*, also for *Quebeck*, laden with camp-equipage, some clothing, and sixty thousand guineas. She also found it impossible to get into the river *St. Lawrence*, and was obliged to put into *Halifax* for the winter. Colonel *Maclean*, who had this money in charge, finding the Colony in danger from the incursions of the *New-Englanders*, departed with the money for *New-York*.

Another rich transport, (the *Thomas*, Captain *Bell*,) laden with army clothing for sixteen thousand men, thirty thousand shirts, thirty thousand pairs of shoes, thirty thousand pairs of stockings, all likewise for the Army in *Canada*, was taken by an *American* privateer, and carried into *Boston*. The loss of these two transports will be severely felt during the winter by the Army in *Canada*.

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LETTER FROM A FRENCH MERCHANT.

At L'Orient, December 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: There is no one in *France* but what interests themselves in your success, and very few who would not desire to contribute towards it; but the doubts we are in of your actual wants, whether supplies from private persons would be agreeable, joined to the risks of the voyage, would still have deterred us from this undertaking, had not Mr. *Deane*, your Ambassador in this kingdom, convinced us that it would be agreeable to you, and that you would grant your protection to those merchants who, by exposing their fortune, might carry succours and become useful to *Pennsylvania*.

These considerations, gentlemen, and having a vessel which sails faster than merchant ships do in common, I have got partners with me and we have resolved to undertake a voyage to *Philadelphia*, where I expect to arrive towards the latter end of *February*, or the 15th of *March* next.

As I am unacquainted with the entrance of your river, I take the liberty, gentlemen, to beg you to order a pilot at *Cape Hatteras* and on the northward, and another to the southward of the *Delaware*, though I intend to make the land about *Cape Hatteras* if I can. The signals shall be as follows: in the day, a *Dutch* flag twisted at the foretopgallant-mast head, and a gun fired to leeward; in the night, two lights, one over the other, hoisted to the ensign staff, and a gun. I beg you will give a copy of those signals to your coasting pilots from *Cape Hatteras* to *Cape May*.

I have the honour to be, with profound respect, gentlemen, your most humble and obedient servant,

ROCHE.

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STEPHEN STEWARD TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

December the 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Captain *Hamond* went from here last *Tuesday*, in one of the Province boats, to *Annapolis*. What he went after I don't know. He has not been here since I got his schooner ready to sail, bent his sails for him, and every thing else. I am in want of some thin canvas to make a gib and square-sail for another schooner. I have been told you have now a large quantity come in. Please to send me down two bolts of the thinnest you have, number 3, 4, 5, or 6. Would want four bolts. The horse can't bring more than two conveniently.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

STEPHEN STEWARD.

The honourable Council of Safety.

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SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JR., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In consequence of letters to our Committee and myself, received by *Thursday's* post, Captain *Nicholson* went off yesterday evening, with about thirty or forty of his best hands and some of his officers, with near twenty sail of small craft, for the *Head of Elk*, to assist in bringing down the publick stores and sick that might be moved from *Philadelphia*. About an hour after his departure, I received the enclosed letter for him, which I despatched after him by a barge. He returned it to me late last night, and, agreeable to his desire, I now forward it to you by express, for your consideration. Should you think fit to order the *Defence's* men to follow after Captain *Nicholson*, I would

beg leave to suggest whether it would not be advisable to take a few of the nine-pounders from the fort, and send up along with the *Defence's* guns, to put on board the frigates, should they attempt sending them around to this bay. We have plenty of craft here to carry up the *Defence's* people, &c., to *Elk*.

Our Committee, agreeable to Mr. *Chase's* requisition, wrote the Committee of your city to send up to *Elk* what craft were at *Annapolis*. I have since learned there is no Committee. There will be no necessity of sending any more craft, as we can get plenty here.

Our Committee are preparing the Court-House in the best manner the time will admit for the reception of the Congress, should they be obliged to leave *Philadelphia*, in which case, Mr. *Chase* writes, it is intended to come here.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

SAM'L PURVIANCE, Jun.

To the honourable the Council of Safety at *Annapolis*.

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO WILLIAM BINGHAM.

December 14, 1776.

SIR: We expect this will be delivered to you by *John Nicholson*, Esq., who commands the *Hornet* sloop-of-war, belonging to the Continent. She will carry you some rice and indigo, by order of the Secret Committee, which you'll please to receive expeditiously. As this sloop touches at *Carolina* before she sails for the *West-Indies*, it is uncertain when you may see, therefore orders must be discretionary; and when she arrives, if you have any advices, or any goods to send that you think of importance to these States, you may despatch Captain *Nicholson* therewith immediately. Should this not be the case, you may assist him to procure more men, and let him go a cruising during the winter months, only despatching him so as to be here by the beginning of *April*. If our trade in the Islands is interrupted by any privateers or tenders that this sloop can match, they should be her object. If there be none such, she may cruise where there is the best chance of good prizes.

If Captain *Nicholson* is lucky enough to send any in to you, sell such parts as are suited to the island consumption; but be careful what you sell is the property of none but *British* subjects not resident in *Bermuda* or *New-Providence*. Whatever you sell, render regular accounts of it. Make the seamen, &c., necessary advances, and transmit us their receipts with the accounts sales, &c., for what you sell, that just distribution may be made on their return. If Captain *Nicholson* meets with any cannon more suitable for the *Hornet* than those on board, assist him in buying them, and getting them mounted. Supply him with money and necessaries he may want for the service; his receipts will be your vouchers, and your drafts on us will be paid. When you despatch him for the Continent he will take on board any goods you have to ship.

We are, sir, your very humble servants.

*William Bingham*, Esq.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 20, 1776: Referred to Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. S. Adams.]

Philadelphia, December 14, 1776.

SIR: I wrote you last night, and inclosed a letter from the General, and several other letters, then expecting to send that letter by Mr. *Walton* this morning; but that gentleman having just now delivered me another open letter from the General, dated yesterday, at *Trenton Falls*, I do myself the honour to enclose it herein; and as Mr. *Walton* does not set off so soon as he intended, I have sent out after an express; but have some expectation that Colonel *Jenifer* will be the bearer of both these letters, as I understand he is just going off for *Baltimore*. They will certainly go in half an hour by one or the other.

As our enemies are still kept at bay, on the other side *Delaware*, I cannot help flattering myself with the expectation of some favourable event that will save this city. I shall certainly remain here as long as I can with safety; and, during my stay, the Congress may depend on my utmost exertions for the publick service. The *Randolph* and *Hornet* are gone down this morning. We are at work on the *Delaware*, and a chartered brigantine. Captain *Green*, sails in an hour. If they give us time, I shall attempt to get the *Washington* frigate into a place of safety.

I have the honor to remain, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ROB'T MORRIS.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, President of Congress.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, Philadelphia, December 14, 1776.

Colonel *Griffin* is appointed Adjutant-General to the troops in and about this city. All orders from the General through him, either written or verbal, are to be strictly attended to and punctually obeyed.

The General, to his great astonishment, has been informed that several of the inhabitants of this city have refused to take the Continental currency in payment for goods. In future, should any of the inhabitants be so lost to publick virtue and the welfare of their country, as to presume to refuse the currency of the *American* States in payment for any commodities they may have for sale, the goods shall be forfeited, and the person or persons so refusing, committed to close confinement.

In case of an alarm of fire, the city guards and patroles are to suffer the inhabitants to pass unmolested at any hour of the night; and the good people of *Philadelphia* are earnestly requested and desired to give every assistance in their power with engines and buckets to extinguish the fire. And, as the Congress have ordered the city to be defended to the last extremity, the General hopes that no person will refuse to give every assistance possible to complete the fortifications that are to be erected in and about the city.

ISRAEL PUTNAM, *Major-General*.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, Philadelphia, December 14, 1776.

All Officers and Soldiers in and about this city are ordered immediately to repair to the State-House, (except the *Jersey* Militia,) with their arms and accourtrements.

By order of the General:

SAMUEL GRIFFIN,
*Deputy Adjutant-General*.

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AMOS TAYLOR TO SAMUEL CHASE.

Philadelphia, December 14th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By the bearer, *George Fox*, I send the several bills relating to the clothing a company of troops late commanded by Captain *Watkins*. The bills are the same that I presented to you at your lodgings in *Philadelphia* last *Saturday*.

Gentlemen, I must entreat you will consider the circumstance of a couple of poor tradesmen, one of whom is now in the service of his country and has left a family behind him. The bills are acknowledged by Lieutenant *Richard Grace*, who had the command of the company when the clothes were made, (under the direction of *Thomas Stone*, Esq.) Mr. *Grace* I expect will be thought a sufficient voucher. I have likewise got a gentleman of good character in this place to write a few lines to Mr. *Heligar* in my favour, to whom I refer you for further satisfaction. I doubt not but you will pay the amount of said bills to the bearer, which will greatly oblige, gentlemen, your friend, &c.,

AMOS TAYLOR.

To *Samuel Chase* and *William Paca*, Esquires, Delegates from the State of *Maryland*, at *Baltimore*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 14, 1776, } Eight o'clock in the Evening. }

SIR: The Council this moment received a letter from *William Atlee*, Esq., of *Lancaster*, extract from which we despatch to you by express. He says (dated 13th instant): "The enclosed is copy of a letter from Colonel *Burd* last night, by express," "I march with my whole battalion on *Monday* next." "Colonel *Galbreath's* battalion, we are told, will move on *Saturday* next. The Militia of *Lancaster* seem rather backward, owing principally to this, that many of our spirited officers and young men are gone to escort the prisoners sent from hence, and upon their return have hopes they will turn out to the assistance of their

brethren. There are a few of the Militia from *Cumberland* County arrived here, who say that large numbers are on their way down. The battalion from *Northumberland* are also soon expected."

From these and other circumstances we have reason to hope a considerable reinforcement may join you in a few days, if the enemy can be kept at bay.

We shall communicate every piece of intelligence to you which may appear to deserve your notice, and thank you for such information as you may think proper to give this Board.

By order of the Council.

I have the honour to be, your Excellency's very humble servant,

DAV'D RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 14th December, 1776.

SIR: I was last night favoured with yours of the 6th. In a letter which I did myself the pleasure to write to you two days ago, I gave you a full account of my present situation, and the occurrences that have happened since I left the neighbourhood of *Fort Lee.* The want of means of transportation has hitherto hindered the enemy from making any attempt to cross the *Delaware;* and I hope, unless the course of the season entirely changes, that the weather will soon prevent their making use of boats, if they should build them.

Your situation to the eastward is truly alarming; and I wish it were in my power to afford you that assistance that is requisite. You must be sensible that it is impossible for me to detach any part of my small Army, when I have an enemy far superiour in numbers to oppose; but I have immediately countermanded the march of General *Heath's* division, who were coming down from *Peekskill;* they are ordered to return again to that place, and hold themselves ready to move as occasion may require. General *Lee's* division are so necessary to support this part of the Army, that without their assistance we must inevitably be overpowered, and *Philadelphia* lost.

I have ordered General *Arnold,* who was on his way down from *Ticonderoga,* immediately to repair to *New-London,* or wherever his presence will be most necessary. The troops that came down with him and General *Gates* are already, from the advices I have received, so far advanced towards this Army, that to countermand them now would be losing the small remainder of their service entirely, as the time of their inlistment would expire before they could possibly reach you; whereas by coming on, they may, in conjunction with my present force and that under General *Lee,* enable us to attempt a stroke upon the forces of the enemy, who lay a good deal scattered, and, to all appearance, in a state of security. A lucky blow in this quarter would be fatal to them, and would most certainly raise the spirits of the people, which are quite sunk by our late misfortunes.

In the interval between the dissolution of the old and the inlistment of the new Army, we must put our dependence on the publick spirit and virtue of the people; which, I am sorry to say, has manifested but too small a regard to their rights and liberties in the States of *New-Jersey* and *Pennsylvania,* the citizens of *Philadelphia* excepted; but I hope such a spirit still exists among your people as will convince these bold invaders, that although they may by a superiour naval force take possession of your sea-port towns, yet that they cannot penetrate and overrun your country with impunity.

I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Governour *Trumbull, Connecticut.*

P. S. I have just received a letter from General *Heath,* of the 10th instant, in which he informs me that his division was to cross the *North River* on that day; so that they must be at *Morristown* by this time, which is but fifty miles from hence. Upon this consideration, I have changed my intention of countermanding him, for the same reasons as given in my letter above respecting the troops under Generals *Gates* and *Arnold.*

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 14th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I last night received your letter of the 11th instant by Major *De Hart.* I am much surprised that you should be in any doubt respecting the route you should take, after the information you have had upon that head, as well by letter as from Major *Hoops,* who was despatched for the purpose. A large number of boats was procured and is still retained at *Tinnicum,* under a strong guard, to facilitate your passage across the *Delaware.* I have so frequently mentioned our situation, and the necessity of your aid, that it is painful to me to add a word on the subject. Let me once more request and entreat you to march immediately for *Pitt's Town,* which lies on the route that has been pointed out, and is about eleven miles from *Tinnicum Ferry.* That is more on the flank of the enemy than where you are. Advise me of the time you will arrive there, that a letter may be sent you about your further destination, and such other movements as may be necessary.

The enclosed for Generals *Gates* and *Arnold* you will forward by an officer without delay. The former I have requested to come on with the regiments he has, with all possible expedition; the latter to go to the eastward, on the intelligence received from Governour *Trumbull.* Part of the enemy have advanced as far as *Burlington,* and their main body, from the best information, is in the neighbourhood of *Trenton* and at *Penny-Town.*

The Congress have adjourned from *Philadelphia* to meet at *Baltimore* on the 20th instant, and, sensible of the importance of the former, have directed it to be defended to the utmost extremity, to prevent the enemy from possessing it. The fatal consequences that must attend its loss are but too obvious to every one. Your arrival may be the means of saving it; nothing but a respectable force, I am certain, from melancholy experience, can induce the Militia to come in and give their aid. The *Roebuck* and a sloop of war have arrived in *Delaware-Bay,* and from the last advices were laying not far within the Capes. I have wrote to General *Heath* to proceed with his troops, with all possible despatch, to *Pitts-Town,* where I hope to hear of the arrival of General *Gates* with the regiments that are with him in a short time, if my information is true.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Lee.*

P. S. The letters for Generals *Gates* and *Arnold* I have sent by another conveyance.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL GATES.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 14th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Before this comes to hand, you will have heard of the melancholy situation of our affairs. I do not mean now to detail our misfortunes. With a handful of men, compared to the enemy's force, we have been pushed through the *Jerseys,* without being able to make the smallest opposition, and to pass the *Delaware.* General *Howe* is now on the other side, and beyond all question means, if possible, to possess himself of *Philadelphia.* His troops are extended from *Penny-Town* to *Burlington;* the main body, from the best advices, at the former, and within the neighbourhood of *Trenton.* I wish it were in my power to tell you that appearances were much against him. At present I confess they are not. But few of the Militia of this State have yet come out, except those belonging to the city, nor have I any great hope of their assistance, unless we can collect a respectable force; in such case perhaps they will turn out and afford their aid. I have heard that you are coming on with seven regiments. This may have a happy effect; and let me entreat you not to delay a moment in hastening to *Pitts-Town.* You will advise me of your approaches, and of the time you expect to be there, that I may meet you with an express, and inform you of your destination, and such further movement as may be necessary. I expect General *Lee* will be there this evening or to-morrow, who will be followed by General *Heath* and his division. If we can draw our forces together, I trust, under the smiles of Providence, we may yet effect an important stroke, or at least prevent General *Howe* from executing his plans. *Philadelphia* is now the object of our immediate care; you know the importance of it, and the

fatal consequences that must attend its loss. I am persuaded no aid with you to give, will be withheld a single instant; your arrival may be a most happy circumstance.

The Congress have adjourned to *Baltimore*, but previously resolved that *Philadelphia* should be defended to the last extremity. Lord *Stirling* is going over to meet General *Lee*, and concert with him a plan of operations. I wish you could be there; and would advise you not to wait the slow march of your troops. I have wrote to General *Arnold* to go to the eastward, on account of the intelligence from that quarter. His presence there will be of infinite service.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Gates*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO LORD STIRLING.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, 14th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: Lest the enemy should in some degree avail themselves of the knowledge, (for I do not doubt but that they are well informed of every thing we do,) I did not care to be so particular in the general orders of this day, as I mean to be in this letter to you.

As much time, then, would be lost (in case the enemy should attempt crossing the river at any pass within your guard of it) in first sending you notice, and the troops to wait for orders what to do, I would advise you to examine the whole river, from the upper to the lower guard of your district; and after forming an opinion of the most probable crossing places, have those well watched, and direct the regiments or companies most convenient to repair, as they can be formed, immediately to the point of attack, and give the enemy all the opposition they possibly can. Every thing in a manner depends upon the defence at the water edge. In like manner, one brigade is to support another, without loss of time, or waiting orders from me.

I would also have you fix upon some central spot convenient to your brigade, but in the rear a little, and on some road leading into the back road to *Philadelphia*, for your unnecessary baggage, wagons, and stores; that in case your opposition should prove ineffectual, these things may not fall, but be got off, and proceed over *Neshamini* Bridge towards *German-Town*, agreeable to the determination of the Board of Officers the other day.

Let me entreat you to cast about to find out some person who can be engaged to cross the river as a spy, that we may, if possible, obtain some knowledge of the enemy's situation, movements, and intention. Particular inquiry to be made by the person sent, if any preparations are making to cross the river; whether any boats are building, and where; whether any are coming across land from *Brunswick*; whether any great collection of horses are made, and for what purpose, &c. Expense must not be spared in procuring such intelligence, and will readily be paid by me. We are in a neighbourhood of very disaffected people; equal care, therefore, should be taken that one of these persons do not undertake the business, in order to betray us.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General Lord *Stirling*.

[The same to B. General *Mercer*. The same to B. General *Stephen*. The same to B. General *De Fermoy*.]

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL ARNOLD.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, State of Pennsylvania, 14th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: Having received advice from Governour *Trumbull*, of the 6th instant, that a large fleet of the enemy's men-of-war and transports had appeared off *New-London*, without doubt with an intent to make a descent either there or on some part of the coast of *New-England*, and he desiring that some General Officers might be sent to take the command of the Militia who were assembling, I must desire that you would immediately repair to the States of *New-England*, and in whichsoever of them you find the enemy landed, or likely to land, that you will, in conjunction with Major-General *Spencer*, who I have ordered upon the same service, take such measures as in your opinion will be most likely to give opposition to, and frustrate the intents, of the enemy. I shall be glad to hear from you upon your arrival in *New-England*, with a state of matters as you find them.

I have full confidence in your exerting yourself in this as upon former occasions; and am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *Arnold*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 14th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I last night received your favour of the 10th instant. I am extremely pleased by the ready attention you have paid to my orders, and have only to request that you will proceed with your troops, with all possible expedition, to *Pitts-Town*, pursuing General *Lee's* route, and where I expect you will join him. Lose not a moment. The situation of our affairs demands industry and despatch on all hands. Advise me from time to time of your approach, and use your best endeavours to accommodate your troops, and supply them with provisions. Supposing that the enemy mean an impression, I am led to conclude from your letter that you would have advanced so far this way before I could have countermanded your march, that the return of your troops could not afford much assistance, as their time of service would be near expiring, if not out, ere they could arrive; and if we can collect our force speedily, I should hope we may effect something of importance, or at least give such a turn to our affairs as to make them assume a more pleasing aspect than they now have.

I am, dear sir, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL SPENCER.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, State of Pennsylvania, 14th December, 1776.

Sir: I have just received advices from Governour *Trumbull*, that a large fleet of the enemy's ships of war and transports were lying off *New-London*, with an intent to make a descent on some part of *New-England*. He desires me to send some General Officers to take the command of the Militia who are assembling, to make the best opposition in their power. I must therefore request that you would immediately repair to *New-England*, and take the command at such place as you may find your presence most necessary. I have ordered General *Arnold* upon the same service, and beg you may coöperate with him in such measures as will be most conducive to the publick good. If any Militia should have arrived from *New-England* to replace those who have lately gone home, you will please to leave as many as will, in your opinion and that of the commanding officer at the Highlands, be necessary to guard those passes, and take the remainder with you; or, if you should meet any on their march up, you will please to let as many proceed as will be necessary for the above purpose, (of guarding the Highlands,) and take the remainder back with you.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Spencer*.

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GENERAL SULLIVAN TO GENERAL HEATH.

German-Town, December 14, 1776.

Dear General: I must beg you to hasten your march as fast as possible, as General *Washington* writes in the most pressing manner for our troops to come on.

Your most obedient servant,

Jno. Sullivan.

Major-General *Heath*.

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COMMISSARY HUGHES TO GENERAL HEATH.

[December 14, 1776.]

Dear General: Colonel *Nicoll* communicated what of yours related to our department, and I immediately furnished the teams, &c., yesterday morning, and then went to General *Spencer's*. When I returned last evening, I learnt that they were at *King's Ferry*, and that the Commissary had not directed them where to proceed; on which I went down and sent them over, with forty-eight barrels of flour and two hogsheads of rum, and sent a note to Colonel *Hays* to forward them on, &c. *Paulding* is out of the way, and those here seem at a loss what quantity to send unless it is mentioned.

If any more is wanted, as I expect there will, please to particularize. Can't the provisions be got to your post, sir,

by land, if it is sent by water to the slote at *Tappan*? I should be glad to be informed, as it is very easy to convey it there, no enemy being in the way.

There is a report here, which I cannot credit, and that is, that General *Lee* is taken. If so, I shall be sorry, and sympathize with him most unfeignedly.

I am, dear General, with great regard and respect, your most obedient and very humble servant,

HUGH HUGHES.

The Honourable Major-General *Heath*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL GATES.

Tapan, December 14, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I did not receive your favour of the 9th instant until the last evening. Colonel *Vose*, with the three regiments I before mentioned, arrived at *Paramus* yesterday morning. I have sent your letter directed to the commanding officer of the troops from *Ticonderoga*, to him this morning. But that detachment is so short of provisions that they cannot move until a supply comes forward, which will not reach them before to-morrow. In consequence of your request by Colonel *Scammell*, I have wrote back to Mr. *Pawling* to send on rum, flour, &c. I am purposing in an hour or two to sweep *Hackensack*, &c.

I am, dear General, your humble servant,

W. HEATH.

P. S. It is said a reinforcement is sent for to *Hackensack*, and that wagons are gone to *Hobuck* for their baggage.

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CAPTAIN PAINE TO GENERAL HEATH.

Tarry-Town, December 14th day, 1776.

DEAR SIR: As I think it my indispensable duty to let your Excellency know the situation that I and my company are in at present, and what has passed with us: On *Wednesday* last I dressed myself in disguise and went from *Colland*, below that place where I now am, and returned the same day. After I had rested one day, I marched with my company to this place, where I am scouting into every quarter, and hope to give a good account of them—of our enemy—soon.

I have this moment heard from the *King's Bridge*, that the enemy keep a guard near *Holland's* house, consisting of two or three hundred men; also there is about thirty *Hessians* at the foot on the hill, and there is no more of the enemy in all that quarter. If you think it best, I will engage them with only my small company; however, I am very certain that a reinforcement of two hundred men will wholly disquiet all the enemy on this side *York-Island*, which I think will be of the last importance to the poor distressed inhabitants of these parts.

Since the above intelligence, I have seen a man that tells me he has seen two deserters that run from the enemy last night; they say that they consist chiefly of Tories, and of those that was taken on *Long-Island*, that was lifted out of prison, and wish that we would come.

I shall wait for orders from your Excellency, on whose ability I depend; and am, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

BRINTON PAINE.

To Major-General *William Heath*, near *Hackingsack*.

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO JAMES DUANE.

Fort Constitution, 14th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: When I was at Convention yesterday, old Mr. *Lawrence* applied to me to recommend his son (a Lieutenant in Colonel *Swartwout's* regiment, in my brigade) to your Committee, in which case he said you would appoint him an officer in the new Army. I was surprised at his application, as I had recommended him for a Lieutenancy in a former letter to your Committee. I did not choose to give him a second recommendation, lest I might have been mistaken in his character, and did not know but you might know more of him than I did. I thought it therefore best to refuse, till I could see his Colonel and inform myself more fully about him, which I have this day had an opportunity of doing. His Colonel tells me (on his honour) that he believes him to be brave; that though he has been a wild young lord in times past, this campaign he has been attentive to duty and sober, and that he will, in his opinion, make a good First Lieutenant, which is the office he now bears. Indeed, he says he has had the charge of the company the most of this campaign, and has executed it well. This is the Colonel's character and opinion of him, and I place confidence in the Colonel.

I am this far on my march. Several of the Militia regiments are already at the place of rendezvous, near *Kakeate*, and I must hurry on to join them, to prevent discontents, as they are without covering, provision, and ammunition.

I am your most obedient servant,

GEO. CLINTON.

To *James Duane*, Esq., *Fishkills*.

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JOHN M'KESSON TO JAMES DUANE.

Fishkill, December 14, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: At the request of Captain *Stewart*, frequently repeated, and through his solicitation mentioned to me this evening by Colonel *Nicholson*, I take the liberty to inform you that I have known *Alexander McArthur* from his infancy; that from many circumstances too tedious for a letter, I know him to be a young man of the strictest integrity, and who has a high sense of honour. He was taught parade discipline by Colonel *Ritzema*, in the first company which he trained in the city, and devoted himself to a military life in one way or another since that time. He is not deficient as a penman, and has frequently been employed by Colonel *Malcom* in that way, while in his late regiment.

I beg leave, gentlemen, to recommend to your notice Mr. *John I. Myers*, a young gentleman who spent several years in my office. His ardent desire for a commission in the service would have been gratified in the year 1775, by an appointment in Colonel *McDougall's* regiment, if his parents would then have consented. He was a Lieutenant in the company of Militia trained by Major *Abner*. He has served this campaign as Lieutenant of Captain *Henry Brasher's* company, in Colonel *Malcom's* regiment, in which he had a good character. He is stout and active, and has had the charge of that company since Captain *Brasher* left the regiment. Near a year of his time prior to this campaign, was devoted to the business of guards, detachments of Militia on various occasions, working at fortifications, &c.

In my humble opinion a Second Lieutenancy at least would be well bestowed upon him.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN MCKESSON.

To the Hon. *James Duane* and *John Jay*, and to Colonel *Charles De Witt*, *Wm. Duer*, *Robert Harper*, and *Lewis Graham*, Esquires, and the other Members for arranging the Continental Battalions raising in the State of *New-York*.

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ANTHONY RUTGERS TO JAMES DUANE.

Fishkill, December 14th, 1776.

SIR: I take the liberty to recommend Lieutenant *Cornelius Becker* to be provided for in the new arrangement of the Army. I know him to be sober, active, and well-disciplined. He has served this past summer in Captain *Lyon's* company, of the First *New-York* Regiment of Continental forces, and is now in service with that regiment in General *McDougall's* brigade.

I am, with great respect, sir, your very humble servant,

ANTHONY RUTGERS.

To *James Duane*, Esq., one of the Committee of Convention for arranging the Army, present.

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APPLICATION OF ANN LEAKE.

Peekskill, 14th December, 1776.

The favour I would ask of the honourable the Convention is, that I may be permitted, with my daughter, servants, and effects, to remove on board your flag, and go to *New-York* with the family that have got leave to go, (Messrs. *Engliss*, *Moore*, and *Livingston*,) and that if your favour is granted me, my horses, carriage, and coachman may be permitted to go by land, as its most likely there won't be room on board your vessel for them.

I am, gentlemen, with respect, your most obedient servant,

ANN LEAKE.

The honourable the Convention.

P. S. If the gentlemen who has obtained the flag should object to our going in it, will it be permitted to get a boat?

JACOB CUYLER TO WILLIAM DUER.

Albany, December 14, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The bearer hereof is Mr. *Barent J. Ten Eyck*, who has, in a very serious manner, applied to me why he was not on the last arrangement of officers for the State of *New-York*. I candidly told him that his character and conduct during the last campaign was of such a nature as that he could not with propriety be appointed as an officer, and that he had been too frequently drunk, and was too apt to pursue such a scandalous practice. He frankly acknowledged it was in a great measure too true, but begged of me to mention his name to some of my friends of the Committee of Arrangement, and has made me all the promises to a reformed life, and that he will accept of a company, which I believe he will soon be able to fill. He certainly is brave, and a very strict officer, and is remarkable to keep his men in the best order. His connexions are great, and very well attached to the *American* cause. From those motives I am chiefly induced to comply with Mr. *Ten Eyck's* request, to write you upon the subject, and leave it to the consideration of the Committee.

Colonels *Hasen* and *Livingston*, who served in *Canada* under the late General *Montgomery*, have directions from Congress to raise each a regiment in any of the States, and to appoint such officers as they may judge proper, who are now in this city and its neighbourhood recruiting, which much deters the filling of *Van Schaick's* and *Gansevoort's* regiments.

I am sorry the Regulars continue their march uninterrupted; indeed, it surprised me not after I had seen Mr. *Sands's* letter. But I must confess I had not expected that *Jersey* would have behaved so cowardly. Are those the people who cried aloud for independency? Why don't they now support it? I have nothing new from this quarter.

I am, with the greatest respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

JACOB CUYLER.

To *William Duer*, Esq., *Fishkill*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut*, *December* 14th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Williams*, *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., *Thomas Seymour*, *Benjamin Huntington*, *Jedediah Elderkin*, Esquires.

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table for one hundred Pounds, in favour of *Nathaniel Miner*, Esq., Commissary for the Troops at *Stonington*, and to be in account.—(Order drawn *December* 14th, 1776; delivered to Mr. *Miner*.)

*Voted*, That the Committee of Pay-Table do adjust the accounts of the expense for taking and bringing one *John Sheppard* to *Windham* Jail, sent under the care of *Mathew Curtiss*, Jun., from *Newtown*, and also the account of the expense and pay of the escort who conducted seventeen Prisoners, by order of the Assembly's Committee, under command of Captain *Ezra Starr*, and draw orders on the Treasurer for the sum found reasonably and justly due, and that said Committee receive the money found in the hands of said *Sheppard*, now in the custody of said *Curtiss*, and lodge the same with said Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.—(Copy delivered to Colonel *Seymour*, *December* 14th, 1776.)

*Voted*, That Mr. *Nathaniel Shaw*, Jun., be, and he is hereby authorized and desired to draw a letter of credit in favour of the Captain or Commander of the ship *Oliver Cromwell*, to be made use of to obtain necessary repairs or supplies for said ship in any foreign port where she may fall, and the said Mr. *Shaw* shall be indemnified by this State against all damage that may accrue to him by means thereof.—(Copy delivered Captain *Coit*, *December* 14th, 1776.)

His Honour the Governour is desired to give orders, and to permit Mr. *Andrew Huntington* and other Commissaries to transport Pork and Flour out of this State to the State of *Rhode-Island*, to be delivered into the hands of Colonel *Champion*, Captain *Jared Tracy*, or *Asa Waterman*, Jun., for the use of the *Connecticut* troops in the service in that State.

*Resolved by this Board*, That Colonel *Erastus Wolcott*, now at *New-London*, be requested and ordered to employ all the men under his command he can spare to be cutting and making Fascines as fast as possible, and employ such further number of hands as he thinks proper, in *New-London* and vicinity thereof, as labourers for said purpose, and have them prepared and brought to *Fort Trumbull*, in *New-London*, as soon as may be, and preparations there make for placing of them, so as on any sudden occasion the vacancy on the back of said fort may be filled up with fascines, so as to secure the men who may be in said fort on any sudden attack.

Doct. *Albigence Waldo* is appointed Chief Surgeon of the ship *Oliver Cromwell*.

*Voted*, That an order be drawn on the Pay-Table, in favour of *William Lax*, for making Carriages, for the sum of £60, and to be in account.—(Order drawn *December* 14th, 1776, and delivered to Mr. *Lax*.)

After the Council broke up, drew an order upon the Pay-Table for *Gamaliel Babcock*, going express to *Ticonderoga*, for £10, to enable him to bear his expenses, and to be accountable.—(Signed by the Governour.)

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Providence, Saturday, December 14, 1776.

*Saturday* morning last, Commodore Sir *Peter Parker*, with about seventy sail of men-of-war and transports, came into our bay from *New-York*, and anchored above the harbour at *Newport*. On *Sunday* they landed a body of troops under the Generals *Clinton* and *Percy*, who took possession of the town, the inhabitants having previously determined that the place was not defensible against the enemy's shipping. The few troops we had on the island retreated to *Bristol*, leaving behind them some pieces of artillery. By the best accounts yet received, the enemy's troops do not consist of more than five thousand men; among them are a number of *Hessians*, some Horse, and many invalids. They are intrenching, it is said, at a place called *Meeting-House Hill*, three miles distant from *Bristol Ferry*.

From the first appearance of the fleet, the Militia and Independent companies of this State have been in motion, and are since joined by a large body of troops, with some companies of artillery, from the neighbouring States.

The readiness and zeal manifested on the occasion by the troops of this and our sister States, reflect on them the highest credit, and we hope will prove a happy presage of their success, should the enemy attempt to gain a lodgment in this town or penetrate the country.

We hear that the enemy's troops were escorted into *Newport* by a set of well-known infamous Tories, who have long infested that town, and who may yet possibly meet with the fate justly due to their atrocious villainies.

We learn that two of the enemy's frigates lie at or near *Seconet* passage, another near *Bristol*, and a fourth at the north end of *Prudence Island*.

Some persons, it is said, have been taken up and committed to jail at *Newport*, for the heinous crime of bearing arms against the King of *Great Britain*.

*Thursday* last, a person by the name of *Wood* was brought to town and committed to jail, having been detected in carrying provisions to *Newport*.

*Thursday* last, the honourable General Assembly of this State met here.

*Saturday* last, two frigates landed some men at one of the *Elizabeth* Islands, where they burnt two houses and killed and carried off a few sheep. A number of our people landed soon after on the island, killed three of the pirates, and drove the rest on board their ships.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO COLONEL GOLDING.

War Office, Boston, December 14, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The Board having occasion for a quantity of pork and beef, and hearing by Mr. *Brown* you inclined to contract, herewith send you the terms upon which any quantity within five hundred barrels of beef and one thousand barrels of pork, will be taken in: For good merchantable pork, three shillings, old tenour, per pound; for good merchantable beef, twenty-six shillings, lawful money, per hundred weight.

The Board allow four shillings per barrel for every good

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white-oak barrel. The Board also find salt. It is expected the beef be delivered at *Watertown*. You will observe the pork must be delivered there also. The easiest and cheapest method will be to drive and kill near our magazine.

In behalf of the Board:

SAM'L P. SAVAGE, *President pro tem.*

Colonel *John Golding* and Mr. *Malachy Merril*.

P. S. What money is necessary will be advanced, security for the performance of the contract being given.

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MESHECH WEARE TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE DELEGATES AT CONGRESS.

Exeter, December 14, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: By order of the General Assembly, I transmit a resolve of theirs, enclosed in the letter to the President, and desire your attention in getting the money forwarded as soon as possible, as our Treasury is nearly empty. The plenty of paper money, and the depreciation thereof, has such an effect we are fearful of making more. Very considerable quantities of shoes, leather breeches, and some other articles, can be procured here; and if the sum of money requested can be augmented, I think it can be laid out for clothing here.

Great sums have been advanced to the Militia sent to *Ticonderoga*, *New-York*, &c. Six hundred are now raising, to march in a few days for *New-York*, in consequence of a request of General *Lee*. Such has been the hurry and the amazing difficulties we have had to wade through, (many of which you are well acquainted with,) has hitherto hindered our accounts from being forwarded, but they are now considerably forward, some few outstanding accounts only hindering. And as upon a hasty reflection we have raised, supplied, &c., it will appear that a very large sum is due to us. If some could be transmitted it would now put us in a situation of going forward in the general defence much better than otherwise we can do.

No money can be procured here for the Continental bank, or any other, under six per cent.; and indeed I think no great sums for that. Privateering, buying up prize cargoes, and monopolizing them at any price, seems to be the attention of the mercantile part, who have the money in their hands.

I enclose you an address of several towns in the County of *Grafton*, to the people at large, (fabricated, I suppose, at *Dartmouth* College,) and calculated to stir up contentions and animosities among us at this difficult time, especially as our Government is only temporary, and the state of matters not allowing a revisal. However, this pamphlet, with assiduity of the College gentlemen, has had such an effect, that almost the whole County of *Grafton*, if not the whole, have refused to send members to the new Assembly, which is to meet next *Wednesday*.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,

MESHECH WEARE.

To *Matthew Thornton* and *William Whipple*.

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VOTES OF TOWNS OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE ON ELECTING REPRESENTATIVES.

*State of* NEW-HAMPSHIRE:

*The Government and People of said State to the Selectmen of* HANOVER, *in said State, greeting:*

You are hereby required to notify the legal inhabitants paying taxes in the towns of *Hanover*, *Canaan*, and *Cardigan*, (giving them fifteen days notice,) to meet at some convenient place in your town, to elect one person, having a real estate of the value of two hundred pounds lawful money in this State, to represent them in the Assembly, to be held at *Exeter*, on the third *Wednesday* in *December* next, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and to empower such Representative, for the term of one year from their first meeting, to transact such business and pursue such measures as they may judge necessary for the publick good. And the person who shall be elected you are to notify that he attend at time and place above-mentioned.

And at said meeting, each voter, as aforesaid, on one paper, is to bring in votes for one person, being a reputable freeholder and inhabitant within your County, having a real estate of two hundred pounds, to serve as members of the Council for the year ensuing.

And the Clerk of your town is hereby directed to seal up all such votes under cover, and send them to the house of Mr. *Green*, in *Wentworth*, in your County, by the second *Wednesday* in *December* next, directed to *Francis Worcester*, *Charles Johnson*, and *Abel Chandler*, a Committee appointed to receive them.

And it is *Resolved*, That no person be allowed a seat in Council or Assembly, who shall, by himself or any person for him, before said choice, treat with liquor, &c., any elector, with an apparent view of gaining their votes, or afterwards on that account.

And make return of this writ, with your doings thereon, into the Secretary's Office at *Exeter*, by the third *Wednesday* in *December* next.

M. WEARE, *President.*
P. WHITE, *Speaker.*

By order of the Council and Assembly:

E. THOMPSON, *Secretary.*

Exeter, September 30th, 1776.

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Hanover, November 27th, 1776.

Pursuant to the within precept, we notified the inhabitants paying taxes in the towns of *Hanover*, *Canaan*, and *Cardigan*, to meet at the Meeting-house in said *Hanover* this day, for the purposes within mentioned, who being met, passed the following Votes, viz:

1st. *Voted unanimously*, That the Address of the inhabitants of this and other towns, to the people of the several towns through this Colony, published by their Committees in *July* last, is truly expressive of our sentiments respecting representation, and the unconstitutional formation and procedures of the present Assembly of this State.

2d. *Voted unanimously*, That we will not choose a Representative, as directed in the precept issued by the Assembly of this State, for the following reasons, viz:

1. Because no plan of representation is as yet formed in this State consistent with the liberties of a free people, in that the people have not universally had a full representation in any Assembly since the State was declared independent of the Crown of *Great Britain*, by which declaration we conceive that the powers of Government reverted to the people at large, and, of course, annihilated the political existence of the Assembly which then was; notwithstanding which they have since presumed to act in the name of the people, and in their precept undertake to prescribe and limit the mode of proceedure in our choice of a Representative, while it does not appear that they are to be chosen for the purpose of recognizing the rights of the people and assuming such Government as shall be agreeable to them, though nothing of that nature has at any time been done in this State, except a plan formed by the Representatives of a part of this State, by which the whole rights of the people are assumed by that House.

2. Because the precept, in consequence of which this meeting was called, is inconsistent with the liberties of a free people, in that it directs to have different corporate towns (who have a right to act by themselves in all cases) to unite for the purpose of choosing a Representative and Counsellor.

3. Because it limits us in our choice to a person who has real estate of two hundred pounds, lawful money; whereas we conceive that there ought to be no pecuniary restriction, but that every elector is capable to be elected.

3d. *Voted unanimously*, That the Selectmen be directed to make return of the foregoing vote, with the reasons annexed, together with the precept, to the Assembly proposed to be held at *Exeter*, on the third *Wednesday* in *December* next.

4th. *Voted unanimously*, That we will not give in our votes for a Counsellor as directed in the precept:

1. Because we can see no important end proposed by their creation, unless to negative the proceedings of the House of Representatives, which we humbly conceive ought not to be done in a free State.

2. Because every elector ought to have a voice in the choice of each Counsellor, (in cases where they are needful,) and not be restricted in his choice to any particular limits within the State. For which reason we protest against any

Counsellor being chosen in this County as directed in the precept.

5th. *Voted unanimously*, That the Clerk be directed to make return of the last Vote, with the reasons annexed, and our Protest, as the precept directs, relative to vote for a Counsellor.

6th. *Voted*, That this meeting be dissolved.

And it was accordingly dissolved.

Attest: ICHABOD FOWLER,
THOMAS DURKEE,
*Selectmen of Hanover.*

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At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of *Lyme*, legally warned, and convened at the house of *Ebenezer Green*, Esq., on *Monday*, the 25th of *November*, and continued by adjournment to *Monday*, the 2d of *December* instant:

1st. *Voted*, That the pamphlet lately published by the Committee of the towns of *Lyme*, *Hanover*, *Lebanon*, and *Plainfield*, is truly expressive of our sentiments on Representation, and the unconstitutional formation and proceedings of the present Assembly.

2d. *Voted*, That we cannot comply with the precept issued to this town, in conjunction with five other towns, for choosing a Representative, for the reasons following, viz: Because the present plan of Representation is entirely inconsistent with a free State, where every corporate town hath an undoubted right to act for themselves in choosing a member of the Legislative body; because the elections are limited to persons of £200, lawful money, real estate, for their choice, whereas every elector in free States is capable of being elected.

3d. *Voted*, That the Clerk be directed to make returns of our reasons for our non-compliance, to the proposed Assembly that is to sit at *Exeter*, on the third *Wednesday* of *December* next.

*Voted*, That we cannot comply with the direction to the choice of a Counsellor in manner proposed in the precept, for the reasons following: First, Because that in every free State the people have an undoubted right to their voice in the choice of the whole Council, either by themselves or their Representatives; secondly, because we cannot see any good proposed by confining the electors to certain limits within the State for their choice.

3d. *Voted*, That the Clerk be directed to make return of our reasons for non-compliance to the Committee appointed for the receiving of the votes for a Counsellor, and also to enter a protest against the choice.

Test: JONA. CHILD, *Town Clerk.*

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The reasons why we do not join with the towns of *Unity*, *Acworth*, *Lempster*, *Saville*, *Croydon*, and *Newport*, as we did last year, in choosing a Representative, is this, viz: Then we supposed they was to act only upon the present exigencies of the Government; but now the case is much altered. The honourable Continental Congress has declared their independence of *Great Britain*; therefore we think that the present Assembly has not taken right methods in issuing out their precepts for the choice of Representatives and Counsellors for the year ensuing; for, in the first place, they have, as to Representatives in some incorporated towns, allowed two or three Representatives; to others they have joined five or six towns together, whereas we think every incorporated town ought to be represented by themselves. Then, as to Counsellors, in one County they have ordered five, in some two, and in one County but one, which we look upon not according to liberty; for as this State is but one body, we think they ought to be chose by the people at large. And also they have ordered that neither of these shall have a seat in the Assembly without they have real estate to the value of two hundred pounds, lawful money; whereas we think every lawful elector is a subject to be elected.

*Voted*, That the above reasons be sent to the Council and Assembly of this State, which is to convene together at *Exeter*, the third *Wednesday* of this instant, and that the Town Clerk shall sign it in behalf of the town.

This done at a legal town meeting, *Acworth*, *December* 9th, 1776.

THOMAS PUTNAM, *Moderator.*

A true copy. Attest: SAM'L SILSBY, *Town Clerk.*

*To the honourable Council and Assembly of the Colony of* NEW-HAMPSHIRE, *to be convened and assembled at* EXETER, *on the third* WEDNESDAY *of* DECEMBER *instant:*

The petition of the inhabitants of the towns of *Marlow*, *Alstead*, and *Surrey*, humbly showeth: That whereas it is the advice and direction of the Continental Congress relative to the assuming Civil Government in this Colony, have advised and directed the Provincial Congress of this Colony, previous to their assuming a form of Civil Government, that they at their Convention do grant warrants for a full and free election of Representatives in this Colony; and whereas various coupling of various towns together in the western parts of Colony, and allowing but one Representative to a coupling, and we being differently treated from the major parts of this Colony, who are allowed a Representative to each town; and whereas the towns of *Marlow*, *Alstead*, and *Surrey*, are towns incorporated with all invariable privileges and immunities that any other towns do or may enjoy in this Colony, and being thus coupled together, as aforesaid, are abridged or curtailed of the privilege of each individual town electing a Representative, which we humbly conceive cannot be construed to be a full and free election or representation of the said Colony, agreeable to the advice of the Continental Congress above recited; we, therefore, your humble petitioners, would beseech the honourable Council and House of Representatives, that previous to the further pursuing the plan of Civil Government, that there may warrants be granted for a full and free election or representation of each of the individual towns above-mentioned, pursuant to the advice of the Continental Congress aforesaid; thus shall your humble petitioners, as in duty bound, ever pray.

SAM'L GRISTIN, WOOLSTON BROCKWAY,
ABSALOM KINGSBURY, JONATHAN SMITH,
*Committee from Marlow, Alstead, and Surrey.*

Dated Colony of *New-Hampshire*, *Marlow*, *December* 11th, A. D. 1776.

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*To Mr.* MICHAEL CREASY, *Representative for the Town of* CHESTERFIELD, *in the State of* NEW-HAMPSHIRE:

SIR: Whereas it having pleased Almighty God to humble the people of this land, by permitting the tyrant of *Great Britain* and his minions, in the fullness of their rage, to prevail against them, by subverting the civil constitution of every Province in his late *American* dominions, affecting thereby the activity of law and justice, and the introduction of vice and profaneness, attended with domestick confusion, and all the calamities attendant on a dissolution of the power of Civil Government, which, in this alarming progress, have made it absolutely necessary for each State to separate itself from that land from whence their forefathers were exiled by the cruel hand of tyranny, and to form for itself, under the Ruler of all the earth, such plans of Civil Government as the people thereof should think most conducive to their own safety and advantage. Notwithstanding the importance of an equitable system of Government, as it affects ourselves and our posterity, we are brought to the disagreeable necessity of declaring, that it is our candid opinion that the State of *New-Hampshire*, instead of forming an equitable plan of Government, conducing to the peace and safety of the State, have been influenced by the iniquitous intrigues and secret designations of persons unfriendly, to settle down upon the dregs of Monarchical and Aristocratical tyranny, in imitation of their late *British* oppressor. We can by no means imagine ourselves so far lost to a sense to the natural rights and immunities of ourselves and our fellow men, as to imagine that the State can be either safe or happy under a constitution formed without the knowledge or particular authority of a great part of its inhabitants; a constitution which no man knows the contents of, except that the whole Legislative power of the State is to be entirely vested in the will and pleasure of a House of Representatives, and that chosen according to the sovereign determination of their own will, by allowing to some towns sundry voices in the said House, others but one, and others none; and in a Council of twelve men, five of which are always to be residents of *Rockingham* County, who, by the assistance of two others of said Council, have the power of a casting voice in all State affairs. Thus we see the important affairs of the State liable to be converted to the advantage of a small part of the State, and the emolument of its offices, by reason of the other part of

the State not having an equal or equitable share in the Government to counterbalance the designs of the other. You are therefore authorized and instructed to exert yourself to the utmost to procure a redress of the afore-mentioned grievances, and in case they will not comply, to return home for further instructions.

SOLOMON HARVEY, *per order Com.*

Chesterfield, December ye 12th, 1776.

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*The Inhabitants of the Towns of* HAVERHILL, LYMAN, BATH, GUNTHWAIT, LANDAFF, *and* MORRISTOWN.

At a meeting legally warned, in consequence of a precept from the Assembly at *Exeter*, for the purpose of choosing a Representative, as also to give in their votes for a Counsellor for the County of *Grafton*, having refused a compliance with said precept, have chosen us, the subscribers, a Committee to return the precept, together with the reasons of their non-compliance; which reasons are as follows, viz:

First. Because no plan of Representation has yet been formed in this State consistent with the liberties of a free people; and it is our humble opinion, that when the Declaration of Independency took place, the Colonies were absolutely in a state of nature, and the powers of Government reverted to the people at large, and of consequence annihilated the political existence of the Assembly which then was.

Secondly. Because the precept directs to have a number of different towns (who have an undoubted right to act by themselves separately) to unite for the purpose of choosing a Representative and Counsellors.

Thirdly. Because we are limited in our choice of a Representative to a person who has a real estate of two hundred pounds, lawful money; whereas we conceive that every elector is capable of being elected.

Fourthly. Because that no Bill of Rights has been drawn up, or form of Government come into, agreeable to the minds of the people of this State, by any Assembly peculiarly chosen for that purpose, since the Colonies were declared independent of the Crown of *Great Britain*.

Fifthly. We refuse to give our votes for a Counsellor, because we conceive that in a free State there ought not to be a Council invested with the power to negative the proceedings of the House of Representatives.

Sixthly. Because, if a Council is necessary, every elector ought to have a voice in the choice of each Counsellor, and not to be restricted to any particular limits within this State.

For which reasons we protest against a Counsellor being chosen in this County, as directed in the precept.

EPH'M WESSON, ELISHA CLEAVELAND,
JOHN YOUNG, JAMES BAYLEY,
JOHN CLARK,
*Committee.*

Haverhill, December 13th, 1776.

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CLAUDE CRESPIGNY TO RALPH IZARD.

Bath, England, December 15, 1776.

DEAR SIR: It is near a fortnight since I was favoured with yours. I am much ashamed not to have thanked you for it before. No news yet arrived from *New-York*. I begin to think that Sir *W. Howe* will be satisfied with *New-York* for his winter quarters, and will finish the glorious campaign without attempting to force *Washington's* lines. Mr. *Burgoyne*, since his return, I find, affects great silence, and only says, that *Carleton* intends to begin the next campaign as early as possible with the attack of *Ticonderoga*. *Dacre*, who was sent home with the account of the success upon the lakes, does justice to *Arnold*, and acknowledges that the disposition of his force, the defence he made against so superiour an enemy, and the management of his retreat, all did him great honour. Every one, as you may imagine, is impatient to hear from the *Howes*. The Ministerialists pretend to fear that they are treating with the Rebels, and are inclined to give too good terms, before they have given them a hearty drubbing—their very words. For my own part, I totally despair of any amicable settlement of the dispute, and sincerely lament the bruises that both parties must receive. At the same time I most heartily execrate the authors of the mischief, and detest still more, if possible, their senseless addressors, who are still crying out for more vengeance, and for risking every thing, rather than not have their full of it.

As to the *French* and *Spaniards*, they hold in contempt the idea of their interference; and if they should be such fools, why, we will kill them too.

Admiral *Keppel* has (upon being applied to) accepted the command of the grand fleet of observation, which is intended for the protection of this country against our natural enemies, at the same time fully declaring his perseverance in his sentiments of the impolicy of our contest with our fellow-subjects of *America*. He seems just the same as last year—very well in health, but still afflicted with the spasms in his legs. He desires, as does Mr. *Rogers*, his best compliments to you and Mrs. *Izard*. When you have fixed upon your time for leaving *England*, I hope you will acquaint me with it. My wife unites with me in best regards to you, Mrs. *Izard*, and all your family.

I am, dear sir, very heartily, yours,

CLAUDE CRESPIGNY.

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ANDREW BUCHANAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore County, December 15, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I received yours per Colonel *Ewing*, and have given the necessary orders to your Militia to hold themselves ready to march at short notice. I am asked by the Militia how they are to be provided with tents, arms, baggage wagons, &c. It would be necessary to let me know how they are to be procured. If those necessaries are not provided before orders are given for the Militia to march, it will retard them much.

I am, gentlemen, yours, &c., AND. BUCHANAN.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Maryland*.

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GENERAL ARMSTRONG TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Philadelphia, 15th December, 1776.

SIR: I am now ordered by General *Washington* to attempt sundry pieces of publick service, part whereof were to have been verbally opened to Congress; but as your late adjournment forbids me that pleasure, I can only by this letter inform you what these intended services are.

The General, under the last necessity, not knowing how far a strong and elated enemy may design to avail themselves of your circumstances by a rapid winter campaign, has desired me, as far as weather and strength will admit, to traverse the sundry parts of the State of *Pennsylvania*, to inspirit the Militia occasionally to turn out, and to aid the recruiting service by prompting the younger men to inlist, and to appoint proper places for magazines of provisions on a certain direction, naming the quantities to be laid in at each place. I mean quantity in the first instance; and have accordingly ordered the Commissary, Mr. *Wharton*, to lay in at the gulph mill, on the west side of *Schuylkill*, eight days' provisions for ten thousand men; at *Lancaster*, three months' ditto for twelve thousand—and further thought, would now rather direct half the last quantity at *Right's Ferry*, which yet may be easily corrected; at *York-Town* for five thousand, three months; with quantities of forage at each place.

*Carlisle* and *Lebanon* left to further consideration for the same purposes, and the above sent to the General for his inspection, &c. I am of opinion that too much cannot well be got, and that three months' salt provisions for forty thousand men ought to be in reserve for next summer.

Give me leave to inform your Honour, I am charged by the General to signify to Congress his earnest wishes that an augmentation of the Continental Army at least to that of one hundred battalions in the whole, may early be thought of and concluded; as, considering the efforts of the enemy to bring more foreign troops, and the uncertainty of our Militia, the expediency of the measure appears beyond a doubt; nor can any man answer, from the present prevailing spirit in several of the middle States, that the arms of tyranny will not be augmented from this side the water.

Permit me to mention the article of small-arms, by which I mean at least the middle size musket and bayonet, and salt, as perhaps requiring the first attention. Please to forgive the notice taken of these last; is not meant to offend the anxiety and vigilance of Congress already exerted to procure them, but only to revive the idea, and show the press-

ing necessity of more, persuaded as I am that a number of men may be got, but without arms; and of those you have, many are insufficient, and the scarcity of salt like to discourage our people at large.

I thought to have talked with the General on the subject of Light-Horse, but forgot it through the pressing in of other things.

If Congress should have any further commands, I may be at *Carlisle* about three weeks hence, or from that place they may be sent to me; and have the honour to be, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

P. S. General *Smallwood* is immediately required to proceed on the business of inspiriting the Militia, as there may be an occasion, through the State of *Maryland*, and encouraging the recruiting service in the same. That gentlemen, now in *Maryland*, should have early notice given him.

The Hon. *John Hancock*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 15th, 1776.

SIR: General *Mifflin* sent three hundred suits of clothes to *Neshamine Ferry*, with orders that they remain there until your Excellency should direct them to be sent forward. On the representation of the commanding officer of the *Pennsylvania* regiment, that his men are greatly distressed for want of necessary clothing at this very inclement season of the year, we have ordered the said clothes to the quarters of that regiment, that, should your Excellency think proper to direct a distribution to them, they may be at hand for that purpose.

A quantity of clothing had been provided by this State for their regiment, which we found necessary to give out amongst the new recruits for Continental service raised in this city out of the men lately returned from the Army, that they may be distinguished; for want of it, some of them had inlisted many times over, and it was found impossible to imbody them, or command their services. We take the liberty to hint these particulars, that your Excellency may judge of the propriety of having these clothes distributed among said regiment in lieu of their clothing, which was supplied to the recruits. Nevertheless, we would by no means presume to dictate to your Excellency, nor would we wish such an appropriation should in any wise interfere with the publick good, of which your Excellency must be a more competent judge, and in whose determination we have the most implicit confidence.

We have sent a quantity of old clothes, collected from the charitable and well-disposed inhabitants, to be presented to such of the Army as are most necessitous, until we can provide such as are more suitable for the soldiery.

Since we had the honour of writing the 14th instant to your Excellency, we have reason to believe the Militia of *Lancaster*, *York*, and *Cumberland*, are turning out with becoming spirit. We are likewise certainly informed that two battalions, amounting to several hundred men, *Jersey* Militia, are at *Cooper's Ferry*; two battalions are on their march from *Dover*, three from *Lancaster*, and one from *Chester*; so that we have no doubt your Excellency will soon have a sufficient reinforcement to check the progress of the enemy.

By order of Council.

I have the honour to be, with much respect, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL CADWALADER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bristol, 15th December, 1776.

SIR: I received your despatches to-day, and have sent Captain *Alexander's* company to *Philadelphia*.

Mr. *Symes* (Lieutenant in R. H. Emigrants, who now acts as assistant Aid-de-Camp to General *Howe*) came over from *Burlington* this morning, with a number of officers and privates, to be exchanged. He says that General *Lee* was taken by surprise last *Friday* afternoon, by about thirty Light-Horse. Captain *Murray*, one of the prisoners, informs me that Captain *Montresure* told him the same story at *Trenton*, and he has no doubt of the fact.

*Symes* tells me that a considerable body of the enemy are near *Burlington*, and will march in about noon. Captain *Murray* confirms this, but cannot certainly ascertain the number, but gives the following account of the arrangement of the enemy's Army for the winter: That the main Army was at or near *Trenton*; a large body had prepared to march to *Brunswick* yesterday, for the winter, which place was to be Head-Quarters; five hundred men at *Burlington*, five hundred at *Bordentown*, five hundred at *Trenton*, and a number to each town in that part of the country, equal to its size. This was the conversation at *Trenton* among the officers and inhabitants, who have submitted and joined the enemy. I have sent several persons over for intelligence, and last night sent Captain *Shippen*, with twenty good men.

One of the men sent yesterday morning to *Mount Holly* to inquire whether the enemy had gone that way, he there conversed with a man well known for his attachment to our cause, who informed him that six hundred lay last night at the *Black-Horse*, about nine miles from *Burlington*. He saw them on their march in the following order: the advanced party of two hundred near the *Black-Horse*; two hundred at *Mansfield Meeting*; two hundred at the *Rising-Sun*, or *Square*. The line extended about three miles; but the whole were to march to the *Black-Horse*. They had five brass field-pieces. On his return he came through *Burlington*, and was there informed that the troops seen at *Black-Horse* were the advanced party of about two thousand *Hessians*. General *Ewing* informed me yesterday that upwards of two thousand *Hessians* were seen going into *Bordentown*, in the afternoon. I have sent off the man who came over this morning to ascertain the facts.

If there is not more than five or six hundred men in *Burlington* to-night, and no body to sustain them if attacked, I shall attack them about daylight to-morrow morning.

The person sent over to-day is a very intelligent, spirited officer in the *Jersey* regulars, and I hope will give me information time enough to make the necessary preparations. I have ordered two officers to go up *Neshaminy*, and make the observations you recommended, and shall transmit the report to you as soon as possible.

General *Howe* is certainly gone to *New-York*, unless the whole is a scheme to amuse and surprise. I shall, from time to time, inform you of every material piece of intelligence.

I am, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's most obedient, very humble servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

P. S. Messrs. *John*, *Andrew*, and *William Allen*, are at *Trenton*. Captain *Murray* saw them.

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COLONEL CADWALADER TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Bristol, 15th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Lieutenant *Symes*, of R. H. Emigrants, came over to-day from *Burlington* with a number of prisoners for exchange. He says that General *Lee* was surprised and taken on *Friday* afternoon, by about thirty Light-Horse. Captain *Murray*, one of the prisoners of Colonel *Atlee*, tells me there is no doubt of this report, and that Captain *Montresure* informed him of it at *Trenton*. He says Messrs. *John*, *Andrew*, and *William Allen*, are at *Trenton*; that General *Howe* set off yesterday for *York*. The main Army was near *Trenton*, but a large body was to set off yesterday for *Brunswick*. About five hundred *Hessians* are now on their march for *Burlington*. Whether there is a large body behind we cannot yet learn; but the story abroad was, that the main Army was to quarter at *Brunswick*; the small town on the river to be garrisoned. Perhaps this may be given out to amuse. A Captain *Alexander* went off yesterday, agreeable to orders. I should have sent him sooner, but I received only a verbal message. Damn dark! But now is our time, if the people have virtue. For God's sake, why did you remove from *Philadelphia*? You have given an invitation to the enemy; you have discovered a timidity that encourages our enemy and dispirits our friends. You have given a stab to your credit; and, if you can pay off your present Army, I believe you cannot find money to raise a new one. The city cannot be taken by surprise. You should have left the city when our troops retreated to it. The only way to remedy the evils that may follow from this impolitick step is to return. It will

have the effect, almost, of a victory. Some good stroke may revive the spirits of some, and the ravages of the enemy will enrage others, so as to produce an Army in the spring equal to our wants. The sky may fall, or some lucky circumstance happen, that may give a turn to our affairs. A good face among men in power keeps up the spirits of the people, and one cheerful countenance may do wonders. I have run off with complaints, and am lead to make them by the d——d gloomy countenances seen wherever I go except among the soldiers. Are the people coming from the back country?

I am, sir, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

To the Hon. *Robert Morris*, Esq., *Philadelphia*.

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[COLONEL WILLIAM GRAYSON] TO COLONEL CADWALADER.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's House, December 15th, 1776.

SIR: His Excellency has desired me to acquaint you that, by advice received last night from a prisoner who was servant to Captain *Bell*, Aid-de-Camp to General *Vaughan*, he is informed that the enemy intend to return back; indeed, the number of wagons which have been moving down towards *Borden-Town*, seems to favour this intelligence. His Excellency thinks they have a design of sending their forage wagons and baggage by the route of *South-Amboy*, and that they present us a front on the river for the purpose of effectually covering them, while by sending them that road, they secure them against a forced march from General *Lee*; for should he cross their line, they would have it in their power to cross his. However, the General is by no means certain that this is the case; he therefore desires you will exert yourself to the utmost of your ability, and by every method in your power, in discovering the movements and intention of the enemy; in particular he requests you will be extremely attentive in finding out whether any number of wagons have filed off across the country towards *South-Amboy*, either at *Borden-Town* or *Burlington*. Should you, upon inquiry, discover that these are their views, and that these forage wagons have small escorts, and that there is a strong probability that an attempt on them may be made with success, then you are to endeavour to effect so salutary a purpose, by sending proper parties to secure them.

I am, sir, with great respect, &c.,

W. G., *A. D. C.*

To Colonel *John Cadwalader, Pennsylvania* Militia.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 20th.]

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 15, 1776.

SIR: About one o'clock to-day I received a letter from General *Sullivan*, a copy of which you have enclosed. I will not comment on the melancholy intelligence which it contains, only adding, that I sincerely regret General *Lee's* unhappy fate, and feel much for the loss of my country in his captivity.

In respect to the enemy, they have been industrious in their attempts to procure boats and small craft, but as yet their efforts have not succeeded. From the latest advices that I have of their movements, by some prisoners and others, they appear to be leaving *Trenton*, and to be filing off towards *Princeton* and *Allentown*. What their designs are, whether they mean to retreat or only a feint, cannot be determined. I have parties out to watch their motions, and to form, if possible, an accurate opinion of their plans. Our force since my last has received no augmentation; of course by sickness and other causes has diminished. But I am advised by a letter from the Council of Safety, which just came to hand, that Colonels *Burd* and *Galbraeth* are marching with their battalions of Militia, and also that some small parties are assembling in *Cumberland* County.

By Captain *Murray*, who is just returned from his imprisonment, we are informed that Messrs. *John*, *Andrew*, and *William Allen*, are at *Trenton*. The fact I suppose is to be depended on, as Captain *Murray* is acquainted with them, and saw 'em himself, according to the report he has made.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

Germantown, December 13, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: It gives me the most pungent pain to inform your Excellency of the sad stroke *America* must feel in the loss of General *Lee*, who was this morning taken by the enemy near *Vealtown*. He ordered me yesterday morning to march for this place early, which I did, and by some fatality he was induced to go to *Barnett's Town*, nearer the enemy by three miles than we were. Some Tories doubtless gave information, and this morning seventy of the Light-Horse surrounded the house, and after a gallant resistance by him and his domestics, he was made a prisoner. I have taken every step to regain him, but almost despair of it. I received your Excellency's letters to him of the 10th and 11th instant, and shall endeavour to join the Army as soon as possible. A *French* gentleman, whose name is wrote on the cover that encloses this, (Captain *De Vernejoul*.) behaved with great bravery in defending the General; and had his advice been taken, the General would have escaped.

Dear General, I most heartily sympathize with you and my country in this affecting loss; and am your most obedient servant,

JNO. SULLIVAN.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL SULLIVAN.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 15th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: About one o'clock to-day I received your letter of the 13th, and sincerely regret, with you, the unhappy fate of General *Lee*. I know his feelings upon the occasion, and I know the loss our country must sustain in his captivity. The event has happened, and I refer you to the several letters which I had wrote him, and to one which now goes to Lord *Stirling*, and to my Lord himself, who, I presume, is with you, and who was fully possessed of my ideas when he left me, for the measures you and he may judge necessary to adopt.

I am, dear sir, &c.,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major-General *Sullivan*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 15th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: With the utmost regret I must inform you of the loss our Army has sustained by the captivity of General *Lee*, who was made a prisoner on the morning of the 13th, by a party of seventy of the enemy's Light-Horse, near a place called *Vealtown*, in the *Jerseys*. For the particulars, I refer you to the enclosed from General *Sullivan*.

The spirit of disaffection that appears in this country, I think deserves your serious attention. Instead of giving any assistance in repelling the enemy, the Militia have not only refused to obey your general summons and that of their commanding officers, but I am told exult at the approach of the enemy and our late misfortunes.

I beg leave to submit to your consideration, whether such people are to be trusted with arms in their hands. If they will not use them for us, there is the greatest reason to apprehend they will against us, if opportunity offers. But even supposing they claimed a right of remaining neuter: in my opinion we ought not to hesitate a moment in taking their arms, which will be so much wanted in furnishing the new levies. If such a step meets your approbation, I leave it to you to determine upon the mode. If you think fit to empower me, I will undertake to have it done as speedily and effectually as possible. You must be sensible that the utmost secrecy is necessary, both in your deliberations on, and in the execution of, a matter of this kind; for if the thing should take wind, the arms would presently be conveyed beyond our reach, or rendered useless.

Your favours of the 13th and 14th instant are this moment come to my hands. I am glad to find, from the latter, that the Militia of *Lancaster* County are in motion; and I am in hopes that General *Mifflin's* appearance in the different Counties will have as good an effect as it had in *Philadelphia*. I have received information that the body of the enemy which lay at *Pennington*, under Lord *Cornwallis*, moved this morning back towards *Princetown*; if so, it looks as if they were going into quarters; and this corresponds with the account brought last night by a pris-

oner, a servant belonging to General *Vaughan's* family, who says he heard his master talk of going soon into winter quarters. The body, that lay at *Trenton*, are likewise filing off towards *Allentown* and *Bordentown*, with their baggage; which makes me conjecture they are taking the road to *South-Amboy*. I have a number of small parties out to make discoveries; and if the motions of the enemy are really such as I have mentioned above, I shall soon have information of it. In the mean time, my troops are so stationed as to prevent them from crossing the river at any place without our knowledge. But I am in great hopes that the disappointment in boats, and the lateness of the season, which now begins to put on the face of winter, will prevent their making any attempt upon *Philadelphia* till spring. This, however, should not in the least slacken your exertions in making the necessary preparations for the fortification and defence of the city, by land and water; for you may be assured that will be their first and great object in the spring.

I have the honour to be, &c., Go. Washington.

To the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

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GENERAL SULLIVAN TO GENERAL HEATH.

Sir: I have altered my route to *Easton*, where I now intend to cross *Delaware* if possible this night, as I have intelligence of a large body of the enemy being about twenty miles yesterday afternoon on my left. They may possibly intercept your march, therefore would advise you to take no notice of my line of march here, but follow the straightest direction to *Easton*. This, I am informed, is from *Morris-Town* to *Black River*, thence to or near *Hackett's Town*, thence to *Easton* is, I am told, a good road to facilitate your march.

Dear sir, I am your most obedient servant,

Jno. Sullivan.

Major-General *Heath*.

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COLONEL MOYLAN TO GENERAL HEATH.

Morristown, 15th December, 1776.

My dear General: I had hopes of meeting you or *Gates* at this place, but am informed that you are at or about *Topan*; that General *Gates* is passed across the country higher up. My business was to push on *Lee's* and *Gates's* armies to join with General *Washington*. I have hopes that they will both effect it, though I must own I have my apprehensions of those under *Sullivan* being intercepted, except he puts in execution what I recommended to him, which was to make a forced march yesterday, to get to the ferry last evening; if he did, the troops could be got across in the night. As it was but eighteen miles from the place he was at, it might have been executed, and he could have sent his baggage higher up the river, to the place where *Gates* will cross. I had no orders for you. What the General gave me in command was, to proceed to General *Lee*, to push him forward. The day I came up with his Army was the day when he was so unfortunately taken prisoner. I was to proceed from him to push on *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, *Porter's*, *Patterson's*, *Stark's*, *Poor's*, and *Reed's*, which, I suppose, are with *Gates* and *Arnold*. I will follow this day, if I can find out their route, which is a very difficult matter. Should you come this way with your troops, it will be necessary to send some person two days before you, to provide bread and other provisions for you; without this, you will find this place very destitute of all sorts of necessaries. There is neither hay or grain for your horses.

God bless you, my dear General; believe me your assured, humble servant,

Stephen Moylan.

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DEPOSITIONS RELATIVE TO THE CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

*Samuel Young*, being solemnly sworn and interrogate: That he was taken prisoner at *Fort Washington*, by the *English* Army, on *Saturday*, the day of ; that he was carried a few miles with the other prisoners that night, and kept in some out-houses till *Monday*, when they came to *New-York*, and there were confined, he and others, to the number of about five hundred, in a stable, and that all this while they had no victuals given them of any kind till the *Monday* night; that their enemies then threw into the stable, in a confused manner, as if to so many hogs, a quantity of old biscuit, broken and in crumbs, mostly moulded, and some of it crawling with maggots, which they were obliged to scramble for, without any division; that the next day they had a little pork given to each of them, which they were obliged to eat raw, and that afterwards they got sometimes a bit of pork, and at other times biscuit, peas, and rice. Being confined about two weeks in a church in *New-York*, that afterwards they were carried on board a ship, where about five hundred of them were confined below deck; that during their confinement they suffered greatly with cold, not being allowed any fire; that they are all along treated with the greatest indignity, and insulted by soldiers, by the inhabitants of *New-York*, by numbers of women, and even by negroes; that great numbers died in this confinement, some times three, sometimes four, or more, every day, and one day nine died; and that they themselves are in a frail state of health, occasioned by this barbarous usage; and many of them who were released died upon the road before they reached home.

Samuel Young,
William Houston.

Sworn before us, *December* 15th, 1776:

Robert Smith,
James Proudfoot, } *Ministers.*

*James Shannon* in all things says the same, except as to his present state of health, which is now good, though formerly very poor, and declares he cannot write.

*Samuel Young*, being solemnly sworn after the manner used in *Scotland*, by lifting up the right hand, and interrogate, deposeth, &c.

Mr. *William Houston*, being sworn in the same manner, deposeth in every thing the same as *Samuel Young*, above.

*William Houston*, *James Shannon*, also sworn in the same manner, says the same, &c.

*William Darlington*, a private in Captain *Wallace's* company of the Flying-Camp of *Pennsylvania*, on his solemn oath, testified, that they, the prisoners, were very roughly used at *Harlaem*, on their way from *Fort Washington* to *New-York*; that at *New-York* eight hundred of them were stowed into a house called *New-Bridewell*; that it was a cold, open house, the windows not glazed; that on the *Monday* they received their provisions; that they had not one mouthful from early on the unfortunate *Saturday* morning until then; that then, and so on afterwards, their rations for three days, each individual, were one half pound of biscuit, half a pound of pork, a half pint of peas, half a gill of rice, and half an ounce of butter; the whole not more than enough for one good meal; that they were defrauded of this petty allowance, two days' rations, each week; that they had no straw or hay to lie on; and no fuel, but one cart-load, per week, for the eight hundred men; that at nine of the clock at evening, the *Hessian* guards would come in and put out the fires, and lay on the poor prisoners with heavy clubs for sitting round the fire; that the water was very bad, as well as their bread, beyond all comparison bad, except once, good biscuit, and once good baker's bread; that they began to die like rotten sheep, with cold, hunger, and dirt; that those prisoners who had any good wearing apparel, such as buckskin breeches or good coats, were necessitated to sell them, to purchase bread to keep them alive; that the enemy seemed to take a kind of infernal pleasure in their sufferings.

Signed by Wm. Darlington.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Hackensack, December 15th, 1776.

Dear General: On the 12th instant I reached *Tupan*, and yesterday made a forced march to this place with so much secrecy and despatch that the inhabitants had no knowledge of my coming. The enemy had left the town some days since, except five, whom we took; two of them sick. We have taken about fifty of the disaffected, and about fifty or sixty muskets, the greater part of which had been taken from the Whigs, as is supposed, and stored. At the dock we found one sloop, loaded with hay, house furniture, some spirits, &c., which we have this day unloaded. A brig, loaded, run down the river about seven miles, and got aground. I am afraid that we shall not be able to secure the effects. A schooner, loaded with hay, furniture, &c.,

which had sailed from the dock, ran on the bank of the river, the wind being very fresh, and in the night overset, by which the goods were damaged, if not lost.

Two or three companies have been raising here and in the vicinity, and field officers appointed; one *Buskark* Colonel. At his house we found fifty barrels of flour, a number of hogsheads of rum, &c.; and at one *Brown's*, who is Lieutenant-Colonel, about one thousand pounds of cheese, &c. One *Ten Penny* is Major. They are all gone down to *York*, to have matters properly settled, get ammunition, arms, &c., and were to have returned on yesterday. I believe we have luckily disconcerted them. Such of the inhabitants as are friendly receive us with joy, but are almost afraid to speak their sentiments; and indeed little or no intelligence can be got from the inhabitants. The disaffected have sent down a petition for troops to protect them, and expect them every moment, (as they say:) and by some reports from *New-York*, several regiments are in motion, and their destination said to be up by the *North River*. This report is so much credited that I think it will be rather hazardous to move the troops which I have in this neighbourhood much more to the westward, as I shall thereby leave the passage on the back of *Fort Montgomery* too much exposed. I think, therefore, after having secured every thing here, to move to *Paramus*, at least for a few days, as I can from that place protect this part of the country, and should they attempt the pass in the mountains, be beforehand of them.

Colonel *Vose*, with the three regiments from *Ticonderoga*, have marched to the neighbourhood of *Chatham*, where they will arrive, I suppose, this night or to-morrow. I shall move in such manner as best to protect the country and harass the enemy. Your Excellency is sensible that General *Wardsworth's* brigade go home in a few days, and I cannot learn that any Militia are coming from *Connecticut*.

I should be glad to know if your Excellency has wrote to the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* for any number of their Militia, and whether they are expected.

I regret the loss of the brave General *Lee*, and much more the manner in which he was taken.

If the enemy should not be able to pass the *Delaware*, I think they will take a turn this way. Several thousands landed at *Elizabeth-Town* on yesterday, or the day before, and General *Howe* has lately gone after the Army to your quarter.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. Heath.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL HAY TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER AT PARAMUS.

Haverstraw, December 15th, 1776.

Sir: Agreeable to orders from the honourable Major-General *Heath*, I have sent to *Paramus* a drove of cattle for the use of the Continental Army, by Captain *Hyatt*. I request that the cattle may be killed as soon and as fast as possible, that Captain *Hyatt* may not be detained; and if he can't dispose of the hides and tallow, please order a wagon to bring them back; for if they are lost, it will be a loss to the Continent.

I am, sir, with esteem, your most obedient servant,

A. Hawkes Hay.

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COLONEL HAY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Haverstraw, December 15th, 1776.

Dear Sir: Just this moment I received your orders to send you down fifty barrels of flour, thirty of pork, and four bushels of salt. I am sorry to acquaint you that it is not in my power to comply with the orders, as I have neither pork nor salt; and cannot get any wagons, as all the wagons belonging to this neighbourhood are already in the service with General *Lee*.

If I had the above-mentioned articles, I should not know where to send them. In Major *Huntington's* letter he desires me to forward them to *Paramus*; and in a note that is enclosed in the letter writes thus: "The General does not think it safe that any more articles should be sent through *Paramus*, but prefer it being sent through *Kakiate*."

The gentlemen on board the flag of truce are very anxious to know if they are to be favoured with their wives and children.

I congratulate you on your late success; and may God crown all your endeavours with success.

The Militia are not all yet collected. General *Clinton* came down this day, and I suppose will soon join you. My regiment is not ordered out.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

A. Hawkes Hay.

To the Hon. Major-General *Heath, Hackensack*.

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COLONEL HAY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Haverstraw, December 15th, 1776.

Dear Sir: Yesterday afternoon I received your orders to send down to *Tappan* thirty barrels of flour, and to *Paramus* eighty barrels of flour and thirty barrels of pork. I have myself, and two hands that I hired, been out all night, and cannot get any teams to convey the flour to *Paramus*. All the wagons and horses are already in the service with General *Lee*. We found a few ox-teams, but their owners will not let them go; and I have nobody here to take them away by force. I am at a loss what to do. I must beg your advice in this affair. As for pork I have none. If you want beef, I can send you down plenty of that article. This day Captain *Hyat* sets out to *Paramus* with a drove of cattle.

It is out of my department to press teams; but I have hitherto done it, to forward our glorious cause, and have been at vast expenses and trouble, without any assurance of even being repaid my expenses; therefore must request that you will be so good as to desire the Quartermaster-General to appoint one on this side of the river to transact that branch of business. I would willingly accept of that berth if I was appointed, and duly supplied with money to pay off the charges, provided I was allowed a reasonable recompense for the great trouble I have had, and what I may expect to have.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

A. Hawkes Hay.

Major-General *Heath*, at *Tappan*.

P. S. I have sent thirty barrels of flour to *Tappan*.

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ALBERT PAWLING TO COLONEL DUBOIS.

Fort Constitution, December 15, 1776.

Sir: Mr. *Philip Hoornbeck*, Sergeant in Captain *Kortwright's* company, my father's regiment, being desirous to continue in the service, provided he may be provided for in your regiment, I think him a worthy man, and to my certain knowledge has faithfully discharged his duty in the capacity he served in. I mentioned his name to General *Clinton*, and informed him of his inclination, who desired me to write to you, in order to procure him an appointment; which I should be glad you would do, of either a Lieutenancy or Ensign.

I have nothing new, only I am now on my way thus far to the *Jerseys*, therefore conclude with my kind respects to you, and remain yours, &c.,

Albert Pawling.

Colonel *Lewis Dubois, Fishkills*.

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LADY JOHNSON TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fishkill Landing, December 15th.

Sir: I enclose a pass from the Committee at *Albany*, and beg the favour of one to proceed with Captain *Man* to *New-York*.

M. Johnson.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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JUDITH BRUCE TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fishkill Landing, December 15th.

Sir: I enclose a pass from the Committee at *Albany*, and beg the favour of one to proceed to *New-York* with Captain *Man*.

Judith Bruce.

To the Hon. *Pierre Van Cortlandt*, President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

ANTHONY RUTGERS TO COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Fishkill, December 15th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to recommend to your particular attention Lieutenant *Cornelius Becker*. He is a very active young man, and well disciplined; has served this campaign, and is now in service as a Lieutenant of Captain *Lyon's* company, in the First *New-York* Regiment of Continental troops, in General *McDougall's* brigade.

I also beg leave to recommend *Henry Becker*, Jun., as an Ensign. He is a very active young fellow, well used to fire-arms, though he has never been in the service.

I am, respectfully, gentlemen, your humble servant,

ANTH'Y RUTGERS.

To the Hon. *James Duane* and *John Jay*, Esquires, and to *Rob't Yates*, *Wm. Duer*, *Charles De Witt*, *Robert Harper*, *Jacob Cuyler*, and *Lewis Graham*, Esqs., Committee for arranging Battalions.

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JAMES YANCEY TO COMMITTEE AT BENNINGTON.

Albany, 15th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to request of yours by letter handed by Mr. *Clark*, your express, I sent you four hundred pounds, which informed you of by letter forwarded same time.

The Commissary-General for the Northern Department has ordered flour, &c., &c., to be stored in *Bennington*, by Mr. *Farmsworth*, who resides at that place. I think it might produce some difficulty were I to contract at present for any flour at *Bennington*, as Mr. *Farmsworth* doubtless will be able to receive all the flour you or he can procure at that place. I therefore take this opportunity of informing that I have left your receipt for the above-written sum, with *Elisha Avery*, Esq., Commissary-General for this district, who will settle with you for what flour you was kind enough to forward to me at *Tyconderoga*.

If any flour remains on hand, you will draw it to his orders. A hogshead of flour, which was forwarded to me, lies on the road, (as I am informed;) I must entreat you to have it secured, or delivered to Captain *Farmsworth*.

Please make out your account, and settle as *Elisha Avery* may direct. He will pay you, gentlemen, if a balance is due, and receive what may be coming to me.

The situation of my affairs has been such that it was out of my power to pay that polite attention your patriotick spirit merits. The hurry I am in at present, in proceeding on publick business, prevents my paying you a visit which I intended.

As soon as I may return to my post, I will call on you, when I may in person have the honour of acknowledging the most earnest desire of convincing you how much, gentlemen, I am your most humble servant,

JAS. YANCEY, *Deputy Commissary*.

To the Committee of Safety.

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GEORGE MEASAM TO GENERAL GATES.

[Read to the Board the 15th January.]

Ticonderoga, December 15th, 1776.

SIR: I have not been able to put the troops in any tolerable order with respect to clothing, to enable them to do the fatigue of a soldier in these frozen regions. This day three men are returned frost bit. It gives me pain to see our men so badly clothed, which is the reason I have not been able to return to *Albany* to regulate that department and *Fort Schuyler*, and write you from thence as I expected. Providence sent some pedlers to the camp with thread. I have bought it, and am making up the clothes in store into such necessaries as they are capable of making and most wanted, without which the men must many of them perish, for I have not received any kind of clothing from *Albany*, or any other place, since you left this garrison. The shoes and stockings (much wanted) which Lieutenant *Lucas* informed me were on the road, are not come to hand.

Fearing I shall not be able to return to *Albany* soon enough to make a general return of clothing wanted for all the Northern Department in the spring, I judge it the interest of this State to transmit for your perusal a return of clothing wanted for this garrison, in order for you to lay it before the Board of War, or any other board you shall think proper, with such alterations as you will be pleased to make, and the necessity of the times may require, hoping all that can be got will, for the credit of the Army and interest of the States; for when a soldier wants for nothing his duty may with strictness be required. Upon these principles I shall conduct myself in the execution of my office; and in obedience to a resolve of Congress, shall transmit to all the States north of *Maryland* (they being likely to send troops to this department) copies of the enclosed return for their guide, to be proportioned according to the number of troops each State shall send to compose the Northern Army.

I am, with all respect, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

GEO. MEASAM.

To Major-General *Gates*.

P. S. Yesterday the violence of the wind parted the bridge to *Mount Independence*, and this day the lake froze across strong enough to walk over. The boom was carried away soon after you left the garrison. If General *Arnold* is with you I beg my compliments. I have received his letter respecting my saddle.

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GEORGE MEASAM TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Ticonderoga, December 15, 1776.

SIR: The Congress having done me the honour of appointing me Commissary of Clothing for the Northern Army, it is therefore my duty to send for your government a return of clothing wanting for the troops in this department. But as I have not the detail of the troops each State will furnish for this department in the spring, I cannot at present furnish you with a particular return of the clothing wanted from your State; nor have I been able to complete the regulation of this office, and clothe the troops wintering here, so as to return to *Albany*, to make a general return for all the Northern Department; therefore fearing such delays should be injurious to the publick service, I send you the enclosed return for this particular post, that your Government may have time to provide the clothing for their troops to be ordered to the Northern Department, and regulate the same with regard to numbers agreeable to the enclosed return.

I beg leave to transmit for your Government also a copy of the resolve of Congress relative to the establishment of this office; and am, with all regard, sir, yours and the publick's most obedient and faithful servant,

GEO. MEASAM.

To the honourable the President of the Convention for the State of *New-York*.

[Same to *Massachusetts* Assembly, and *New-Hampshire* Assembly.]

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BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

In Committee, Baltimore, 16th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed we send you a list of the companies which compose Colonel *Cockey's* battalion; but as there has been some difference in the choice of Captain *Cockey's* subalterns, and the matter not yet determined, we must wait until they have another choice. We are of opinion that sending commissions agreeable to this list would be serving the common cause.

We are, gentlemen, your humble servant. Per order,

JAS. CALHOUN, *Chairman*.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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CAPTAIN COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 16th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In my absence Captain *Nicholson* borrowed sixty-five of the ship's small-arms, so that there is but few left. I shall endeavour to procure arms for the men. If they are not to be got, will not wait, as I imagine we can be supplied at the *Head of Elk* or *Philadelphia*. I flatter myself that the greatest part of my company will go with cheerfulness. I shall lose no time, but set off as quick as possible.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

GEO. COOK.

The honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland, Annapolis*.

*

JAMES CLAYPOOLE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Chester-Town, 16 December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have sent per *Rock-Hall* boat one hogshead, containing two hundred pair shoes, and expect to send two hundred pair more in four weeks. I have been disappointed in hands, or should have complied more fully with my contract, which I hope you'll excuse. If you think proper to let me have one hundred pounds, should be greatly obliged by you sending it to me per first opportunity.

From your humble servant,

JAMES CLAYPOOLE.

To the President of the Council of Safety, *Maryland*.

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THOMAS JOHNSON, JUN., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Frederick-Town, 16th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 14th instant, by express, came to me this moment, twelve o'clock, and I shall not lose a minute in sending to the Colonel as you direct. I am afraid we shall be able to arm only a small proportion of the men, these parts having been much drained of arms, and those of the Flying Camp who have returned having left their guns behind them.

I am told no Field Officers are yet appointed to the battalion of which *Wells* was recommended to be Colonel. If there's no capital objection, I wish the commissions were sent. I would not obtrude advice, but if no steps are already taken for the purpose, I wish to submit to your consideration whether it would not be well to remove our magazine further into the country. It appears to me if our enemies succeed against *Philadelphia*, our stock of powder may be an object.

I intended to have set out in the morning for *Baltimore*, but shall now wait till I hear from you, or am well-informed of a considerable change in our affairs.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

TH. JOHNSON, Jun.

To the honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 20, 1776: Referred to Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. S. Adams.]

Philadelphia, December 16, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed letter from General *Wooster* was delivered to me by Mr. *Walton*. It contradicts the report respecting *Rhode-Island*, mentioned in my last, and I am glad of it; but it still appears as if that was Mr. *Clinton's* object.

I take the liberty to enclose you a letter I received yesterday from Colonel *Cadwalader*, and am truly sorry to add that the intelligence respecting General *Lee* comes confirmed through another channel, with several circumstances that stagger my faith, although I was yesterday very unwilling to give credit to Mr. *Symes's* and Captain *Murray's* stories. The person who came to town last night has been examined by the Council of Safety, who, as I am told, believe his account. Being out of town yesterday, I have not seen any of them or him, therefore am not master of all the particulars; but he reports that some of the Tories had given notice to the enemy that the General lodged at a certain house five miles distant from his Army. In consequence, a party of Light-Horse, about fifty, surrounded the house at daybreak. The General had an Aid-de-Camp and ten men with him; they defended themselves in the house for two hours, when the men offered to surrender, alleging that the General was not there. They answered, they knew he was in that house, and if he did not immediately surrender himself, they would burn the house and him in it. In short, the General was obliged to appear, and he promised to surrender on condition they would treat him like an officer and a gentleman. The moment they got him they mounted him on a horse and galloped off with him, not even allowing him time to get his hat, nor did they take any of his party, but left them to do as they pleased. The Aid-de-Camp is wounded. These are the only particulars that I have heard, and I do not pretend to vouch for the truth of them, but pray Heaven the whole may be a fiction. The loss of General *Lee* at this time is in itself a severe stroke, and the effect it will have on the spirits of our shattered Army will add greatly to it.

The express I sent to General *Washington* is returned, and brings me a letter from him, of the 14th, at night. He was then some miles beyond *Coriell's Ferry*, but says nothing to me respecting the military operations.

The enclosed letter for Messrs. *Adams*, *Gerry*, *Ellery*, and *Whipple*, came under cover, and Mr. *Peters* has desired me to send the letter from the Governour of *Virginia*.

The sudden departure of the Congress from this place seems to be a matter of much speculation, and people who judge by events, think they have been too precipitate. Be that as it may, many things are thrown into great confusion by it; and I find ample employment in applying remedies wherever I can. The unfinished business of the Marine and Secret Committees, I intend to confine myself to; but I hear so many complaints and see so much confusion from other quarters, that I am obliged to advise in things not committed to me. Circumstanced as our affairs now are, I conceive it better to take liberties and assume some powers, than to let the general interest suffer. Much money is wanted for the publick service, and it must be sent up immediately, as the Militia of our country are at length turning out, and call for the advance. The lower parts of *New-Jersey* are also in motion, and they want money. The troops returned from *Canada* call aloud for their pay, and they should have it instantly, as they very generally promise to reinlist when they have spent what is due to them.

Mr. *Smith*, the loan officer, is not here, or I believe it would be in my power to procure a good deal of money through that channel. On his return I will assist all in my power.

I suppose Congress will not determine on a hasty return to this place, nor do I think it advisable, until the enemy are actually gone into winter quarters, for a severe frost may in a few hours enable them to cross *Delaware*, above the falls, so that if they remain in that neighbourhood, you would here be subject to perpetual alarms. At the same time it may be depended on, that great inconveniences will arise daily in every department during your absence. To remedy this as much as possible, I think a Committee should be sent here, with such powers as Congress may judge proper, in order that they may regulate the business of the Continent necessary to be done here. There is the greatest scene of confusion in the management of the Continental horses, wagons, and expresses, that ever was exhibited. It was bad enough before Congress departed, but it is ten times worse now; and *Jacob Hittziemer*, a very honest man, will run mad soon if not properly assisted or relieved in this department. In short, the Committee you send should have full powers to do whatever may be necessary to put every department on a systematick footing. Mr. *Clymer*, Mr. *Walton*, and myself, will bestir ourselves, and advise or assist in such things as we think absolutely necessary, until you appoint a Committee. And as the Board of War did not leave any orders for their Secretary, we have desired him to stay and assist us until he receives orders. We hope the Board will excuse us for taking this liberty, as Mr. *Peters* will be useful here. The Committee must have the command of money to answer various purposes, as the calls for it are loud, large, and constant. Should the enemy retire to *Brunswick* or *New-York*, it may, and I believe will, be best for Congress to return as soon as that is certain. Upon the appearance of their retiring, I have detained the cruisers intended to turn inward-bound vessels from our Capes, and shall not send them unless the scene changes again, and it should be evident this city must fall into their hands. Captain *Alexander* is come down from camp, and we are at work on the *Delaware*; but if the enemy go back, I will attempt the getting her regularly fitted for sea.

I have despatched the ship laden with tobacco for *France*; but in the present situation of things, it did not seem eligible to write on political subjects to any of our agents there. If fortune will once more smile on us, I will find opportunities to communicate the glad tidings.

You will please to receive herewith sundry *French* letters lately brought here by Mons. *Coleaux*, who will visit you in *Baltimore* in due time. As I do not recollect any members of Congress that are perfect masters of the *French*, I put them in the hands of *Paul Fooks*, the sworn interpreter, and his translations go with the originals. I also send here-

with some letters to the Marine Committee, particularly a very pleasing one from Captain *Jones*, of the *Alfred*.

I have sent to General *Putnam* to inform him of this express, and am now expecting his despatches.

The papers and books of the Marine Committee, Secret Committee, and Committee of Correspondence, I sent to *Christeen*, with a proper person to take care of them; so they are convenient either for this place or *Baltimore*.

I shall take the liberty to address you whenever occurrences require it; and with sincere regard, remain, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE COMMITTEE OF SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

Philadelphia, December 16th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Since I wrote the President this morning, a young gentleman came up from *Chincoteague*, where he had landed out of the sloop *Independence*, Captain *Young*, belonging to the Continent. This sloop was from *Martinico*, bound hither, but was chased into that place by a large frigate. The sloop has on board a quantity of blankets, coarse cloths, and near one thousand muskets, which I will take care of. Captain *Young* staid behind, sick, and she is now commanded by Lieutenant *Robinson*, who had no paper to write on, but sent up word he would push round for this place soon as he could. The goods are what was ordered by the Secret Committee, and the *Andrew Doria* will bring a good cargo from *St. Eustatia*, where she is arrived. The *Sachem* is also arrived at *Martinico*, but no news yet from Mons. *Hortalez*.

You have enclosed the letters from Mr. *Bingham* and Mr. *Deane*; the latter complaining, as I have long expected he would, for want of advices and remittances. In short, if the Congress mean to succeed in this contest, they must pay good executive men to do their business as it ought to be, and not lavish millions away by their own mismanagement. I say mismanagement, because no man living can attend the daily deliberations of Congress and do executive parts of business at the same time. I do aver there will be more money lost, totally lost, in horses, wagons, cattle, &c., &c., for want of sufficient number of proper persons to look after them, than would have paid all the salaries *Payne* ever did or ever will grumble at. Mr. *Deane* has had a hard situation. I foretold it long since; and unless you employ some man of talents to collect materials and keep the Commissioners abroad constantly informed of what is passing here, you never will have that consequence, nor your agents that dignity, they ought to have.

I should be glad you would return me these letters, or copies of them, and I will reply from hence. They have been with me but a few minutes, and I will not keep the express any longer, as I expect you are hungry as hawks after news from *France*. I cannot keep a copy of this; but in haste remain, very sincerely, gentlemen, your devoted, humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To the honourable the Committee of Secret Correspondence.

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WARRANT FOR COMMITMENT OF MATHEW M'HUGH.

LANCASTER *County, in the State of* PENNSYLVANIA, } *Sct.*

[L. s.] To the Keeper of the Common Jail at *Lancaster*, in the County of *Lancaster*, aforesaid:

These are in the name of the State of *Pennsylvania* aforesaid, to command you that you receive into your custody and jail the body of *Mathew McHugh*, late of *Lebanon* town, in said County, Innholder, taken and brought before me for suspicion of being inimical to the freedom of *America*; and, upon examination, he declaring repeatedly "that with both his hands he is against independence declared by the *American* States against the tyrannical proceedings of *Great Britain*." Wherefore you are safely to keep the said *Mathew McHugh* in your said Jail until he shall be regularly discharged by the Council of Safety, or a Committee thereof.

Given under my hand and seal, the 16th day of *December*, 1776.

JOHN THORNE.

To the Constable of *Lebanon*, and such Assistants as he may lawfully call upon on this emergent occasion.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Head-Quarters, Keith's, December 16, 1776.

SIR: In a late letter which I had the honour of addressing you, I took the liberty to recommend that more battalions should be raised for the new Army than what had been voted for. Having fully considered the matter, I am more and more convinced, not only of the propriety, but of the necessity of the measure. That the enemy will leave nothing unessayed in the course of the next campaign to reduce these States to the rule of a most lawless and insufferable tyranny, must be obvious to every one; and that the Militia is not to be depended upon, or aid expected from 'em but in cases of the most pressing emergency, is not to be doubted. The first of these propositions is unquestionable, and fatal experience has given her sanction to the truth of the latter. Indeed, their lethargy of late, and backwardness to turn out at this alarming crisis, seem to justify an apprehension that nothing can bring them from their homes. For want of their assistance, a large part of *Jersey* has been exposed to ravage and to plunder; nor do I know that *Pennsylvania* would share a better fate could General *Howe* effect a passage across the *Delaware* with a respectable force. These considerations have induced me to wish that no reliance, except such as may arise from necessity, should ever be had in them again; and to make further mention to Congress of the expediency of increasing their Army. I trust the measure will meet their earliest attention.

Had I leisure, and were it necessary, I could say much upon this head; but as I have not, and the matter is well understood, I will not add much. By augmenting the number of your battalions, you will augment your force. The officers of each will have their interest and influence; and, upon the whole, their numbers will be much greater, though they should not be complete. Added to this, from the present confused state of *Jersey*, and the improper appointment of officers in many instances, I have little or no expectation that she will be able to raise all the troops exacted from her, though I think it might be done were suitable, spirited gentlemen commissioned, who would exert themselves and encourage the people, many of whom, for a failure in this instance, and who are well disposed, are making their submissions. In a word, the next will be a trying campaign; and as all that is dear and valuable may depend upon the issue of it, I would advise that nothing should be omitted that shall seem necessary to our success. Let us have a respectable Army, and such as will be competent to every exigency. I will also add, that the critical situation of our affairs, and the dissolution of our present force, (now at hand,) require that every nerve and exertion be employed for recruiting the new battalions. One part of General *Howe's* movements at this time I believe is with a design to distract us, and prevent this business. If the inclemency of the weather should force him into winter quarters, he will not remain there longer than necessity shall oblige him. He will commence his operations in a short space of time, and in that time our levies must be made up to oppose him, or I fear the most melancholy of all events must take place

The enclosed extract of a letter from the Commissary-General will show his demands for money, and his plans for procuring salted provisions, and a quantity of flour from the southward. The whole is submitted to the consideration of Congress; and I wish the result of their opinion to be transmitted him, with such supplies of money as may be necessary for himself and the departments he mentions.

The clothing of the troops is a matter of infinite importance, and, if it could be accomplished, would have a happy effect. Their distresses are extremely great, many of 'em being entirely naked, and most so thinly clad as to be unfit for service. I must entreat Congress to write to the agents and contractors upon this subject, that every possible supply may be procured and forwarded with the utmost expedition. I cannot attend to the business myself, having more than I can possibly do besides.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL TRUMBULL.

Head-Quarters, near Trenton, 16th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your favour of the 13th instant came safe to

hand. I have taken an extract of that part of it which relates to the business of your department, and shall forward it to Congress by the first opportunity. I can have no objection to your going to *New-England* instead of coming this way, upon the representation you have made of the necessity and superiour advantage arising from your going; and at the same time confiding in your judgment in determining upon that plan of conduct which will conduce most to the benefit of the service.

I am glad to find you have been making preparations for laying in a large supply of salt provisions for the Army, and approve of your plan of sending to *Virginia* for flour during the winter, as I don't see but it may be rendered practicable; but these matters will doubtless be fully answered by Congress when they receive the copy of your letter, as also the necessary supply of cash which you mention. In the mean time, I think it will be very advisable for you to borrow money in the manner you propose, till you receive the necessary supplies from Congress. Indeed, there is so little cash in the Paymaster's hands here at present, that it is not in my power to afford you any assistance in that particular.

As I conclude you have informed yourself sufficiently with respect to the abilities and capacity of Mr. *Wharton*, I shall make no objection to the appointment, but only observe that, circumstanced as affairs are at present in the *Jerseys*, it will require an officer of much sagacity and diligence to discharge the duties of that office faithfully and to satisfaction. I have enclosed you a list of such persons in *Virginia* as I think will be most likely to supply you with flour on good terms. Mr. *Wharton's* acquaintance there will also help, probably, to procure it with greater facility and despatch.

I thank you for your condolence on the universal loss *America* has sustained in the unfortunate captivity of General *Lee*, and am, with due regard, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Col. *Joseph Trumbull*, Commissary-General Provisions.

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Colonel *John Tabb*, or Colonel *Jno. Banister*, on *James River*.
Colonel *Fielding Lewis*, on *Rapehannock River*.
Colonel *Syme*, upon *York River*.
Mr. *Thos. Lawson*, upon *Powtomack River*.

P. S. I shall send some money to General *Heath* for the recruiting service.

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### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, near Corryel's Ferry, December 16, 1776.

Dear Sir: I received your favour of the 11th instant, advising me of the march of *Parsons's* brigade from *Peekskill* to join us. I am now to acquaint you, that from information received of the enemy's movements, it appears to me that they intend leaving this part of the country, and to retire towards *Brunswick*, and the towns contiguous to it, perhaps for the purpose of going into winter quarters, (if the whole is not designed as a feint;) therefore there does not appear the same necessity for your advancing as was conjectured at the time my orders for your marching were determined on. I, for this reason, should conceive it expedient that you return with *Parsons's* brigade to your former station; indeed, the conduct of the forces, (as mentioned in your letter, and the danger the Convention of *New-York* have represented to me, which that State will be exposed to,) has rendered this step the more necessary. You are to post these troops in the most advantageous manner to answer the purposes of defending the country from the incursions of the enemy, and of curbing the insolence of the disaffected. However, previous to your departure from the *Jerseys*, I entirely agree with you in sentiment, that the troops cannot be better employed than in surprising any of the enemy's posts, either at *Hackensack* or the parts adjacent, that are so situated as to admit of a strong probability of success. An enterprise of this sort will encourage our friends, and advance the recruiting service, which is a circumstance of infinite importance.

As to Colonel *Vose*, with *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's* regiments, I would choose they should move forward with all possible expedition, to join General *Gates*. With respect to the families of Mr. *Inglis* and Mr. *Moore*, who are desirous of going to *New-York*, I cannot perceive any political objection, as I should suppose they are capable of doing less mischief there than by remaining in the country and giving intelligence to the enemy. They ought, however, to be informed that they will on no account whatever be permitted to return.

I am, dear sir, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Heath*.

P. S. I beg you will encourage the recruiting service by every means in your power. I shall in a short time send you money for the different recruiting officers.

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### RECRUITING ORDERS.

*To* Elisha Sheldon, *Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel and Commandant of a regiment of Cavalry to be raised:*

Sir: The Congress having thought fit to appoint you Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a regiment of Horse to be raised, and to empower me to appoint the officers under you, reposing especial trust and confidence in you, and knowing how much your honour and reputation depends upon the proper choice, I am willing you should have the nomination of all the officers, (reserving to myself a negative of any one and all such as I shall think unfit for that service,) and doubt not you will be particularly careful in fixing none but gentlemen of true spirits and of good characters; observing, at the same time, that gentlemen of fortune and reputable families generally make the most useful officers.

You are immediately to repair to the State of *Connecticut*, and as soon as possible nominate your officers, and send them out on the recruiting service. They are to be particularly attentive to take none into the corps but young, light, active men.

The privates are to receive twenty dollars bounty and a suit of clothes on entering the service, and pay as per schedule annexed. They are to be raised to serve during the war, unless sooner discharged by Congress.

Each non-commissioned officer and private is to be furnished with a good horse, saddle, bridle, and other accoutrements belonging to the Horse service, at the expense of the Continent; and I will recommend to Congress that the commanding officer be also furnished at the publick expense with the same, but cannot absolutely engage it, as I believe is it not customary.

In procuring the horses, you are to have no stallions, mares, white or grey horses, but likely, serviceable trotters, of sufficient size. It is expected you will purchase them at the most reasonable rate, and not upon an average to exceed one hundred dollars per head, carefully describing and keeping an exact account of the cost of each horse.

Saddles, bridles, carbines, broadswords, pistols, and every other accoutrement necessary, (agreeable to a pattern herewith given you,) you will procure as cheap as possible.

Your regiment is to consist of one Major, an Adjutant, Surgeon and Mate, and six Troops; to each troop one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Cornet, (commissioned officers,) one Quartermaster, two Sergeants, two Corporals, one Trumpeter, one Farrier, and thirty-four Privates.

In order to enable you to defray the expense of raising and equipping this regiment, you are herewith furnished with a warrant upon the Paymaster for the sum of fourteen thousand dollars, and a letter to Governour *Trumbull* to advance you such further sums as may be necessary, on Continental account. In case of the latter failing, you are to advise me of it; and if no publick money is to be had in that department from a Paymaster to be appointed, send a careful officer for such sum or sums as may be wanted.

As fast as you can raise and equip a troop, they are to be sent to the Army under my immediate command, agreeably to the resolution of Congress directing the raising of said regiment.

Given at Head-Quarters, this 16th day of *December*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

To Lieutenant-Colonel *Elisha Sheldon*.

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| | Lawful money. | | Lawful money. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lt. Colonel and Commandant, | £22 10s. | Surgeon, | £0 0s. |
| Major, | 18 0 | Mate, | 0 0 |
| Captain, | 15 0 | Quartermaster, | 5 0 |
| Lieutenants, | 10 0 | Sergeant, | 4 10 |
| Cornets, | 8 0 | Corporal, | 3 0 |
| Adjutants, | 10 0 | Trumpeter, | 3 0 |
| | | Private, | 2 10 |

The above is the pay which his Excellency will recommend Congress to establish for the officers of Colonel *Sheldon's* regiment of Cavalry.

The foregoing is a copy of the orders and instructions given Lieutenant-Colonel *Sheldon*.

R. H. Harrison.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head-Quarters, 16th December, 1776.

Gentlemen: I have just the pleasure of receiving yours of yesterday. I shall give the Deputy Quartermaster-General orders to have the clothing, both new and old, brought up to the Army, and have it distributed as it is most wanted; but you may depend, if the old clothes which have been so charitably contributed by the inhabitants of *Philadelphia* can answer the present necessities of the other regiments, that the new shall be all applied to the regiment particularly belonging to your State.

I am glad to find the Militia from the eastern parts of your Province, the lower parts of *Jersey*, and the *Delaware* Counties, are turning out with proper spirit. I hope, with their assistance, we shall be able to check the enemy, if they should still determine to pass the *Delaware*.

I am, gentlemen, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

P. S. I beg you will by all ways and means facilitate and encourage the recruiting service, for on that every thing depends.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 16th December, 1776.

Gentlemen: I was last night honoured with yours of the 11th instant, enclosing sundry resolutions of your Board. I have also to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 23d *November*, which should not have remained so long unanswered, had not the continued motion of our Army for some time past put it out of my power to sit regularly down to business. Indeed, I have now so much on my hands, and such a choice of difficulties, that I hardly know which first to attend to. I know you have had your difficulties too, indeed more than any other State; and you have, therefore, my thanks, not only for the complete arrangement of your officers for the four battalions allotted to your share, but for your determination to raise a fifth to be commanded by Colonel *Dubois*. As the office of Aid-Major has been hitherto unknown in the Continental service, perhaps by introducing it among your regiments umbrage might be given to the others, if they were not likewise provided with an officer of the same kind, and therefore, to avoid disputes, I could wish the matter might be waived. Major *Sheldon*, who commands the *Connecticut* Horse, will return in a few days. He will either take the troop with him from *Fishkills*, or post them where they are more wanted.

I thank you for the great confidence you are pleased to repose in me, and you may be assured that whatever military powers shall be intrusted to me shall ever be exerted, first to establish, and then protect the civil.

I come now to answer yours of the 11th. When I ordered down General *Heath* from his post at the Highlands, it was done in consequence of a determination of a Council of General Officers, who agreed that we had no other means of stopping the progress of General *Howe*, who was evidently making a grand push to make himself master of *Philadelphia*. The advantages of keeping possession of the posts in the Highlands were not unattended to; we considered that the enemy had thrown the main body of their Army over into *Jersey;* that they were about to make a considerable embarkation, (which has since turned out to be against *New-England*;) and that it would take most, if not the remainder of their Army, to keep up the garrisons at *New-York*, &c.; and that, therefore, they had not a sufficient force left to attempt the strong posts at the Highlands, though only guarded by General *George Clinton*, with the force of the State of *New-York*.

General *Howe* easily forced our small Army to retreat before him to the *Delaware;* but not finding boats to transport his troops, (we having had time and precaution to secure and destroy them,) he seems, by his late motions, to be moving back towards *Brunswick* for winter quarters, or intending a feint. Upon this change of measures, I have immediately ordered General *Heath* to return to *Peekskill*, with General *Parsons's* brigade. If he finds any of the enemy's posts at *Hackensack* or elsewhere weakly guarded, he is to endeavour to beat them up.

As the inlistment of the greatest part of the Continental Army expires on the first of *January*, every State must exert itself in forwarding the new inlistments, and procuring temporary supplies of Militia till the new levies can be brought into the field.

I have the honour to subscribe myself, gentlemen, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To the *New-York* Convention.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Head-Quarters, State of Pennsylvania, in Bucks County, December 16th, 1776.

Dear Sir: The Congress have been pleased to appoint *Elisha Sheldon*, Esq., of your State, to be Lieutenant-Colonel and commander of a regiment of Cavalry.

For the purpose of raising them he now sets off for *Connecticut*. Having to pass through an enemy's country on his way there, I cannot think it prudent to advance him the sum necessary for his immediate use. I have to request you will furnish him with what money he may want from the Treasury of your State, or in such other way as you may think best, which sum you will please to draw on the Continent (through me) for.

I am, with due regard, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*.

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GENERAL GREENE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Corryell's Ferry, Delaware, December 16th, 1776.

Sir: I take the liberty to recommend Doctor *Warren* to the Congress as a very suitable person to receive an appointment of a Sub-Director, which I am informed they are about to create a number of. Doctor *Warren* has given great satisfaction where he has had the direction of business. He is a young gentleman of ability, humanity, and great application to business.

I feel a degree of happiness that the Congress are going to put the hospital department upon a better establishment, for the sick this campaign have suffered beyond description and shocking to humanity. For my own part, I have never felt any distress equal to what the sufferings of the sick have occasioned, and am confident that nothing will injure the recruiting service so much as the dissatisfaction arising upon that head.

I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

Nathanael Greene.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Continental Congress, at *Philadelphia*.

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GENERAL LORD STIRLING TO GENERAL HEATH.

Easton, December 16th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I came up from Head-Quarters in hopes of effecting a junction of the troops under the command of yourself, General *Gates*, and General *Sullivan*, and attempting something on the enemy; but this is now too late, as the troops under General *Sullivan* and General *Gates* are already on the west side of *Delaware*. It was proposed that if any of the troops crossed the river, it should have been at *Sherard's Ferry*, at *Tinicum;* but as General *Sullivan* has taken this route, I believe it will be best you do the same.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

Stirling.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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JOHN TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Bethlehem, (Pennsylvania,) 16th December, 1776.

Honoured Sir: I arrived at this place last evening, with General *Gates*. A part of our troops will come in to-day,

the others to-morrow. But I despair of joining General *Washington*. His Army is still inferiour to the enemy, and the country quite stupid. I shall not be surprised to hear that the enemy are in *Philadelphia*.

The Army lately commanded by General *Lee* is to cross at *Easton* this day. You have doubtless heard his misfortune. He was betrayed at a house nigh *Basken Ridge*, and surrounded by a party of Horse, at twenty-one miles distance from the enemy's camp. The *French* gentleman who arrived lately at *Boston* with powder and arms, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the *French* service, is taken with him. The inhuman rascals would not permit the General to take his hat and coat, but carried him off almost naked. This is a misfortune that cannot be remedied, as we have no officer in the Army of equal experience and merit.

My situation is droll, but I cannot desert my country in so critical a time, however ungenerously I may have been treated. I think to offer myself a supernumerary Aid-de-Camp to some General Officer.

Our affairs have never been in so critical a situation: *New-York* and *Jersey* totally lost, except the backwoods, the Army inferiour, and at the time when most wanted, deprived of the best, almost the only officer who could rescue them from a situation so nigh desperate.

I am informed that nine thousand *British* have made an excursion to the eastward. I hope to hear a better report of them than of the eight thousand here.

Adieu, my honoured parent. I am your dutiful son,

J. Trumbull.

The Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq.

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COLONEL SYMMES TO GENERAL HEATH.

Chatham, December 16th, 1776.

Sir: I beg leave to represent to your Honour the distressed situation we are in with respect to salt. The brigade at this place has been destitute of that article some days. The men suffer exceedingly, and we have information of there being salt at *Hackinsack*, *Second River*, and *Newark*. As we understand your Honour takes that route, we beg the favour of a party's advancing from your Army on the road, and gathering all the salt to be had. Wagons can be pressed on the road to bring it forward. Captain *Hasker* waits upon your Honour with this. His orders are to wait your pleasure, until we can be acquainted with the success of the undertaking. If salt can possibly be sent to our relief, I beg your Honour will interest yourself in the affair.

I have the honour to be, sir, your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

John Cleves Symmes,
*Colonel of Sussex Militia.*

To Major-General *Heath*, near *Hackensack*.

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JOHN JOHNSON TO ROBERT HARPER.

Morris-Town, December 16, 1776.

Honourable Sir: I am on my way to *Philadelphia*, which place am in hopes to arrive at in three days, and to return to *Peekskill* as soon as possible. You were so good as to desire me to write to you where you might find me, and that the Congress was disposed to do something handsome for me, as Paymaster to a regiment, or some such office. Pray keep it open for me, if nothing better offers. Mr. *Duer* offered to write to General *Mifflin* to appoint me an Assistant Quartermaster. I should be glad to serve, so as it could be done with honour. There is your old servant that served with approbation as Commissary at *New-York*, I mean *Richard Norwood*, would serve as Paymaster to a regiment. I think he is a fit person. He is well known by *Comfort Sands*.

I am, dear sir, your friend and servant,

John Johnson.

To *Robert Harper*, Esq., Member of *New-York* Congress, at the *Fishkills*.

P. S. This day drank a glass of wine with General *McDougall*, at Mr. *John Van Cortlandt's*, near this place. He expressed a hearty sorrow that I left the service. It's too true that General *Lee* is taken—so much for Tories.

JOHN COE TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Orange County, New-Hempstead, December 16, 1776.

Whereas the Commissioners appointed for the County of *Orange* to secure the perishable effects of those that are gone to the enemy, has not as yet acted, by reason of their being so near the enemy, and, as it were, within their lines; and as it appears now not so difficult, as our District Committee is about removing the families of those persons that are gone to the enemy, and their movable effects will then be lost or taken away by such persons as have no right, I have thought it my duty now to act as one of the Commissioners, as formerly appointed by the Convention of this State; and the difficulty that now arises is, that *Thomas Cooper* must attend the Council of Safety and the Assembly of this State, so that he cannot act. If you think proper, please to appoint another person with me, and we shall endeavour to act agreeable to your direction. As the former resolve you sent me is lost in removing my papers, please to send the resolve how we are to act.

I am yours to serve,

John Coe.

To the President of the Council of Safety of the State of *New-York*.

N. B. I would recommend Colonel *Gilbert Cooper*.

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PHILIP BARTELL TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Claverack, 16th December, 1776.

Gentlemen: I beg your liberty to resign my commission as an Ensign in the Eighth Regiment of Militia, whereof *Robert Van Rensselaer*, Esq., is Colonel, as I am very unwell and not able to execute the duty of my appointment. And you will greatly oblige, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

Philip Bartell.

To the honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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FRANCES LIVINGSTON TO JOHN WILLIAMS.

Sir: I received your favour of the 14th, and am now to thank you for the information and permission I have of going to *New-York*. I shall take the first opportunity of coming down to *Fishkill*, and imagine I shall be there with my family on *Friday* next.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

Frances Livingston.

To *John Williams*, Esq., Chairman of the honourable Convention of *New-York*.

December 16th.

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CAPTAIN WALKER TO WILLIAM DUER.

Fishkill, December 16, 1776.

Gentlemen: You were pleased some time in *November* to honour me with the command of a company in the Fourth *New-York* Regiment. The gentleman who was appointed my First Lieutenant, thought proper to resign. My Second Lieutenant, for particular reasons, is not allowed to serve, and an Ensign was not appointed. Thus I have been without any assistance, and myself sick most part of the time; notwithstanding which I have made shift to inlist near thirty men, upwards of twenty of whom are now suffering. I am now laid up with a violent fever, at Dr. *Graham's*, and cannot walk alone.

I hope, gentlemen, this representation of my case will induce you to be quick in appointing me some assistance, that I may get my men in the barracks and clothed.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your very obedient, humble servant,

Ben. Walker,
*Captain 4th New-York Regiment.*

Colonel *William Duer*, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangement.

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EBENEZER HAZARD TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Carpenter's Ferry, Fishkill, December 16th, 1776.

Sir: I fully intended while in the town of *Fishkill*, to let the Convention know I had received credible information that the records of the city of *New-York* were buried near *King's Bridge;* but as I was in a hurry to set out on

my journey to *Philadelphia*, it escaped my memory. I am not very certain who was my informant, but I think it was Colonel *Palfrey*, the Paymaster-General; and as nearly as I can recollect, he told me the records were deposited in Colonel *Cortlandt's* family vault, and that he received the hint of it from Mrs. *Van Cortlandt*, who happened inadvertently to mention it to him. Perhaps Convention may have been informed of this before; but as I do not know this to be the case, I think it incumbent upon me to let them know it now, that proper measures may be taken to secure those authentick documents, which may be of great service in a future day.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

EBENEZER HAZARD.

To the honourable the President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Albany, December 16th, 1776.

SIR: Your letter of the 10th instant I was honoured with on the 14th. I am happy to find that in all probability the rapid progress the enemy lately made, has been checked. If they are not more numerous than report makes them, I hope General *Washington* will be enabled to make them retreat in turn.

I have given order to have the resolution respecting the *Tryon* County Rangers put into execution.

As no clothing has been sent hither for the recruits of this State, I have ordered them to be furnished out of the Continental stores upon an appraisement, that the difference between what they may receive and what they are allowed, may be accounted for, which way soever it may be; but we have unfortunately not a blanket, nor can any be procured in this quarter, and without a supply, I shall not be able to send the troops to relieve part of the garrison of *Tyconderoga*. The Committee will therefore please without delay to send up blankets, or some sufficient substitute.

Every account I receive from *Tyconderoga* confirms me in the belief that not a man will remain there beyond the term of their inlistment.

Colonel *Frey* has applied to me to mention his case to Convention. It was last winter delivered to me by the Committee of *Tryon* County, as one amongst others to be sent down the country. Several gentlemen of *Schenectady* interceded and became responsible for his conduct, on which I suffered him to remain at home. Some time in the summer, either the Committee of *Tryon* County, or of *Albany*, sent him to *Hartford*, from whence he returned on his parole; and as the gentlemen who became his security are willing to continue so, he applied to me for leave to remain; but never interfering with what the civil have done, I could only answer, that so far as he was my prisoner, I was contented with the security he had given me. He will advise you of the reasons the Committee of *Tryon* County assign for refusing to let him remain at home.

I am, sir, with respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

*Matthew Cantine*, Esq., Chairman of Committee of Safety of *New-York*.

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MEMORANDUM OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE ARTIFICERS, NORTHERN ARMY.

Memorandum of agreement made and entered into this sixteenth day of *December*, 1776, between Colonel *Jedu'n Baldwin*, Chief Engineer on the Northern Department, of the first part, and Mr. *Jedi'h Thayer*, of the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, Gentleman, and Mr. *Nathaniel Emerson* and the persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, and seals affixed, of the second part, all good workmen at the carpenter's business, to the number of sixty men; the said parties of the second part, each for himself, promises and agrees that they will immediately repair to such place as the said Colonel *Baldwin* shall direct, and there employ themselves in constructing such works or buildings as the said Engineer shall order.

That each of the parties of the second part shall, during the time he shall be in the publick employ conformable to these resolutions, each day continue at their said work and employment not less than ten hours.

That if any of the said parties of the second part shall leave the said work, or go from the post where they shall be employed, the leave of the said Colonel *Baldwin*, or the commanding officer of the post where he shall be so employed, being first obtained, he or they so going off shall forfeit all the wages that shall be due to them on account of their service performed in consequence of this agreement.

In consideration whereof, the said *Jedu'n Baldwin*, Engineer, promises and agrees, that the said *Jedi'h Thayer* shall have and receive twelve shillings per day, and *Nathaniel Emerson* ten shillings per day, and every other of the said parties of the second part the sum of eight shillings per day, *New-York* currency, for every day that they shall be in actual employment. That over and above that sum, the said parties of the second part shall severally receive one and a half ration of provisions and one gill of rum per day. That the said wages shall commence from the time the said parties of the second part shall respectively leave their usual places of abode, allowing at the rate of one dollar for every twenty miles travel. And the said parties of the first and second part do hereby agree with each other, that if any of the said parties of the second part is taken sick during the time which they shall be employed as above, the person so taken sick shall not be entitled to wages for the time he absents from working by reason of sickness, unless the said Colonel *Baldwin*, or the commanding officer of the post where they shall be so stationed, shall, on application to him made, refuse to discharge them, and then they shall be entitled to wages from the time of such refusal.

In testimony hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at *Albany*, this sixteenth day of *December*, 1776.

The General approves of the raising of a company of Artificers on the terms above mentioned.

By order of the General:

JOHN LANSING, Jun., *Secretary*.

Head-Quarters, Albany, December 16th, 1776.

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J. TRUMBULL, JUN., TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, 16th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: Since *Brown* has done riding, I seem almost to be an exile from my home. I can hear nothing from *Connecticut*, and know nothing that is passing; indeed, we are almost excluded from intelligence from every quarter, and we have nothing material here. A laughable alarm has happened at *Ty*, since the troops came off, occasioned by the appearance of a hay boat on the lake, which, to the timid apprehensions of its beholders at *Crown-Point*, was magnified into a large ship of force, with guns, &c., supposed to be the enemy approaching. They fled to *Ty*, the alarms took, all hands were at work, every one busy, remounting their cannon, &c., and making every preparation for defence, when the poor harmless boat arrived at the wharf, and relieved their anxious fears. All is now quiet, and will be now, unless the enemy take it in their heads to venture on the ice, which may possibly be. I hope by new-year to leave this place. My love, respects, and compliments to all friends; and am your dutiful son,

J. TRUMBULL, Jun.

His Honour Governour *Trumbull*.

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GEORGE PITKIN TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Hartford, 16th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: My zeal for the safety and deliverance of my country obliges me to ask a dismission from my office as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Nineteenth Regiment of Militia of this State, to which I had the honour of an appointment. The only reason I have to excuse myself is want of health, which I have never had since my first campaign; and holding the same, may prevent some able and robust gentleman from rendering his country service therein, which I am prevented from doing by a shattered constitution, which is peculiarly mortifying in this day of general danger. Wish your Honour Divine support under the heavy weight of Government; and remain, with great truth, your and Assembly's most obedient, humble servant,

GEORGE PITKIN.

To the Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of the State of *Connecticut*.

JOSEPH YOUNGS TO GENERAL WOOSTER.

In Committee of Safety for the County of Westchester, White-Plains, December the 16th, 1776.

To his Excellency Major-General Wooster: We send you under guard three deserters from Colonel *Rogers's* regiment, for your examination, for your Excellency to dispose of as you may think proper. The reason of our troubling your Excellency is, because we are at this moment entirely destitute of guards. One of the prisoners that was the bearer of a late letter from your Excellency to our Committee, desiring us to deliver up to him his guns, behaved in such an insolent and audacious manner before the Committee, that they considered him as a very dangerous person, and thought it most expedient to send him back again to your Excellency for your further disposal, as your Excellency has guards at hand.

By order of Committee:

Joseph Youngs, *Deputy Chairman.*

To his Excellency Major-General *Wooster*, at the *Saw-Pitts.*

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COLONEL HENRY B. LIVINGSTON TO MATTHEW CANTINE.

Fairfield, 16th December, 1776.

Sir: I received the honour of yours last night at this place, being on my march for *Fishkill*, in my way to *Fort Constitution*, being directed by General *Washington* whenever I thought necessary to quit *New-England* to repair thither. Whether I shall be excusable should I undertake any other expedition, I will leave you and others, the gentlemen of the Convention, to determine. On their opinion I will even risk the loss of my commission. Sensible of the great honour done in permitting me a share in as honourable an expedition, I shall do my endeavours to be with you on *Thursday*, or sooner if possible.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

Henry B. Livingston.

To *Matthew Cantine*, Esq., Chairman of Convention of the State of *New-York*, *Fishkill.*

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THOMAS MELVILL TO SAMUEL P. SAVAGE.

Providence, December 16th, 1776.

Sir: The Council of this State would be glad if the Board of War would send a number of intrenching tools immediately, as there is great want of them.

Thos. Melvill.

*Samuel Phillips Savage*, Esq., *Boston.*

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Council Chamber, Boston, December 16th, 1776.

Sir: Your letter of the 3d instant was received by the President of the Council on the 11th instant, and was immediately communicated to the Assembly. Besides providing for the inlistment of our quota of the new Army, the Assembly have passed an act for raising a fourth part of the Militia at home, to march as soon as possible to recruit the Army, and be in service for three months from their march, before the expiration of which time, it is expected that our said quota will be raised. The fourth part of the Militia of the County of *Berkshire* and the one half of the fourth part of the Militia of the County of *Hampshire*, are ordered to march immediately to *Albany*, there to follow your orders; and I hope they will be on the spot by the time your orders reach that place.

I am, with respect, your most humble servant,

Thos. Cushing.

General *Schuyler.*

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, December 16, 1776.

Sir: The Council have received your letter of the 13th instant. We are glad to hear that our Militia have marched with such spirit and ardour to the assistance of your State, and that they, together with those collected from *Connecticut* and your State, make up a body of six or seven thousand men. Might not this body of troops be immediately employed to attack the enemy, and, by a *coup de main*, drive them from *Rhode-Island* into the sea? If this should be delayed, will not the enemy so effectually intrench themselves as to render such a manœuvre very unsafe, if not impracticable? This is a matter worthy of attention. We submit it to your consideration.

We have taken into consideration the resolve passed by your Assembly appointing a Council of War, and proposing to this State the appointment of a Committee to confer with said Council of War, at *Providence*, upon the expediency of raising an army for the immediate defence of the *New-England* States. Our Assembly, on the 16th of *November* last, had appointed a Committee to confer with such Committees as the other *New-England* States might appoint, upon the measures necessary to be taken for supporting the credit of our publick currencies; but as the State of *Connecticut* declined, at that time, joining with the other Colonies in this measure, as they apprehended the Congress had taken the subject-matter of it under their consideration, and they feared it might give them umbrage, our Committee did not proceed to *Providence*; and our Assembly have since renewed their application to that State upon this subject, and enlarged the power of the Committee; and Governour *Trumbull*, in a letter lately received from him, has signified that their Assembly are not desirous of such a conference; the Council therefore have resolved, that it is highly expedient and necessary that the Committee first appointed should proceed to *Providence*, and meet and confer with your Council of War upon the matters particularly specified in the resolve of the Board, now enclosed; and a Committee from this State will accordingly meet your Council of War at *Providence*, the 23d instant, the time and place appointed by your State.

I am, with great respect, (in the name and behalf of the Council,) your most obedient, humble servant,

James Bowdoin, *President.*

We have but this moment received your letter of the 8th instant, by which we are glad to find that General *Lincoln* possesses the confidence of the people of your State. He will probably be with you to-morrow.

Governour *Cooke.*

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J. WARREN TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

Plymouth, December 16, 1776.

Sir: This will be handed you by Captain *Morton*, of the schooner *Ellen*, which I have chartered for *Maryland* or *Pennsylvania*, as you shall choose, for either one or two trips. I could have wished this vessel and one other I have since chartered had been a size larger; but I was too late to pick and choose, and I believe they will do very well upon the terms agreed on. She now goes to *Boston* to attend your orders, supposing you would choose to ship some goods by her. I have paid the advance wages to the people; you have, therefore, nothing to do but victual and give your orders.

I am, with great respect, your most humble servant,

J. Warren.

If you choose to consign to the master, I believe Captain *Morton* capable of transacting the business.

*December* 17.—I have this bought a schooner, some lumber, and pickled fish. I have made some contracts for shot, and some for spears. The shot contracted for are none larger than twelve pounds, and two or three tons grape. Mr. *Lothrope* is manufacturing a large quantity by contract with the Commissary.

The President of the Board of War.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO WILLIAM THOMPSON.

War Office, Boston, December 16, 1776.

Sir: Should either of the General Officers of the Militia who have marched to the aid of *Rhode-Island*, direct the whole or any part of the ammunition now at *Rehoboth* to be removed to any other place or places for the publick service, you are to comply with such direction, and deliver the same to such person or persons as said General Officer may appoint; and when you deliver up the remainder of the ammunition to the Selectmen of the town where it may be deposited, you are to leave directions with them for the above purpose.

By order of the Board.

S. P. Savage, *President p. t.*

To *William Thompson*, Esq.

WILLIAM PYNCHON, JUN., TO SAMUEL P. SAVAGE.

Springfield, December 16, 1776.

Yours of the 27th of *November*, I received, wherein was enclosed the resolve of the General Court and the order of the Board of War to forward to *Richard Devens*, Esq., at *Boston*, two hundred barrels of flour. In compliance with your letter, and the above-said orders, I have sent twenty barrels of ditto to the said *Devens*. But on *Saturday* last I received another letter, with your signature, without any date, wherein you directed me to consign the same flour to you, which I shall comply with as soon as possibly I can procure teams sufficient to transport the same to you. I yesterday loaded two teams with twelve casks, and directed them to lodge the same at your house, and agreed with them to carry twenty hundred neat weight for two shillings, lawful money, per mile, and in the same proportion for all over the ton. The price will be various, according as I can agree with the teamsters; which sums, as I have or shall agree with them for, I must beg the favour of you to remit to them, as I have no money in my hands belonging to the Province whereby I can defray the expense of transportation. Be pleased to let me know your determination respecting the matter as soon as may be.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM PYNCHON, Jr.

To *Samuel P. Savage*, Esq., *Weston*,

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Boston, December 16, 1776.

*Thursday* last, Captain *Palmer*, in the brig *Elizabeth*, belonging to the *United States of America*, arrived in a safe port from *Marsailles*, which he left the 7th of *October*, with a valuable cargo of linens and coarse woolens. He informs that great preparations for war were making in *France* when he left that place than had been known there for twenty years past; and that two large squadrons, one from *Brest*, the other from *Toulon*, were to sail on the first of *January* next, on an expedition some where, but that their destination was a profound secret. Mr. *Silas Deane* was well in *Paris* a day or two before he sailed.

The enemy are in possession of *Newport*, in *Rhode-Island*, but what number we have not learnt; and we hear that the noted *Joseph Wanton*, Esq., is appointed Governour of the same, and has given orders to those who desire protection from (what is called) Government, to affix a white flag to their respective houses.

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JAMES TILGHMAN TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Annapolis, December 17th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: When Col. *Smallwood's* battalion marched into this city, his men were greatly distressed for the want of salt, and the Quartermaster (Mr. *Maubry*) hearing that there was some at Doctor *Stewart's*, where I then lodged, applied to me for a small quantity to answer the immediate and pressing call. Though I had not any authority from Mrs. *Stewart*, who had removed to the country, to dispose of any part of it, I could not withhold it, but told the Quartermaster to take what he thought might be sufficient, not exceeding eight or ten bushels, provided he would engage to replace it out of the first he could spare, which he promised to do.

I really do not know the exact quantity he took out, as he did not give me any report. Indeed, I did not apprehend it at that time at all necessary that he should, presuming he would render fair accounts from time to time to your Board, and that the quantity would appear from thence; but as nearly as I can recollect, he informed me that he had about five bushels. As Mrs. *Stewart* is now in want, and the salt has not been replaced, I shall be much obliged to your Honours for an order for that quantity, or what other your Honours may think proper. If it should appear hereafter that he had not so much, the surplus shall be returned.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and humble servant,

JA. TILGHMAN.

The honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 17th, 1776.

SIRS: Captain *Martin* has sailed at last, with a fair wind. I wish him a good voyage.

Captain *Cook* has sailed this day with his marines for *Elk*. I have received one thousand pounds by Mr. *Speer*, and five hundred by Captain *Cook*. Shall pay all Captain *Martin's* bill, but his expense is greater than I could imagine. His bills are coming in still. I am purchasing pork for the ship, and all such things as Captain *Cook* has directed me to provide. I intend purchasing the brig and schooner, if to be got on any terms. But their sails have not come on.

From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

To the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis*.

P. S. I shall set off for the camp to-morrow morning, but the business will go on.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 20, 1776: Referred to Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. S. Adams.]

Philadelphia, December 17th, 1776.

SIR: Mr. *Walton*, Mr. *Clymer*, and myself, thought it advisable to open the enclosed letter last night, that we might judge if the expense of another express should be incurred, or detain it for the post, which we concluded to do, as I had wrote you the unfortunate fate of General *Lee* before. I am sorry to inform you that the *Roebuck* and *Falcon* men-of-war are in *Delaware Bay*, and two bomb-ketches said to be in the offing. On receipt of this news, (which is certain,) I hired a pilot boat, and sent her with a letter to Captain *Biddle*, and all the other vessels outward bound, desiring them to stop, or come back. So that my labours appear to be lost, and sorry I am for the disappointment. However, it's likely the first smart northwester may give us an opening to push them out.

I have just heard that a party or parties of the enemy were yesterday at *Moorstown* and *Haddonfield*, in the *Jerseys*, opposite to this, and distant about seven to nine miles. What their views are I cannot say, but by the appearance of the men-of-war below, and the bomb-ketches being said to have sailed from *New-York*, it would seem as if their parties meant to make their way to *Red-Bank*, erect works to command the chevaux-de-frise, and then to come up with the ships. This, however, is mere matter of speculation. Colonel *Griffin* is, I understand, gone over with about eight hundred men, but I fear he will not be strong enough for them.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO GENERAL HEATH.

Philadelphia, December 17th, 1776.

SIR: Since I saw you I am informed that a person in *New-York*, who had an opportunity of being acquainted with the motions of the enemy, had advised a friend to move her effects from *Fishkill* to some place of safety. I am not at liberty to mention names; but make no doubt that such message was sent, and that the person sending might be acquainted with their motions. This, I understand, was before any movement of your division.

I have the honour to be your very humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

General *Heath*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 17, 1776.

SIR: We lament the loss of General *Lee*, both as it relates to the publick and to a General whom we so highly esteem and respect; yet we hope it may be in the power of your Excellency to close the campaign with honour to yourself, and to leave General *Howe* in a situation which may afford him little reason to boast.

We assure you, sir, this Council will not suffer any thing to abate their exertions, but that they will use every hour which the enemy shall delay their approach in preparing for the defence of this city and State in the best manner possible, and shall most cheerfully afford your Excellency every assistance in our power.

By the enclosed resolution you will see the sentiments of the Council respecting the Militia who refuse to do their duty on the present occasion.

*

A servant of Brigadier-General *Dickinson's*, last *Friday* afternoon, requested a pass to your camp, he having, as he said, a letter from Mr. *Dickinson* to his master. The Council thought it proper to examine the contents, a copy of which we have enclosed. The original appears to be in the handwriting of *John Dickinson*, Esq. General *Dickinson* has requested that the letter may be sent to him, but we think it proper to retain the original in our hands, and have referred him to your Excellency for the copy, if you shall think proper to deliver it to him.

By order of the Council. I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your obedient servant,

THO'S WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 17, 1776.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to General *Washington* to issue orders immediately for the Militia of *Bucks* and *Northampton* Counties forthwith to join his Army, and to send out parties to disarm every person who does not obey the summons, and to seize and treat as enemies all those who shall attempt to oppose the execution of this measure, and likewise every person in those Counties who are known or suspected to be enemies to the *United States*.

Extract from the Minutes:

JACOB S. HOWELL, *Secretary*.

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Receive no more Continental money on your bonds and mortgages. The *British* troops having conquered the *Jerseys*, and your being in camp, are sufficient reasons. Be sure you remember this. It will end better for you.

[Copy of a Letter found in the possession of Brigadier-General *Philemon Dickinson's* servant, directed to the said General, at camp.

JACOB J. HOWELL,
*Secretary to the Council of Safety.*]

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LETTER TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD VISCOUNT HOWE.

17th December, 1776.

MY LORD: Whatever errour the Court of *Great Britain* may have fallen into in the commencement and prosecution of the present unhappy contest with *America*, it was certainly a most politick step to commit the conduct of this important affair to your Lordship, and the General your brother.

The name of *Howe* is dear to *America*, and amongst the many distressing difficulties we have to surmount, it is certainly no inconsiderable one to overcome the predilection we feel for your family. The exalted virtues of your heroick brother, whose bones are embraced by that soil you are now drenching with blood, often rise in painful remembrance. We are ready to acknowledge the amiable dispositions that distinguish your private character; and whilst we feel the smart of the wounds you inflict, wish they had been administered by another hand. We consider you as the executioner of another's wrath, not your own; and forgive with as much sincerity (pardon the allusion) as the condemned wretch forgives the appointed officer who is about to torture him into another state of existence. The idea I have of your Lordship's character compels me to suppose that, before you undertook this fatal task, your judgment was fully convinced that the inflexible rules of honour and equity, the spirit of the *British* Constitution, and the sacred rights of mankind, fully authorized the claims of the *British* Court over her *American* subjects; and that a refusal of, and resistance to those claims on the part of *America*, is, and ought to be, deemed rebellion against Government. Under such a conviction, can we blame your Lordship for asserting and enforcing the rights of your Sovereign? For my own part, I can lay my hand upon my heart, and with sincerity declare, if you are so convinced, I blame you not. Let the same candour, my Lord, be extended to the poor *Americans!* If they think, and are firmly persuaded, that neither honour nor equity, neither the spirit of the *British* Constitution nor the rights of mankind, can authorize the unbounded expectation of the *British* Court, and that it is an indisputable duty they owe to themselves and their unborn posterity to defend their Constitution against such claims, ought they not to be respected, as then acting upon the best principles, however ill-founded you may suppose those principles to be; and ought you not to pity whilst you punish?

The present dispute is, what the rights of the Crown and Parliament are with respect to *America*, and what they are not. *Great Britain* would have us acknowledge that her claims are just, and that without much reasoning upon the subject. She will not reason upon it; she will not hear what we have to say in our own defence, but we must acknowledge her claims are just. And when, my Lord, were acknowledgments of this kind forced upon mankind with success? To own the supremacy of the *British* Legislature over the lives and properties of the people of *America*, or to own the supremacy of his Holiness over our immortal souls, are doctrines which can only be established by the sword and the fagot, amongst men who have the free use of their reason. But I am, perhaps, going too far. I mean not to offend your Lordship, nor would I be wanting in that respect which is due to your character and station. If my zeal upon so interesting a subject should appear somewhat intemperate, your Lordship will make the proper allowance. Suffer me, then, to shed a few tears over the mangled limbs of my bleeding country. Know, then, that ruin and devastation, plunder and riot, insult and murder, mark the way of your savage mercenaries over this hospitable, cultivated, and once happy land. It is not enough that the hopeful youth, with fire in his eye, and a heart high beating in his country's cause, is called forth and cut down in the field of battle, where the crimson glow of health fades from his cheek, and he yields his breath an early sacrifice at the shrine of liberty; but the voice of the trembling virgin cries aloud to Heaven against the brutal force of the salacious ravisher, who, having accomplished his infernal purpose, spurns at the body he has compelled to give the unlicensed joy. Take a view of the country before you: villages demolished, cities abandoned, and the miserable inhabitants driven from their comfortable houses, where they had long enjoyed all the endearing sweets of domestick felicity, to seek shelter, at this inclement season, they know not where; whilst the remains of their property, acquired by long labour and industry, are left a prey to unpitying foreigners, who destroy, without remorse, what they cannot immediately use or conveniently take away. Think not, my Lord, that this is an exaggerated picture, overcharged in the colouring. Facts have justified the assertion, and the mournful occasion prompts the style.

Such is the nature of the commission you are come to execute amongst us. Cruel as it is, I am nevertheless firm in opinion that your Lordship thinks you are only brandishing the sword of justice, not exercising the rod of oppression. But how you can think so, is hard for an *American* to conceive. I have been told, and fondly encourage the belief, that your Lordship holds in contempt those parricides who, through a selfish motive of securing themselves, basely betray their country's cause, and that, although you think yourself obliged to take advantage of the treason, you despise the traitors. This is a principle of honour worthy your character, and perfectly consistent with the sentiments of a liberal mind.

But I hasten to a conclusion of this address. The unpardonable fault of *America* now, it is said, is the Declaration of Independence. When our faults were less, they were as hardly thought of and as highly censured. Even our modest complaints were called presumption, and dismissed with reproach. No lenient hand was held out to bring matters to a happy issue; no alleviation offered to the griefs we thought we suffered; no friendly shield interposed between us and the ruin we apprehended. Independence was so far from the wish of *America*, the very idea was distressing. But hard and cruel necessity drove us to the desperate determination. God only knows what the event will be. In the mean time, we would press upon you to call forth that humanity which, like a healing balm, lubricates every generous mind; and though you carry on your master's work, let not the hand of rapine spread unnecessary desolation through our suffering country. Arrest the plunderer's greedy grasp, and let not the cries of the despoiled virgin call to Heaven for vengeance on those who regard not God, and who trample on the sacred rights of humanity. Wrongs like these fix a stain even on victory itself, which the floods of ages cannot wash.

Yours, &c.

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA, COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Committee of Observation, Inspection, and Correspondence, at the Court-House in *Lancaster*, the 17th *December*, 1776—

Present: *Edward Shippen, William Atlee, Lodwick Lowman, William Bowsman, Christopher Crawford, Henry Dehuff, George Moore, Mathias Slough. William Atlee* in the chair.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Atlee*, out of the moneys in his hands for the poor families of Associators, pay to *Eve Freena*, the wife of *James Freena*, a soldier in one of the battalions of this Province, the sum of thirty shillings, she being in a distressed situation, with a small helpless family.

And that he pay to *Druchenbrode*, the wife of *Andrew Druchenbrode*, a soldier in one of the battalions of this Province, the sum of thirty shillings, her husband being prisoner, and she in a distressed situation, with a small helpless family.

And that he pay *Shrode*, the wife of *Samuel Shrode*, a soldier in one of the battalions of this Province, the sum of thirty shillings, her husband being prisoner, she being just brought to bed, and in a distressed situation.

Mr. *Atlee* is directed, out of the publick moneys in his hands, to pay Mrs. *Jordon* her expenses for attending and burying a poor soldier from the Flying-Camp, who died there a day or two ago.

Mr. *Atlee* is directed to request a meeting of the inhabitants at the publick square to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, to endeavour to fall on measures for marching the Militia of the town and County to join General *Washington*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HOWE.

Head-Quarters, December 17th, 1776.

Sir: I would beg leave to recall your attention to the proposition for the exchange of prisoners, to the several letters I have lately written on that subject, and to inform you that I have not received such officers in exchange as were requested by me.

I am persuaded, sir, that this mistake has arisen from Mr. Commissary *Loring's* zeal to facilitate the business; but I would at the same time desire that you would give him orders, whenever any of your officers are sent in by me, not to send others in exchange till he is furnished with a list from me of such as I would choose to prefer, which shall always be done as soon as possible. For as the prisoners seldom pass my Head-Quarters on their way, it is not in my power to transmit such lists by them without occasioning their delay. If this mode is not complied with in future, I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of stopping others from going in, as my ideas and expectations are by no means answered from what has happened.

I enclose you a list of seven officers, who were sent in from *Bristol* on the 14th, and of two officers and two privates, who accompany the present flag. As the remainder of all those who were in the State of *Pennsylvania* are on the road and expected here daily, I shall defer making a demand of those I would choose in exchange till the whole come up.

I am, with due respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To Lieutenant-General *Howe*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL MAGAW.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 17th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: As an exact return of the officers, with their names and ranks, and the number of non-commissioned officers and privates, taken at *Fort Washington*, will be necessary to carry an exchange into execution, you will please to furnish me with it as soon as convenient. And as General *Howe* only transmitted me an account of the number of officers returned by Sir *Guy Carleton*, under parole, from *Canada*, without specifying their names and ranks, be pleased to apply to Mr. Commissary *Loring* for the same, and send it to me with your own return.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Colonel *Robert Magaw*, Fifth *Pennsylvania*, Prisoner.

ROBERT H. HARRISON TO COLONEL PALFREY.

Head-Quarters, December 17th, 1776.

Sir: I am commanded by his Excellency to inform you, that as there may be several demands for money at *Peekskill* for recruiting and other purposes, he thinks you had better send by Mr. *Sheldon* such a sum as will be sufficient for every purpose, to be paid on General *Heath's* warrants. The opportunity by the Major will be the best that may happen for some considerable time, as his Excellency has consented to the return of the *Connecticut* Light-Horse, who will take it in charge, with one of your clerks, or convey it to such person as you may appoint to receive it there. You had better advise General *Heath* of it by a scribere.

I am, sir, your, &c.

R. H. Harrison.

To Lieutenant-Colonel *William Palfrey*, Paymaster-General.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 17 December, 1776.

Gentlemen: Since I wrote to you yesterday, I have received information that the enemy are still moving downwards; and by their making fascines, they either have not yet laid aside their designs upon *Philadelphia*, or they mean to quarter in the small towns along the river; in which case I suppose they would throw up small works to prevent a surprise. In either case, if there are any artillery or stores at *Billingsport*, they should be immediately removed, as I find from a late letter from you, that you have not a sufficient force to protect the works that have been erected.

I am, gentlemen, with the greatest respect,

Go. Washington.

Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

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GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bethlehem, 17th December, 1776.

Sir: General *Arnold* this moment received from me your Excellency's letter to him of the 14th instant. From intelligence which he thinks authentick, *Rhode-Island* has been some time in possession of the enemy, and so considerable a force from *Connecticut* had assembled opposite to *Bristol Ferry*, as to render any further attempt of the *British* forces impracticable in that quarter. Upon mature consideration, I think it is best for the publick service that General *Arnold* should previously wait upon your Excellency, communicate the intelligence he has received, and take such ample instructions as the importance of the service he is designed to execute may require.

I am your Excellency's, &c., &c., &c.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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WILLIAM SHIPPEN, JUN., TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Bethlehem, Tuesday, December 17, 1776.

Dear Sir: After much difficulty and expense, I have removed all the sick to *Easton*, *Bethlehem*, and *Allentown*; their number is now much reduced, and all in a good way. I send twenty or thirty weekly to join the Army. There is no Paymaster or General near us, and I am almost out of cash; I must therefore beg the favour of you to procure me five thousand dollars, and send them by the bearer, Dr. *Halling*, for the use of the Hospitals. You will please to give a receipt for me, &c. Mrs. *Shippen* and the children arrived safe on *Thursday* morning, and are happily settled in this peaceful town. I have not heard of my clothes and old wine; fear the varlets have them as secure as poor General *Lee*. Oh! what a damned sneaking way of being kidnapped. I can't bear to think of it. I saw all his troops, about four thousand, this morning, marching from *Easton*, about two days' march from *Washington*, in good spirits, and much pleased with their General (*Sullivan*.) General *Gates*, with nine hundred men, marches from this place this afternoon and to-morrow. We hear General *Heath* is within four days' march, with three thousand men. God send that all joined may save *Philadelphia*, and disappoint the cursed Tories this winter. Where are your good

ladies? My love and best compliments to them, and desire they will take care of themselves, lest our retrograde soldiers will run them down. I wish you would introduce a new step into your army; I am sure they are perfect in the back step by this time. Compliments to the *Adamses*, &c., &c.

I am yours, very affectionately,

W. Shippen, Jun.

Colonel *Lee*, of the honourable Continental Congress, *Philadelphia*.

P. S. From a tedious experience I have learned what is necessary in a military hospital, and think it my duty to give my opinion thereon, to my friends in Congress. I have attended to this matter more carefully, because I saw on my first entering the Army, that many more brave *Americans* fell a sacrifice to neglect and iniquity in the medical department, than fell by the sword of the enemy. I saw Directors, but no direction. Physicians and Surgeons, but too much about their business, and the care of the sick committed to young boys, in the character of mates, quite ignorant, and, as I am informed, hired at half price, &c., &c., &c. Some I found honestly doing the duty of their stations. How far my own department has been better filled does not become me to say, and I am not ashamed to own that I am conscious of many imperfections, but flatter myself that none of them have arisen from want of care and integrity in the Director, or skill and industry in his Physicians, Surgeons, and Mates; all the latter, he can with pleasure declare, have done more than their duty cheerfully. Some have arisen from my inexperience, some from the scarcity of many articles necessary for the sick, and some from the distracted, flying state of the Army. All these causes, I persuade myself, will in a great measure be removed in the next campaign, if our cruel enemies risk another. I would humbly propose the following arrangement as necessary, and I hope adequate to making the sick soldiery comfortable and happy: Suppose three armies, a Northern, Middle, and Southern; to each of these the following officers:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Director and Surgeon Gen'l, at | 35 | 0 | and 8 | rations. |
| 3 Sub or Assistant Directors, - | 22 | 6 | and 6 | do. |
| 10 Surgeons or Physicians, - - | 20 | 0 | and 4 | do. |
| 20 Mates, - - - - - - - - | 7 | 6 | and 2 | do. |
| 1 Apothecary-General, - - - | 20 | 0 | and 4 | do. |
| 4 Mates, - - - - - - - - | 7 | 6 | and 2 | do. |
| 1 to act as Quartermaster-Gen'l and Commissary-General, | 12 | 6 | and 4 | do. |
| 3 Deputies, or one to every hundred sick, - - - - - | 7 | 6 | and 2 | do. |
| 1 Steward to every hundred sick, | 5 | 0 | and 2 | do. |
| 1 Matron to - - do. - - - | 3 | 9 | and 2 | do. |
| 1 Ward-Master to do. - - - | 5 | 0 | and 1 | do. |
| 1 Nurse to every fifteen sick, - instead of one to every ten, at 7*s*. 6*d*.; they are not to be had at 7*s*. 6*d*. | 10 | 0 | per week, | |
| 1 to act as Secretary and Storekeeper to every Hospital, | 7 | 6 | and 2 | rations. |

The Directors-General and Sub-Directors to be chosen by the Congress; the Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, by the Directors; the Mates by the Physicians and Surgeons, after a strict examination; all other officers by the Directors.

Not less than this, in my opinion, will induce men properly qualified to engage; and any others will be dear at any price.

I have the honour to be, dear sir, your very humble servant,

William Shippen, Jun.

No Regimental Hospitals will now be necessary. To every regiment should be appointed by the Congress, after being examined and recommended by the Directors and Physicians and Surgeons of the Hospital, or by three or four of the most eminent in any State appointed by that State for the purpose,

1 Surgeon, at - - 12*s*. 6*d*. and 4 rations per diem,
and 2 Mates, - - - 6 3 and 2 do.

To be supplied with one case of amputating and trepanning instruments, one case of pocket ditto, and such a chest of medicines as the Directors shall think proper.

Bethlehem, December 20, 1776.

### COLONEL PALFREY TO GENERAL HEATH.

Newtown, 17th December, 1776.

Dear General: Agreeable to orders I have received from General *Washington*, I have sent in the care of Colonel *Sheldon* one hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars, for paying the troops, recruiting, and other purposes; also twenty-two thousand seven hundred and fifty more for paying General *Wadsworth's* brigade, to be paid by your warrants. He has ordered me to appoint a Deputy in your department. I would choose Mr. *Hazard*, if he is at *Peekskill*; if he is absent, Mr. *Nat. Glover*, who was my clerk, and left sick at the house opposite to where Colonel *Putnam* lived. If neither of them are at hand, appoint any person most agreeable to you, and I will send them proper authority. You'll be so kind as to send me a receipt from the person in whose hands the money is deposited. They are to make returns to me as often as possible of what money they pay, and the demands they may have.

I most heartily wish you happiness and success, and am, dear General, yours sincerely,

Wm. Palfrey.

Excuse my great haste.

Hon. Major-General *Heath*.

### GENERAL M'DOUGALL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Morris-Town, December 17th, 1776.

My dear General: I arrived here the next day after the distressing intelligence of General *Lee's* being made a prisoner. The enemies of the country and their secret agents are so many, that the friends of the cause judged it not advisable for me to follow General *Lee's* division, as it was thirty miles ahead, without a guard. I therefore determined to wait the arrival of the troops under the command of Colonel *Vose*. I found Colonel *Moylan* here the evening I arrived, in quest of the troops of General *Gates's* division, in order to quicken their march to join General *Washington;* but Colonel *Vose's* detachment was not then arrived, nor did it reach this until this day at noon.

By the enclosed copy of General *Lee's* letter to the Colonel, with the assertions of Colonel *Ford* and the Rev. Mr. *Caldwell*, it appears that General *Lee* gave them assurances that this corps should not cross the *Delaware*, but be left here to support the drooping spirits of the Militia of the Counties not in hands of the enemy, who are greatly fatigued by constant duty, and the inhabitants greatly distressed by the incursions and ravages of the enemy. And there is great reason to apprehend, if the Militia are not supported by the aid and presence of Continental troops, they will be dispirited, and perhaps disperse. Colonel *Ford* and Mr. *Caldwell*, in support of General *Lee's* intention, adduce your letter of the 15th instant, wherein you say "Lieutenant-Colonel *Vose*, with three regiments from *Ticonderoga*, marched this day from *Paramus* towards your quarter. I am in hopes that with his aid you will be able to effect every purpose which you wish." Which they say could not be accomplished if those troops continued their march to join General *Washington*. In this state of things I wish to have your direction; for if I advise the Colonel to proceed, and the consequences apprehend take place, I may be blamed. If I detain him, after Colonel *Moylan's* coming in quest of the Northern troops, I am subject to be censured; and therefore think it expedient to wait your express orders for this corps before they move.

I have the honour to be your very humble servant,

Alex. McDougall, *Brigadier-General*.

Major-General *Heath*, at *Hackinsack*.

P. S. Since I wrote the above, a part of the Militia under Colonel *Ford* had a skirmish with the enemy at *Springfield*, in the night, in which our people obliged them first to retreat to their main body; when we were obliged in our turn to retire, with some loss. It will greatly advance the service if you quicken your march towards *Springfield*, through *Newark* mountains.—*Twelve p. m.*

### COLONEL FORD TO GENERAL HEATH.

Chatham, 17th December, 1776, ten o'clock in the Evening, and twelve miles west of Elizabeth-Town.

Dear Sir: We have since sunset had a brush with the enemy, four miles below this, in which we have suffered,

and our Militia much disheartened. They are all retreated to this place, and will in all probability be attacked by daybreak. The enemy, we have reason to believe, are double our numbers. General *McDougall* is with the northern battalions that were coming on with Colonel *Vose*, and intends marching directly to General *Washington*. He is this night in *Morris-Town*, eight miles west of this, and we have no expectations of his assistance. If in your wisdom you can assist us, we may possibly beat them yet; but without your aid we can't stand. They are encamped (say one thousand *British* troops) at *Springfield*, and will be joined by four hundred and fifty *Waldeckers* from *Elizabeth-Town*, by the next morning's light. I know, sir, it is not for me, nor would I presume, to direct you, but if you can consistently, I beg and pray you would come to our assistance. I you think proper to come to our assistance, the bearer will give you our situation and that of the enemy, and be your guide; after which you will be a proper judge whether to beat up their rear or march in their front and join us, or rather suffer us to join you, and march the whole down upon them.

Am your most obedient servant,

JACOB FORD, Jun., *Colonel.*

To the Hon. General *Heath*, at *Second River* or *Hackinsack.*

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Pyramus, 17th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I arrived at the *City* near *Kakiate* on *Sunday*, where I found Colonels *Woodhull's*, *McClaghry's*, *Hawthorn's*, and *Alison's* regiments of Militia, consisting of about twelve hundred men, exclusive of commissioned officers, waiting with the utmost anxiety for orders to move forward. I found that General *Heath* had marched his division down to *Orange-Town*, and from thence had proceeded to *Hackensack*; but as I could not learn what reception he had met with on his arrival there, and could not know but for want of succour he might fail in his expedition, I thought it most expedient to proceed thither myself, accompanied by some of my officers and a small detachment of Light-Horse. I did so accordingly. I arrived there yesterday afternoon, and found that the enemy, who were but few in number, on the General's approach had precipitately fled, accompanied by a number of principal Tories, leaving in town, at the bridge, and on board of vessels in the river, a large quantity of valuable stores, great part of which were removed to this place, and on the road hither. Just before I arrived, a considerable body of the enemy were discovered by our out scouts to cross from *Fort Washington* to this shore, in two bodies, a number moving from the southward towards *Totoway Bridge*, and another party was seen opposite *Hackensack Ferry*. In consequence of which the General had ordered a retreat to this place, to cover the stores he had sent forward here, and prevent their encircling him. I thought prudent, considering the movements of the enemy and his strength, which consists only of about six hundred privates. It was effected in the night.

By the General's advice, I have ordered down Colonels *Woodhull's* and *McClaghry's* regiments to this place, and hourly expect them in. I hope the different situation of our affairs since the issuing of my orders will justify me in the opinion of the honourable the Convention in this small deviation from them, especially as General *Heath* cannot effect any thing without great risk, without this small reinforcement. I thought to have disposed of the remaining regiments under my command in the manner mentioned in the enclosed letter to Colonel *Allison*, which I wrote and intended sending him, but feared it might be considered as too great a deviation from my orders. I therefore thought it best first to transmit it to you, and if it should meet the approbation of your honourable House, beg you will forward it by express to him. The reasons why I wish to have a regiment at *Tappan* is not only to protect our friends there, but if the enemy should advance while we attack them in front, that regiment might fall upon their rear.

The two regiments from the north end of *Ulster* County are not yet arrived. I mean to station them near the passes in the Highlands. The Tories who remained in *Hackensack* were in the utmost consternation on General *Heath's* to them unexpected and sudden entry into the town. He took and sent hither about sixty of them, five regulars, and upwards of one hundred small-arms, &c.

I am, with due respect, your most obedient servant,

GEO. CLINTON.

I forgot to mention that Colonel *Malcom's* regiment were dismissed before I could see him. I have shown General *Heath* your order or request respecting *Malcom's* and *Thomas's* regiments, but have not yet received his orders respecting the latter. I enclose you a letter from some of the Committee of *Orange-Town*, which I received on my way hither.

To the Honourable the President of the Convention of the State of *New-York.*

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO COLONEL ALLISON.

Peyeamies, 17 December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: On receipt hereof you are to move with your regiment down to *Orange-Town*, and there continue till further orders. You'll be careful on your march thither to keep out proper advanced and flank guards, and when there the necessary guards and scouting parties to prevent your being surprised by the enemy.

You'll give every protection in your power to the friends of the *United States* in that quarter of the country. At the same time you'll endeavour to discover, apprehend, and secure the enemies of said States, who may be found lurking or under arms in that quarter, that they may, if taken alive, be delivered over to the civil authority, to be dealt with according to their crimes. Take special care, however, that your troops do not plunder the inhabitants under any pretence whatever. If the *British* troops should approach you with superiour numbers, or under such advantages as to render it imprudent to give them battle, in either of these cases retreat in order, so as to regain the passes in the Highlands near *Sydenham's*. Colonel *Hathorn's* regiment will continue where they now are, and stand ready to sustain you in case of necessity, and to strengthen the pass near *Sydenham's*. Colonel *Hasbrouck's* regiment, which must ere this have arrived, must occupy *Haverstraw*, in order to secure the passes in the Highlands near the river, and to reinforce *Fort Montgomery* in case any attempt should be made against it. You'll therefore deliver the commanding officers of those regiments copies of this order, that they may govern themselves accordingly. You'll take the proper steps to ensure your being furnished with provisions at *Orange-Town*, and your Quartermaster will draw the necessary ammunition from the Army Quartermaster-General, Major *Taylor*, at *Haverstraw*, of which you must be very careful, that if not used it may be returned.

I am, your humble servant,

GEORGE CLINTON.

To Colonel *William Allison.*

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ISAAC NICOLL TO JOHN M'KESSON.

Peeks-Kill, December 17th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I last night received the disagreeable news of General *Lee* being taken a prisoner. It has come so straight that I believe it is beyond a doubt he was taken at *Baskenridge* last *Thursday* night. It seems he lodged three miles in the rear of the Army, and a Tory of that place went to the Regulars and told them of it, and piloted the Light-Horse to him, who took him prisoner. The time is now come that every one who is a friend to his country ought to stand forth, and in the situation our enemy is now, in the *Jerseys*, I think a fatal stroke may be struck. Let the people be called from all parts, and in the name of God cut them off from the face of the earth, with the damn'd Tories. The secret expedition the Convention has planned ought, in my opinion, to be drove on with all expedition. I think it is likely that General *Lee* had the last returns from Generals *Heath* and *Spencer*. If they are found with him, is it not likely that General *Howe* will muster what troops he can spare out of *New-York*, joined with the Tories and *Rogers's* Rangers, and scour this county, take the stores at *North-Castle*, and perhaps advance to this post.

I hear the fleet sent to the eastward has landed at *New-Port*. The inhabitants capitulated. About one third left the town, and two thirds staid.

I am, in haste, your sincere friend and humble servant,

ISAAC NICOLL.

To *John McKesson*, Esq.

THOMAS MOFFAT TO JOHN M'KESSON.

Peeks-Kill, 17 December, 1776.

SIR: Yesterday, by order of Colonel *Nicoll*, I went on board the enemy's flag at *Verplank's Point*, and delivered the letter from Convention directed to Messrs. *Inglis*, *Livingston*, and *Moore*, who were all highly pleased with the favour granted them, and desired me to return their compliments to Convention for the polite usage they had received from that body. Mr. *Inglis* would have wrote them a note of compliments himself, but had unfortunately lost his inkstand.

Mr. *Inglis* and the other gentlemen expressed a desire of having another vessel with a flag from here, to assist them down to *New-York* with their families, as the vessel on board of which they are is small, and much cramped. If a matter of that kind should be granted, and a capable person put aboard, perhaps some important discovery might be made at this juncture.

I am, with respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

THOMAS MOFFAT.

To *John McKesson*, Esq., *Fishkill*.

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COLONEL SWARTWOUT TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fort Constitution, December 17, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed you have the proceedings of a Court-Martial in consequence of *Peter Harris's* deserting twice, and his unbecoming behaviour since his return. *Peter Harris*, a soldier of Captain *Veal's* company, was brought here some time last week, by his father-in-law, Captain *Reynolds*, in order to get him clear from punishment. After his father's interceding a great while, I consented he should be brought in; would give him a smart reprimand, and all his former crimes should stand good against him, and should be put on duty every day, and for the same should receive no pay; but in case he should commit any crime, should be tried for old and new. Now, gentlemen, I send to you, by Lieutenant *Platt*, said *Harris*, for you to determine the matter with him, as you think most best.

I am, with the greatest respect, your very humble servant,

JACOBUS SWARTWOUT.

To the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkills*.

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COURT-MARTIAL ON PETER HARRIS.

Fort Constitution, December 16th, 1776.

At a Regimental Court-Martial, held this day, Captain *Barnardus Swartwout*, President.

Lieut. *Charles Platt*, Lieut. *Nathaniel Potter*,
Lieut. *Jacobus Horton*, Lieut. *Simeon Lefever*.

*Peter Harriss*, soldier, of Captain *Israel Veal's* company, Colonel *Jacobus Swartwout's* regiment, being brought before this Court, and charged with desertion and threatening violence to his Captain and others—

The prisoner confesses the charge, and owns himself guilty, and prays the mercy of this Court.

This Court are of opinion that *Peter Harriss* is guilty of desertion and abuse in the grossest manner, and think the most proper step they can take with him is to recommend him to the Convention for their determination, and likewise to send a true state of his crime, which is as follows: He being a volunteer, and having deserted twice, and taken the full bounty, and never done one month's service, and behaved himself otherwise very bad, and now threatening violence to them who offered to apprehend him, as swearing he would be revenged as soon as he was discharged.

BERNARDUS SWARTWOUTT, *Captain*.

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

[Without date.]

SIR: Mr. *Duer*, with several other members of Convention, is now attending the Army raised within this State, on a secret expedition projected by this Convention, with a view to cooperate with your Excellency or attempt to create a diversion in your favour. For this reason your Excellency's letter of the 14th instant to that gentleman has been laid before the Committee of Safety. Anxious for the publick good, they have long viewed the want of clothing for the Army as a very capital misfortune. Unhappily deprived of all our sea-ports, the means of importation are totally cut off from this State, and we have in vain endeavoured to procure a supply from Congress and our sister States, or a part of the Continental bounty. The recruits are importunate, and express the utmost discontent that it is withheld. Discontent is increased by their being ordered to march to the Northern posts, which are in a manner destitute of garrison. A spirit of desertion is already prevailing; and the recruiting service, which in the beginning was uncommonly successful, now meets with discouragement. Perplexed with this difficulty, it was with the utmost satisfaction that we learned that a quantity of clothing for the Continental troops were stored at this place. They arrived at *Peekskill* about a month ago, remained there several days, were then sent to *Fishkill* Landing, about twenty miles north of *Peekskill*, stored for a week, and then transported by land to this town, six miles east of the landing, and stored there for several days, without any effort to have them made into clothes, or, according to our information, any order to forward them to your Excellency. Add to that, that the Deputy Quartermaster-General, Mr. *Hughes*, informed one of the members that part of the goods were to be left here for the use of the Continental troops within this State. From all these circumstances, Convention was led to conclude that there could be no impropriety in applying them accordingly. It is true that he was not inclined to deliver them without your Excellency's direction, though he finally consented, on the importunity of the Committee of Convention appointed to procure clothing for the Continental troops in this department. These are the facts; and if we have erred, it is from an earnest anxiety to promote the publick service, which was, and still is, suffering for want of compliance with the encouragement which Congress have ordered to the new levies.

You may be assured, sir, that nothing is further from our wishes than to interfere in the military line, or abridge your Excellency's unquestionable province; on the contrary, we lament it as a misfortune that from your late necessary retreat and remote situation, so great a share of the military operations in this quarter is cast upon us, and that we are compelled to turn our attention to matters out of the line of the civil power, and solely resting with your Excellency. The request communicated to Mr. *Duer* for forwarding such of the goods as have not been delivered to Continental recruits, shall be instantly complied with. Permit us to assure your Excellency that there is not the least room for apprehending that any stores of goods passing through this State will be detained. The respect we have always shown and sincerely feel for your person and office, our uniform and cheerful compliance with all your requisitions, and zeal for the common cause, and the great and continued exertions of this State, ought, we flatter ourselves, to secure us from such suspicion. In the instance of which your Excellency complains, we conceived we were serving the publick, though we were sensible that in that, as well as many other respects, we were acting out of our proper sphere. It is out of our power to clothe the quota of levies of this State: our Militia constantly employed in the field, are drawn from their ordinary business; the inhabitants themselves are destitute; we have few manufacturers, and cloth of every kind is scarce and dear beyond description. We have informed the Committee of our inability, as well as the Quartermaster-General. We have no answer or aid from either, but assure ourselves that when your Excellency's arduous situation shall permit, these circumstances, which give us unspeakable distress, will claim your attention. The First *New-York* Battalion, commanded by Colonel *Van Schaick*, and recruited to about four hundred men, is already marched to garrison *Fort George* or *Ticonderoga*, for the safety of which, against a winter campaign, we are not without strong apprehensions, as the troops stationed at those important fortresses march off immediately on the expiration of the term of their inlistment. Had this State been encumbered with raising only the five battalions assigned for its quota, we flatter ourselves that under every difficulty our engagements to Congress would soon have been complied with. But besides the battalion under our immediate direction, Colonel *Hazen* and Colonel *James Livingston*, and even Colonel *Warner* and numbers of their officers, are recruiting within a State already deprived of a great part of its territory. I have the honour to be, &c.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

JOS. TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Fishkills, 17th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I arrived at this place this morning. I went from *Peekskill* last *Wednesday*, intending to go to General *Washington*, at *Philadelphia*. I proceeded as far as *Morristown*, *New-Jersey*; there I found I could not get to the General, or to *Philadelphia*, without going round by *Easton*, and I was there also told Congress were going to *Lancaster* or *Yorktown*. This was not true. When at *Morristown*, I stopped for a guide, and while there came an account of the enemy's Light-Horse had taken General *Lee*, at *White's* Tavern, near *Baskenridge*, about seven miles from *Morristown*. This was soon confirmed by Major *Bradford*, one of his Aids-de-Camp, who came into *Morristown*, and says that General *Lee* was at *White's*, at about twelve o'clock; that a party of about sixty Light-Horse, led by a Tory, who was with the General complaining of the loss of a horse taken by the Army the evening before, he found where the General was to lodge and breakfast, and that he was to be at this tavern about noon. He left them, and rode eighteen miles in the night to *Brunswick*, and returned with the party of Light-Horse. They came up to the house before they were discovered, took away the General after some little opposition, and the loss of two Light-Horsemen killed. They went off in a great hurry; carried off the General without his great coat or hat. In about three hours after the cannon played furiously, rejoicing on the occasion.

General *Sullivan* now commands that party. He is to cross *Delaware*, and join General *Washington*. General *Gates* is at *Easton*, or thereabout. Brother *John* is with him. General *Heath*, with about three thousand men, is gone to *Hackensack*, and from thence to *Newark*, and so on, hanging upon the enemy's rear. General *Washington* is reinforced, and continually increasing in numbers. I expect to stay here and at *Peekskill* till after the first of *January*, unless the General orders otherwise, and then come to *Hartford*. I wait his orders. Mr. *Sherbrook* and Mr. *Alexander Wallace* are here; they beg their respects to you, and that I inform that they have obtained leave to go into *New-York*. Please to tell Colonel *Dyer* that his son, Major *Dyer*, was well last *Thursday*, near Head-Quarters, opposite *Trenton*.

I am, honoured sir, your dutiful son,

JOS. TRUMBULL.

Governour *Trumbull*.

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WILLIAM GORDON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Jamaica Plain, December 17, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR: I have been for some time past in pain for your Excellency, but still in hopes that you would receive a reinforcement sufficient and soon enough to prevent the enemy's crossing the *Delaware*, or marching down by it on the *Jersey* side toward *Philadelphia*. Accounts yesterday relieved us from our anxiety, and have given us reason to conclude that the Regulars have left *Brunswick* and gone down by water to *Staten-Island*. If so, we may consider the campaign as over; and upon a review, have reason to be thankful. Certain it is, that if we have not succeeded in every instance to the utmost of our wishes, 'tis no less so with the enemy, who, so far from having made a conquest of the Continent, have not completed the reduction of a single Province, not even that in which they had the most interest. Whatever puffs the Ministry may cook up and present to the publick, they that expected more solid doings and to have had matters settled, will find themselves wretchedly disappointed. Our friends in *Europe* will judge that, all things considered, we have made a glorious campaign. *France* and *Spain* will be likely to believe that we shall not be an incumbrance to them in case of their declaring war against *Great Britain*, but the contrary. I can heartily bless God for having carried us so well through the year, and thankfully make my acknowledgments, as an individual, to your Excellency and others, who have been used as instruments therein. Should a few prizes, whose arrival we have not yet heard of, get safe in, the balance will be much in our favour.

The *Alfred* is got to *Boston* harbour, designed for *Rhode-Island*; but the wind coming contrary, may have been the means of saving her. This day se'nnight, in thick stormy weather, she lost sight of her seven prizes, whom she meant to see safe in port. They are worth between two and three hundred thousand pounds sterling, prime cost, as I am informed. One has sixteen thousand full suits of clothes, designed for the soldiers in *Canada*, each suit, including shirts and two pair shoes, amounting to eight pounds sterling. This ship mounted sixteen guns, was pierced for twenty or one-and-twenty, bore down upon the *Alfred*, who concealed her lower ports, with a view of taking her, and was herself caught. She is a remarkable fine sailer. Captain *Jones*, of the *Alfred*, put in her full complements of guns, took out all her men, and manned her with a hundred of his own. Yesterday an armed vessel was to sail, and cruise off *Nantucket Shoals* for her, to give information of the enemy's being at *Rhode-Island*. The Council have also sent expresses directing that boats should keep a good look-out for her. I trust that Providence will make her a deodand (I mean a gift of God!) to us. We have our fears however. We have cause for hoping that she has not got into *Newport*, considering the weather and other circumstances. Am told that another of the prizes has bombs, mortars, &c., on board. The Captain has brought in all the prisoners, to the amount of one hundred and sixty; among them some officers, and the Judge, a nephew of Lord *Effingham*, of course of Lady *Carleton*. This gentleman may possibly induce the General to admit of a flag of truce going to him, though it is not to supplicate his Majesty's mercy, and may cure *Howe's* shuffling with, instead of exchanging, *Carleton's* prisoners.

Accounts were received yesterday from *Rhode-Island* that *Carleton* had been obliged to hang three or four soldiers for ravishing the women.

Would it not answer a valuable purpose, was an authentick account to be transmitted this way of the plunderings of the Regulars, without regard to Whig or Tory, in order to its being published? Your Excellency will be too much engaged to attend to such a matter, but you can prevail upon some of your suite to write to me.

At *Salem* a noble spirit was discovered in raising the troops for the three months. Gentlemen of considerable fortune turned out volunteers, several worth many thousand sterling. Should your Excellency visit their quarters, I am sure it will be a pleasure to you to see and take notice of them. The gentlemen of *Boston* expect to engage their proportion for the whole three years.

The Cadet company have furnished thirty-six gentlemen, who have signed a petition, to be presented this day to Council, requesting that they may be appointed officers in one of the battalions to be furnished by the *Massachusetts* State. They mean to wipe away the reproach that has lain long upon *Boston* for not furnishing the Army with more military men. I hope there will be no invincible obstacles in the way, preventing a compliance; for as they have been well educated, know more of the world than the country clowns, have a sense of honour, a spirit of emulation, and understand their exercise, expect that, should they have a regiment, it will be as fine and as well disciplined a corps as any upon the Continent.

When I acquaint your Excellency that I am preparing for that history in which you are so deeply concerned and make so eminent a figure, and in the forming of which you were so obliging as to assure me you would assist by furnishing materials, your Excellency will conclude that I do not despair of the commonwealth, but look for a happy conclusion to the present noble struggle. Should our cause miscarry, it will be owing to our own supineness and selfishness; but these, I flatter myself, are at their summit, and will abate shortly.

Your Excellency would do the country great service, would you urge it upon our General Court to fortify the harbour of *Boston* to the utmost, and make the necessary provision for its being effectually defended, that so, should the Ministry set on foot an expedition against it early the next spring, the same may not succeed.

Do me the favour, my dear sir, of making my respectful compliments to your suite, to Generals *Putnam*, *Greene*, Lord *Stirling*, &c. Mrs. *Gordon* joins in warmest wishes for your safety and success, and pray you, when you write to your lady, to transmit our respects, as also to Mr. and Mrs. *Custis*. The coldness of the weather has injured the writing, but my heart is warm and sincere, notwithstanding the

coldness of my hand, while I subscribe myself your very affectionate friend, and most humble servant,

WILLIAM GORDON.

His Excellency *George Washington*, Generalissimo of the *American* forces.

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J. WARREN TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

Plymouth, December 17, 1776.

SIR: This goes by Captain *Bartlett*, of the schooner *Elizabeth*, chartered on account of the Board, for *South-Carolina*, *Maryland*, or *Pennsylvania*. She is a fine schooner, of forty six tons; and I am told he is very capable of selling or purchasing a cargo in either of those places, if you think proper to consign to him. Month's wages are already paid; you will therefore furnish him with such stores and cargo as you shall think proper, and despatch him that he may go another trip if you want it. I have another schooner, of a smaller size, which I shall send up next week, unless you think best to order her from here. I shall either purchase or hire one more, perhaps this day, and shall hire one for the *West-Indies* if I can make a cargo, which I have some prospect of. When you don't approve of my conduct you will recall me.

I am your most humble servant, J. WARREN.

To the President of the Board of War.

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ELLIS GRAY TO CAPTAIN STONE.

Boston, December 17th, 1776.

SIR: You are hereby empowered to charter a vessel that will sail well and is floaty, for *North-Carolina*, sufficient to carry six hundred barrels naval stores. The Board of War will allow eight shillings per month, and insure against the enemy.

Your humble servant, ELLIS GRAY.

The Board will allow you for the necessary expense in provisioning a vessel and hands; and your own pay of six pounds per month is to commence this day.

To Captain *Nathaniel Stone*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN JOHNSON.

War Office, Boston, December 17th, 1776.

SIR: The Board of War desire you to proceed to *Beverly*, and despatch the brig *Ann* to sea. You will agree with the master and hands on the best terms you can. You will take the bills of lading for the cargo assigned to yourself, and give orders to the Captain to proceed with all possible despatch to *Baltimore*, in *Maryland*, and back again.

By order of the Board:

S. P. SAVAGE, *President p. t.*

Captain *Holten Johnson*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO JOHN BRADFORD.

War Office, Boston, December 17th, 1776.

SIR: The Board of War having intelligence by Captain *Jones*, of the Continental ship *Alfred*, that he left a very valuable prize five days since, and under the apprehension of her falling into the enemy's hands, we earnestly recommend to you to direct one or more of the Continental schooners now in port, to proceed to sea immediately, and if possible to give intelligence to the prize-master that the enemy's fleet have possession of the port of *Newport* and the *Vineyard Sound*.

By order of the Board.

S. PHIPS SAVAGE, *President p. t.*

*John Bradford*, Esq.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO GENERAL GODFREY.

War Office, Boston, December 17, 1776.

SIR: Agreeable to order of Court, the Board of War inform you that they have ordered a quantity of provisions to *Providence*, under the direction of the Commissary, Mr. *Newman*, which is ordered to be delivered agreeable to establishment; and also a quantity of powder, under the care of Major *Thompson*, of *Rehoboth*, which is ordered to be distributed to such General Officers of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* as shall apply for it, or to such Captains as shall make return of a company, twenty-five rounds per man, said officers and men being in the service of this State. And in case Major *Thompson* leaves *Rehoboth*, he is directed to leave the powder with the Selectmen of *Rehoboth*, with the above directions.

We shall be glad to hear from you, and of a general return of our Militia round *Rhode-Island*. We think it expedient the powder should be made into cartridges, and recommend the doing this in various sizes; and the strictest care will be necessary to prevent waste and embezzlement of ammunition. Captain *Melvil*, of the train, is directed to assist in making up the cartridges.

By order of the Board:

S. PHIPS SAVAGE, *President p. t.*

Brigadier-General *Godfrey*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO CAPTAIN MELVIL.

War Office, Boston, December 17th, 1776.

SIR: The Board find by your letter to Mr. *Savage*, you decline the appointment to the place of Commissary. We therefore desire you to pay the moneys remitted you, into the hands of Mr. *H. Newman*, and also deliver to him such provisions as you have belonging to this State. We shall expect you give all possible assistance to Mr. *Newman* in the discharge of his duty. We recommend the making the powder at *Rehoboth* into cartridges, put under the care of Major *Thompson* for that purpose.

By order of the Board:

S. P. SAVAGE, *President p. t.*

Captain *Thomas Melvil*.

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AZOR ORNE TO THOMAS CUSHING.

Marblehead, December 17, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Your favour I have before me, acquainting of the resolution of the honourable Board respecting the Committee attending at *Providence*, &c. I shall endeavour to be in *Boston* by *Friday* noon, and have thus advised Mr. *Dalton*. Hope you provide the carriage, that we may be able to get off on *Saturday*.

In haste, I am your most humble servant,

AZOR ORNE.

Hon. *Thomas Cushing*, Esq.

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MEMORIAL OF COMMITTEE OF SUNBURY, NOVA-SCOTIA.

*To the General Assembly of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

*The Memorial of the Committee of Safety in the County of* SUNBURY, *in* NOVA-SCOTIA, *humbly showeth:*

That the Chiefs of the *St. John's Indians* having the summer past been to the General Assembly of the State of the *Massachusetts*, and there entered into an alliance or treaty with the States; which treaty was afterwards ratified by Colonel *Francis Shaw*, in behalf of the States, and the tribe of said *Indians* being in general assembled at *St. John's*; in which treaty the *Indians* say it was stipulated that they should be supplied with goods at a reasonable rate, and that Colonel *Shaw* promised them that goods should be sent them to *St. John's* immediately after his arrival at *Boston*, which goods have not yet arrived, and no intelligence received concerning them; and the *Indians* being in a naked, suffering condition, begin to accuse the States with the breach of faith.

They farther say that they were to be allowed a priest, to worship in their own way, and the *French* priests in *Canada* being almost universally in favour of the King's party, they do not choose to have any concern with them, not even to take absolution from such an one. We are convinced that it will not be possible to keep them long easy without a person to exercise the functions of a priest among them. But we recommend to your wise consideration whether there doth not now appear a favourable opportunity to bring them off from their superstitious errours; and as several of their warriours have lately been engaged in an expedition against *Fort Cumberland*, and others gone to the westward, the Committee have hitherto supplied their families with provision, but could not supply them with clothing, the *Indians* seem very uneasy at their disappointment.

The Committee therefore humbly beg your Honours would take some measures to satisfy the *Indians* in these matters, otherwise the States will be in danger of losing

their friendship; and your memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c., &c.

Signed by order of the Committee:

JACOB BARKER, *Chairman.*

Dated at *Maugerville*, in the County of *Sunbury*, *December* 17th, 1776.

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*Return of* INDIANS *present in the Expedition against* FORT CUMBERLAND.

Governour *Ambrose Bear*, *John Corlease*, *Att. Joennis*, *Tomo. Squatpan*, *Pierre Prugway*, *Newelis Newell*, *Lewis Newell*, *John Baptist*, *Pierre Tomo*, *Michael Baptist*, *Joseph Tomo*, *Joseph Tomo*, Jun., *Pierre Coleau*, *Abraham*, *Supabtist Le Port*, *Pazil*;—*St. John's Indians*, who have lost in the aforesaid expedition five canoes and two guns.

*Mickmac Indians*—Captain *Charles*, *Andrew*, *Pierre Paul*, *Nicholas*.

This may certify all concered, that the *Indians* within mentioned were present in the expedition against *Fort Cumberland*, for the space of eight weeks, and met with the loss therein mentioned.

Witness my hand, at *Maugerville*, on the river *St. John's*, this 17th *December*, 1776.

JONATHAN EDDY,
*Commanding the United Forces.*

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER RECEIVED IN LONDON, FROM PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND, DATED DECEMBER 18, 1776.

This day arrived here the *Fowey* man-of-war, from *New-York*. She has brought some despatches from General *Howe*, among which, we hear, are the letters sent by General *Washington* to the Congress at *Philadelphia*, which were intercepted on the road and brought to General *Howe*. The purport of them is the present state of the Army under his command, and the improbability of his attacking the King's forces with any hopes of success, and also his inability of keeping his present hold much longer. He further says in them, that unless the Congress could furnish him with several more battalions against the opening of the next campaign, he should not be able to make head against the King's troops. The nomination of the officers, he remarks, must be left with him, as those he has already under his command were not fit to be trusted, both on account of their want of fidelity and military skill.

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EXTRACT FROM SAMUEL CURWEN'S JOURNAL, EXETER, ENGLAND, DECEMBER 18, 1776.

By a Mr. *Lloyd*, of the Twentieth Regiment, just arrived in the *Lord Howe* frigate from *Quebeck*, and who was on the lake with *Burgoyne* and *Carleton*, a report is brought that a merchantman met the *Active* frigate at sea, and learned that General *Washington* had abandoned the lines at *Kingsbridge*, left his cannon and stores, and that his Army is mouldered away; that *New-York*, *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Maryland*, have deserted the Union, and declared for Government; speaks of the "Yankees," as he is pleased to call them, in the most contemptuous terms, as cowards, poltroons, cruel, and possessing every bad quality the depraved heart can be cursed with; and says the Regulars at *Trois-Rivières* took five hundred prisoners, killed one hundred, and lost only three men, who were killed by Yankees, who had got upon trees and fired down on them.

It is my earnest wish the despised *Americans* may convince these conceited Islanders, that without regular standing armies our Continent can furnish brave soldiers and judicious and expert commanders, by some knock-down, irrefragable argument; for then, and not till then, may we expect generous or fair treatment. It piques my pride, I confess, to hear us called "our Colonies, our Plantations," in such terms and with such airs as if our property and persons were absolutely theirs, like the "villains" and their cottages in the old feudal system, so long since abolished, though the spirit or leaven is not totally gone, it seems.

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St. John's, Antigua, December 18, 1776.

An *American* agent arrived at *St. Kitts* a few days ago, with two thousand pounds in dollars, to buy woolen stuffs, &c., to send to *America* this winter. Our merchants, who, to a man, are all, by profession, opinionated in favour of Government, smiled at the sight of the dollars, which for a while suspending their loyalty, they supplied the *American* agent with every thing he wanted. Some days after the agent had safely landed his cargo at *St. Eustatia*, information was given to the Commander-in-Chief, who issued a proclamation, prohibiting the exportation of woolen stuff. Pray, whether is the policy of the Council, or the loyalty of the merchants, most visible?

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GOVERNOUR OF VIRGINIA TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Williamsburgh, December 18th, 1776.

SIR: Enclosed is a list of necessaries wanted for the Cavalry of this Commonwealth, which are ordered to join General *Washington*, agreeable to a requisition of Congress. A few things comprised in this list have been furnished here; perhaps one hundred arms, or thereabouts, will be found the troops when they arrive with you.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most humble servant,

P. HENRY, *Pt.*

P. S. The prisoners of war are not yet sent. The operations your way may possibly induce some alterations of the former requisitions. Please to inform me. P. H.

To *Richard Peters*, Esq., Secretary of the War Office, *Philadelphia*.

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*A General Return of Men, Horses, Arms, Accoutrements, and other necessaries, wanting for the Regiment of Horse commanded by* THEODORICK BLAND, *Major Commandant, now in the service of the Commonwealth of* VIRGINIA.

December 11th, 1776.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | To be recruited to full complement. | *Men.* | |
| 9 | Dead, strayed, and crippled horses. | *Horses.* | |
| 11 | Saddles. | *Saddlery and Leathern Accoutrements.* | |
| 115 | Bridles. | | |
| 30 | Halters. | | |
| 79 | Buckles and Straps. | | |
| 109 | Slings. | | |
| 180 | Pads. | | |
| 140 | Curry-combs. | | |
| 149 | Brushes. | | |
| 217 | Nose-bags. | | |
| 179 | Breast-plates. | | |
| 133 | Spurs—pairs. | | |
| 145 | Caps. | | |
| 107 | Cartridge-boxes. | | |
| 144 | Holsters. | | |
| 119 | Boots. | | |
| 13 | Coats—blue faced with red. | *Clothing and Bedding.* | |
| 12 | Coats—brown with green. | | |
| - | Leather breeches. | | |
| 199 | Blankets. | | |
| 207 | Canteens. | *Utensils.* | |
| 46 | Camp-kettles. | | |
| 18 | Axes. | | |
| 5 | Drums. | *Instruments.* | |
| 4 | Trumpets. | | |
| 179 | Pockets. | | |
| 213 | Carbines. | *Arms.* | |
| 178 | Pistols—pairs. | | |
| 215 | Spears. | | |
| 215 | Tomahawks. | | |
| 6 | Standards. | | |
| 6 | Camp colours. | | |

THEODORICK BLAND, *Major Commandant.*

*Resolution of the House of Delegates of* VIRGINIA, *transmitted to the Delegates in Congress.*

Whereas it is apprehended that there will be a great scarcity of Beef and Pork, and that the Contractors and Commissaries for the *American* Armies will be unable to provide sufficient magazines for the great number of troops now raising for the next campaign, unless a timely stop is put to the exportation; and as an embargo in the Commonwealth (unless similar measures are adopted by the other *United States*) will be inadequate to the purpose:

*Resolved*, That it be an instruction to the *Virginia* Delegates to apply to the honourable the *American* Congress, and use their utmost endeavours to procure that the exportation of Beef, Pork, and Bacon, may be immediately prohibited throughout the *United American States*, for such limited time and under such regulations as shall be judged proper; and that the Governour be desired to transmit to the said Delegates a copy of this resolve by the next post, or by the first safe conveyance.

1776, *December* 19th, agreed to by the House of Delegates:

JOHN TAZEWELL, *C. H. D.*

*December* the 19th, 1776, agreed to by the Senate:

J. PENDLETON, *C. S.*

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BENJAMIN HARRISON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 18th, 1776.

SIR: The express delivered your favour of the 16th this morning, at nine o'clock. Your great willingness to serve the common cause shall never induce me to insist on any thing that may be prejudicial to the State of *Maryland*, particularly when I see no great injury can arise to *America*. The step you have taken in sending up the armed vessel will, I hope, fully answer my purpose.

Captain *Martin* is ordered to proceed on his voyage, which I hope will be attended with all the success you can expect.

I have the honour to be yours and the Council of Safety's most obedient and humble servant,

BENJ. HARRISON.

*Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esq.

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JOHN BURNELL TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 18th, 1776.

SIR: I am to inform you that last night Captain *George Cook* departed, with about sixty or seventy men, Mr. *Auchenbick*, his First Lieutenant, and other officers belonging to the ship *Defence*, under his command, for the *Head of Elk*, from whence they are to proceed to *Philadelphia*, with an intent to join the forces there.

I would have attended him, but was obliged to give place to my senior officer; wherefore I was left in command of the ship till Captain *Cook's* return from the expedition, which I expect will not be till *Howe's* expulsion from the *Jerseys*, which I'm in hopes will be soon.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN BURNELL.

The President of the honourable Council of Safety, *Annapolis.*

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MAJOR DEAKINS TO RICHARD RIDGELY.

George-Town, December 18th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The bearer, Mr. *John Youst*, who has contracted with the Council of Safety for a number of muskets, now waits on them for cash to enable him to carry on his business. He has employed a number of hands, and is now in a good way of doing much work, if he is properly assisted with cash, without which he cannot go on; and you may assure the Council he is a man much to be depended on, and will not deceive them. I have been in his shop, and find him well prepared, as far as I can judge, to carry on the business extensively.

I wrote you some time past for commissions for the officers in a Militia company in the Twenty-Ninth Battalion, and they have not yet come to hand; therefore please send them by the bearer, and you will much oblige, dear sir, your humble servant,

WILL. DEAKINS, Jun.

To Mr. *Richard Ridgely*, Clerk of the Council of Safety, *Annapolis.*

Since writing the above, Colonel *Murdock* has received orders from Brigadier-General *Johnson* to call a meeting of the Twenty-Ninth Battalion, and hold them in readiness till further orders, to march to *Philadelphia;* and as the said battalion have very few effective arms, Colonel *Murdock* requests you will represent to the Council that Mr. *Youst* has fifty-three of the publick arms finished, which he would like to have orders for from the Council to receive.

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COL. HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head of Elk, 18th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIRS: Having just returned from *Philadelphia*, am informed by Colonel *Rumsey* of your order to hold the battalion in readiness to march, which, I doubt not, will be obeyed with cheerfulness, so far as in our power. The want of arms is the only deficiency that at present appears, which I fear cannot be supplied but from your city, as I met a number of the Militia going to *Philadelphia*, all without arms.

Colonel *Rumsey* and myself yesterday examined some chests of arms said to belong to the *Virginia* State, but found them old, and much out of repair. Nor is there time at present to repair them, as orders are expected immediately for marching, in which case, at the request of Colonel *Rumsey*, and in behalf of the battalion, I am emboldened to solicit that arms be forwarded, unless there be a certainty of getting good ones at *Philadelphia*, or some post forward, as it will animate the battalion much to be assured of good arms.

I doubt not of your necessary credentials to some person forward (in authority) to enable us to obtain tents and every other necessary for the battalion; and am, with much esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

H. HOLLINGSWORTH.

To the honourable the Council of Safety, *Maryland.*

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GEN. WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 18th, 1776.

SIR: We have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's favour of the 16th and 17th instant, and shall be attentive to the subjects recommended.

Yesterday Captain *John Rice*, commander of a look-out vessel, which we stationed at *Cape May*, arrived here from his station, and informs us that five of the enemy's ships, with three tenders, are in our Capes. The *Roebuck* and *Fowey* are of the number. The names and force of the others we are ignorant of. We presume they do not intend up our river, unless General *Howe's* future movements should encourage them.

We have sent a quantity of old clothing by the bearer, which may be of some use to such of our fellow-countrymen who are in the Army and are necessitous for want of suitable covering at this inclement season of the year. We request your Excellency will give orders to have them distributed to such as most want them, particularly to the Southern troops, who, we are informed, are in great need.

By order of the Council. I have the honour to be your Excellency's most obedient servant,

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

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GEORGE ROSS TO LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA, COMMITTEE.

Reading, 18th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: General *Mifflin*, at the request of Congress, will be at *Lancaster* on *Saturday*, to devise with you and the Associators the best mode of calling forth the strength of the country; and on consulting with him, this morning I wrote a circular letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, and have sent expresses to Colonels *Grubb*, *Greenwalt*, *Burd*, *Green*, and *Galbreath*, as we thought the notice this way would be earlier than to have troubled you to have sent them from *Lancaster*. You will, I doubt not, procure the

attendance of the officers and privates from the other parts of the country to meet on *Saturday*, and if you please may send my letter, or conduct the matter in any manner you think proper.

I am, with esteem, gentlemen, yours, &c.,

Geo. Ross.

To the honourable Committee, *Lancaster*.

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CIRCULAR.

Reading, 18th December, 1776.

Friends and Fellow-Countrymen: My knowledge of your zeal and affection for your country, and your animated resolution to defend every thing dear and valuable among men, induces me at this period, when all is lost without vigorous exertions of all the power and strength of this State, to call on you without delay to step forth into the field, under confidence in God of the uprightness of your cause, which will insure victory over enemies glorying in every act of outrage and impiety, and debauching your wives and daughters in the face of the sun, as if they were cursed of the Lord. The ravished maiden, the insulted parent, the buffeted hoary head, whose feeble arm cannot resent the injury, nay, their God and your God, call on you to drive from this once happy land those bold and impious invaders of our peace.

Our worthy countryman, General *Mifflin*, at the request of Congress, goes to *Lancaster* on *Saturday*, to assist in forming such measures as to enable you to exert your whole strength at this time. Therefore let as many of the officers and privates of every battalion as conveniently can repair there on that day, and in the mean time inform the whole battalion of the business, that they may be enabled immediately to execute whatever may be determined on in that meeting.

I am, with much esteem, your friend and servant,

G. Ross.

To Colonel , and the officers and privates of his battalion.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 18, 1776.

Sir: I this morning received the honour of your favour of the 8th instant, and beg leave to return your honourable body my warmest acknowledgments for their early attention to my requisition, and assurances of such support as shall be in their power. Circumstances having varied much since I addressed them upon this subject, and being far removed myself from the rendezvous intended for this reinforcement when it was applied for, I have wrote to Major-General *Heath* to concert a plan with Major-General *Lincoln*, and to form with him such dispositions of the troops as they may judge necessary and the exigencies of affairs require. Their arrival I hope will be in due time, and be attended with many important and happy consequences. Were it not for them, in a few days, by reason of the impolicy and fatal system of short inlistments, there would scarcely remain the least shadow of an Army to check the operations of the enemy.

I should be happy if there had been just grounds for the report of the success of our arms at *Hackensack*, but things have been entirely the reverse. By the expiration of the service of the troops denominated Flying-Camp men and their return home on the 1st instant, our force on this side *Hudson's* river, which before that period was unequal to any successful opposition, was reduced to a mere handful. With this small number I have been pushed through *Jersey* by the main body of the enemy's Army, without receiving the least aid from the Militia, notwithstanding the earliest and most pressing solicitations, and for want of their assistance a large part of the State has been exposed to all the effects of ravage and most wanton plunder. The *Delaware* now divides what remains of our little force from that of General *Howe*, whose object beyond all question is to possess himself of *Philadelphia*. They have been industrious in their efforts to procure boats for their transportation, but the precautions I have taken have hitherto rendered their attempts unsuccessful. How things will terminate I must leave to the event itself. As yet I have received but little or no augmentation, except that of the city Militia, who have turned out in a spirited manner.

Convinced that *Philadelphia* was the object of Mr. *Howe's* movements, and the fatal consequences that would attend the loss of it, I wrote for General *Lee* to reinforce me with the troops under his immediate command. By some means or other their arrival has been retarded, and unhappily, on *Friday* last the General, having left his division and proceeded on the flanks three or four miles nearer the enemy, (then eighteen miles from him,) of which they were informed by some Tories, was surprised and carried off, about eleven o'clock, by a party of about seventy Light-Horse. I will not comment upon this unhappy accident. I feel much for his misfortune, and am sensible that in his captivity our country has lost a warm friend and an able officer.

Upon the whole, our affairs are in a much less promising condition than could be wished, yet I think, under the smiles of Providence and by our own exertions, we shall be happy. Our cause is righteous, and must be supported. Every nerve should be strained to levy the new Army. If a respectable one can be procured in season, all may be well. The ensuing campaign will be an important one, and the issue may lead to happiness, or the most melancholy of all events.

I have the honour to be, with sentiments of great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

The Hon. *James Bowdoin*, Esq., President, &c.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 18th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: By a letter just received from the State of *Massachusetts*, (copy of which you have enclosed,) I find that they had ordered six thousand Militia to be immediately raised, and appointed the place of rendezvous at *Danbury*, in *Connecticut*, where they are to meet General *Lincoln*, who is to take the command. You will perceive from the tenour of the letter, that the appearance of the men-of-war and transports off the coast of *New-England*, did not seem to alter their intention of sending the Militia forward; but I am inclined to think, if the descent should really be made, they will find employ for them nearer home. If this considerable reinforcement should arrive with you, I don't know how you could better employ them, or render more essential service to the cause, than, after keeping a sufficient force to guard the passes of the Highlands, by throwing such a number over into *Jersey* as would cover the upper parts of that Province, and afford such support and assistance to the well-affected as would encourage them to join you, and keep the enemy within straiter bounds than they at present are. You may depend that the great end they have in view is, to spread themselves over as much country as they possibly can, and thereby strike a damp into the spirits of the people, which will effectually put a stop to the new inlistment of the Army, on which all our hopes depend, and which they will most vigorously strive to effect. To carry this plan into execution, they have already extended themselves as far westward as the *Delaware*; and if the whole of your Army continue on the east side of *Hudson's* river, they will have possession of all the country between that river and the *Delaware*, which includes the whole Province of *Jersey* and part of *New-York*. As soon as you find yourself in a situation to send a force into the upper parts of *Jersey*, I would have you immediately communicate your intentions to the people, with assurances that you will be ready to back and support them in any movements which they may make in your favour. I am certain that the defection of the people in the lower part of *Jersey* has been as much owing to the want of an army to look the enemy in the face, as to any other cause; though, to be sure, neither cost nor pains has been spared to influence them against us.

Whatever steps you take in this affair, I would wish you to consult and coöperate with General *Lincoln*, of whose judgment and abilities I entertain a very high opinion. I would just add, that your attention should likewise be paid to the country between *Peeks Kill* and *Kingsbridge*; by affording some protection and countenance to them, you may draw supplies, and perhaps some men for the new Army. Particular attention should be paid to the bridge at

*Croton's* river, which secures your front. I enclose you a letter from General *Lincoln*, which please to forward to him wherever he may be.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LINCOLN.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 18 h December, 1776.

Dear Sir: By a letter which I had this day the pleasure of receiving from the President of the Council of *Massachusetts-Bay*, I find that that State had, immediately upon my application, ordered a reinforcement of about six thousand Militia to the Continental Army, and that they had appointed you to the command. Give me leave, sir, to assure you that this appointment gives me the highest satisfaction, as the proofs you exhibited of your zeal for the service in the preceding part of this campaign, convinces me that the command could not have devolved upon a more deserving officer. If the particular circumstances of the Eastern Governments (who are threatened with an invasion themselves) should permit your proceeding on, you will join General *Heath* at *Peekskill*, with all expedition. I have given him directions how to dispose of your men, which is, to endeavour if possible to cover and afford protection to the upper parts of the *Jerseys*, and to the Province of *New-York* below the Highlands. But I have desired him to consult and co-operate with you in the steps necessary to carry this or any other plan into execution.

I am, dear sir, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Lincoln*, *Massachusetts* Militia.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO JOHN AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON.

Camp, near the Falls of Trenton, 18 December, 1776.

Dear Brother: Owing to the number of letters I write, the recollection of any particular one is effaced, but I think my last to you was from *Hackinsac* by Colonel *Woodford*. Since that time, and a little before, our affairs have taken an adverse turn, but not more than was to be expected from the unfortunate measures which had been adopted for the establishment of our Army. The retreat of the enemy from *White Plains* led me to think that they would turn their thoughts to the *Jerseys*, if not farther, and induced me to cross the *North River* with some of the troops, in order if possible to oppose them. I expected to meet at least five thousand men of the Flying-Camp and Militia; instead of which I found less than half of that number, and no disposition in the inhabitants to afford the least aid. This being perfectly well known to the enemy, they threw over a large body of troops, which pushed us from place to place, till we were obliged to cross the *Delaware* with less than three thousand men fit for duty, owing to the dissolution of our force by short inlistments; the enemy's numbers, from the best accounts, exceeding ten or twelve thousand men.

Before I removed to the south side of the river, I had all the boats and other vessels brought over, or destroyed, from *Philadelphia* upwards for seventy miles, and, by guarding the fords, I have, as yet, baffled all their attempts to cross. But, from some late movements of theirs, I am in doubt whether they are moving off for winter quarters, or making a feint to throw us off our guard. Since I came to this side, I have been joined by about two thousand of the city Militia, and I understand that some of the country Militia from the back Counties are on their way. But we are in a very disaffected part of the Province; and, between you and me, I think our affairs are in a very bad condition; not so much from the apprehension of General *Howe*'s Army, as from the defection of *New-York*, the *Jerseys*, and *Pennsylvania*. In short, the conduct of the *Jerseys* has been most infamous. Instead of turning out to defend their country, and affording aid to our Army, they are making submissions as fast as they can. If the *Jerseys* had given us any support, we might have made a stand at *Hackinsac*, and after that at *Brunswic*; but the few Militia that were in arms disbanded themselves, and left the poor remains of our Army to make the best we could of it.

I have no doubt but General *Howe* will still make an attempt upon *Philadelphia* this winter. I foresee nothing to oppose him a fortnight hence, as the time of all the troops, except those of *Virginia*, now reduced almost to nothing, and *Smallwood's* regiment of *Marylanders*, equally as low, will expire before the end of that time. In a word, my dear sir, if every nerve is not strained to recruit the new Army with all possible expedition, I think the game is pretty nearly up, owing, in a great measure, to the insidious arts of the enemy, and disaffection of the Colonies before mentioned, but principally to the ruinous policy of short inlistments, and placing too great a dependence on the Militia, the evil consequences of which were foretold fifteen months ago, with a spirit almost prophetick. Before you receive this letter, you will undoubtedly have heard of the captivity of General *Lee*. This is an additional misfortune, and the more vexatious, as it was by his own folly and imprudence, and without a view to effect any good, that he was taken. As he went to lodge three miles out of his own camp, and within twenty of the enemy, a rascally Tory rode in the night to give notice of it to the enemy, who sent a party of Light-Horse that seized him, and carried him off, with every mark of triumph and indignity.

You can form no idea of the perplexity of my situation. No man, I believe, ever had a greater choice of difficulties, and less means to extricate himself from them. However, under a full persuasion of the justice of our cause, I cannot entertain an idea that it will finally sink, though it may remain for some time under a cloud.

My love and sincere regards attend my sister and the family, with compliments to all inquiring friends. With every sentiment of friendship, as well as love, I am your most affectionate brother.

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COLONEL HARRISON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 18th, 1776.

Dear General: By Colonel *Sheldon* you will receive one hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, which I am directed by his Excellency to inform you is for the payment of the troops left at *Peekskill* and the neighbourhood of it, including General *Wadsworth's* brigade, and for recruiting and other necessary services. The demands of the Commissary or Quartermaster are not to be drawn from this sum. If Colonel *Sheldon*, who is appointed to raise a regiment of Cavalry, should stand in need of a further supply of money than he now has for that purpose, you will furnish him with such as he may apply for and the circumstances of your chest will allow you to grant.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

Rob't H. Harrison.

To the Hon. General *Heath*.

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RICHARD DALLAM TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, New-Town, December 18th, 1776.

Sir: Colonel *Palfrey*, the Paymaster-General, has joined the Army; and as the Flying-Camp will in a few days be discharged, my stay here will be but of little service, as the Militia may all be settled by the Paymaster-General; therefore beg the favour of you to let me know what orders Congress have for me. If they have any thing in *Maryland*, it would be most agreeable, as my family is there; though I shall, to render any material service to the States, give my domestick enjoyments up cheerfully.

The situation of the Flying-Camp has been such that it was impossible for the officers with regularity to draw pay for their men, which induced the General to draw several sums of money to be paid on account, which it was out of my power to settle with the officers at the time they were discharged, for then we were in the greatest confusion, and ever since I have been moving about, that I have not been able to do any thing; but I hope I shall have all ready for those that remain by the 1st *January*.

Our scouts bring accounts that the enemy are retreating to *Brunswick*, and propose going into winter quarters, but I fear it's too good news to be true. We are daily taking off some of the enemy's Light-Horse.

I beg your answer, and am, honourable sir, your Honour's most obedient,

Richard Dallam, *D. P. M. Gen'l.*

COLONEL HARCOURT TO ADMIRAL GEARY.

Brunswick, New-Jersey, in America, December 18, 1776.

Sir: It is with infinite reluctance I find myself under the very disagreeable necessity of communicating to you an event which must, I am persuaded, give you the utmost concern. Cornet *Geary* having been ordered to advance with a party some miles into the country to procure intelligence of the enemy's situation, was upon his return from that duty fired upon by a party of the Rebels, who had concealed themselves on each side of the road by which he proposed to have passed. Unfortunately a ball took place, which in one moment deprived you of a son, and the regiment of an officer, whose loss cannot be sufficiently lamented.

I have only to add, that I am, with very sincere regard, your most obedient, humble servant,

Wm. Harcourt.

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RECOMMENDATION OF CAPTAIN PERRY.

*To his Excellency General* Washington, *Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the* United Colonies of North-America:

We, the subscribers, two of the Field Officers of the regiment late the Twenty-Eighth, would inform your Excellency that *James Perry* was a Captain in the same regiment; and although in the arrangement of officers for the present year he has been left out, it was not owing to any dislike we had to him personally. On the contrary, we look on him to be an officer of merit, and one who has behaved highly becoming the character of an officer; and should there be a vacancy, and your Excellency think proper to appoint him, we can recommend him, and think he will prove worthy the commission he may sustain.

Paul Dudley Sargent,
Jon'a Williams Austin.

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JONATHAN POLLARD TO PIERRE VAN CORTLANDT.

Head-Quarters, Paramus, December 18th, 1776.

Sir: By order of Major-General *Heath*, I hereby send you a number of prisoners, four of which are prisoners of war, viz: two soldiers, one Light-Horseman, and five sailors. The rest are State prisoners. The General sends them forward, knowing this not to be a proper place for them, and begs the care of your Convention towards them.

I have the pleasure, by his desire, to inform you of the success of our march, which has already been attended with some good consequences, as there has fallen into our hands a large quantity of stores, besides arms, drums, &c.

I have the honour to be, with respect, sir, your most humble servant,

Jon'a Pollard, *A. D. Camp.*

To Colonel *Pierre Van Cortlandt.*

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COLONEL FORD TO GENERAL HEATH.

Chatham, 18th December, 1776, 5 o'clock.

Sir: Since writing my last I have certain intelligence that the troops we engaged last night were General *Leslie's* brigade, who marched some few days since from *Elizabeth-Town* to the southard. They received an order to counter-march to the same place. That brigade is from twelve to thirteen hundred strong, and the *Waldeckers* upwards of four hundred. At *Spank-Town*, six miles to the southard of *Elizabeth-Town*, there is five hundred *British* troops. This is all the enemy you have to combat in this country at present. We are not certain whether the enemy who attacked us have or have not yet returned to *Elizabeth-Town*. Lord *Stirling* is on this side the river *Delaware*, with a small detachment joined to General *Sullivan*, with orders not to recross the river, if my intelligence be good, and I believe it is.

I am, your most obedient, Jacob Ford, Jun.

To Major-General *Heath.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL FORD.

Pyramus, 18th December, 1776, 9 o'clock in y^e^ evening.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 17th and 18th I have just received. I have great expectations of Colonel *Vose's* remaining with you at least a few days, until he can receive express orders from General *Washington*, to whom I have desired to apply for further directions. I wish to afford you every assistance in my power, consistent with the general good of the country. The movement of our Army on this side the *North* river, I apprehend to be the reason of the return of *Leslie's* brigade. I have this day intelligence of the arrival of part of the King's troops at *Hackensack;* that a considerable number are at *Fort Lee* and that neighbourhood, and a large detachment gone up the *North River*, besides *Leslie's* brigade, who are said to have been this morning at *Newark.* My misfortune is to be in a country from which no intelligence can be relied on from the inhabitants. I have sent out scouts, which will return this night, and from whom I expect more certain accounts of the situation and numbers of the enemy at *Fort Lee*, if any there. If I find no enemy in that quarter, or at *Hackensack*, I shall be able to afford you some aid from the Continental troops of General *Parsons's* brigade, and the troops under General *Clinton* now with me. The number of the troops with me, and our particular intentions, may be explained more fully by the gentleman you entrusted with your express. As intelligence is the greatest difficulty I find in this part of the country, I wish you to establish a regular daily intelligencer from you to me, which will enable us to coöperate in any measures to defeat the intentions of our enemies. I shall wish to be informed as early to-morrow as possible, of the motions, number, and probable intentions of the enemy, as far as you have been able to ascertain them; and by the return of the express, I hope to be able to give you a more certain answer than at present is in my power.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

W. Heath.

Colonel *Ford.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL M^c^DOUGALL.

Pyramus, 18th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: I acknowledge the receipt of your favour of yesterday. From the intelligence contained in it, and two letters from Colonel *Ford* of yesterday and this day's date, I think it most prudent and would advise you to detain the troops under the command of Colonel *Vose* until you shall know his Excellency General *Washington's* pleasure respecting them, after having given him a full account as well of your situation and strength as that of the enemy in your quarter. At the same time, I would not be understood as giving any positive order concerning them, as they do not belong to my division. I cannot at present move farther westward without risking a quantity of valuable stores, which I took at *Hackinsack*, and are now here, and leaving this part of the country entirely exposed to the ravages of the enemy; and if I may credit accounts received this day, which come very straight, I may soon expect a visit from the enemy, with much superiour numbers, from two quarters, to wit: by *Tappan* and *Second* river; and this evening I am informed, and have no reason to doubt, that a considerable party of them have crossed the ferry, about three miles below *Hackinsack* town. I am but about six hundred strong of my own division. General *George Clinton*, who has marched the whole of the *Ulster* and *Orange* Counties Militia to *Haverstraw*, and has this evening joined me with six hundred of them. This he has done contrary to a most express and positive order of the Convention of your State, making a justification of his conduct in this instance entirely upon the propriety and necessity of reinforcing me in this quarter and covering the stores we have removed from *Hackensack;* but the moment I move westward of this, unless he is well assured the enemy mean not to move up *Hudson's* river, he will retire to the passes in the Highlands, agreeable to his orders; indeed, were he not to do so, he would be censurable in my own opinion. It is evident to me that my entering *Huckinsack* in the manner I did, and the stand made by the Militia under Colonel *Ford*, has occasioned the calling back General *Leslie's* brigade, who were on their march to join the enemy's main army. This being the case, it can't remain a doubt but it is our interest to keep up a diversion, which detains numbers of them from joining their main army, far superiour to what we employ for the purpose. I could wish to hear from you and Colonel *Ford* every day, that I may know the situation and strength of the enemy in your quar-

ter, as it may so happen that we may be able to attack them in different quarters at the same time to great advantage, without exposing this part of the country. I would only add, that my sentiments respecting the detaining of *Vose's* troops is strengthened by that of General *Parsons's* and *Clinton's* opinion on that subject; and that I am, with much esteem, your most obedient servant,

W. Heath.

General *McDougall.*

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INVOICE OF EFFECTS TAKEN AT HACKENSACK, 1776.

*An Inventory of Stores taken at* Hackensack, *and turned into the Continental Store, viz:* Paramus, *December 17th:*

160 barrels flour.
7 firkins butter, from the brig.
13 old sacks, 7 coils rigging, from the sloop.
12 boxes cordials, do.
4 do. soap, do.
2 boxes spermaceti candles, do.
3 casks loaf sugar, do.
2 casks, partly full, brown sugar.
2 barrels *New-England* rum, do.
1 barrel crockery and china, do.
3 barrels and 1 qr. cask wine, uncertain out of which.
3 tierces and 2 barrels bottled liquor, do. do.
2 small boxes bottles, one empty, do. do.
1 barrel books, do. do.
2 small kegs ginger, - - - - *Buskirk's* store.
1 keg molasses.
8 hogsheads *West-India* rum, do.
2 hogsheads *New-England*, do. do.
7 hogsheads and 1 tierce gin, do.
1 bundle linen,
1 quarter-cask gin,
1 do. cherry rum, partly full, } do.
1 barrel books,
2 demijohns, 1 jug spirits,
1 box of preserved pickles,
3 pipes of wine, *Anderson's* store.

Elisha Brewster, *Assistant Commissary.*

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JONATHAN POLLARD TO COMMISSARY CHEEVER.

Head-Quarters, Paramus, December 18th.

Sir: The General sends to you, to be received in the stores, arms, two drums, &c., which he desires may be marked and carefully placed by themselves, ready to be delivered when called for.

I am, sir, yours,

Jona. Pollard, *A. D. Camp.*

To Commissary *Cheever.*

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SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 18th December, 1776.

My Lord: By Major *Cuyler's* arrival in the *Despencer* packet, on the 15th instant, I had the honour of your Lordship's triplicate of the 22d *August*, and enclosure, with your letter of 30th *September*, and three of 18th *October*.

The King's most gracious approbation of the behaviour of his officers and soldiers, *British* and *Hessians*, is received by them with a sense of gratitude, equal to that zeal which they have demonstrated, and, I make no doubt, will continue to exert upon all occasions for his Majesty's service. The testimony also, which your Lordship has done me the honour to convey, of his Majesty's condescension in taking notice of my humble endeavours to discharge the duty I owe to my Royal master, being the height of my ambition, I humbly beg your Lordship will do me the honour to express my most grateful feelings for such unmerited goodness.

The exchange of prisoners by agreement with Mr. *Washington* has not been so generally complied with as I had reason to expect; but the officers and men of the Seventh and Twenty-Sixth Regiments are mostly returned, and several of those of the Forty-Second and Seventy-First. Lieutenant-Colonel *Campbell*, with most of the officers and men taken with him, are still detained, which may make it necessary for me to send an officer purposely to remonstrate upon the injustice of this delay.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

W. Howe.

SAMUEL BREWSTER TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

New-Windsor, 18th December, 1776.

Gentlemen: It was suggested to this Committee yesterday evening that *Thomas Ellison's* sloop, of this place, was loading goods on board, the property of the Rev. Mr. *Inglis*, in order to be sent to *New-York*, on which the Committee gave orders that in case the sloop should move from the dock, a guard should take her into custody until they should be assured of the legality of such an act. This morning a guard took her into possession, on which Mr. *Ellison* showed the officer of the same an order from the honourable the Convention of this State, for transporting certain goods on board a flag of truce below the Highlands. The officer immediately informed the Committee of the aforesaid order, who were of opinion the order must be spurious, otherwise the honourable Convention would have advised this Committee of the matter, as it was to be transacted within their bounds; and as Committees exist by the election of the people and recommendations of the honourable Congress, they conceive themselves as a mere nullity, if they are not to take cognizance of such affairs, or be advised of them when determined on by their superiours. Farther, the Committee were induced to believe the aforesaid order to be spurious, as the property of many of their brethren is either taken from them by the rapacious hands of tyrants, or wantonly destroyed; they could not believe the honourable Convention would grant a permit to have the property of those whose characters are not only suspicious, but avowed enemies to the cause of *American* liberty, secured in a place of safety, (as they conceive,) while the property of some thousands of our brethren lies exposed to our unnatural enemy.

We therefore have taken the liberty to stop the sloop until one of our members wait on the honourable Convention to know the certainty of this matter.

We are, gentlemen, with the greatest esteem, your most obedient, humble servants.

By order of the Committee:

Sam'l Brewster, *Chairman.*

To the honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York.*

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, } Fishkill, December 18th, 1776. }

Whereas information has this day been given to this Committee that it is probable that, under cover of the flag of truce on board of which the wives of Messrs. *Inglis*, *Livingston*, and *Moore*, with the families and effects of their husbands, are to be conveyed from *New-Windsor*, by Mr. *Thomas Elliston's* sloop, property to a considerable value belonging to other persons within this State may be conveyed in the said sloop:

*Resolved, therefore*, That Major *Fish* and the Committee at *New-Windsor* shall, and are hereby authorized to, to take such ways and means for preventing such conveyance of such property as aforesaid as they, or the majority of them, shall think proper.

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THOMAS PALMER'S CERTIFICATE.

I hereby certify that the bearer hereof, *Robert Carscadden*, is an excellent workman at spinning-wheel making, and that he and his son is constantly and most necessarily employed in that business. The former resource to *New-York* and *Long-Island* being now cut off, and the many good crops of flax in this country, causes the call for wheels very great; and besides the call from the country, Mr. *Scadden* informs me that he is employed by an agent from the Convention of this State to make a number for them. He therefore thinks his son, who is now ordered to march with the rest of the Militia, can be of more real service to the country in staying at home and continuing at the business of wheel-making. I am also of his opinion; for in case he goes into the service their wheel-making business must cease. As Mr. *Scadden* has a large family, it commonly takes up the greatest part of one man's time at the business out-doors; I therefore think for the good of the country that Mr. *Scadden's* son should be excused.

Thos. Palmer.

New-Burgh, 18th December, 1776.

To all whom it may concern.

THADDEUS BURR TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Fairfield, 18th December, 1776.

Sir: This is to inform you, that I have in the gaol and under my care, seventeen prisoners, in close confinement, among whom are two regular soldiers, who were taken up by our guards. They say that they were taken in *Boston* harbour last spring, and made their escape from the Committee at *Springfield*. I have wrote to them, but cannot get any answer from them; think it my duty to let your Honour know that I have them; and should be glad of your Honour's directions what to do with them. Fourteen of the others are confined for being inimical to the States, and are bound over to the Superiour Court. It is extremely difficult to keep them in this cold weather. Would it not, therefore, be better to have a special Superiour Court, or bail some of them? One, viz: Mr. *Joseph Hoit*, was out upon bail, but the Government's Committee thought proper to send him to gaol; he is now very unwell, as are several of the others, and earnestly request that they may be enlarged.

Your Honour's directions in these matters will greatly oblige your real friend and very humble servant,

Thaddeus Burr.

To the Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq.

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WILLIAM JUDD TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Westmoreland, December 18th, 1776.

Sir: By the hand of *Jonathan Fitch*, Esq., I was favoured with a certificate of my appointment to a Captaincy in the Continental service. The duty I owe my country, and the gratitude due to friends, are strong motives urging me to accept the appointment; but when I consider this infant country and settlement, and the probability of Colonel *Butler's* leaving it at so critical a season, rather consider it as my duty to remain here for the present. Captain *Robert Durkee*, who commands these two companies of troops stationed here, is very desirous of joining the Army. Could he be allowed to take my place in the Army, and I have his berth at this place, it would be agreeable to me, for the reasons aforementioned. My inclination strongly urges me to the service of my country; and were it not for the regard I have to this settlement, would immediately enter into the service. Should I be so happy as to succeed in my wish, I hope I may be allowed the rank of Major, though I expect to receive no more than Captain's pay or rations. My reasons are, that I may not be commanded by the other Captain stationed here, which will be the case provided I cannot obtain the rank of Major, as his commission will be older than mine. I have wrote to General *Parsons* to the same purpose. Captain *Durkee* is gone to the Army. I humbly hope for your Honour's influence with the Congress for that purpose.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

Wm. Judd.

To Governour *Trumbull*.

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CAPTAIN BRAINERD TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Haddam, 18th December, 1776.

Sir: I beg leave to inform your Honour that I have served in the Militia for more than thirty years, and for some years past as Captain of the third company in the Seventh Regiment in this State; that I am advanced in age, being about fifty years old, and my health much impaired by a rheumatick disorder, which renders me very unfit for actual service. I therefore humbly desire your Honour to send me by Doctor *Brainerd* a dismission from said office, and orders to lead said company to a new choice; and hope I may be authorized to make return to the Assembly now sitting.

I am your Honour's most humble servant,

Eliakim Brainerd.

To his Honour Governour *Trumbull*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO CAPTAIN J. PAUL JONES.

Providence, December 18th, 1776.

Sir: I received yours of the 15th instant, and am very glad to hear you are safe arrived, as it would have been impossible for you to have got in here. I wish your prizes may get in safe. If you can, you may hire a pilot to go in some small vessel off, or about *Nantucket*, to give the prize-masters an account of our situation here, and order the prizes to *Boston*.

As to any alteration of the *Alfred*, I have received no orders from the Marine Committee about that matter, owing, I suppose, to the difficulty of the times. And as Captain *Hinman* has a commission for the *Alfred*, do not know at present but it may be best for him to take her, and for you to go on board the *Columbus*; however, shall write or come down to *Boston* soon. In the mean time you will get the ship along side the wharf and her stores secured. And as some of the men's times are out that they inlisted for, you may get their accounts settled and give them an order for the balance, taking care to charge what was advanced them in *Philadelphia*. Those who belong to *Philadelphia*, or have wives there, you will give an order on Mr. *James Read* for one half their wages, and pay the rest, and call on Mr. *John Bradford* for money to enable you so to do, who I have wrote to supply you.

If my son *Esek* wants to come home to see his friends, you will be kind enough to give him leave.

The owners of the privateer made a great noise about your taking the men out of her, and have brought an action; but I think they will make nothing of it. We have likewise brought an action against Captain *Field* for taking our men.

I am, sir, your friend and humble servant,

Esek Hopkins, *Cr. in Chief.*

P. S. You will deliver the prisoners you have on board the *Alfred* to the officers of the State you are in.

To *John P. Jones*, Esq., Commander of the *Alfred*, at *Boston*.

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NOTE OF THE TIME OF MATERIAL OCCURRENCES DURING THE ALFRED'S CRUISE IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1776.

1776, *November* 10. Took the brig *Active*, commanded by *Isaac Fox*, from *Liverpool*.

*November* 13. We took the *Mellish*, from *London*, commanded by *Stevenson*, bound to *Quebeck*.

*November* 16. Took the snow *Hettey*, from *Gaspey*, bound to *Barbadoes*, commanded by *Charles Ross*.

*November* 18. We had a strong gale from N. N. E., with rain and snow, and dark weather; lost sight of the sloop *Providence*.

*November* 22. Our boats was on shore at *Canso;* two men deserted.

*November* 24. Took the *Betty, Polly*, and the *Surprise*, all from *Spanish* river, with coals for *New-York;* lost *Isaac Hart*.

*November* 25. Sent our yawl after two ships in sight, but they made sail from the yawl, and being foggy, the boat returned.

*November* 26. We took the *John*, from *Liverpool*, bound to *Halifax, Edward Watkins*.

*December* 6. Lost sight of the prize *Polly, James Buckup*. Strong gale from the west.

*December* 8. Lost sight of the *Mellish* and *Betsey*.

*December* 9. Was chased by a large ship, which we supposed to be an *English* frigate. Parted with the *John* and *Surprise*.

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ORDERS TO COMMANDERS OF PRIZES.

By *J. P. Jones*, Captain of the *American* ship-of-war the *Alfred*, senior officer in the original fleet, and commander of the present squadron off the coast of *Newfoundland*.

Sir: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the ship *Betty*. You are required and directed to keep company with me, and obey all my future orders, and all signals made on board here, agreeable to the copy of signals which you receive herewith for your government. Should you unfortunately be separated from the squadron, you are to proceed with all possible despatch to the most convenient port within the *United States of America*. I would advise you to proceed through *Nantucket Shoals* to *Rhode-Island*. Be careful of the ship, with her cargo and stores. Let nothing under your care be wasted or misused. Your

careful attention to these things will promote your future interest.

Given on board the *Alfred*, *November* 25th, 1776.

J. P. Jones.

To *Samuel Tiley*, Esq., Commander of the ship *Betty*.

N. B. Your station in the squadron is on the *Alfred's* larboard quarter. The day and night signals to be made with or without a gun. Meeting after separation: Those to windward shall clew up their main-top-sail, and spread an ensign on the main-top-mast backstay from the cross-trees downwards; and those to leeward shall answer by clewing up their fore-top-sail, and spreading an ensign on the fore-top-mast backstay.

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ORDERS TO JOHN P. RATHBUN.

By *John Paul Jones*, Captain of the *American* ship of war the *Alfred*, senior officer in the original fleet, and commander of the present squadron off the coast of *Newfoundland*:

Sir: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the ship *John*; and as she is armed for war, you are to keep company with me, and observe and obey all future directions from me, and all signals made on board here. You receive herewith a copy of signals for your government; and should we fall in with any of the enemy's ships of war, you are to give me all possible assistance. Should you unfortunately be separated from the squadron, you are to proceed with all possible despatch to the most convenient port within the *United States of America*. I would advise you to proceed through *Nantucket Shoals* to *Rhode-Island*. Your careful attention to these things will secure my regard and promote your own interest.

Given on board the ship *Alfred*, *November* 25th, 1776.

J. P. Jones.

To *John P. Rathbun*, Esq., Commander of the ship *John*.

N. B. Your station in the squadron is at the distance of two or three cables' lengths from the *Alfred's* starboard quarter, and you are at no time to leave that station without orders.

The day and night signals will be made with or without a gun. Meeting again after separation: Those to windward shall clew up their main-top-sail and spread an ensign on the main-top-mast backstay from the cross-trees downwards; and those to leeward shall answer by clewing up their fore-top-sail and spreading an ensign on the fore-top-mast backstay.

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JOHN P. RATHBUN TO CAPTAIN JONES.

Monday, November the 25th.

Captain *Jones*:

Sir: As your orders by Lieutenant *Hamilton* works such an effect upon the Captain, and I can't find that he any ways encouraged the people to behave as they did, but on the contrary took a cutlass from one of them, I would beg it as a favour if your Honour would please to let him tarry on board, as he is unwell.

Sir, I have the honour to style myself your most obedient humble servant,

John P. Rathbun.

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ORDERS TO PHILIP BROWN.

By *John Paul Jones*, Captain of the *American* ship of war the *Alfred*, senior officer in the original fleet, and commander in the present squadron off the coast of *Newfoundland*:

Sir: You herewith receive a general copy of signals for your government as commander of our prize the *Mellish*. You are to observe my former directions, and your station in the squadron shall now be on the *Alfred's* starboard quarter, at the distance of two or three cables' lengths; and you are hereby directed to continue in that station, and at no time leave it without orders, unless to prevent imminent danger.

Given on board the ship *Alfred*, *November* 25th, 1776.

J. P. Jones.

To *Philip Brown*, Esq., Commander of the ship *Mellish*.

ORDERS TO JOHN MARGERON.

By *John Paul Jones*, Commander of the *American* ship of war the *Alfred*, and senior officer in the original fleet.

Sir: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the ship *Betty*. You are directed to keep company with me, and to obey all future orders from me, as well as all signals, agreeable to the copy now on board the *Betty* for your government. Should you unfortunately lose company with me, you are to proceed to the nearest safe port within the *United States of America*.

Given at sea, on board the *Alfred*, *December* 8th, 1776.

J. P. Jones.

To Mr. *John Margeron*, Commander of the ship *Betty*.

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ORDERS TO ROBERT SAUNDERS.

By *John Paul Jones*, Commander of the *American* ship of war the *Alfred*, and senior officer of the original fleet.

Sir: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the ship *John*. You are to use your utmost endeavours to navigate her with all possible expedition through the shoals of *Nantucket* to the State of *Rhode-Island*. If you find, from the situation of affairs, that it is unsafe to proceed to *Rhode-Island*, you may make the best of your way into any other port within the *United States of America*. You are to endeavour to keep company with the ship *Surprise*, and Mr. *Tyler*, the master, (who is a pilot,) will have orders to keep company with you.

Given at sea, on board the *Alfred*, *December*, 1776.

J. P. Jones.

To *Robert Saunders*, Esq., Commander of the ship *John*.

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ORDERS TO THE COMMANDER OF THE SHIP PROVIDENCE.

By *John Paul Jones*, Captain of the *American* ship of war the *Alfred*, senior officer in the original fleet, and Commander of the present squadron off the coast of *Newfoundland*.

Sir: You are hereby appointed commander of our prize the ship *Surprise*; and as you are a professed pilot through *Nantucket Shoals*, you are to keep company with and assist Lieutenant *Saunders* to navigate our prize the ship *John*, through that channel into *Rhode-Island*, unless you find it unsafe to proceed there; and in that case you are to proceed to the nearest and safest port within the *United States of America*.

Given at sea, on board the *Alfred*, *December*, 1776.

J. P. Jones.

To *Tyler*, Commander of the ship *Providence*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD.

On board the Warren, near Providence, December 18th, 1776.

Sir: I received a letter from Captain *Jones*, of the *Alfred*. If he should want any supplies you will supply him, and charge the same to the Continent. I have wrote my son, who is on board the *Alfred*, to call on you for what he wants, and if he is coming home you may pay him as much of my share of what prize money you have in your hands, and his receipt shall be your discharge.

I hope Captain *Jones's* prizes may get safe into your State, not so much on account of their value, as the want the country is in for the cargoes of some of them.

I am, sir, your friend and humble servant,

Esek Hopkins.

To *John Bradford*, Esq., Agent for the Continental Fleet at *Boston*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO ESEK HOPKINS, JUN.

Providence, December 18th, 1776.

Dear Son: I received yours, and have wrote to Mr. *John Bradford*, Agent, to pay you all my share of prize money in his hands, which you may receive and make use of as much as is necessary, and bring the rest home to me. I have wrote to Captain *Jones* to let you come home; but would have you get your account from the clerk stated, and get Captain *Jones* to sign it. Your mother, brothers, and sisters are well.

I am your affectionate father, Esek Hopkins.

To Mr. *Esek Hopkins*, Jun., on board the *Alfred*, at *Boston*.

GOVERNOUR OF RHODE-ISLAND TO THE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Providence, December 18, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The scarcity of intrenching tools within this State is such that many of the troops stationed here are quite unemployed. It will be not only for the health and advantage of the troops to keep them to moderate labour, but will likewise hasten the completing the works which are necessary for the defence of this State. The Hon. General *Lincoln* informs me that your State have a considerable quantity of intrenching tools. I have therefore sent Mr. *Josiah Draper* to request your Honours to deliver him two hundred and fifty pick-axes, two hundred and fifty iron shovels, fifty narrow axes, and twenty crowbars, for the use of the troops here. He will give his receipt for the same.

I have no doubt, from the ready assistance you have heretofore afforded us upon every occasion, that you will comply with his request; wherefore I have ordered Mr. *Draper* to proceed forthwith with a wagon to receive them.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

NICH'S COOKE.

To the honourable Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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Boston, 20 December, 1776.

Received of *Richard Devens*, Esq., Commissary-General for the *Massachusetts* State, the following intrenching tools, viz: twenty iron crowbars, fifty narrow axes, two hundred and fifty pick-axes, one hundred and eight spades, twenty *Dutch* spades, and one hundred and twenty-two iron-shod shovels; received in behalf of the State of *Rhode-Island*, for which have given another receipt.

ABIJAH DRAPER.

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GENERAL LINCOLN TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Providence, December 18, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I arrived here this day, about noon. I find great want of intrenching tools. We have information that an attack is soon designed on this place. I hope it will not be immediately. We are not ready to receive the enemy. Matters are not in that state, nor are the troops so regulated, as to give any rational hopes of success. A little time will give a new face to affairs here, if the *New-England* States act like themselves, with fortitude and zeal, of which I can't doubt. In my opinion, it is absolutely necessary to forward the tools sent for by Governour *Cooke;* indeed somewhere they must be had. They are not here. From the Continental Army we cannot have them. The State of *Massachusetts-Bay* has them. They must exert themselves in this as in all other matters. A more particular state of affairs I will give by the next opportunity.

I am, with the most perfect regard, your Honour's most obedient servant,

BENJA. LINCOLN.

Hon. *James Bowdoin*, Esq. To be communicated.

P. S. If tools are not now in the Commissary's store, they may be collected from *Hull*, the Islands, &c., and if necessary replaced by the neighbouring towns.

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JAMES BOWDOIN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

State of Massachusetts-Bay, Council Chamber, Boston, December 18th, 1776.

SIR: This State, agreeable to the recommendation of Congress, have some time since taken measures for raising their quota of the Continental Army. It appears, by a resolution passed by Congress the 16th of *September* last, that the moneys to be given for bounties is to be paid by the Paymaster in the department where the soldier shall inlist. A number of men have inlisted into the service, and the officers are at a loss of whom they are to receive the twenty dollars bounty for the men. General *Ward* informs us that the Paymaster has not as yet received any orders to pay this bounty money; and if he had, he has no money to pay it; neither has the General received any orders to draw upon the Paymaster for this purpose. As it is of the last importance to raise these men for the Continental Army without the least delay, we submit it to the consideration of Congress whether it will not be absolutely necessary to give orders for this purpose immediately, and to furnish the Paymaster with a sum sufficient to pay the bounties aforesaid.

While the General Court were contemplating upon measures for raising our quota of the new Army, General *Washington*, in consequence of the advice of a Council of War, requested that this State would, as soon as possible, send him a reinforcement of four thousand more from our Militia, to supply the place of those who were about returning home, to continue in the service till the first of *March* next, by which time he hoped the new Army would be levied; and this requisition from General *Washington* was soon after seconded by General *Lee*, who signified that a greater number would be necessary. In compliance with those requisitions, this State have ordered one quarter part of the able-bodied men in the Militia at home to march to reinforce the Army near *New-York*. In the midst of our executing this business, we have been called upon by the Governour of *Rhode-Island* to afford assistance to that State, to defend them against the enemy's fleet and army arrived in that State. They consist of above one hundred sail of ships, and, as Governour Cooke writes, with not more than seven nor less than five thousand troops. They have got possession of the island of *Rhode-Island*, and it is probable are meditating an impression into the country. We have, therefore, ordered the one quarter part of the Militia of the County of *Barnstable* (which was destined for *New-York*) to march to *Providence;* and have also ordered the whole of the Militia of the Counties of *Plymouth* and *Bristol*, together with one regiment from the County of *Suffolk* and two regiments from the County of *Worcester*, and a company of train from *Boston*, to march to the same place, for their relief and assistance. This will naturally lessen and impede the reinforcement designed for the Army near *New-York*.

We have also, in consequence of a letter from General *Schuyler*, ordered the one quarter part of the Militia of the County of *Berkshire*, and half the quarter part of the Militia of the County of *Hampshire*, (both of which were destined for the Army near *New-York*,) to march to *Albany*, there to follow the orders of General *Schuyler*.

Notwithstanding these several urgent calls, the General Court are fully impressed with the necessity of raising a new Army, and are determined vigorously to exert themselves in accomplishing this all-important measure.

This State, in pursuance of the recommendation of Congress, have appointed *Nathaniel Appelton*, Esq., Commissioner of the Loan Office, though they have little or no expectation of his borrowing any money upon the terms prescribed by Congress.

In the name and behalf of Council.

I am, respectfully, sir, your most humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN, *President*.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO COLONEL CRAFTS.

War Office, Boston, December 18th, 1776.

SIR: By extracts from the commission of the Board of War, you will perceive that the command of all the forces in the pay of this State has devolved upon them. They therefore expect from you an obedience to such orders as they may issue from time to time; and relying upon your continued exertions in the duties of your department, they will make them as light to you, your officers, and men, as the necessity of the service will admit.

By order of the Board:

S. P. SAVAGE, *President p. t.*

Colonel *Thomas Crafts*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO COMMISSARY NEWMAN.

War Office, Boston, December 18, 1776.

SIR: You are hereby acquainted that twenty casks of rice are this day to be forwarded to *Rehoboth* from *Dartmouth*, for the use of the troops now in the State of *Rhode-Island*, and which belong to this State. They are ordered to the care of Major *Wm. Thompson* there, and you will take care to supply yourself from thence, as often as exigencies require.

I'm your humble servant. By order of the Board:

JAMES SWAN, *Secretary p. t.*

Commissary *Newman*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO THE COUNCIL OF THE STATE.

War Office, Boston, December 18th, 1776.

Upon application to Colonel *Orr*, for a number of cannon, cannon-shot, and small-arms, he represents that though the materials and the furnace are in readiness, his armourers and workmen are all taken off in the late alarm. The Board of War take the liberty to suggest to your Honours the expediency of an order to the commanding officer of the Militia near *Rhode-Island*, for the discharge of so many of said workmen as may be necessary to improve works erected at a great publick expense; the Board of War being of opinion that the publick service will be more effectually prosecuted by the employment of the workmen in their several occupations than in the Militia.

We are your Honours' most humble servants.

By order of the Board:

S. P. Savage, *President p. t.*

To the honourable Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay.*

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TRISTRAM DALTON TO JOHN AVERY.

Newburyport, December 18, 1776.

Sir: I this morning received your favour of the 16th instant, covering a resolution of the honourable Board, directing the Committee appointed the 16th ultimo by the Court to proceed to *Providence*, there to meet, on the 23d instant, Committees from the other States of *New-England*, on affairs mentioned in said resolution.

Ever willing to serve my country, I shall endeavour to obey this new instruction from the honourable Council, of which I beg the favour of your acquainting them.

I am, with respect, sir, your most humble servant,

Tristram Dalton.

*John Avery*, Esq., Deputy Secretary.

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RESOLUTION OF VIRGINIA ASSEMBLY FOR REMOVAL OF ENGLISH SUBJECTS FROM THE STATE.

In General Assembly, December 19, 1776.

Whereas the King of *Great Britain* hath waged war against this Commonwealth and the *United American States*, and there are within this Commonwealth divers merchants and others, subjects of the said King, who, while they remain here, have frequent opportunities of seducing and corrupting the minds of the people, and are suspected of holding correspondence with and giving intelligence to the enemy:

*Resolved, nemine contradicente*, That the Governour and Council be desired to cause all such persons to depart this Commonwealth, by immediately putting in execution the statute staple of the 27th of *Edward* III., chapter 17th, against all natives of *Great Britain* who were partners with, factors, agents, storekeepers, assistant storekeepers, or clerks here, for any merchant or merchants in *Great Britain*, at the time the act of the *British* Parliament for restraining the trade of *America*, and seizing our property upon the water, took place, except only such of them as has heretofore uniformly manifested a friendly disposition to the *American* cause, or are attached to this country by having wives or children here; and such subjects of the said King, as shall satisfy the Governour and Council that they have not been able to procure other means of departure, may have their passage to any foreign port, in such vessels employed in the service of this Commonwealth as the Governour and Council shall direct. And that all, or any of them, who shall be found here after the time respectively allowed them to depart, shall be confined as enemies and prisoners of war. And for furnishing the Governour and Council with proper information, the Justices of the several County Courts are empowered and required immediately to make inquiry for all such subjects of the said King residing within their respective Counties, and, after due examination had, to cause a list of their names to be entered upon record, and direct their clerk to transmit a copy thereof to the Governour. And that a copy of this resolve, together with a copy of the aforesaid statute staple, be forthwith printed in the *Virginia Gazette*.

Arch. Cary, *Sp. Senate.*

Edm. Pendleton, *Sp. H. D.*

27*th of* Edward III., *Chapter XVII.*

*A merchant stranger shall not be impeached for another's debt, but upon good cause. Merchants of enemies countries sell their goods in convenient time, and depart.*

(*Item.*) That no merchant stranger be impeached for another's trespass, or for another's debt, whereof he is not debtor, pledge, nor mainpernor. *Provided always*, That if our liege people, merchants or others, be endamaged by any Lords of strange lands, or their subjects, and the said Lords (duly required) fail of right to our said subjects, we shall have the law of marque, and of taking them again, as hath been used in times past, without fraud or deceit; and in case that debate do rise (which God defend!) betwixt us and any Lords of strange lands, we will not that the people and merchants of the said lands be suddenly subdued in our said realm and lands because of such debate, but that they be warned, and proclamation thereof published, that they shall void the said realm and lands, with their goods, freely, within forty days after the warning and proclamation so made; and that, in the mean time, they be not impeached, not let of their passage, or of making their profit of the same merchandises, if they will sell them. And in case that for default of wind or of ship, or for sickness, or for other evident cause, they cannot avoid our said realm and lands within so short a time, then they shall have other forty days, or more, if need be, within which they may pass conveniently with selling their merchandise as afore is said.

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FREDERICK-TOWN, MARYLAND, COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 23d.]

Frederick-Town, December 19th, 1776.

Sir: The resolve of Congress of the 9th instant came to hand this evening, and has since been under the consideration of the Committee. The resolutions they have taken are enclosed for the perusal of Congress.

From present appearances, the Committee expect that the Militia will march pretty generally, perhaps one thousand or twelve hundred men, from the district, provided that money is lodged in the hands of a Paymaster speedily, with directions to advance small sums to such as are indigent, and to furnish necessaries for the march of the troops.

I am directed by the Committee to urge the necessity of this step, and to submit to the consideration of Congress whether it might not be of real service to advance a month's pay to each man, if required.

There are three battalions in *Washington* County and two in *Montgomery*. It is imagined that they were intended to be included in the request of Congress; if so, and they should march, (which is not doubted,) it is highly probable they will likewise want money. The Committee will be as expeditious as possible in sending forward the men, and will pay strict attention to any further directions that Congress may think proper to give.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

Christ'r Eddelen, *Chairman.*

P. S. We shall not have more guns than will arm one-fifth of the men. C. E.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Congress.

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In Committee, December 19th, 1776.

A resolve of Congress, of the 9th instant, directed to the Committee of *Frederick* County, requesting the Militia of said County to march to *Philadelphia*, for the defence of that city, and to reinforce our Army, was read: Whereupon it was

*Resolved unanimously*, That the Militia of this County ought to equip themselves in the best manner they are able, and march with all possible speed to *Philadelphia*, there to be subject to the directions of the Commander-in-Chief.

That Brigadier-General *Johnson*, and the Field Officers of the several Battalions, exert themselves in forwarding the march of the Militia in the most convenient and expeditious manner.

But as prudence directs that some should be left behind,

*Resolved*, That the Field Officers select a few from each Battalion, whose circumstances may render it most inconvenient to leave home, to be kept on duty as a guard, and

that they enroll under such officers as the Committee may appoint.

That every person capable of bearing arms hitherto exempt from mustering on account of age, or other infirmities, &c., also enroll into Companies to keep guard during the absence of the Militia.

That this Committee will use their utmost endeavours to furnish the Militia with every thing necessary to facilitate their march.

That expresses be sent to the Colonels of the several Battalions of this County, and to the Committees of *Washington* and *Montgomery* Counties, acquainting them with the resolve of Congress and the resolutions of this Board respecting the marching of the Militia, &c.

Extract from the Minutes. P. Thomas.

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THOMAS JOHNSON, JUN., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Frederick-Town, 19th December, 1776.

Gentlemen: This evening an express came to town from *Baltimore*, with the resolution of Congress on the 9th instant, requesting the Militia of *Baltimore*, *Harford*, *Cecil*, and *Frederick* Counties, to march to reinforce General *Washington*. I do not know what could have delayed the messenger between *Philadelphia* and *Baltimore*. The resolution was enclosed to the Committee of this County. They have resolved that the Militia ought to march, and I believe in very great proportions will, though, as you must imagine, many of them are very ill provided for a winter's campaign. It is intended, if possible, to get some in motion on *Monday*.

I do not know whether it is intended that I should command the whole Militia, or any part of them, or not; if it is, I think some special authority for that purpose will be necessary, and I shall cheerfully execute it as well as I can. But in a matter of so much consequence, I shall frankly give my opinion at every hazard, that it is best not to let our Militia go out under any Provincial Brigadier. General *Beall's* commission, I suppose, has expired; and if not, many of the Flying-Camp speak of him so far from respectfully, that you may be assured that many from here would but half obey him, and so far with all ill-will. None of the rest of us have seen service, and I fear we are not so competent, nor will the men have the same confidence in either of us as in one who has had experience. General *Smallwood*, and several others, I believe, have but very small brigades, but if any gentleman goes from here as Brigadier, he must have a great stock of philosophy to give up his brigade to another, though superiour in abilities, and having nothing to do when he foresees the general, however unjust, imputations which will be thrown upon him. If these reasons appear to you in the same strength they do to me, I imagine our Militia might be put under the immediate command of *Smallwood*, by a request to Congress or General *Washington*. I have seen a good many of the Flying-Camp who speak well, and some who speak ill, of *Smallwood*.

If you have any stock of shoes, stockings, or blankets, that you can spare, to be forwarded to *York* immediately, and there sold to the men at moderate prices, or sent after them, it would be a great relief.

I shall expect to hear from you; and am, gentlemen, with very great respect, your obedient servant,

Th. Johnson, Jun.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

If there's no immediate good opportunity, Mr. *Chase* is desired to forward this by express.

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CAPTAIN COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Christiana Bridge, December 19th, 1776.

Honoured Gentlemen: I received yours, dated the 15th, and on the 17th left *Baltimore*, with seventy-six in number, all hearty and in high spirits. Agreeable to yours to me, waited on some of the honourable Congress at *Baltimore*. To them I showed your letter, and have one from them to the honourable commanding General at *Philadelphia*, where I shall apply for further orders; where I hope for that rank due to my station; and no distinction as being a Provincial officer I hope will take place.

I expect to leave this about three o'clock, when the tide will answer to proceed by water for *Philadelphia*. Captain *Patterson* has got charge of the vessel I came up in. I had not time to write you by him. I desired him to inform you of my march to this place. I shall write you from *Philadelphia* by the first opportunity; and should we be called to action I have not the least doubt but we shall support that honour which our Province already have acquired.

I am, honoured gentlemen, your very humble servant,

Geo. Cook.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis*.

P. S. Since I wrote the above, I find myself disappointed in a vessel, so that I intend immediately to set off for *New-Castle*.

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JOHN M'KINLY TO COMMITTEE OF KENT COUNTY, DELAWARE.

Wilmington, the 19th of December, 1776.

Gentlemen: The branch of the Council of Safety for this County has met almost every day since their return from *Dover*. The business of their meetings has been principally to procure and provide for the marching of the Militia of this County, to reinforce the Army under General *Washington*. Several companies have already marched; several others are getting ready to march, and sundry others are expected very soon to follow their example. This business appears to be of such importance, and this critical and alarming situation of our affairs, as to require the closest attention of the Council, and is likely to engage this branch for some considerable time longer. These considerations, as likewise that nothing material has happened since the last meeting of the General Council, as also that the meeting of the General Assembly is so near, have prevailed with the members of the Council in this County to resolve not to attend the proposed meeting at *Dover*, on the 23d instant; and I am ordered by them to inform you of their said resolution, and the real motives which induced them thereto, so as to prevent any misapprehension, trouble, or disappointment. I am further ordered earnestly to recommend that the most speedy and effectual measures be taken to procure and provide for as many as possible of the Militia of your County, to march and join in the American Army. As so much depends on a timely reinforcement for these purposes, I have sent this by express, who will likewise deliver to you a similar letter to the branch of this Council in *Sussex* County, which I would request you would be pleased to forward by express as speedily as possible.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

Jno. McKinly.

To the Hon. Brigadier-General *Rodney*, *Richard Bassett*, Esq., and others, the Council of Safety of *Kent* County, at *Dover*.

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THE AMERICAN CRISIS.—NUMBER ONE.

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap we esteem too lightly. 'Tis dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to set a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange, indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated. *Britain*, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has a right not only to tax, but "to bind us in all cases whatsoever;" and if being bound in that manner is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious, for so unlimited a power can belong only to God.

Whether the independence of the Continent was declared too soon, or delayed too long, I will not now enter into as an argument. My own simple opinion is, that had it been eight months earlier, it would have been much better. We did not make a proper use of last winter; neither could we, while we were in a dependent state. However, the fault, if it were one, was all our own; we have none to blame

but ourselves.* But no great deal is lost yet; all that *Howe* has been doing for this month past is rather a ravage than a conquest, which the spirit of the *Jerseys* a year ago would have quickly repulsed, and which time and a little resolution will soon recover.

I have as little superstition in me as any man living; but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who had so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infidel in me as to suppose that He has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the King of *Britain* can look up to Heaven for help against us. A common murderer, a highwayman, or a housebreaker, has as good a pretence as he.

'Tis surprising to see how rapidly a panick will sometimes run through a country. All nations and ages have been subject to them. *Britain* has trembled like an ague at the report of a *French* fleet of flat-bottomed boats; and in the fourteenth century, the whole *English* Army, after ravaging the kingdom of *France*, was driven back like men petrified with fear; and this brave exploit was performed by a few broken forces, collected and headed by a woman, *Joan of Arc*. Would that Heaven might inspire some *Jersey* maid to spirit up her countrymen, and save her fair fellow-sufferers from ravage and ravishment! Yet panicks, in some cases, have their uses. They produce as much good as hurt. Their duration is always short; the mind soon grows through them, and acquires a firmer habit than before. But their peculiar advantage is, that they are the touchstones of sincerity and hypocrisy, and bring things and men to light which might otherwise have lain forever undiscovered. In fact, they have the same effect on secret traitors which an imaginary apparition would upon a private murderer. They sift out the hidden thoughts of man, and hold them up in publick to the world. Many a disguised Tory has lately shown his head, that shall penitentially solemnize with curses the day on which *Howe* arrived upon the *Delaware*.

As I was with the troops at *Fort Lee*, and marched with them to the edge of *Pennsylvania*, I am well acquainted with many circumstances which those who lived at a distance know but little or nothing of. Our situation there was exceedingly cramped, the place being on a narrow neck of land between the *North River* and the *Hackensack*. Our force was inconsiderable, being not one fourth so great as *Howe* could bring against us. We had no army at hand to have relieved the garrison, had we shut ourselves up and stood on the defence. Our ammunition, light-artillery, and the best part of our stores, had been removed, upon the apprehension that *Howe* would endeavour to penetrate the *Jerseys*, in which case *Fort Lee* could be of no great use to us; for it must occur to every thinking man, whether in the army or not, that these kind of field forts are only for temporary purposes, and last in use no longer than the enemy directs his force against the particular object which such forts are raised to defend. Such was our situation and condition at *Fort Lee*, on the morning of the 20th of *November*, when an officer arrived with information that the enemy, with two hundred boats, had landed about seven or eight miles above. Major-General *Greene*, who commanded the garrison, immediately ordered them under arms, and sent express to his Excellency General *Washington*, at the town of *Hackensack*, distant, by the way of the ferry, six miles. Our first object was to secure the bridge over the *Hackensack*, which laid up the river between the enemy and us, about six miles from us and three from them. General *Washington* arrived in about three-quarters of an hour, and marched at the head of the troops towards the bridge, which place I expected we should have a brush for; however, they did not choose to dispute it with us, and the greatest part of our troops went over the bridge, the rest over the ferry, except some which passed at a mill on a small creek, between the bridge and the ferry, and made their way through some marshy grounds up to the town of *Hackensack*, and there passed the river. We brought off as much baggage as the wagons could contain; the rest was lost. The simple object was to bring off the garrison, and to march them on till they could be strengthened by the *Jersey* or *Pennsylvania* Militia, so as to be enabled to make a stand. We staid four days at *Newark*, collected in our outposts, with some of the *Jersey* Militia, and marched out twice to meet the enemy on information of their being advancing, though our numbers were greatly inferiour to theirs. *Howe*, in my little opinion, committed a great errour in generalship in not throwing a body of forces off from *Staten-Island*, through *Amboy*, by which means he might have seized all our stores at *Brunswick*, and intercepted our march into *Pennsylvania*. But, if we believe the power of hell to be limited, we must likewise believe that their agents are under some providential control.

I shall not now attempt to give all the particulars of our retreat to the *Delaware*. Suffice it for the present to say, that both officers and men, though greatly harassed and fatigued, frequently without rest, covering, or provision, the inevitable consequences of a long retreat, bore it with a manly and a martial spirit. All their wishes were one, which was, that the country would turn out and help them to drive the enemy back. *Voltaire* has remarked that King *William* never appeared to full advantage but in difficulties and in action. The same remark may be made on General *Washington*, for the character fits him. There is a natural firmness in some minds which cannot be unlocked by trifles, but which, when unlocked, discovers a cabinet of fortitude; and I reckon it among those kind of publick blessings which we do not immediately see, that God hath blest him with uninterrupted health, and given him a mind that can even flourish upon care.

I shall conclude this paper with some miscellaneous remarks on the state of our affairs, and shall begin with asking the following question: Why is it that the enemy have left the *New-England* Provinces, and made these middle ones the seat of war? The answer is easy: *New-England* is not infested with Tories, and we are. I have been tender in raising the cry against these men, and used numberless arguments to show them their danger, but it will not do to sacrifice a world to either their folly or their baseness. The period is now arrived in which either they or we must change our sentiments, or one or both must fall. And what is a Tory? Good God! what is he? I should not be afraid to go with an hundred Whigs against a thousand Tories, were they to attempt to get into arms. Every Tory is a coward, for a servile, slavish, self-interested fear is the foundation of Toryism; and a man under such influence, though he may be cruel, can never be brave.

But before the line of irrecoverable separation be drawn between us, let us reason the matter together. Your conduct is an invitation to the enemy, yet not one in a thousand of you has heart enough to join him. *Howe* is as much deceived by you as the *American* cause is injured by you. He expects you will all take up arms, and flock to his standard, with muskets on your shoulders. Your opinions are of no use to him, unless you support him personally; for 'tis soldiers, and not Tories, that he wants.

I once felt all that kind of anger which a man ought to feel against the mean principles that are held by the Tories. A noted one, who kept a tavern at *Amboy*, was standing at his door, with as pretty a child in his hand, about eight or nine years old, as most I ever saw, and after speaking his mind as freely as he thought was prudent, finished with this unfatherly expression: "Well, give me peace in my day!" Not a man lives on the Continent but fully believes that a separation must some time or other finally take place, and a generous parent would have said, "If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace;" and this single reflection, well applied, is sufficient to awaken every man to duty. Not a place upon earth might be so happy as *America*. Her situation is remote from all the wrangling world, and she has nothing to do but to trade with them. A man may easily distinguish in himself between temper and principle; and I am as confident as I am that God governs the world, that *America* will never be happy till she gets clear of foreign dominion. Wars, without ceasing, will break out till that period arrives, and the Continent must in the end be conqueror; for though the flame of liberty may sometimes cease to shine, the coal never can expire.

* "The present winter is worth an age, if rightly employed; but if lost or neglected, the whole continent will partake of the evil; and there is no punishment that man does not deserve, be he who, or what, or where he will, that may be the means of sacrificing a season so precious and useful."—*Common Sense.*

*America* did not, nor does not, want force; but she wanted a proper application of that force. Wisdom is not the purchase of a day, and it is no wonder that we should err at first setting off. From an excess of tenderness, we were unwilling to raise an army, and trusted our cause to the temporary defence of a well-meaning Militia. A summer's experience has now taught us better; yet with those troops, while they were collected, we were able to set bounds to the progress of the enemy, and, thank God! they are again assembling. I always considered a Militia as the best troops in the world for a sudden exertion, but they will not do for a long campaign. *Howe*, it is probable, will make an attempt on this city; should he fail on this side the *Delaware*, he is ruined; if he succeeds, our cause is not ruined. He stakes all on his side against a part on ours; admitting he succeeds, the consequence will be, that armies from both ends of the Continent will march to assist their suffering friends in the Middle States; for he cannot go every where—it is impossible. I consider *Howe* as the greatest enemy the Tories have; he is bringing a war into their country, which, had it not been for him and partly for themselves, they had been clear of. Should he now be expelled, I wish, with all the devotion of a Christian, that the names of Whig and Tory may never more be mentioned; but should the Tories give him encouragement to come, or assistance if he comes, I as sincerely wish that our next year's arms may expel them from the Continent, and the Congress appropriate their possessions to the relief of those who have suffered in well-doing. A single successful battle next year will settle the whole. *America* could carry on a two years' war by the confiscation of the property of disaffected persons, and be made happy by their expulsion. Say not that this is revenge; call it rather the soft resentment of a suffering people, who, having no object in view but the good of all, have staked their own all upon a seemingly doubtful event. Yet it is folly to argue against determined hardness; eloquence may strike the ear, and the language of sorrow draw forth the tear of compassion, but nothing can reach the heart that is steeled with prejudice.

Quitting this class of men, I turn with the warm ardour of a friend to those who have nobly stood, and are yet determined to stand the matter out; I call not upon a few, but upon all; not on this State or that State, but on every State; up and help us; lay your shoulders to the wheel; better have too much force than too little, when so great an object is at stake. Let it be told to the future world, that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive, that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet and to repulse it. Say not that thousands are gone, turn out your tens of thousands; throw not the burthen of the day upon Providence, but "show your faith by your works," that God may bless you. It matters not where you live, or what rank of life you hold, the evil or the blessing will reach you all. The far and the near, the home counties and the back, the rich and the poor, will suffer or rejoice alike. The heart that feels not now, is dead. The blood of his children will curse his cowardice, who shrinks back at a time when a little might have saved the whole, and made them happy. I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink; but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death. My own line of reasoning is to myself as straight and clear as a ray of light. Not all the treasures of the world, so far as I believe, could have induced me to support an offensive war, for I think it murder; but if a thief break into my house, burn and destroy my property, and kill or threaten to kill me, or those that are in it, and to "bind me in all cases whatsoever" to his absolute will, am I to suffer it? What signifies it to me, whether he who does it, is a king or a common man; my countryman or not my countryman? Whether it is done by an individual villain, or an army of them? If we reason to the root of things we shall find no difference; neither can any just cause be assigned why we should punish in the one case, and pardon in the other. Let them call me Rebel, and welcome, I feel no concern from it; but I should suffer the misery of devils, were I to make a whore of my soul by swearing allegiance to one, whose character is, that of a sottish, stupid, stubborn, worthless, brutish man. I conceive likewise a horrid idea in receiving mercy from a being who, at the last day, shall be shrieking to the rocks and mountains to cover him, and fleeing with terrour from the orphan, the widow, and the slain of *America*.

There are cases which cannot be overdone by language, and this is one. There are persons, too, who see not the full extent of the evil that threatens them; they solace themselves with hopes that the enemy, if they succeed, will be merciful. It is the madness of folly to expect mercy, from those who have refused to do justice; and even mercy, where conquest is the object, is only a trick of war. The cunning of the fox is as murderous as the violence of the wolf; and we ought to guard equally against both. *Howe's* first object is, partly by threats and partly by promise, to terrify or seduce the people to deliver up their arms, and receive mercy. The Ministry recommended the same plan to *Gage*, and this is what the Tories call making their peace; "a peace which passeth all understanding" indeed! A peace which would be the immediate forerunner of a worse ruin than any we have yet thought of. Ye men of *Pennsylvania*, do reason upon these things! Were the back Counties to give up their arms, they would fall an easy prey to the Indians, who are all armed. This perhaps is what some Tories would not be sorry for. Were the home Counties to deliver up their arms, they would be exposed to the resentment of the back Counties, who would then have it in their power to chastise their defection at pleasure. And were any one State to give up its arms, that State must be garrisoned by all *Howe's* army of *Britons* and *Hessians* to preserve it from the anger of the rest. Mutual fear is a principal link in the chain of mutual love, and woe be to that State that breaks the compact. *Howe* is mercifully inviting you to barbarous destruction, and men must be either rogues or fools that will not see it. I dwell not upon the vapours of imagination; I bring reason to your ears; and in language as plain as A, B, C, hold up truth to your eyes.

I thank God that I fear not. I see no real cause for fear. I know our situation well, and can see the way out of it. While our Army was collected, *Howe* dared not risk a battle, and it is no credit to him that he decamped from the *White-Plains*, and waited a mean opportunity to ravage the defenceless *Jerseys*; but it is great credit to us, that, with an handful of men, we sustained an orderly retreat for near an hundred miles, brought off our ammunition, all our field pieces, the greatest part of our stores, and had four rivers to pass. None can say that our retreat was precipitate, for we were near three weeks in performing it, that the country might have time to come in. Twice we marched back to meet the enemy and remained out till dark. The sign of fear was not seen in our camp, and had not some of the cowardly and disaffected inhabitants spread false alarms through the country, the *Jerseys* had never been ravaged. Once more we are again collected and collecting; our new Army at both ends of the Continent is recruiting fast, and we shall be able to open the next campaign with sixty thousand men, well armed and clothed. This is our situation, and who will may know it. By perseverance and fortitude we have the prospect of a glorious issue; by cowardice and submission, the sad choice of a variety of evils—a ravaged country—a depopulated city—habitations without safety, and slavery without hope—our homes turned into barracks and bawdy-houses for *Hessians*, and a future race to provide for whose fathers we shall doubt of. Look on this picture and weep over it! and if there yet remains one thoughtless wretch who believes it not, let him suffer it unlamented.

Philadelphia, December 19, 1776.

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### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 19th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am favoured with yours of the 17th, enclosing the resolution of your Board respecting the Militia of *Bucks* and *Northampton* Counties. I shall, in consequence of it, immediately order the Colonels to summon their regiments to attend upon a certain day, and I shall treat the defaulters in the manner pointed out by the resolve, unless a good and sufficient cause of absence is assigned.

Nothing ever amazed me more than the note said to be wrote by *John Dickinson*, Esq., to his brother, the General.

If he applies to me to show him the contents, I see no reason for refusing it, because he may easily be informed by applying to the writer.

The enemy having made no move of any consequence since I wrote to you last, I have only to recommend your continuing to exert yourselves in stirring up the spirits of your people, and making every necessary preparation for the defence of your city, while the enemy leaves it in your power to do it without interruption.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

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ORDERS TO COLONEL KIRKBRIDE, OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, MILITIA.

Sir: The honourable the Council of Safety of the State of *Pennsylvania* having, by a resolve passed the 17th day of this instant, *December*, authorized me to call forth the Militia of the County of *Bucks* to the assistance of the Continental Army under my command, I hereby require you immediately to issue orders to the Captains of your regiment, to summon the officers and privates of their companies to meet on the 28th day of this instant, at the usual place, for their joining in battalion, with their arms and accoutrements in good order; and when so met, march immediately to the city of *Philadelphia*, and there put yourself under the command of Major-General *Putnam*; and you are further required to make me an exact return of the names and places of abode of such officers and privates as refuse to appear, with their arms and accoutrements, at the time and place appointed, that they may be dealt with as the resolve above referred to directs.

Given under my hand, at Head-Quarters, this 19th day of *December*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

[The same to Colonel *Hart;* to Colonel *Andrew Kachlein;* to Colonel *Arthur Ewing;* to Colonel *Joseph Sabitts.*]

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER TO A FRIEND IN CONNECTICUT, FROM AN OFFICER IN THE AMERICAN ARMY, DATED BUCKS COUNTY, DECEMBER 19, 1776.

Since my last we have received intelligence from *Philadelphia* that nine *British* men-of-war have entered *Delaware Bay*. No doubt these movements to *Rhode-Island, Philadelphia,* and the *Jerseys,* at this season of the year, is intended to divide our force, and if possible distract our councils, and discourage our people from inlisting in the new army. Heaven grant their designs may be defeated! Now, my friend, is the crisis for you in the country to exert yourselves. Use your influence, and let us have an army. Every good man and well-wisher to his country will exert himself. If he is a lover of this once happy land, he will exhort one and all to lend their aid to do the needful to save this injured, bleeding, distressed land. Was you to behold the *Jerseys,* to see the distresses would bring tears into your eyes. Now is the time for us to be in earnest. As for what few troops we have, you would be amazed to see what fine spirits they are in; and the Continental troops are really well disciplined, and you may depend will fight bravely, and I doubt not before one week you will hear of an attack somewhere, when I trust we shall do honour to ourselves. I well know both officers and men are determined to check the pride of the red-coats. They at present are flushed with their successes, which perhaps may lull them into too much security for themselves. I think it likely they will endeavour to penetrate your State in the spring; I am confident they cannot penetrate far; but be sure that you advise old and young to be in readiness. Push the affair of good muskets; let them carry a full ounce ball; but I think a three-and-half-feet barrel is long enough, with a good bayonet. Depend upon it, to avoid the worst, it's necessary to be well and martially equipped. In short, if any one will but suffer himself to reflect but for a moment, he must own that we are not in earnest enough.

Consider, O my countrymen, the distresses gasping for you, ready to devour you all. Liberty calls aloud to save yourselves. But I am not in the least doubtful but that *America* will rouse. Choose good young officers, that will not think of home only when they can think of returning as conquerors. You shall hear from me soon again.

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GENERAL M'DOUGALL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Chatham, in East Jersey, 19 December, 1776.

Sir: The rheumatism and other disorders detained me at *Haverstraw,* and separated me from my brigade. Eight days since I found myself much better, and followed General *Lee's* division to *Morris-Town,* where I arrived the day after he was unfortunately taken. This catastrophe determined me, by the advice of friends, not to proceed unless I had a guard. The three regiments from the northward, under Colonel *Vose,* were hourly expected to *Morris-Town.* They did not arrive until the day before yesterday, late in the evening. Provisions and other necessaries were prepared for their march next morning to join you; but an express arrived at night, with information that Colonel *Ford's* Militia had an engagement with the enemy at *Springfield,* and that he expected it would be renewed the next morning, to gain the pass of the mountains. The country in general being greatly discouraged, and on the eve of making a surrender of this State, I judged it my duty to order those regiments to march at four a. m. to support Colonel *Ford.* The enemy early next morning retired towards *Spank-Town.*

When Colonel *Vose* this morning was preparing to march to *Morris-Town,* the Militia and principal gentlemen were much dejected, and assured me if those troops were not left here to countenance them, the Militia could not be collected to make any opposition to the enemy, and those who were imbodied would disband, which would eventually end in a submission of this State. Indeed, some of the most important, sensible, and zealous of the people, declared they would provide for their own safety, as they had no hopes of being able to assemble the Militia if those Continental troops were removed. They asserted that General *Lee* gave them assurance that those troops should be left here for their protection, which was countenanced in some measure in a letter of General *Heath's* to Colonel *Ford;* and to remove them after so many of the troops passed through the State, would be to abandon them to the enemy, which is the idea generally held by too many of the friends of the country; but if the troops stay, they were in no doubt of collecting a respectable number of the Militia. In this state of things, I feared if I advised Colonel *Vose* to proceed to the *Delaware,* I should be chargeable with all the bad consequences. These facts will be authenticated to you by the Committee of *Morris-Town.*

The submission of this State would draw after it consequences easier to conceive than express, and are too obvious to render an enumeration necessary. To prevent an event so fatal to our common cause, I have ventured to advise Colonel *Vose* to remain in this State, and shall post his troops, with the Militia, in the best manner to cover the country not in the hands of the enemy. It is the only chance we have for retaining it. Orders for him will readily find him by applying to Colonel *Remsen,* at *Morris-Town,* or Colonel *Ford.* I find by Colonel *Vose* that those troops are determined to go home at the expiration of their time, which would nearly be accomplished before they could reach you, which was a consideration that induced me to advise his stay, and as their assistance to you would not bear any proportion to the prospect of their service here. I hope these considerations will justify me to your Excellency, as the service and the safety of the common cause were the only motives which determined my advice.

I am greatly mortified that I have no reason to expect I shall be able to do duty in the course of the winter in the manner I could wish, from the complication of disorders that afflict me. If the time was not so critical to the country I would resign, as I do not wish to be a burthen to it. But as this might at this crisis be a prejudice to the cause, subject to the abuse of our enemies, I decline it; but wish to be favoured with the General's advice for my future conduct. If I stay here, unless I am with some detachment of the Army, I shall be exposed to the like misfortune that befell General *Lee.* If I am with the Army, the houses are so necessary to them that I cannot be accommodated; I

shall, however, endeavour to remain in this neighbourhood till General *Heath* arrives at *Morris-Town*, which I have reason to expect will be in a few days.

I am, with earnest wishes for your success and happiness, your Excellency's very humble servant,

ALEX. McDOUGALL.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

P. S. The enemy are changing their troops so often from *Hancinsak* to *Elizabeth-Town*, that it is impossible to give a true state of their numbers in frontier towns of this State. Colonel *Ford* has had from eight hundred to one thousand of the Militia collected. Now about seven hundred.

*Greaton's* regiment, about 250; *Bond's*, do. 100; *Porter's*, do. 170;—520.

I have taken the liberty to transmit to you a letter of General *Heath's*, approving of my advice in detaining that corps.

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Morris-Town, December 19, 1776.

SIR: The distressed situation of this State, and the imminent danger of this country, filled at present with most of the persons and property of the well-affected people of this part of the Province, induces us most earnestly to request you to detain the troops now in this neighbourhood on their march from *Ticonderoga*. We had General *Lee's* express promise that this detachment should be detained here for the protection of this State. And although his letter to the commanding officer does not contain so explicit an order for that purpose as we would wish, yet there is sufficient evidence that this was his intention, from a full view of the necessity and importance of such a measure. You are also sensible that this is the desire of General *Heath*. And from what you, sir, see and hear, we cannot doubt but it appears in the same light to yourself.

We are truly sensible of the necessity of a large force with General *Washington*. But while the enemy are so dispersed, it cannot be expected the whole body of our troops can be all at one place. Part of our Militia have been called out of our Province; and if we had the whole, what could they do against the enemy, the main body of which is in this State? Yet with the support of these troops we hope to collect a larger body of the Militia than we have at present, and by defending important passes secure a great part of this State, and it may be in time regain the whole.

But, sir, we must speak the painful truth. If these troops are not detained, the Militia collected will grow dispirited, soon dwindle away, and this State be lost. We beseech you, consider these things, and grant us such relief as is in your power. We honestly declare, that so far as we know our hearts, we speak not from a partial regard to one part of the Continent, but as if the whole was our own.

We are, sir, with all due respect, your most obedient and very humble servants,

JACOB FORD, *one of the Judges.*
SILAS CONDIT, *one of the Council.*
CALEB CAMP, *one of the Assembly.*
ALEX'R CARMICAEL, *Chairman of the Committee.*
TIMO. JOHNES,
BEN. HAIT,
A. MAINHORTE,
JACOB VAN ARSDALEN, } *Ministers.*
JACOB FORD, Jun., *Col. Commandant of the Militia.*
JAMES CALDWELL.

To General *MacDougall.*

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COLONEL MALCOM TO GENERAL HEATH.

Chatham, December 19, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I got to this place this moment. General *McDougall* most providentially was before me. An order from Head-Quarters for the *Ticonderoga* detachment to join the grand Army, had almost lost this State. The Militia, who are numerous and brave in this quarter, finding themselves abandoned, came to a resolution to save themselves and families by dispersing. The principal people supposing themselves forsaken by the Army, were also dejected, and would have retired. To avert so capital a blow, General *McDougall* hath detained Colonel *Vose* until further orders; but this leaves the issue doubtful. A repeated order may arrive next moment, and the State lost. For this weighty consideration, surely it will be advisable that you move this way. Suppose *Tappan* and the vicinity is exposed, the enemy cannot approach the forts by land (with artillery) but through the pass of the *Clove;* and surely General *Clinton's* Army is competent to defend that ground, perhaps to do more.

I am informed you can expect to be joined here by about one thousand good Militia. This will enable you to cover this valuable country, which abounds with forage, and which must expect the vengeance of the enemy. From their attachment to their country and their zeal, they are remarkably obnoxious. In proportion are their fears; and therefore they ought to be supported. This quarter is capable of being easily defended, and much benefit arise thereby. I hope to meet you on *Saturday* at *Morris-Town*, or a shorter road which Mr. *Sanford* will show you. Time is precious; I can only offer my respects to General *Parsons*, General *Clinton* if with you, and your suite; and that with much respect and esteem I am, dear General, your much obliged and very humble servant,

W. MALCOM.

To Major-General *Heath, Pyramus.*

The facts contained in this are true.

ALEX. McDOUGALL.

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DR. SHIPPEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Head-Quarters, Perth-Amboy, 19th September, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The department under my direction has been, and continues to be, very healthy, and our treatment of the sick very successful, not having lost more than ten or twelve men out of the twenty or thirty thousand that have passed through this camp. I have met with much difficulty in procuring houses and nurses, particularly the latter; and in order to engage any of them in the service, have been obliged to deviate from the regulation of the honourable Congress, and allow them ten shillings per week, instead of three shillings nine pence. The most ordinary woman here is able to earn much more, as there are so few women and so many men to wash for, &c. I flatter myself this deviation will be forgiven, as the sick must suffer much unless well nursed and kept clean.

I must also inform you, sir, that the many posts we have to maintain makes it necessary to have more Surgeons than are allowed by the Congress, one being necessary to each post. But you may be assured in this, as well as every other part of my conduct, the necessary good of the whole shall be my guide; and when I do not strictly comply with the rules of the Congress, necessity only shall compel me to deviate. This increase of expense I shall amply make up to you by making the Surgeons and Mates of the Hospital act as Surgeons and Apothecary to seven or eight battalions at each post, who came without any Surgeon or medicine, and whose very short, and I had almost said useless, stay here would make the appointment of either for them improper and expensive. This is the case now at *Amboy*, where I act myself not only as Director, but as Surgeon to the Hospital and Apothecary to nine battalions, who are unprovided; but this will not be the case long, as we flatter ourselves we have almost done with Militia.

I have the pleasure to inform you that all the wounded from *Long-Island* are recovered, and well disposed to revenge the blood of their brave fellow-soldiers who fell on that day.

I have the honour to be, dear sir, your and the Congress's most obedient and humble servant,

W. SHIPPEN, Jr., *S. G. and D. H.*

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GENERAL HEATH TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Paramus, December 19th, 1776.

SIR: I have just received a line from a gentleman, (Mr. *Robert Morris,*) in which he acquaints me that a person in *New-York*, who has an opportunity of being acquainted with the motions of the enemy, had advised a friend to move her effects from *Fishkill* to some place of safety. Mr. *Morris* acquaints me in his letter that he is not at liberty to mention names, but makes no doubt that such message was sent, and that the person sending might be acquainted with their motions. That this was done before my leaving of

*Peekskill.* I do not give much credit to the report, but think that every hint of this kind should make us watchful.

I have been fortunate at *Hackensack*; have taken four or five prisoners of war, besides a number of disaffected persons. These I am sending to *Fishkills*, as I cannot find any place of safety for them on this side. We have also taken upwards of eighty muskets, and secured about one hundred and fifty barrels of flour, a quantity of rum, wine, and hay, which was going to *New-York*. It is said that part of those articles belong to our friends; but that property should be sent into the hands of our enemies for safety seems to be a paradox.

The enemy the last night advanced to *Aquachannock Bridge*, when they halted. General *Leslie's* brigade, which a few days since marched from *Elizabeth-Town* to the southward, has received orders to march back immediately. They entered *Newark* on yesterday morning, I suppose in consequence of our moving this way. It was some of his troops most probably that advanced to *Acquachannock* the last night. I shall carefully watch their motions, and if possible give them a blow. I consider the passes of the Highlands of so much consequence that I shall keep a watchful eye on those on this side. It is reported here that two ships have lately sailed up the river. We expect this day to know the truth of it.

I am, with respect and esteem, your obedient servant,

W. Heath.

President of the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*, *Fishkill*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Paramus, December 19, 1776.

Sir: Since I wrote you in the morning, I have received despatches from his Excellency General *Washington*, in which he is pleased to signify his pleasure that I should return to my former post at *Peekskill*, (after having attempted what I have been so happy as to effect already,) there to exert my utmost endeavours to secure the post, cover the country, and curb the insolent. I shall return very soon. Nothing will retard me but the making another attempt, where I think there is a prospect of success, and to secure my stores, &c. The enemy, by his Excellency's letter, are about to return towards *Brunswick* and the vicinity of that place.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most humble servant,

W. Heath.

Honourable President of the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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COMMISSARY HUGHES TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peekskill, Wednesday morning, 19th December, 1776.

Dear General: The despatches for Convention I sent off immediately by a rider just come in, as I received them; which was at dusk last evening.

Forty barrels of pork have been sent to Colonel *Hays*, three days ago, which is more than you have mentioned; and as to rum, if I understand Mr. *Paulding* rightly, he does not intend to send any more, but let that be used which is taken there.

A day or two after you went away, sir, I went to *North-Castle*, and procured a party of men and officers, whom I gave an impress warrant to, and sent them after teams, which has enabled the Commissary to get all his pork up, and considerable of other stores, many of which are now on the road. Part of the pork for both garrisons went off yesterday, but was obliged to put back on account of a squall. This day the whole will set out, and if something does not prevent, I intend to see it there, as no dependence can be put on any thing but what is seen. I ought to have told you, sir, that one hogshead of rum was sent along with the forty barrels of pork.

Major *Bradford* passed through yesterday, and confirms the unfortunate account of General *Lee*, whom I greatly lament, but am not the least discouraged. I sympathize with him as a person of the greatest sensibility, and over whom the enemy will exult with insolence.

For Heaven's sake don't release any of those scoundrels that you have taken; but let them be well secured, and feel the effects of their treachery.

I congratulate you on the success of your expedition, sir.

I am, dear General, your most obedient and very humble servant,

Hugh Hughes.

The Hon. Major-General *Heath*.

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JOHN SCHENCK TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

In Committee, Poughkeepsie, December 19, 1776.

Gentlemen: We send in an account by Mr. *Elias Van Bunscoten*, being for preparing five sloops and five scows ordered made by his Excellency General *Washington*. As we imagine this account may be annexed to the other account of building five rafts by your body, we have sent this in, and desiring you will be pleased to pay the same to the bearer.

I am, gentlemen, with respect, your very humble servant,

John Schenck, *Chairman*.

Honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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ROBERT YATES TO JAMES DUANE.

Claverack, December 19th, 1776.

Dear Sir: The bearer hereof, Captain *Barent Ten Eyck*, is on his way to *Fishkill*, in order to solicit the interest of the Committee of Arrangement to be appointed a Captain on the present establishment. In the year 1775 he was one of the Captains in the Second Regiment. At the close of that year, he was continued a Captain by General *Montgomery*, in *Canada*. At *Laprairie* he behaved with remarkable spirit, activity, and experience, particularly in bringing up and directing the cannon against General *Carleton's* attempt to land at that place. During the last campaign he has acted as Lieutenant-Colonel to the drafts of Militia out of the Counties of *Albany*, *Tryon*, and *Charlotte*. His courage and experience cannot be doubted; but I must leave it to the consideration of the Committee whether these qualifications will counterbalance the exceptions which you know have been made against him. Considering the extensive influence of his family and friends in the County of *Albany*, I could wish him gratified in his request, particularly as he possesses two essential requisites of a soldier; and his failings, with proper admonitions, might be cured.

I beg leave to recommend to you, *Jeremiah C. Muller*, for an ensigncy in Colonel *Van Schaick's* battalion. He is a young gentleman of this place, and has acted as First Lieutenant in a Minute company. He has never been in actual service, but I believe will make a good officer.

A few days ago I have had the misfortune, in walking through some brush, to be poisoned by touching some wild shumac, and my hands are in such a situation that it is with the utmost difficulty I have been able to write this letter.

I should be extremely happy if you would at times favour me with a few lines upon such occurrences as you may judge worthy of notice; and I remain, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant,

Robt. Yates.

To the Hon. *James Duane*, Esq., and the other members of the Committee of Arrangement, *Fishkill*.

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

Fishkill, 19th December, 1776.

Sir: Your favour of the 17th instant being laid before the Convention, I am directed to acquaint you that they approve of the measures you have adopted, and of the orders you have given to Colonel *Allison* for promoting the utility and success of the expedition under your command. They flatter themselves that the valuable ends which were proposed by this enterprise will be happily effectuated. Relying on your zeal and abilities, they do not think it necessary to give you any directions in addition to those with which you are furnished. A retreat to the passes of the Highlands being secured, every thing else is left to your prudence. An express is despatched to Colonel *Allison* with your orders.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant.

By order.

Brigadier-General *George Clinton*.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM GOUVERNEUR MORRIS TO HIS MOTHER, DATED FISHKILL, DECEMBER 19TH, 1776.

It is with inexpressible concern that I am this day informed of the death of my sister. We all sustain in her a great loss; but you in particular, who are thus bereft of the companion of your age, must feel it most severely. Would to God it were in my power to alleviate the pangs of a sorrowing parent. But this is not my lot. My friend *Wilkins* will, I am sure, on this occasion, do the duties of a child and a friend. There is one Comforter, who weighs our minutes and numbers out our days. It is He who has inflicted upon us the weight of publick and private calamities, and He best knows when to remove the burthen. I am sorry it is not in my power to see you at present. I know it is your wish that I were removed from publick affairs; indeed, as far as relates to my own ease and enjoyments, I wish so too. But I know it is the duty of every good citizen or man to preserve that post in which, by a superiour order, he is placed. Where the happiness of a considerable part of our fellow-creatures is deeply concerned, we soon feel the insignificancy of an individual. And whatever lot that individual shall experience, while a conscious rectitude of conduct inspires and supports him, though he may be unfortunate, he cannot be miserable.

What may be the event of the present war, it is not in man to determine. Great revolutions of empire are seldom achieved without much human calamity; but the worst which can happen, is to fall on the last bleak mountain of *America*, and he who dies there, in defence of the injured rights of mankind, is happier than his conqueror, more beloved by mankind, more applauded by his own heart.

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RESOLUTION OF NEW-YORK CONVENTION FOR A SECRET EXPEDITION.

In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, } December 19th, 1776. }

Whereas the condition of the inhabitants of the County of *Westchester*, exposed to the ravages of a cruel and merciless enemy, loudly calls for assistance and protection: And whereas the main body of the enemy have penetrated, and are now employed in the western parts of the State of *New-Jersey*; and the operations of the troops under the command of Generals *Heath* and *George Clinton*, in *Orange* and *Bergen* Counties, have diverted the enemy's forces, which were left at *Fort Washington* and *New-York*, to that quarter; and it being therefore conceived that an expedition into the County of *Westchester* and the Island of *New-York* promises success, provided it can be conducted with secrecy, vigour, and despatch:

*Resolved, therefore*, That General *George Clinton*, General *Scott*, Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Morris*, and Mr. *Landon*, be, and they hereby are, authorized and directed to pursue all such ways and means as to them shall appear proper and necessary for carrying on such expedition, harassing and destroying the enemy, and protecting the persons and property of the good subjects of this State, and for securing the effects of all those who have fled to or joined the enemy. And for the purpose aforesaid, to levy and draw out such parts of the Militia of the Counties of *Dutchess* and *Westchester* as they may think necessary, and also to apply to the commanding officer of the Continental Army for the aid of Continental troops and every other assistance which the said Committee shall judge expedient.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, December 19th, 1776.

SIR: Mr. *Babcock* delivered me your favour last night. I continue greatly distressed with the situation of our affairs to the northward. Every letter from thence advises me that the troops will leave it immediately after their term of inlistment is expired. Between two and three hundred recruits are raised in this quarter for the regiments of this State, but not a single blanket, or substitute for one, is to be had; and it will be impossible to send them across the lakes without some kind of covering. Colonel *Elmore* with his corps occupies the fortresses and posts on the *Mohawk's* river, from whence I dare not move them,

Colonel *Warner* has got recruiting money, and his officers are employed in that service; but I do not expect much assistance from that quarter, and none from the Militia; nor will any of the men inlisted, or that still may inlist at *Ticonderoga*, be of any service, for the recruiting officers are obliged to promise them a month's furlough, which I have been under the necessity of countenancing, by a general order, to encourage the men to reengage. My whole dependence must therefore be on troops from the Eastern States.

I was in hopes that experience would have taught us not to depend on the patriotism of our common men—they left both armies last year at very critical moments, as soon as the time for which they were engaged was expired—and that measures would have been taken in a more early day for inlisting troops. I urged it warmly in *August*, and pointed out a mode which would have succeeded in a very great measure, before the periodical *American* distemper took place. As soon as the first cold is felt, we are seized with the home-sickness, and it increases with the severity of the weather.

Although our chest is far from being well replenished, yet I doubt not we shall be able to discharge the bounties due for such troops as may come to this department. I have already given warrants for very considerable sums to the Colonels of the *Massachusetts* and *New-Hampshire* regiments. If you think it necessary to have the money, I will, whenever you request it, issue a warrant for the bounty of one regiment, and if more can be spared, it shall be sent.

I am, sir, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Hon. *Jon'n Trumbull*, Esq., &c.

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J. TRUMBULL, JUN., TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, 19th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: Yours per Mr. *Babcock*, came to hand last evening. The passing from here to *Tyconderoga* is so exceeding difficult, (it being between ice and water,) that *Babcock* is determined to return without attempting that part of his route. I shall forward the letter to Major *Sedgwick* as soon as possible.

I fear also for the recruiting our Army; and it seems General *Howe* is taking his opportunity, and pushing hard at this critical juncture. The Army must be recruited, or the cause (humanly speaking) is gone. What do the people in *Jersey* mean? It seems their spirit falls prostrate at the approach of danger. If the southern spirit does not maintain itself with dignity, *Philadelphia* must fall. I feel for the poor fellows who are now exposed to the inclemency of this season, with no other covering than the heavens. Recruiting, however, goes on very well here. Those officers in the Northern Army who knew their appointment on the new arrangement, and had recruiting orders, have been supplied with money here. This has been the case with all but *Connecticut*. That State, it seems, took no notice of their officers this way, and neither sent them appointments or orders, for which reason they could have no right to take money, and did not apply. Our chest begins to run low; it may, however, supply some yet, if the General gives orders.

At present there is no danger at *Ty* and *Independence*; nor will there be any till the lakes are taken with ice, which will not be, according to their common course, until the middle of *February*, and then oftentimes not to be trusted with loads till the latter end of that month. The enemy may think of coming over the ice. To me it is only a may be. We ought, however, by all means to provide against such an event. It seems the enemy are determined to push hard. The regiments who are now there are such whose times are the latest expired—some of them not till *April*. Before the expiration of their times it is hoped the new recruits may be there. If the enemy do not come over the ice, they cannot be there till *May*. Our reports from the Southern Army are various, but all seem bad enough. The last accounts that we credit leave General *Howe*, with seventeen thousand, at *Trenton*, and General *Washington* on the other shore of the *Delaware*, with too small a number of men, *Philadelphia* in consternation, the Army reinforcing and determined to stand. What shelter can they have? What can support them in this inclement season, without beds or covering? Providence is wise: it has its designs.

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I wish the people would learn that wisdom, and suffer that instruction which God intends. If I could see this to be the case my tears would vanish; but we are as unteachable as the *Jews* of old; and until this temper is meliorized, our distresses will continue. They will increase, our help will be delayed. O that God would heal our sins and reconcile us to his pleasure!

I am, with all respect, honoured sir, your dutiful and affectionate son,

J. Trumbull, Jun.

P. S. In the appointment of Regimental Paymaster, I cannot do justice to merit without mentioning Mr. *Jonathan Burrell*, a young gentleman who sustains an excellent character for probity, integrity, and ability. He has been employed by my Assistant at *Ty* all the last season, and has approved himself to great acceptance. I wish he may be provided for. It will suit him to be in some regiment likely to serve in this department. He is nephew to Colonel *Burrell*, and has indeed filled his station.

Hon. Governour *Trumbull*.

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THADDEUS BURR TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Fairfield, 19th December, 1776.

Sir: Agreeable to the directions given by your Honour and your Council of Safety, the Authority and Selectmen of this town met, and made choice of the bearer hereof, Mr. *Isaac Burr*, Lieutenant of the battery at *Grover's Hill Point*; and he now waits upon your Honour for his commission and directions. The Authority and Selectmen have encouraged the officers and men that this State will furnish them with fuel.

I am, with due respect, sir, your friend and humble servant,

Thaddeus Burr.

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LIEUTENANT HURLBUT TO COLONEL PARSONS.

New-London, December 19th, 1776.

Sir: At your desire we have sent you a copy of the charter of our company, the most material rules and regulations come into by said company, and our proceedings relative to Captain *Starr*, viz:

At a General Assembly of the Colony of *Connecticut*, in *New-England*, held at *Hartford*, on the second *Thursday* of *May*, A. D. 1762:

Upon the Memorial of *Gordon Saltonstall*, of *New-London*, in the County of *New-London*, and others, inhabitants of the said town of *New-London*, representing said town of *New-London* as being much exposed to the enemy in the time of war; that for the attainment of military skill a number of the inhabitants of said town had voluntarily formed themselves into an Artillery Company; that the First and Second Companies in said town, out of which said Artillery Company is chiefly formed, are large enough for three companies, and to divide said companies by certain lines would not so fully promote military skill as the memorialists propose: Praying that said Artillery Company be made and established, according to the regulations and articles of agreement concluded upon by them and presented to this Assembly, into a separate and independent company:

*It is enacted and ordered*, That said Artillery Company be established, to be, and it is hereby made, a separate independent company, subjected to, and under the regulations of the Third Regiment, as the other companies are by law; and that said company during their continuance, according to the regulations and articles of agreement concluded by them as aforesaid, shall be, and they are hereby, exempted from doing duty in other companies to which they belonged before their inlistment into said Artillery Company, provided that said inlistment shall not at any time exceed sixty-four men, including officers; and that neither of said military companies be reduced by such inlistment into said Artillery Company to a less number than sixty-four men, exclusive of officers.

Copied by J. Hallam, *Clerk*.

A true copy. Examined by George Wyllys, *Sec'y*.

The most material articles, as follows:

That no person be admitted into said company but by the major part of the votes of said company. That said company have all officers proper and necessary for a Captain's company, and that the clerk be sworn according to law. That said company meet annually at such times and places as shall be hereafter agreed upon. That the first *Monday* in *June*, annually, be the day of election for officers, which officers shall continue for one year. That such other and further regulations as said company think proper to be added for the better attaining the aforesaid ends, shall be made by the vote of the major part of said company. Whereupon, in *July*, 1762, voted, that for the time to come no member of the company be dismissed from said company, unless he apply to the commissioned officers at the head of said company, and by a vote of the major part of said company.

Several unworthy members refusing to do duty in said company, and likewise refusing to apply for dismission, and poverty screening them from the fines and forfeitures, making it impossible to collect them, and not wanting the trouble of them, and that the Militia might take charge of them; and the former rules not giving us the power we wanted, we voted to come into the following regulation: "That for the future this company have a right to dismiss any person from being a member of said company by a vote of the majority of said company, and without their application."

We shall now proceed to state the matters relating to Captain *Starr*. You may remember, on the first appearance of the fleet, you sent Captain *Starr* orders to call his company together immediately, and in what order they were in, and hold themselves in readiness to oppose the enemy, if (as was then expected) they attempted to land, which in justice to Captain *Starr* we must say he complied with, and dismissed us to appear at a moment's warning, (most of us living in the street.) On a further alarm we appeared, as ordered, but Captain *Starr* being dilatory and backward in taking charge of his company, a few of us undertook to talk with him, when he declared his sentiments to be, what will be hereafter shown you. Whereupon the company was warned to appear a few days after to examine Captain *Starr*. When met, Captain *Starr* being called upon, declared publickly, what he before had done in private, viz: That he never would take up arms in support of independency; that at the time he was choosed, independency was not declared, or he would not have accepted the office; that he thought us aggrieved by the acts of Parliament, and would have fought in defence of our liberties. To give you an account of any more of his principles, and the long disputes they consequently led us into, would be needless. Whereupon the company, taking the matter into their consideration, were unanimously of opinion, that Captain *Starr*, by his late conduct and the confession of his principles this day, has made himself unworthy of being a member of said company; therefore voted, *nemine contradicente*, that Captain *Starr* be immediately dismissed from said company.

Now, as it has been hinted to us that there is a design on foot of disannulling our charter, we must beg, if that is the case, to have an opportunity of defending ourselves, as we think we have in no one instance forfeited it, and we think charters ought to be esteemed sacred unless forfeited by misconduct.

We are, sir, in behalf of the company, yours,

George B. Hurlbut, *Lieutenant*.
Silas Church, Jun., *Ensign*.

Per order: J. Hallam, *Clerk*.

Colonel *Marsf'd Parsons*.

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Worcester, Massachusetts, December 19, 1776.

By a gentleman of distinction who passed through this town last evening, we have the following articles of intelligence, viz:

That the *Alfred* man-of-war, with the sloop *Providence*, sailed from *Rhode-Island*, 2d *December*, on a private expedition. She took a valuable merchant ship from *Liverpool*, and a fine transport laden with clothing for *Canada*, off *Louisbourg*; she took also a snow laden with fish off *Cape North*, and was then parted from the *Providence* in a light gale of wind; the *Alfred* then proceeded off *Canso*, and burnt a large transport with provisions that had got aground in that harbour; she then proceeded off *Louisbourg*, and took three ships that were then under convoy of the *Flora* frigate; she also took a ship of ten guns from *England* for *Halifax*. She now proceeded, with her prizes under convoy, to the westward, and being chased by a large ship on the

east side of *St. George's Bank*, she sent her prizes ahead, and on the 9th *December* got clear of the enemy by carrying sail in a severe gale of wind, and arrived safe in *Nantasket Road* on the 16th *December*, having on board no more than two days' provision. She brought in one hundred and fifty prisoners, and carried out only one hundred and forty men when she left *Rhode-Island*. Among the prisoners are the Chief Justice of the Province of *Canada*, a Lieutenant of the Thirty-Third Regiment, and a Lieutenant of the Navy.

In the transport above-mentioned, bound for *Canada*, were taken six thousand suits of clothes, with a great variety of other articles well adapted to the demands of the *American* Army.

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NATHANIEL CARTER TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

Newburyport, December 19, 1776.

SIR: Yours of 3d came to hand 6th instant. The furs requested were the same day inspected by a person provided by Messrs. *Jackson, Tracy & Tracy*, and delivered them, with a bill at the prices you proposed, viz: what they gave for parcels they bought in *Boston*, copy of which will be delivered you by my son, the bearer. The amount being £145 11*s.* 8*d.*, you'll please to pay him, as I have directed him to pay it to the State Treasurer. It's probable it may in that way be easily negotiated.

This compliance was greatly repugnant to my views and interest, but your request in its connections has irresistible considerations that could not be rejected.

I have fully noticed that you are now well convinced of my strong attachment to my country in its present dispute.

I am your humble servant,

NATH. CARTER.

Hon. *J. Warren*, President of the Board of War.

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Newburyport, Massachusetts, December 19, 1776.

The truth of the following extraordinary affair may be relied on, viz:

Captain *Eda*, with seventy men, who, about two months since, left *St. John's* in order to take *Fort Cumberland*, seven days after his departure, took a scouting party of twelve men from the fort, who have some time since arrived in this place. Five days after taking the aforesaid party, as they were lying in ambush near the fort, they discovered a frigate and a sloop, both which went up as far as the fort, and the frigate, leaving the sloop behind, departed. About forty-eight hours after, in the night, seventeen of Captain *Eda's* men determined to take the sloop; they accordingly went and boarded her. A Sergeant on board, who was made acquainted with the affair by the watch, ordered them to fire; but upon being told by Captain *Eda's* men, if they did they should all be put to the sword, they thought proper to desist, and accordingly resigned themselves and vessel (the cargo of which was valued at *Halifax* at five thousand pounds sterling) into the hands of the brave *Americans*. The next morning, the Captain of the aforesaid sloop, a Doctor and Chaplain, (not knowing what had happened,) came on board, and, in a short time after, fifteen men in a yawl, in order to unload the vessel, then seven in a two-mast boat, all which are taken proper care of, and are, together with the sloop, which is laden with beef, pork, flour, peas, candles, blankets, iron, steel, nails, &c., &c., &c., brought into a safe port.

It is supposed that by this time Captain *Eda*, with the remainder of his men, is in possession of *Fort Cumberland*.

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MESHECH WEARE TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

State of New-Hampshire, Exeter, December 19, 1776.

SIR: I received your letter of the 13th instant, and laid the same before our General Assembly at their first meeting this day; in consequence of which, a Committee is appointed to repair immediately to *Providence*, and there to act in conjunction with the Committees from the other *New-England* States, on such matters as may be by them thought necessary for the defence of your State.

I am, sir, with all due respect, your humble servant,

M. WEARE, *President*.

Governour *Cooke*.

ENGLISH ORDER IN COUNCIL.

At the Court at *St. James's*, the 20th day of *December*, 1776: Present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas his Majesty was graciously pleased, by his Royal Proclamation, bearing date the twenty-fifth day of *October* last, to promise and declare that the bounties of five pounds for every able seaman, and of two pounds ten shillings for every ordinary seaman fit for his Majesty's service, should be paid in the manner thereby directed, to every such able and ordinary seaman, not above the age of fifty, nor under the age of eighteen years, who should, on or before the thirty-first of *December* then following, enter themselves to serve in his Majesty's Royal Navy, either with the Captains or Lieutenants of his Majesty's ships, or the chief officers on board such tenders as should be employed for raising men for the service of the Royal Navy: And whereas his Majesty was likewise pleased, by his Royal Proclamation bearing date the eighth day of *November* last, to promise and declare that a reward of two pounds for every able, and thirty shillings for every ordinary seaman, should be paid in the manner thereby directed, to any person who should discover any seaman or seamen who might secrete themselves, that so such seaman or seamen should be taken for his Majesty's said service by any of his Majesty's sea officers employed for raising men on or before the said thirty-first day of this instant, *December:* And whereas the time limited by the said proclamations for payment of the said bounty and rewards is near expiring, and it being judged expedient for his Majesty's service that the said bounties and rewards should be continued to be paid for some time longer, his Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council, doth therefore order, and it is hereby accordingly ordered, that the time limited for payment of the said bounties and rewards be prolonged and extended from the said thirty-first day of this instant, *December*, to the twenty-eighth day of *February* next inclusive. Whereof all persons concerned are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

STEPH. COTTRELL.

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SAMUEL CURWEN TO GEORGE RUSSELL.

Exeter, England, December 20, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have delayed answering you till this time, from an hourly expectation of hearing some important advices from *New-York:* but in this I have been hitherto mistaken, the season having too far advanced to expect any military achievements by the *British* forces, and the *Americans*, you know, have formed no active plan of operation by land, confining their views of activity to the depredatory naval department. As to a treaty, I am without the smallest hopes of its taking place at present; the *Americans* do not despair of maintaining their independence, and the Court, I am told, has not given up its view of laying *America* at its feet, for such is and has been the Court language, and the intention to force her to submit to the unconditional authority of Parliament; however, should General *Washington* be beaten out of his intrenchments, it would be but one advantage out of a score that must be gained to make them "lower their top-sails." The *Americans* are not without resources, whatever may be thought on that subject in *England*.

Among others, *France* and *Spain* are no idle lookers-on; resentment as well as political reasons influence them to keep the trammels on the neck of our Court, which shall effectually humble the pride of *Great Britain*, perhaps destroy her independence, or at best reduce her to a state of as little importance in the grand political balance as *Portugal* or *Genoa* now does; and that is the general opinion here, whatever may be the opinion elsewhere. As to the objects of the impolicy of our Court, we know from history that statesmen, to gain a present purpose, sometimes disregard the true interests and honour of the nation and all distant consequences. The King of *Spain* is *England's* avowed enemy; the Court owes this country a grudge for her success against her commerce and garrisons last war; nor does *France* love her better; and ever since her open opposition to the ambitious views of that Court in the beginning of *Louis* XIVth's reign, who aimed at universal empire, has looked on her rising greatness with a jealous, not to say envious eye. It is no proof of want of bravery

in the *Americans* not to face the regulars; many good reasons may be assigned to justify their conduct; and though it be the ground of much reproach here, I see in it the effect of sound judgment—that little dependence can be placed on newly-raised troops is well known the world over. On account of the amazing expense with which *Great Britain* carries on a land war in *America*, unless she can command the troops of *Europe* and the wealth of the *Indies*, men and money must in a few campaigns be wanting. With regard to the insidious offers made to *America*, as the warm partisans against the Court call them, I pretend not to such acquaintance with Court measures to determine about it; if they be so, the greater is the pity. They may, however, if that should be the case, be taken in the snares laid for others; and if good be derived from evil, thanks to an over-ruling Providence, who sometimes makes itself subservient to the happiness of society. That more treasure must be consumed and more blood spilled before this impolitick, destructive, and fatal war is ended, will, I trust, not prove a melancholy truth.

The accounts of the burning of the city of *New-York* in the Gazette, are full, explicit, and intelligible; more than one fourth is destroyed, beginning at the fort and all along the *Broadway*, taking in the College, &c.; and that it was fired by some Northern man is undoubted. A Mr. *Smith*, son of a clergyman of *Weymouth*, in *Massachusetts-Bay*, whom and whose family I knew very well, was concerned, taken, and I believe executed on due proof.

I remain, truly yours, S. Curwen.

To Mr. *George Russell*, at *Moseley Wake Green*, near *Birmingham*.

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THOMAS JOHNSON, JUN., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Frederick-Town, 20th December, 1776.

Gentlemen: Some time ago the Committee of this County formed *James Wells*, *William Reggles*, *Henry Stevenson*, *Lucian Meredith*, *Henry Butler*, *Basil Dorsey*, *William Bresstedan*, and *David Moore's* companies into a battalion, and recommended *Upton Sheredine* Colonel, *David Steiner* Lieutenant-Colonel, *David Moore* 1st Major, *Ephraim Howard* 2d Major, and *Charles Warfield* Quartermaster. It is said here that the recommendation was sent to the Council of Safety, and is lost. Afterwards, as it is said, and on the countenance of some of the Committee, and after a very general agreement on time and place, and two or three weeks intervening, (most of the officers and some of the men, though from what I understand not a majority of the privates,) met and voted for Field Officers to be recommended, who were recommended according to the vote: *James Wells* Colonel, *David Moore* Lieutenant-Colonel, *Ephraim Howard* 1st Major, *Joseph Wells* 2d Major, and *Henry Stevenson* Quartermaster. This recommendation was forwarded to Mr. *Sheredine*, in the time of the last Convention, but he says on receiving a letter from Captain *Moore*, who was present and did not vote, suggesting the election was not fair, he did not get any order for the commissions. I see neither set of Field Officers will entirely please the battalion, and yet if Field Officers are not appointed to that battalion, I fear little may be expected from it. I wish, therefore, commissions were immediately sent me. *William Winchester* is First Lieutenant of *James Wells's* company. *Ephraim Howard* is First and *Upton Sheredine* Second Lieutenants, of *David Moore's* company. *Charles Stevenson* is First Lieutenant of *Henry Stevenson's* company. *David Steiner* is an infirm man, and though enrolled, never musters, so that there can be no use in appointing him a Field Officer.

I am told that Field Officers were some time ago recommended for the upper battalion of all, *Lemuel Barnett*, Colonel. The rest I either did not hear, or have forgot, but I understand the commissions have not come up. If the recommendation is before you and not very exceptionable, I would wish the commissions were sent up. What few people may on any occasion be got from that quarter, will tell for so many at least.

23d.—I have had no opportunity of sending the above away. This afternoon the Committee received money from the Congress. None have yet marched, but are very busy in preparing. If you can possibly supply shoes, stockings, tents, or blankets, especially the last, it may save a good many poor fellows. If you can spare any, do hurry them to this place or *Taney-Town*, and advise us of it.

I took the freedom to mention my sentiment, that if General *Beall's* commission had not expired, it would not do to give him the command of the Militia. The prejudice is so strong against him, that many of the officers say they will not go under him. As I hear this sentiment so general I think it my duty to mention it to you. I wish to be ascertained whether I am to go or not. I am heartily willing to exert myself in the military line, if you think it may possibly gain to the service.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

Th. Johnson, Jun.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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BENJAMIN RUSH TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Philadelphia, December 20, 1776.

My dear Sir: An officer, (a *German* by birth,) who has served in *Russia* and *Hanover* several campaigns, called upon me a few hours ago, and after producing certificates, &c., that he now holds a Captain's commission under the Empress of *Russia*, gave me the following information in confidence. He says that he is personally acquainted with many of the *Hessian* officers and privates now in *Howe's* Army; that as they serve for pay only, he thinks the bounty, pay, and clothing offered by Congress, so much above what they now enjoy, that if they were properly tendered to them they would serve us with more cheerfulness than the King of *Great Britain*. He offers to go in person into *Howe's* Army, at the risk of his life, and is sanguine enough to think he could immediately bring off two hundred recruits with him. He demands Continental money only to pay the bounties; if he fails, he will return the money; he very justly objected to taking gold or silver, as it might be useful to them in *Howe's* camp. I submit these hints to your consideration. I am bound to inform you, that the Captain (who, from his certificates, is a Baron) appears very modest, and possesses the manners and address of a gentleman. He added, in the course of our conversation, that we had many warm friends in *Russia*, and that a majority of that nation expressed a dislike at the thoughts of being employed to fight against us. He thinks there is no probability of any troops being procured from that quarter next summer. If you think the above scheme practicable, please mention it in Congress. I am at a loss what to advise in the affair; at any rate, communicate your opinion, or the determination of Congress, to Mr. *Philip Bochm*, in *Philadelphia*, who will communicate it to the Baron. If he is encouraged, he will wait upon Congress, and receive his instructions from them.

We are much blamed by the Whigs, and ridiculed by the Tories, for leaving *Philadelphia* so suddenly. All the back Counties near *Philadelphia* are in motion. Several hundreds of the Militia join General *Washington* daily; I refer you to Mr. *Samuel Purviance* for particulars. I have a thousand things to say to you. Vigour, firmness, and decisive measures, are more necessary than ever. Dispute less, and do more, in Congress, or we are undone. Compliments to your brother, and the worthy members of the weekly club. I am on my way to *Bristol*, being summoned to attend the *Philadelphia* Militia for a few weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Rush.

P. S. I need not suggest the necessity of secrecy, if the Baron's scheme is adopted.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 24.]

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 20th, 1776.

Sir: The Council of Safety is under an absolute necessity of expending large sums of money daily, or of totally deserting the publick cause. The demand of the Militia now arriving in considerable numbers; the recruiting service, which goes on successfully; the purchasing of clothing for the troops, and many other unavoidable expenses, arising from the exigencies of our affairs, have nearly exhausted our Treasury, and we have no resource but a loan from Congress. We therefore most earnestly entreat you

to apply to that honourable body for two hundred thousand dollars, to be immediately transmitted to us by the bearer, Captain *Casdrop*, who we send to conduct them up. We are informed by Mr. *Eswick*, Wagonmaster, that several Continental wagons are at *Baltimore*. We therefore request you will please to order one of them for the purpose of conveying the money, and afford Captain *Casdrop* a guard of men to protect it.

By order of Council. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

The sick of the Continental Army has greatly increased the business and the necessity of money, which this Board complains of.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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ADDRESS OF MEETING OF SUFFERINGS OF THE QUAKERS.

*To our Friends and Brethren in religious profession, in these and the adjacent Provinces.*

DEARLY BELOVED FRIENDS AND BRETHREN: Our minds being renewedly impressed with a fervent religious concern for your spiritual welfare, and preservation in the love and fellowship of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, by the constrainings of his love, we are engaged to salute you in this time of deep exercise, affliction, and difficulty; earnestly desiring that we may, by steady circumspection and care in every part of our conduct and conversation, evidence that under the close trials which are and may be permitted to attend us, our faith and reliance is fixed on Him alone for protection and deliverance, remembering His gracious promise to his faithful followers, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."—(*Matt.* xxviii, 20.)

And "as it became him for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings," (*Heb.* ii, 10.) let us not be dismayed, if we are now led in the same path.

As we keep in the Lord's power and peaceable truth, which is over all, and therein seek the good of all, neither outward sufferings, persecutions, nor any outward thing that is below, will hinder or break our heavenly fellowship in the light and spirit of Christ.—(*G. Fox's* Epistle, 1685.)

Thus we may, with Christian fortitude and firmness, withstand and refuse to submit to the arbitrary injunctions and ordinances of men, who assume to themselves the power of compelling others, either in person or by other assistance, to join in carrying on war, and in prescribing modes of determining concerning our religious principles, by imposing tests not warranted by the precepts of Christ, or the laws of the happy Constitution under which we and others long enjoyed tranquillity and peace.

We, therefore, in the aboundings of that love which wisheth the spiritual and temporal prosperity of all men, exhort, admonish, and caution, all who make religious profession with us, and especially our beloved youth, to stand fast in that liberty wherewith, through the manifold sufferings of our predecessors, we have been favoured, and steadily to bear our testimony against every attempt to deprive us of it.

And, dear friends, you who have known the truth, and the powerful operations thereof in your minds, adhere faithfully thereto, and by your good examples and stability, labour to strengthen the weak, confirm the wavering, and warn and caution the unwary against being beguiled by the snares of the adversaries of truth and righteousness. Let not the fear of suffering, either in person or property, prevail on any to join with or promote any work or preparation for war.

Our profession and principles are founded on that spirit which is contrary to, and will in time put an end to all wars, and bring in everlasting righteousness; and by our constantly abiding under the direction and instruction of that spirit, we may be endued with that "wisdom from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."—(*James* iii, 17.) That this may be our happy experience is our fervent desire and prayer.

Signed, in and on behalf of the meeting for Sufferings held in *Philadelphia*, for *Pennsylvania* and *New-Jersey*, the 20th day of the 12th month, 1776.

JOHN PEMBERTON, *Clerk*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 20, 1776.

SIR: The pressing necessities of our troops induce the Council to send persons round the city of *Philadelphia* to demand blankets and stockings for their use, with authority to take them when refused, paying a reasonable price for the same. Should your Excellency approve of the measure, we would recommend it to you to send out detachments through the Counties of *Bucks* and *Philadelphia*, and take blankets, stockings, and such other necessaries as the inhabitants can spare, on the same terms. By these means many articles of immediate necessity may doubtless be procured in the neighbourhood of the Army, without distressing the inhabitants in the least.

The Militia comes in very fast, and the Council find it difficult to find them in arms. We would be glad to know whether there are any at camp which they can be furnished with.

We have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that a sloop is arrived at *Chester*, with upwards of nine hundred stand of arms, and a large quantity of blankets and other woolens, on account of Congress. We shall apply to the Committee of Congress in this city to have the clothing forwarded to Head-Quarters immediately.

At the request of Congress for a number of wagons to remove the publick stores, and at a time when the inhabitants of the city were distressed for the want of means to remove their families, this Board gave a general invitation for wagons to come in from the country; in consequence whereof many more attend at present than can be immediately employed. Your Excellency will be pleased to let us know whether wagons are wanted for the use of the Army at present, and what number, that so many may be retained as are necessary, and the rest discharged.

By order of the Council. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

OWEN BIDDLE, *Chairman*.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Camp above Trenton Falls, December 20th, 1776.

SIR: I have waited with much impatience to know the determinations of Congress on the propositions made some time in *October* last, for augmenting our corps of Artillery and establishing a corps of Engineers. The time is now come when the first cannot be delayed without the greatest injury to the safety of these States, and therefore, under the resolution of Congress, bearing date the 12th instant, at the repeated instance of Colonel *Knox*, and by the pressing advice of all the General Officers now here, I have ventured to order three battalions of Artillery to be immediately recruited. These are two less than Colonel *Knox* recommends, as you will see by his plan enclosed; but then this scheme comprehends all the *United States*, whereas some of the States have a corps already established, and these three battalions are indispensably necessary for the operations in this quarter, including the Northern Department.

The pay of our Artillerists bearing no proportion with that in the *English* or *French* service, the murmurings and dissatisfaction thereby occasioned, and the absolute impossibility, as I am told, of getting them upon the old terms, and the unavoidable necessity of obtaining them at all events, have induced me (also by advice) to promise officers and men that their pay should be augmented twenty-five per cent., or that their engagements shall become null and void. This may appear to Congress premature and unwarrantable; but, sir, if they view our situation in the light it strikes their officers, they will be convinced of the utility of the measure, and that the execution could not be delayed till after their meeting at *Baltimore*. In short, the present exigency of our affairs will not admit of delay, either in council or the field; for well convinced I am, that if the enemy go into quarters at all, it will be for a short season; but I rather think the design of General *Howe* is to possess himself of *Philadelphia* this winter if possible, and in truth, I do not see what is to prevent him, as ten days more will put an end to the existence of our Army. That one great point is to keep us as much harassed as possible, with a view to injure

the recruiting service, and hinder a collection of stores and other necessaries for the next campaign, I am as clear in as I am of my existence. If, therefore, we have to provide in this short interval, and make these great and arduous preparations, every matter that in its nature is self-evident is to be referred to Congress, at the distance of one hundred and thirty or forty miles, so much time must necessarily elapse as to defeat the end in view.

It may be said that this is an application for powers that are too dangerous to be entrusted. I can only add, that desperate diseases require desperate remedies; and with truth declare, that I have no lust after power, but wish with as much fervency as any man upon this wide-extended Continent for an opportunity of turning the sword into a ploughshare; but my feelings as an officer and a man have been such as to force me to say, that no person ever had a greater choice of difficulties to contend with than I have. It is needless to add, that short inlistments, and a mistaken dependence upon Militia, have been the origin of all our misfortunes, and the great accumulation of our debt.

We find, sir, that the enemy are daily gathering strength from the disaffected. This strength, like a snow-ball by rolling, will increase, unless some means can be devised to check effectually the progress of the enemy's arms. Militia may possibly do it for a little while; but in a little while also, the Militia of those States which have been frequently called upon, will not turn out at all; or if they do, it will be with so much reluctance and sloth as to amount to the same thing. Instance *New-Jersey*; witness *Pennsylvania*. Could any thing but the river *Delaware* have saved *Philadelphia*? Can any thing (the exigency of the case, indeed, may justify it) be more destructive to the recruiting service than giving ten dollars bounty for six weeks' service of the Militia, who come in, you cannot tell how, go, you cannot tell when, and act, you cannot tell where, consume your provisions, exhaust your stores, and leave you at last at a critical moment?

These, sir, are the men I am to depend upon ten days hence; this is the basis on which your cause will and must forever depend, till you get a large standing army sufficient of itself to oppose the enemy. I therefore beg leave to give it as my humble opinion, the eighty-eight battalions are by no means equal to the opposition you are to make, and that a moment's time is not to be lost in raising a greater number, not less, in my opinion, and the opinion of my officers, than one hundred and ten. It may be urged, that it will be found difficult enough to complete the first number. This may be true, and yet the officers of one hundred and ten battalions will recruit many more men than those of eighty-eight. In my judgment, this is not a time to stand upon expense; our funds are [not] the only objects of consideration. The State of *New-York* have added one (I wish they had made it two) battalions to their quota. If any good officers offer to raise men upon Continental pay and establishment in this quarter, I shall encourage them to do so, and regiment them when they have done it. If Congress disapprove of the proceeding, they will please to signify it, as I mean it for the best.

It may be thought I am going a good deal out of the line of my duty to adopt these measures, or to advise thus freely. A character to lose, an estate to forfeit, the inestimable blessing of liberty at stake, and a life devoted, must be my excuse.

I have heard nothing of the Light-Horse from *Virginia*, nor the regiment from the *Eastern Shore*. I wish to know what troops are to act in the different departments, and to have those from the southward designed for this place ordered on as fast as they shall be raised. The route should be pointed out by which they are to march; assistant Commissaries and Quartermasters upon the communication to supply their wants; the first or second officer of each battalion to forward them, and the other to come on, receive, and form them at their place of destination. Unless this is immediately set about, the campaign, if it should be closed, will be opened in the spring, before we have any men in the field. Every exertion should be used to procure tents. A Clothier-General should be appointed without loss of time for supplying the Army with every article in that way; he should be a man of business and abilities. A Commissary of Prisoners must be appointed to attend the Army; for want of an officer of this kind, the exchange of prisoners has been conducted in a most shameful and injurious manner. We have had them from all quarters pushed into our camps at the most critical junctures, and without the least previous notice. We have had them traveling through the different States, in all directions, by certificates from Committees, without any kind of control; and have had instances of some going into the enemy's camp without my privity or knowledge, after passing in the manner before mentioned. There may be other officers necessary, which I don't recollect at this time, and which, when thought of, must be provided; for this, sir, you may rely on, that the commanding officer, under the present establishment, is obliged to attend to the business of so many different departments, as to render it impossible to conduct that of his own with the attention necessary; than which nothing can be more injurious.

In a former letter I intimated my opinion of the necessity of having a Brigadier for every three regiments, and a Major-General to every three brigades, at most. I think no time is to be lost in making the appointments, that the arrangements may be consequent. This will not only aid the recruiting service, but will be the readiest means of forming and disciplining the Army afterwards, which in the short time we have to do it is of amazing consequence. I have laboured, ever since I have been in the service, to discourage all kinds of local attachments and distinctions of country, denominating the whole by the greater name of *American*; but I found it impossible to overcome prejudices; and under the new establishment, I conceive it best to stir up an emulation; in order to do which, would it not be better for each State to furnish, though not to appoint, their own Brigadiers? This, if known to be part of the establishment, might prevent a good deal of contention and jealousy; and would, I believe, be the means of promotions going forward with more satisfaction, and quiet the higher officers.

Whilst I am speaking of promotions, I cannot help giving it as my opinion, that, if Congress thinks proper to confirm what I have done with respect to the corps of Artillery, that Colonel *Knox*, at present at the head of that department, (but who, without promotion, will resign,) ought to be appointed to the command of it, with the rank and pay of Brigadier. I have also to mention, that for want of some establishment in the department of Engineers, agreeable to the plan laid before Congress in *October* last, Colonel *Putnam*, who was at the head of it, has quitted, and taken a regiment in the State of *Massachusetts*. I know of no other man tolerably well qualified for the conducting of that business. None of the *French* gentlemen, whom I have seen with appointments in that way, appear to me to know any thing of the matter. There is one in *Philadelphia*, who, I am told, is clever; but him I have never seen. I must also once more beg leave to mention to Congress the expediency of letting promotions be in a regimental line. The want of this has already driven some of the best officers that were in your Army, out of the service. From repeated and strict inquiry, I am convinced you can adopt no mode of promotion that will be better received, or that will give more general satisfaction. I wish, therefore, to have it announced.

The casting of cannon is a matter that ought not to be one moment delayed; and, therefore, I shall send Colonel *Knox* to put this in a train, as also to have travelling-carriages and shot provided. Elaboratories to be established, one in *Hartford*, and another in *York*. Magazines of provisions should also be laid in. These I shall fix with the Commissary. As our great loss last year proceeded from a want of teams, I shall direct the Quartermaster-General to furnish a certain number to each regiment to answer the common purposes thereof, that the Army may be enabled to remove from place to place differently from what we have done, or could do, this campaign. Ammunition carts, and proper carts for intrenching tools, should also be provided; and I shall direct about them accordingly. Above all, a store of small-arms should be provided, or men will be of little use. The consumption and waste of these, this year, have been great; Militia, Flying-Camp men, &c., coming in without, were obliged to be furnished, or become useless. Many of these threw their arms away, some lost them, whilst others deserted, and took them away. In a word, although I used every precaution to preserve them, the loss has been great; and this will forever be the case, in such a mixed and irregular army as ours has been.

If no part of the troops already embarked at *New-York* has appeared in *Virginia*, their destination doubtless must be to some other quarter; and that State must, I should think, be freed from any invasion, if General *Howe* can be effectually opposed in this. I therefore enclose a memorandum, given me by Brigadier *Stephen*, of *Virginia*, which Congress will please to adopt in the whole, in part, or reject, as may be consistent with their plans and intelligence.

That division of the Army late under the command of General *Lee*, now General *Sullivan*, is just upon the point of joining us. A strange kind of fatality has attended it. They had orders on the 17th of *November* to join, now more than a month. General *Gates*, with four Eastern regiments, are also near at hand; three others from those States were coming on, by his order, by the way of *Peekskill*, and had joined General *Heath*, whom I had ordered on with *Parsons's* brigade, to join me, leaving *Clinton's* brigade, and some Militia that were at forts *Montgomery* and *Constitution*, to guard those important passes of the Highlands. But the Convention of the State of *New-York*, seeming to be much alarmed at *Heath's* coming away, a fleet appearing off *New-London*, and some part of the enemy's troops retiring towards *Brunswick*, induced me to countermand the order for the march of *Parsons's* brigade, and to direct the three regiments from *Ticonderoga* to halt at *Morristown*, in *Jersey*, (where I understand about eight hundred Militia had collected,) in order to inspirit the inhabitants, and, as far as possible, cover that part of the country. I shall send General *Maxwell* this day to take the command of them, and if to be done, to harass and annoy the enemy in their quarters, and cut off their convoys. The care and vigilance which were used in securing the boats on this river has hitherto baffled every attempt of the enemy to cross; but, from concurring reports and appearances, they are waiting for ice to afford them a passage.

Since writing the foregoing, I have received a letter from Governour *Cooke*, of *Rhode-Island*, of which the enclosed is a copy. Previous to this, and immediately upon the first intelligence obtained of a fleet's going through the *Sound*, I despatched orders to Generals *Spencer* and *Arnold* to proceed without the least delay to the eastward. The first, I presume, is gone; the latter, not getting my letter till he came to a place called *Easton*, was, by advice of General *Gates*, who also met my letter at the same place, induced to come on hither before he proceeded to the eastward. Most of our Brigadiers are laid up. Not one has come on with the division under General *Sullivan*, but are left sick at different places on the road.

By accounts from the eastward, a large body of men had assembled in *Rhode-Island* from the States of *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut*. I presume (but I have no advice of it) that the Militia ordered from the first to rendezvous at *Danbury*, six thousand in number, under the command of Major-General *Lincoln*, for supplying the place of the disbanded men of that State in the Continental Army, will now be ordered to *Rhode-Island*. In speaking of General *Lincoln*, I should not do him justice were I not to add, that he is a gentleman well worthy of notice in the military line. He commanded the Militia from *Massachusetts* last summer, or fall rather, and much to my satisfaction, having proved himself, on all occasions, an active, spirited, sensible man. I do not know whether it is his wish to remain in the military line, or whether, if he should, any thing under the rank he now holds in the State he comes from would satisfy him. How far an appointment of this kind might offend the Continental Brigadiers, I cannot undertake to say; many there are over whom he ought not to be placed, but I know of no way to discriminate. Brigadier *Read*, of *New-Hampshire*, does not, I presume, mean to continue in service. He ought not, as I am told, by the severity of the small-pox, he is become both blind and deaf.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. Generals *Gates* and *Sullivan* have this instant come in. By them I learn that few or no men are recruited out of the regiments coming on with them. There is very little reason to expect that these regiments will be prevailed upon to continue after their term of service expires. If Militia then do not come in, the consequences are but too evident.

*A Plan for the establishment of a Continental Artillery, Magazines, Laboratories, &c.*

In the modern mode of carrying on a war, there is nothing which contributes more to make an army victorious than a well-regulated and well-disciplined Artillery, provided with a sufficiency of cannon and stores. The battles which have lately been fought in *Europe* have, generally, been with cannon; and that army which has had the most numerous and best-appointed artillery has commonly been victorious.

The experience of this campaign shows how much the enemy depend upon the superiority of their artillery. They scarcely or ever detach a single regiment without two or three field pieces. The regulations of their artillery are founded upon the most convincing experience of their utility, and we shall have no reason to blush by imitating them in those particulars.

Considering the exigencies of an active and extensive campaign, and the common accidents of war, the establishment here proposed will not be superiour, if equal, to the service. The genius, industry, and care requisite in the preparation of all kinds of military stores, and the management of cannon, render it necessary that the best men should be employed in this service; and as the generally detached state of the artillery subjects them to much greater expense than if they were together, their pay ought to be twenty-five per cent. more than the marching regiments. In the *British* and *French* service it is double.

It will be necessary to have five Battalions; each Battalion to consist of one Colonel, one Lieutenant-Colonel, one Major, and twelve Companies; each Company one Captain, one Captain-Lieutenant, four Lieutenants, six Sergeants, six Corporals, six Gunners, six Bombardiers, and twenty-eight Matrosses.

That after the appointment of the officers, they be permitted to recruit in any of the *United States of America*.

One Commissary of Military Stores, and as many Deputy Commissaries and Conductors as the nature of the service may require, and the Commander-in-Chief thinks necessary.

That a company of Artificers be with the Artillery in the field, for various contingent services.

It will be necessary to have magazines and laboratories, for the reception and preparation of military stores of every species, formed at *Hartford*, in *Connecticut*, and *York*, in *Pennsylvania*; and that to each laboratory, besides the persons that are to prepare the stores, there be a sufficient number of able artificers to make ammunition-wagons, tumbrils, spare carriages for cannon, &c., &c.

That each laboratory have a Director, whose rank and pay be equal to that of a Lieutenant-Colonel, and a Sub-Director, with the rank and pay of a Captain.

That two persons be employed to get cast, or otherwise procure, one hundred and fifty brass pieces of cannon, of such sizes as the commanding officer of Artillery shall direct, and the Commander-in-Chief approve.

That the persons appointed for this purpose be instructed to spare neither pains or expense in getting the cannon cast and mounted as soon as possible.

That the commanding officer of Artillery be empowered to form the magazines, laboratories, and artificers, immediately.

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*Plan of General* Stephen.

The Second and Seventh *Virginia* Regiments, with all the convalescents from the other corps left in *Virginia*, and now fit for duty, to be immediately ordered to join the Army under his Excellency General *Washington*.

All recruits inlisted on the new establishment, to the eastward of the *Blue Ridge*, to join them at places most convenient, and march along with them to the Army. The whole to march by companies, for the better accommodation on the road.

The Quartermasters, Commissaries, and an officer of address, to march before, to provide quarters and provisions.

The new inlisted troops, in *Fincastle*, *Bottetourt*, *Augusta*, *Hampshire*, *Dunmore*, *Frederick*, and *Berkeley*, to march immediately by *Bottetourt Court-House*, *Staunton*, *Woodsbury*, *Strasburg*, *Winchester*, and *Martinsburg*, the nearest way to *Lancaster*, having provisions laid in for them at the different places above-mentioned.

The troops under command of Lieutenant-Colonel *Nevil*, except the company posted at the mouth of the *Kanaway*, and the *Pennsylvania* regiment, commanded by Colonel *McRay*, in *Westmoreland*, to march immediately by *Ligonier*, *Bedford*, and *Carlisle*, having provisions laid in for them at these places.

The new recruits of the seven companies to be raised in *Youghyougawia*, *Monongalia*, and *Ohio*, to be marched by *Fort Cumberland*, the nearest way to *Lancaster*. The Commissaries and men best acquainted with the country to lay in provisions for them at *Speirs*, *Redstone*, *The Great Meadows*, *Great Crossing*, and *Fort Cumberland*.

An officer, with two Light-Horse, to be forwarded over the mountains, with cash to purchase blankets, arms, and other necessaries, to facilitate the march, and with peremptory orders to make despatch.

In order to prevent neglect of duty in the recruiting service, every recruiting officer to make a weekly report to the commander of the Militia of his County, in *Virginia*; and if the officer is found indolent, the Militia officer, by a late regulation, can appoint another who will be more active.

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Providence, December 8th, 1776, past 10 o'clock, P. M.

SIR: It is with great concern I give you the disagreeable intelligence that the enemy, with a fleet consisting of seventy-eight ships-of-war and transports, entered the harbour of *New-Port* yesterday. We had about six hundred men upon *Rhode-Island*, who were obliged to evacuate it, with the loss of about fifteen or twenty heavy cannon, having taken off the ammunition and stores, and the greatest part of the stock. The enemy have full possession of the island. I am informed by General *West* and Lieutenant *Barron*, of the *Providence*, that they landed this morning, about eight o'clock, with eight thousand men, who marched in three divisions, one towards *New-Port*, the second towards *Howland's Ferry*, and the third to *Bristol Ferry*, where they arrived time enough to fire upon the boats that brought over our last men, but without doing damage. I have sent repeated expresses to the *Massachusetts-Bay* and *Connecticut*. The forces of the former are upon the march, as I believe the latter are also.

In great haste, I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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ORDERS TO CARPENTER WHARTON, ASSISTANT COMMISSARY-GENERAL.

SIR: It being represented to me that the millers, either from an unwillingness to part with their flour, or the difficulty of obtaining wheat from the farmers, do not employ their mills, by which means the Army under my command is like to suffer for want of bread; I do hereby authorize and instruct you to inquire into the state of this matter, with full powers, if it should be found that the default is in the miller, to seize the mill and grain, and employ it for the use of the publick; and if it arises from any defect in the farmer, to take his grain for the publick service; in either case paying the full value of such flour or wheat at the mill where it is manufactured.

Given under my hand at Head-Quarters, in *Bucks* County, this 20th day of *December*, 1776.

GO. WASHINGTON.

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GENERAL M'DOUGALL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Chatham, 20 December, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I was honoured with your favour of the 18th. It came very seasonable. I was happy to find you and the other General Officers considered it advisable to detain Colonel *Vose's* corps. It was a measure absolutely necessary to prop the drooping spirits of the Militia. This moment Colonel *Vose* received General *Washington's* orders of the 18th, to tarry in this State, which has relieved me from many embarrassments. The enclosed is the last intelligence we have of the state of the enemy. Whenever the service will permit your advancing to *Morris-Town*, it will be of great importance in protecting this distressed State. As this is to accompany a letter to you, which we suppose to be from General *Washington*, and forwarded by express, time will only permit me to add, that I am, with great respect, your very humble servant,

ALEX. McDOUGALL.

To Major-General *Heath*, *Pyramus*.

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*Intelligence by* JOHN HALSTEAD, *from* ELIZABETH-TOWN.

*John Halstead* left *Elizabeth-Town* this morning about eight o'clock. Says there is no troops in *Elizabeth-Town* but *Waldeckers*, the same that has been there for two weeks past. Says the drums beat this morning, about daybreak, and he understood they were to have marched; but that they did not, and the reason why, as he understood, was the badness of the weather. Knows not which way they were to march, but it was said they were to have a little march out o' town; that he thinks six or seven hundred *British* troops went through town the day before yesterday, near twelve o'clock, towards *New-Ark*, and that they have not as yet returned.

Chatham, 20th December, 1776.

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CAPTAINS OF COLONEL MAXWELL'S REGIMENT TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY: The Captains of the late Colonel *Maxwell's* regiment, in behalf of their men, have thought it necessary to lay before your Excellency the charge brought against them of cartouch-boxes, cross-belts, tomahawks, haver-sacks, priming-wires and brushes, canteens, gauntlines, camp-kettles, and *Canada* caps. The men have been taught to believe that they would not have to pay for those things enumerated. General *Gates*, while at *Ticonderoga*, gave them assurances that they would not; since which they think themselves exempted from the payment. We hope your Excellency will consider it. This charge, if permitted to stand, will retard the present service, and injure our characters. Relying on the justness of the case, and the impartiality with which justice is administered where you preside, are in full assurances that our request will be complied with.

If the hardships these men have gone through would be any argument for the remitting these things mentioned, we would have no doubt of their being excluded. We will freely submit it to your Excellency and General *Gates*; and are your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servants,

H. BREARLY, *Captain*,
In behalf of the whole.

December 20th, 1776.

SIR: I am fully of opinion that the above requests of the Captains is very reasonable, both from the promise of General *Gates*, and the extraordinary campaign they have undergone.

I am your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

WM. MAXWELL, *Brigadier-General*.

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SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 20th December, 1776.

I have the honour to enclose an extract of a letter from Lieutenant-General *Clinton*, containing advice of his being in possession of *Rhode-Island*, without any loss to his Majesty's troops. The season may be found too far advanced for him to proceed to *Providence*, but, if practicable, I am confident the attempt will be made. The advantages to be derived from this acquisition are nevertheless very important.

In *Jersey*, upon the approach of the van of Lord *Cornwallis's* corps to *Brunswick*, by a forced march on the 1st instant, the enemy went off most precipitately to *Princetown*; and had they not prevented the passage of the *Raritan*, by breaking a part of *Brunswick* bridge, so great was the confusion among them, that their Army must inevitably have been cut to pieces.

My first design, extending no further than to get and keep possession of *East-Jersey*, Lord *Cornwallis* had orders not to advance beyond *Brunswick*, which occasioned him to discontinue his pursuit; but finding the advantages that might be gained by pushing on to the *Delaware*, and the possibility of getting to *Philadelphia*, the communication leading to *Brunswick* was reinforced, and on the 6th I joined his Lordship with the Fourth Brigade of *British*, under the command of Major-General *Grant*. On the 7th Lord *Cornwallis's* corps, the Guards excepted, who were left at *Bruns-*

*wick*, marched to *Princetown*, which the enemy had quitted on the same day. This corps marched in two divisions on the 8th: the first advancing to *Trenton*, reached the *Delaware* soon after the enemy's rear guard had crossed. Their main Army having passed the preceding day and night, took post on the other side of the river.

Lord *Cornwallis*, with the rear division, halted at *Maidenhead*, six miles from *Trenton*, and marched at one o'clock next morning to *Corriel's Ferry*, thirteen miles higher up the *Delaware*, in some expectation of finding boats there, and in the neighbourhood, sufficient to pass the river; but in this he was disappointed, the enemy having taken the precaution to destroy, or to secure on the south side, all the boats that could possibly be employed for that purpose.

The passage of the *Delaware* being thus rendered impracticable, his Lordship took post at *Pennington*, in which place and *Trenton* the two divisions remained until the 14th, when the weather having become too severe to keep the field, and the winter cantonments being arranged, the troops marched from both places to their respective stations. The chain, I own, is rather too extensive, but I was induced to occupy *Burlington* to cover the County of *Monmouth*, in which there are many loyal inhabitants; and trusting to the almost general submission of the County to the southward of this chain, and to the strength of the corps placed in the advanced posts, I conclude the troops will be in perfect security. Lord *Cornwallis* having desired to return to *Britain*, the command in *Jersey* is given to Major-General *Grant*, in whose approved good conduct I have the greatest confidence.

I cannot too much commend Lord *Cornwallis's* good services during this campaign; and particularly the ability and conduct he displayed in the pursuit of the enemy from *Fort Lee* to *Trenton*, a distance exceeding eighty miles, in which he was well supported by the ardour of his corps, who cheerfully quitted their tents and heavy baggage, as impediments to their march.

By pressing the Rebels so close they had not time to destroy the country, as they intended, or to remove their stores; by which a large quantity of provisions and plenty of forage have been secured.

During Lord *Cornwallis's* stay at *Pennington*, a patrol of thirty Dragoons from the Sixteenth Regiment was sent out to gain intelligence of a corps under the command of General *Lee*, reported to be in *Morris* County, on their way to cross the *Delaware* at *Alexandria*. Lieutenant-Colonel *Harcourt* desired the direction of this detachment, and learning, as he proceeded, the situation of this corps, consisting of two thousand men, and of General *Lee's* Head-Quarters, he contrived, by infinite address and gallantry, to get to his house undiscovered by the guard, surrounded it, and overcoming all their resistance, made the General a prisoner. Being confident this gallant action will not escape his Majesty's gracious attention, it is needless for me to recommend Lieutenant-Colonel *Harcourt* to the King's notice upon this occasion.

I must also mention the signal services of Sir *William Erskine*, in his department of Quartermaster-General, whose indefatigable zeal has eminently contributed to the success of this campaign; nor must I omit Major *Maitland*, of the corps of Marines, who has the command of the Second Battalion of Light-Infantry, in which he has distinguished himself much to his honour.

The time of service for which most of the enemy's troops were engaged being expired, their present strength, from a review of the latest intelligence received, is about eight thousand on the south side of the *Delaware* and in *Philadelphia*, five hundred Militia embodied in *Morris* County, *New-Jersey*, and about three thousand at *Peek's Kill*, *North-Castle*, and the smaller posts in this Province.

Major-General *Robertson*, who served the campaign by his Majesty's permission, will return to *Britain* by the earliest opportunity.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN, DATED NEW-YORK, 20TH DECEMBER, 1776.

In my separate letter by the *Tamer*, No. 32, I mentioned my ideas for the several operations in the course of the ensuing campaign, and proposed a defensive corps in *Jersey*, for the early part of the year; but the opinions of people being much changed in *Pennsylvania*, and their minds in general, from the late progress of the Army, disposed to peace, in which sentiment they would be confirmed by our getting possession of *Philadelphia*, I am from this consideration fully persuaded the principal Army should act offensively on that side, where the enemy's chief strength will certainly be collected.

By this change, the offensive plan towards *Boston* must be deferred until the proposed reinforcements arrive from *Europe*, that there may be a corps to act defensively upon the lower part of *Hudson's* river, to cover *Jersey* on that side, as well as to facilitate, in some degree, the approach of the Army from *Canada*.

The arrangement I would humbly propose for the execution of this plan is, that only two thousand men should remain at *Rhode-Island*, with a proper number of ships; four thousand men on *York Island* and posts adjacent, and three thousand men on *Hudson's* river; which will leave about ten thousand men for *Pennsylvania*, including, on a rough computation, that the extent of our strength at the opening of the campaign will not exceed nineteen thousand men.

But as those operations, perhaps of the last importance to the nation, may depend upon the exigencies of the moment, I request your Lordship to point out any general plans that may be thought most advisable, both with respect to the present strength of this Army and on the event of reinforcements, remarking the periods of time in which these troops may be expected. I would further propose, that every augmentation of troops should come to this port in the first instance, from whence they can be readily disposed of as may be found requisite.

We must not look for the Northern Army to reach *Albany* before the middle of *September*. Of course the subsequent operations of that corps will depend upon the state of things at the time.

Clothing, tents, and every species of camp equipage, will be wanted for the *Hessian* troops and regiment of *Waldeck*.

The enclosed return will show the number of men wanting to complete these corps, and if two hundred were added to the *Hessian* quota, and thirty to that of *Waldeck*, I think the casualties of the winter may reasonably be computed to amount to that number.

The Seventh and Twenty-Sixth Regiments being mostly exchanged, and the season not admitting of their going to *Canada* before the spring, I beg to have his Majesty's commands for the disposal of those battalions.

I cannot close this letter without making mention of the good services rendered in the course of the campaign by *Cortland Skinner*, Esq., Attorney-General in the *Jerseys*, who has been indefatigable, and of infinite service, since the Army entered those Provinces; I therefore humbly recommend him as a gentleman meriting the Royal favour.

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JONATHAN HALLET TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, December 20, 1776.

Yesterday I saw Mr. *Peter Benedict*, who was appointed First Lieutenant under me. He informs me that he continues in the service. He is much obliged to the honourable Convention for their appointment; but his circumstances are such that he can by no means serve. I should be very glad if I could have an officer appointed in his stead, as I labour under great disadvantages in my recruiting, by not having my complement of officers, and being very lame at present myself.

I am, your very humble servant,

JONATHAN HALLET.

To the honourable Convention, *Fishkill*.

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COLONEL SWARTWOUT TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fort Constitution, December 20, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Whereas the limited time we engaged in the service will expire by the last day of this month, which is nigh at hand, except we are relieved or stay longer than our times this garrison will be left vacant; but in all probability you have provided a relief, to relieve us at that day; but on the contrary, if you have not, it would be best to let me know per first opportunity in what manner to act. It is very reasonable to think that the greatest part of the men will be very anxious to get home when their time

expires; notwithstanding, believe, with the other officers, might prevail with a sufficient number to garrison this fort till a proper relief might be procured of the Continental troops. But if you have already a sufficient number of Continental troops, will be saving money by sending them, as they are under pay. Should be loth to leave this garrison with my regiment till I heard from you, gentlemen, as there are many things here which will not admit of leaving without a guard, such as cannon, ammunition, &c.

Captain *Bratt's* and Captain *Balding's* companies of Rangers arrived here the other day, from *Albany*. Say they were sent here by the Committee of that place, and their instructions are to come here to this fort and stay till the first of *January*, which will be just the time we have to stay. In my opinion, they are of no service here for the present, nor would they, if they should be ordered to guard this fort this winter, for I ordered them to furnish their proportion of guards, upon which the two Captains came to me and told me their men was not listed to mount guard, but were willing to turn out their men for fatigue; upon which I have kept them in getting of firewood, together with our men.

We have had no boats from *New-Windsor* these two days, to be loaded with stone, I suppose by reason of the severity of the weather. All the timber handy here for rafts we have cut and sent up. Here is still a great plenty of pine timber, in a swamp, on this island, which might be got out with sleighs in the winter, when the ice is hard, to be ready for rafting in the spring.

I am, gentlemen, with esteem, your very humble servant,

JACOBUS SWARTWOUT, *Colonel.*

To the honourable Convention at *Fishkill.*

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GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO COLONEL DUBOIS.

Fishkill Landing, December 20, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have been these three days past at *Fishkill*, where I thought to have had the pleasure of seeing you, but was disappointed. I would have been glad to have seen the arrangement of your regiment, but as it was not made out properly, I could not. The members of the Committee of Arrangement showed me part of it, wherein I noticed one *John McClaghry* appointed your Quartermaster. He is a good young man, and a good scholar; but as he is unacquainted with the business, I recommend him for an Ensign, and *Nehemiah Carpenter*, who has served this last year a Quartermaster in my regiment, to be your Quartermaster. He is well-deserving of it. I have likewise recommended *Andrew Harkness* for an Ensign in your brigade. He is a good clerk and a lively young man.

If there be a vacancy for Captain *Increase Childs* and Ensign *Ponduson*, of my regiment, I would be glad they were appointed, if you see it in your way. I make no doubt you will mention them, and believe they would answer well.

*Samuel Lewis*, who is Sergeant-Major in my regiment, I would recommend for an Ensign, if there should be a vacancy, either in your regiment or any other.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General.*

To Colonel *Lewis Dubois.*

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CAPTAIN ROSEKRANS TO COLONEL DUBOIS.

Fishkill, December 20, 1776.

COLONEL DUBOIS: I was yesterday at Congress, when I was informed that I had choice either to be in your regiment or Colonel *Livingston's;* which in choice do choose to be in yours; but, however, am now in company with Lieutenant *Lee*, who informs me that he has an offer of a Captain in your regiment, with the proviso I do not accept the berth; if I do, that he must continue as a Lieutenant, which I think need not be the case, for if I am appointed in your regiment, there must be a vacancy in *Livingston's*, which I think can be procured for Lieutenant *Lee*, with your assistance. However, if not, I shall not be the means of being detrimental to *Lee*. Shall take it as a particular favour if you would assist *Lee* in getting the commission, as I think him highly worthy of the berth; and likewise, I expect there will be a vacancy for an Ensign in my company, and shall be very happy if you could see it in your way to appoint *Henry Swartwout*, who is now my Ensign, and worthy of the berth.

I am, and remain, sir, your real friend and most humble servant,

JAS. ROSEKRANS.

Colonel *Duboys.*

N. B. Captain *Rosekrans* showed me the above letters, and I recommend the same.

JAMES CLINTON, *Brigadier-General.*

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RESOLUTION OF NEW-YORK CONVENTION REVIVING COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

Friday morning, December 20th, 1776.

The Convention met. Present: General *Ten Broeck* President.

*Resolved*, That the last Committee of Safety be revived in the same words, with this addition, "That it continue until further orders, and meet in the recess of Convention and transact business."

A Copy. JOHN MCKESSON.

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PAROLE OF MILES SHERBROOKE.

*Dutchess* County, *ss.*

I, *Miles Sherbrooke*, of the city of *New-York*, Merchant, and now, by leave of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, about to repair to the said city, do swear upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that I will not give or convey any verbal or written intelligence whatsoever, in any wise respecting the controversy now subsisting between *Great Britain* and the *United States of North-America*, to any person or persons whatsoever, until leave for that purpose by the Convention or future Legislature of this State unto me be given.

MILES SHERBROOKE.

Sworn of the 20th day of *December*, 1776, before me,

ABM. TEN BROECK, *Pres't.*

—

I, *Miles Sherbrooke*, do promise, upon my parole of honour as a gentleman, that I will return from the city of *New-York* to the town of *Middletown*, in the State of *Connecticut*, on or before the last day of *May*, 1777, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention or future Legislature of the State of *New-York*, and that I will there abide the further orders of such Convention or Legislature; and that I will not in any wise aid, abet, advise, or assist, any person or persons acting under any authority derived from the King and Parliament of *Great Britain* in any act, matter, or thing whatever, against the said State of *New-York*, or the *United States of America.*

MILES SHERBROOKE.

—

*Fishkill, Dutchess* County:

I, *Alexander Wallace*, of the city of *New-York*. Merchant, and now, by leave of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, about to repair to the city of *New-York*, do swear upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that I will not give or convey any verbal or written intelligence whatsoever, in any wise respecting the controversy now subsisting between *Great Britain* and the *United States of North-America*, to any person or persons whatsoever, until leave for that purpose by the Convention or future Legislature of this State unto me be given.

ALEXANDER WALLACE.

Sworn the 20th day of *December*, 1776, before me,

ABM. TEN BROECK, *Pres't.*

—

I, *Alexander Wallace*, do promise, upon my parole of honour as a gentleman, that I will return from the city of *New-York* to the town of *Middletown*, in the State of *Connecticut*, on or before the last day of *May*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention or future Legislature of the State of *New-York*, and that I will there abide the further order of said Convention or future Legislature; and that I will not in any wise aid, abet, advise, or assist, any person or persons acting under any authority derived from the King or Parliament of *Great Britain*, in any act, matter, or thing whatsoever, against the said State of *New-York*, or the *United States of America.*

ALEXANDER WALLACE.

ROBERT YATES TO COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Claverack, December 20th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: In the arrangement of officers lately made in the *Massachusetts-Bay* upon the new establishment, I have been informed that they have excluded all those who do not actually reside within the limits of that State. In consequence whereof, *John McKinster* and *Thomas McKinster*, the first a Captain and the other his First Lieutenant, who have served two campaigns with a company raised in this County, in Colonel *Patterson's* regiment, are omitted, because they reside in *Claverack*, upon the eastern bounds of this State. I have understood they behaved (particularly at the *Cedars*, where the Captain was wounded) with distinguished bravery. Would it not, therefore, be politick to take them into the service of the State? The advantages resulting from such a measure I conceive are evident. You would attach to the interest of this State two useful officers, and at the same time they would in their neighbourhood raise a company of men who otherwise will probably inlist among their eastern brethren; without, however, knowing whether you have room on the arrangement for their admission, in case you should concur with me in sentiment, I thought it my duty to lay these facts before you.

One *Joshua Whitney*, from *Noble-Town*, has requested me to recommend him for a Lieutenancy. I have but a slight acquaintance with him. I must, therefore, (in case you should be inclined to put him on,) refer you to Colonel *Van Rensselaer*, under whom he has served.

I am, with the greatest esteem, your humble servant,

ROBT. YATES.

To *Robert Harper*, Esq., Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Arrangement, *Fishkill*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety, *Middletown, December* 20th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy Governour, *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Williams*, *Titus Hosmer*, *Benjamin Huntington*, *William Hillhouse*, *Thomas Seymour*, Esquires.

*Voted*, That Colonel *Philips*, Mr. *Jauncey*, and his two sons, viz: *James* and *William Jauncey*, Mr. *Miller*, Mr. *Walton*, and Mr. *Hugh Wallace*, in *Middletown*, and Messrs. *Reed* and *Palmer*, in *Windham*, all from the State of *New-York*, be permitted to return home upon their giving their parole not to give any intelligence from us to the enemy; not to take up arms; not to do or say any thing against the *United States of America*; and to return back to this State upon being requested or called for, and remain under the direction of the Governour and Council of Safety.

*Voted*, That Mr. *Munro*, who was sent here by the *Albany* Committee, be permitted to return to his family, upon his giving his written parole not to give any intelligence, nor do or say any thing against the *United States of America*, and that he will return to this State again by the first day of *March* next, and remain under the directions of the Governour and Council of Safety.

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M. MALMEDY TO GENERAL LEE.

[Translation.]

Providence, December 20th, 1776.

SIR: On my arrival hither, I delivered your letter to the Governour, and, without soliciting any promotion, offered him my services. The Congress of the State have immediately granted me the rank of Colonel, which gave me great satisfaction. Two hours after, having more attentively perused your letter, and being determined by another circumstance, they conferred upon me the rank of Brigadier-General, which I acknowledged was yet unmerited.

Is there any reason to fear, sir, that the promotion, which is an act of mere favour, contains but the seeds of my disgrace, and that those gentlemen, if the Continental Congress should hesitate, have prepared for me but an humiliating situation, at the very time they intended to load me with their favours? Is there a probability of my not keeping that rank? If I do my duty, it would seem somewhat unjust. That promotion was entirely unsolicited by me.

Fondly believing the Congress will attend to those observations, I entreat you will point them out to that body in a striking manner.

I am, with respect, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

MALMEDY.

To his Excellency General *Lee*, at the Army of the *United States of America*, in the *Jerseys* or elsewhere.

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Providence, 10th December, 1776.

MY GENERAL: I could not arrive till the 6th, owing to the difficulty I met with in some places to procure horses. As soon as I arrived, I sent the letter with which you intrusted me, to the Governour. Accept, sir, my warmest thanks for the recommendation with which you have honoured me, and be assured I shall exert my utmost endeavours to render myself worthy the opinion and goodness you have expressed in my behalf.

The Governour desired me to view the lines of circumvallation, which were opened on the right bank of the river by Mr. *Crow*. They are drawn on that side quite around the town. They appeared to me to be at too great a distance from the town, and too extensive; and from the difficulty of defending them, on a sudden emergency, and by reason of the great number of men requisite for their defence, you know, my General, how dangerous such lines are. They have heretofore been found useless in many places, although traced out with great judgment. I proposed to the gentlemen to draw others within them. I perceived they were satisfied with the utility of this, and agreed to it. I changed the defences, and brought the posts nearer; and possibly, my General, when they are finished, you will think them capable of being defended. They were desired by the people to quiet their fears. I asked last night for orders to see *Holan's Ferry*, which you particularly recommended to me. This morning I wait for instructions.

I cannot give you a true idea of the distribution and arrangement of the troops; they are not yet settled. I always view with pleasure the great number of beautiful towns, which every moment present themselves to view. I can never believe the enemy will be able to overrun this country, without great difficulty. You have doubtless an account of their numbers and positions.

You were pleased, my General, to request these gentlemen to give me the rank of a Colonel; which they immediately granted to me. It is very flattering to me to owe my promotion to you. The qualities you possess, and the deserved reputation which you enjoy, render this infinitely precious to me.

It is of great importance, my General, to me, to be commissioned by Congress, if you desired it, before the first of *January*, in order to be older in rank than a number of others. Permit me this morning, I beseech you, to beg the favour of you to make this demand for me as soon as possible. My acknowledgments for the favour shall equal the respect with which I am, my General, your most humble and most obedient servant,

MALMEDY.

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Providence, 20th December, 1776.

MY GENERAL: I had in your orders on the 1st, that I should go to *Holan's Ferry*, which you particularly recommended to me. The gentlemen of the Committee imagined that *Warrick Neck* was more important, since the enemy are in *Rhode-Island*. I returned the same evening. I have traversed all near to the point of *Connecticut*, all the neck of *Warrick*. I cannot perceive in all that part the possibility of hindering the enemy from making a descent. The banks throughout are easy of access, and the vessels can come close to the land. There is, however, an advantageous situation for a camp upon the high ground, from whence we can hinder the enemy from forming, and withdrawing themselves from the fire of their cannon. It might serve as a camp of observation. On my return I gave a particular account of this matter.

You knew, my General, the situation of the town of *Warwick*. It is mere folly to attempt to defend it, in case the enemy makes a descent in its neighbourhood. I there found some works begun. I thought it my duty not to oppose the desire of the commandant. We have therefore continued and prolonged them, with some regularity, adapted

to the ground. The same night I returned to *Providence*, and gave an account to the Governour of the difficulty of defending that town, and that the post ought to be evacuated. I have sent him an order of retreat for the detachment with the out-guards, and requested him to drive from *Patuxet* a great number of cattle and forage, which are on the neck. I cannot doubt but from its situation, that is the place where the enemy will make their descent, if they land. I think, my General, that after making efforts at *Patexet*, and all along the river, we ought to defend *Providence*, and there engage them. I presented to the Governour four reasons to support this determination. I believe the place where I am will, in a month, be out of danger of a coup de main. In that case, the General who shall command the forces, supporting his left and extending obliquely on the right, will cover *Boston*, and that Province; and I do not believe the enemy dare enter *Connecticut*, and by that means separate themselves from their vessels, which is their place of arms; nor are they so numerous as to render themselves masters of the river. I beg pardon, my General, for giving you this account of arrangements, especially in a country where you are much better acquainted with. Allow me the indulgence granted to a scholar, who makes essays on your pieces, and whose feeble observations you can easily rectify.

The County of *Patexet* is, and will always be, interesting. I pray you to assemble some troops there, and to order a number of fascines, which can readily be found at hand, where occasion requires.

The Governour appears to approve my opinion, and has requested me to continue to give it on all military matters. The little disposition I have seen in this town, relative to troops, in this time of perplexity and danger, when all ought to be in a state of activity, has determined me to present a regular distribution of regiments, and an order of service. I thought it necessary to send them accompanied with letters, and some sentiments in honour of this country. I here enclose you a copy of my first letter, and the order of service.

The gentlemen here are polite. I cannot but think myself honoured with the testimonies they have given of satisfaction on my conduct, and I am particularly flattered with the rank they have given me. But, my General, I do not see that they have done the smallest thing in the matter I proposed to them, nor even in those things which ought not to be deferred a moment. Be pleased to put a favourable interpretation on what I have the honour to say, and believe I give this detail only from the desire I have to see proper dispositions made for the defence of this country. Notwithstanding the proximity of the enemies, and the ease with which they may land, I do not see above six or seven hundred men at *Warwick*, one thousand or eleven hundred here, four hundred citizens at the most ready to take arms, and only one company of Artillery. The Colonels of the regiments do not know where to rendezvous in case of alarm. I see no posts established; I see no artillery in motion, nor any preparations for that purpose; no exercise at cannon, notwithstanding the great want of instruction. In the mean time the enemy are ten thousand. They do not make any general movement; but they can in one tide embark in flat-bottomed boats and land at *Warwick-Neck*, and arrive at *Providence* in four hours. That town is worth such an attempt at this moment. It is very important on account of the great quantity of merchandise and ships in its port. I cannot account for the conduct of the *English* Generals, if they have good intelligence. The people here give themselves up to a lethargick idea, because they are not numerous, and because they serve as a defensive post to *Rhode-Island*. The *Americans* ought to fear the illusion; for these two months past it has been very destructive. General *Lincoln* arrived here the evening before last. I hope he will put things in order. The next day, at ten o'clock, he set out for *Bristol* and *Holan's Ferry*, without my knowing of his journey. I am sensibly affected with the disappointment, not having yet a lodging or a horse. I waited on the Committee. My interpreter informed them of my sensibility of not knowing of the departure of General *Lincoln*, and that I had not yet taken a view of what I proposed. They answered with the same politeness as usual, that he desired me to see the place, and proposed to make the tour with me, and that he desired Mr. *Vernum* to inform me of this. However, I was not informed as to what I proposed; they were absorbed in business. It is a misfortune in a Government, when military affairs are in the hands of the legislative authority. These are related, but ought in their particular execution, to be independent of each other. I have been well satisfied as to a lodging, but I cannot be supplied with horses. I thought it my duty, sir, to give you a particular account. You have sent me with letters of business and confidence. You have perhaps informed Congress, and have possibly a reliance on my zeal and good will. I will be very unfortunate if in the execution of what I am charged with, I find them useless; and this cannot but appear by the actual situation of things. I fear I shall not hereafter be thought worthy of any confidence, and I am particularly jealous of losing yours and that of the Congress. I beg you will inform Congress of the true situation of affairs. If, my General, I have expressed too great a degree of sensibility in this portrait, I know the goodness with which you have honoured me, and I beg you will correct any thing amiss, or which may displease. "Honi soit qui mal y pense."

I cannot too often repeat, my General, the civilities I have received from these gentlemen. I owe them all my services, and they are but a small mark of my gratitude. I do not know how I shall be employed here. I beg you to recollect the expressions in your letter and your pleasure when you sent me here. I have not yet had a word of orders. To-day Mr. *Lincoln* is arrived. Mr. *Varnum* is a Brigadier-General. I have rank of him in this Province. I should be very glad to know the line of service to which I ought particularly to be destined. I am no engineer by profession. I have some knowledge and some little abilities. I will finish the open lines with diligence, because they are useful, and because there is but one man here who knows that kind of work. I shall apply myself to every thing that depends upon me in this country; but I beg you will not confine me to that profession; I can execute another with more advantage. Be so kind, my General, as to consult Congress, and inform me what is your and their intention respecting my services, and inform the Governour, to whom you have recommended me here. In whatever manner you dispose of me, I will not neglect any of the duties which my condition, emulation, and honour prescribe. These are the pretensions, these the reasons to which I resign myself.

I should go to-day to *Bristol* and *Holan's Ferry*, but it snows to such a degree that there is no traveling. I should be glad to be under your immediate orders, if there is any operations this spring. I am told half of the fleet is in *Virginia*; perhaps you are there. I am sorry to be at such a distance from you.

I am, &c.

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My General: Upon my arrival here, I sent your letter to the Governour, and offered them my services, without asking any rank. The Assembly of this Province immediately granted me that of Colonel, with which I was flattered and well satisfied. Two hours after, the Assembly having read your letter a second time more attentively, and being determined by some other circumstances, gave me the rank of Brigadier-General, which I acknowledge I have not yet deserved.

Ought I not to fear, my General, that this promotion, which is an act of favour, will be a kind of disgrace to me, and that these gentlemen, by loading me with favours, have only prepared me for humiliation, if the Continental Congress should hesitate? Is there not a probability of my not keeping this rank? If I do my duty, it would seem somewhat unjust. That promotion was entirely unsolicited by me. I hope the Congress will attend to these observations, and I beg you would set them in the strongest point of view.

I am, with respect, my General,

MALMEDY.

Providence, December 20th, 1776.

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### MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Boston, December 20, 1776.

SIR: The Council have received your favour of the 18th instant, and, agreeable to your request, have given orders to the Commissary-General of this State to supply Mr. *Josiah Draper* with two hundred and fifty pick-axes, two hundred and fifty iron shovels, fifty narrow axes, and twenty crowbars. They will be charged to the State of *Rhode-Island*,

for the use of the troops in your State. We heartily wish that they may be so employed as, if possible, to drive the enemy from your State.

In the name and behalf of Council,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

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MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GENERAL LINCOLN.

Boston, December 20, 1776.

SIR: The Board have received your letter of 18th instant, and the intrenching tools are sent forward, and I am directed by the Council to inform you that it is their opinion, that it is of the greatest importance to the *United States of America*, that you should immediately proceed with the troops destined to reinforce the Army near *New-York*, to *Danbury*, in *Connecticut*, and order them to proceed from thence to such place as the commanding officer may direct.

To General *Lincoln, Providence.*

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO NATHANIEL TRACY.

War Office, Boston, December 20th, 1776.

SIR: The Board have been made acquainted that you have a quantity of linen, &c., in your hands, and the reason they do not contract for the same is, Messrs. *Livingston* and *Thornbull* are sent from Congress to purchase all the linens, &c., which can be spared for the Army. Not doubting your publick spirit will induce your putting them as low as possible, the Board refer them to you, and are your most humble servants. By order of the Board,

S. P. SAVAGE, *Pres't p. t.*

*Nathaniel Tracy*, Esq.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO JAMES RUSSELL.

War Office, Boston, December 20th, 1776.

SIR: The Board of War having occasion for a quantity of pork for the service of this State, and being informed that it is highly probable you would contract to supply them with some, do now request to know from you whether you would undertake the same, and for what quantity and for what price per pound, or per barrel of two hundred and twenty pounds. Your answer as soon as possible will oblige us.

By order of the Board,

S. P. SAVAGE, *Pres't p. t.*

*James Russell*, Esq.

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Boston, December 20, 1776.

Commodore *Manly*, in the Continental ship *Hancock*, of thirty-two guns, is come round to *Newbury-Port*.

Last *Thursday* arrived in town from the Continental camps at *New-York*, the Honourable Major-General *Lincoln*, who commanded the Militia of this State which were sent as a reinforcement for two months. His established good character as a civilian at the Board of Council, actuated Colonel *Crafts* to meet him a few miles out of town, accompanied by many of his officers on horseback, who escorted him into Congress street, in imitation of the *Romans*, there to join the supreme Senate of the State.

Last *Sunday* a number of prisoners (marines and sailors) arrived in town, from the interiour parts of this State and *Connecticut*, and on *Monday* set off for *Marblehead*, in order to be exchanged for a number of our men, who lately arrived in the cartel vessels there.

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COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO B. FRANKLIN, SILAS DEANE, AND ARTHUR LEE.

Baltimore, in Maryland, December 21, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: After expressing our hopes that this will find you all three safely fixed at *Paris*, we proceed with pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. *Deane's* letter of the 1st *October*.

When we reflect on the character and views of the Court of *Loudon*, it ceases to be a wonder that the *British* Ambassador, and all other *British* agents, should employ every means that tended to prevent *European* Powers, but *France* more especially, from giving *America* aid in this war. Prospects of accommodation, it is well known, would effectually prevent foreign interference; and therefore, without one serious design of accommodating on any principles but the absolute submission of *America*, the delusive idea of conciliation has been industriously suggested on both sides the water, that, under cover of this dividing and aid-withholding prospect, the vast *British* force sent to *America* might have the fairest chance of succeeding. And this policy hath, in fact, done considerable injury to the *United States*, as we shall presently show by a just detail of this campaign, for it is not yet ended.

You know, gentlemen, that at the moment a potent land and marine force was preparing to be sent here, an act was passed for appointing Commissioners, who, too many expected, were to give peace to *America*. As, therefore, the war might be soon concluded, so were our military arrangements accommodated, and the troops taken into service the last spring, consisting of regular corps and bodies of Militia, were all engaged for short periods. With these the campaign began in various parts of *North-America*. Dr. *Franklin* is so well acquainted with the progress of the war in *Canada* previous to his departure, that we need only observe, the campaign has ended as favourably for us in that quarter as we could reasonably expect. The enemy having been able to pierce no further than *Crown-Point*, after a short stay and reconnoitring General *Gates's* Army at *Ticonderoga*, thought proper to recross the lake, and leave us in quiet possession of those passes. General *Gates* having left a proper force at *Ticonderoga* and on the communication, retired with the rest of his troops.

*New-York* and its neighbourhood, not being defensible by an army singly against a strong land and sea force acting in conjunction, was of necessity yielded to the enemy, after some contest, General *Washington* retiring, until the situation of the country above *King's Bridge* no longer enabled the enemy to receive aid from their ships. General *Howe* having stopped here, and General *Carleton* at *Crown-Point*, effectually disappointed the great object of joining the two armies. The latter, as we have said, returning to *Canada*, and the former retreating from the *White-Plains* towards *New-York*, gave us a favourable prospect of seeing a happy end put to this dangerous campaign. However, many causes have concurred in producing an unlucky reverse of fortune—the nature of the country, the uncommon fineness of the weather, even to this day, and, above all, the short inlistments, which gave the soldiery an opportunity of going home, tired as they were with the operations of an active summer.

When General *Howe* retreated from the *White-Plains*, he halted his whole Army on the *North River*, between *Dobbs's Ferry* and *Kingsbridge*, where he remained for some time. Having effected so little of the great business that brought him here, and the season allowing time for it, most men were of opinion that the next attempt would be to get possession of *Philadelphia*, by a forced march through the *Jerseys*, whilst a fleet should be sent up the *Delaware* to facilitate the enterprise. To guard against such a manœuvre, General *Washington* crossed the *North River*, with all the battalions that had been raised to the northward of it, leaving General *Lee*, with the Eastern troops, to guard the pass of the Highlands, on *Hudson's River*. In this situation of things, Mr. *Howe* made a sudden attack upon *Fort Washington*, with the greatest part of his Army, and carried it, with considerable loss. Here he made near three thousand of our men prisoners. By this event it became unnecessary longer to hold *Fort Lee*, (or *Fort Constitution*, as it was formerly called,) which is on the west side of *North River*, nearly opposite to *Fort Washington*. It had therefore been determined to abandon *Fort Lee*; but before the stores could be all removed, the enemy came suddenly upon it, and the garrison retreated, leaving some of their baggage and stores behind. About this time General *Howe* became possessed of a letter (by the agency of some wicked person, who contrived to get it from the express) written by General *Washington* to the Board of War, in which he had given an exact account when the time of service of all our battalions would expire, and his apprehensions that the men would not reinlist without first going home to see their families and friends. Possessed of this intelligence, the opportunity was carefully watched, and a vigourous impression actually made at the very crisis when our Army in the *Jerseys* was reduced to three thousand men, by the retiring of numbers and the

sickness of others, and before Militia could, in this extensive country, be brought up to supply their places. The enemy marched rapidly on through the *Jerseys*, whilst our feeble Army was obliged to retreat from post to post, until it crossed the *Delaware*, at *Trenton*, where about two thousand five hundred Militia, from the city of *Philadelphia*, joined the General. Since General *Howe's* arrival on the borders of the *Delaware*, various manœuvres and stratagems have been practised to effect a passage over the river, but they have hitherto failed. General *Washington's* small Army is placed along the west side of *Delaware*, to within fourteen miles of *Philadelphia*, from above *Coryell's Ferry*, which, with the gondolas, one frigate of thirty-two guns, and other armed vessels in the river, above the chevaux-de-frise, cover the passage of it.

General *Lee*, who has crossed the *North River* with as many of the Eastern troops as could be spared from the defence of the Highlands, (either to join General *Washington* or to act on the enemy's rear, as occasions might point out,) was the other day surprised and made prisoner by a party of seventy Light-Horse, who found him in an house a few miles in rear of his Army, with his domesticks only. This loss, though great, will in some degree be repaired for the present by General *Gates*, who, we understand, has joined the Army commanded by General *Lee*, and who, we have reason to think, has by this time effected a junction of his force with that of General *Washington*.

As the Militia are marching from various quarters to reinforce the General, if the enemy do not quickly accomplish their wishes of possessing *Philadelphia*, we hope not only to save that city, but to see General *Howe* retreat as fast as he advanced through the *Jerseys*.

General *Clinton*, with a fleet in which it is said he carried eight thousand men, has gone from *New-York*, through the *Sound*, some suppose for *Rhode-Island*; but neither his destination or its consequences are yet certainly known to us.

Thus, gentlemen, we have given you a true detail of the progress and present state of our affairs, which, although not in so good a posture as they were two months ago, are by no means in so bad a way as the emissaries of the *British* Court will undoubtedly represent to them. If the great land and sea force with which we have been attacked be compared with the feeble state in which the commencement of this war found us, with respect to military stores of all kinds, soldiers' clothing, navy and regular force; and if the infinite art be considered, with which *Great Britain* hath endeavoured to prevent our getting these necessaries from foreign parts, which has in part prevailed, the wonder will rather be that our enemies have made so little progress, than that they have made so much.

All views of accommodation with *Great Britain*, but on principles of peace, as independent States, and in a manner perfectly consistent with the treaties our Commissioners may make with foreign States, being totally at an end since the declaration of independence and the embassy to the Court of *France*, Congress have directed the raising of ninety-four battalions of infantry with some cavalry. Thirteen frigates, from twenty-four to thirty-six guns, are already launched and fitting; and two ships-of-the-line, with five more frigates, are ordered to be put on the stocks. We hear the levies are going on well in the different States. Until the new Army is collected, the Militia must curb the enemy's progress.

The very considerable force that *Great Britain* has already in *North-America*, the possibility of recruiting it here within their own quarters by force and fraud together, added to the reinforcements that may be sent from *Europe*, and the difficulty of finding funds in the present depressed state of *American* commerce, all conspire to prove, incontestably, that if *France* desires to preclude the possibility of *North-America* being ever reunited with *Great Britain*, now is the favourable moment for establishing the glory, strength, and commercial greatness of the former kingdom, by the ruin of her ancient rival. A decided part now taken by the Court of *Versailles*, and a vigourous engagement in the war, in union with *North-America*, would with ease sacrifice the fleet and army of *Great Britain*, at this time chiefly collected about *New-York*. The inevitable consequence would be, the quick reduction of the *British* Islands in the *West-Indies*, already bared of defence by the removal of their troops to this Continent.

For reasons herein assigned, gentlemen, you will readily discern how all-important it is to the security of *American* independence, that *France* should enter the war as soon as may be; and how necessary it is, if it be possible, to procure from her the line of battle-ships you were desired in your instructions to obtain for us; the speedy arrival of which here, in the present state of things, might decide the contest at one stroke.

We shall pay proper attention to what Mr. *Deane* writes concerning Dr. *Williamson* and Mr. *Hopkins*, and we think the ill-treatment this country and Mr. *Deane* have received from these men, strongly suggest the necessity of invincible reserve with persons coming to *France* as *Americans* and friends to *America*, whom the most irrefragable proofs have not removed all doubt about.

The *British* recall of their *Mediterranean* passes is an object of great consequence, and may require much intercession with the Court of *France* to prevent the mischiefs that may be derived to *American* commerce therefrom; but this subject has been already touched upon in your instructions on the sixth article of the treaty proposed to be made with *France*. As all affairs relative to the conduct of commerce and remittances pass through another department, we beg leave to refer you to the Secret Committee, and Mr. *Thomas Morris*, their agent in *France*, for every information on those subjects.

The neighbourhood of *Philadelphia* having, by the enemy's movements, become the seat of war, it was adjudged that Congress should adjourn to this town, where the publick business may be attended with the undisturbed deliberation that its importance demands. The Congress was accordingly opened here on the 20th instant.

As it is more than probable that the conference with Lord *Howe*, on *Staten-Island*, may be misrepresented to the injury of these States, we do ourselves the pleasure to enclose you an authentick account of the whole business, which the possibility of Dr. *Franklin's* not arriving renders proper. This step was taken to unmask his Lordship, and evince to the world that he did not possess powers which, for the purposes of delusion and division, had been suggested.

Mr. *Deane's* proposition of loan is accepted by Congress, and they have desired two millions sterling be obtained if possible. The necessity of keeping up the credit of our paper currency, and the variety of important uses that may be made of this money, have induced Congress to go so far as six per cent.; but the interest is heavy, and it is hoped that you may be able to do the business on much easier terms. The resolves of Congress on this subject are enclosed, and your earliest attention to them is desired, that we may know as soon as possible the event of this application.

Another resolve enclosed will show you, that Congress approve of armed vessels being fitted out by you on Continental account, provided the Court of *France* dislike not the measure; and blank commissions for this purpose will be sent you by next opportunity. Private ships of war, or privateers, cannot be admitted where you are, because the securities necessary in such cases to prevent irregular practices, cannot be given by the owners and commanders of such privateers.

Another resolve of Congress, which we have the honour to enclose you, directs the conduct to be pursued with regard to *Portugal*.

We have nothing further to add at present, but to request that you will omit no good opportunity of informing us how you succeed in your mission; what events take place in *Europe*, by which these States may be affected; and that you contrive to send to us, in regular succession, some of the best *London*, *French*, and *Dutch* newspapers, with any valuable political publications that may concern *North-America*.

We have the honour to be, &c., with great respect and esteem, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servants,

B. Harrison, J. Witherspoon,
R. H. Lee, W. Hooper.

P. S. The *American* captures of *British* vessels at sea have not been less numerous or less valuable than before Dr. *Franklin* left us. The value of these captures have been estimated at two millions.

To *B. Franklin*, *S. Deane*, and *A. Lee*, at *Paris*.

GENERAL LEWIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Williamsburg, December 21st, 1776.

SIR: Intelligence from some of the members of the honourable Continental Congress to their correspondents at this place, informing of the near approach of the enemy to *Philadelphia*, has occasioned me to give the part of the Second Regiment that is raised, and those of the Seventh Regiment that are fit for duty, orders to hold themselves in readiness to march on the shortest notice. This step I thought necessary, respecting orders (as my wish is) to join General *Washington*, if the honourable Congress should think our assistance at this time necessary. I send herewith a return of the above-mentioned regiments. I have some days since sent off one hundred and fifty men, belonging to the regiments from this State, now under the immediate command of General *Washington*. There are likewise upwards of one hundred of the Eighth Regiment at *Fredericksburg*, who have orders to march to the northward as soon as they can be provided with some necessary clothing.

I am, honourable sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

ANDREW LEWIS, *Brigadier-General*.

Honourable *John Hancock*, President of Continental Congress.

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CHARLES CARROLL TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Mount Clare, December 21st, 1776.

DEAR SIR: By direction of the Congress I send you the enclosed resolves. The last letters brings us a piece of intelligence that it may be material for you to know. One Mr. *Bevan*, a person that may be depended on, who was taken by Captain *Hammond*, informed Mr. *Morris* that *Hammond* told him they were now determined to put a total stop to our trade, and for that purpose six frigates were to be stationed off *Georgia* and the *Carolinas*; six off the Capes of *Virginia*, and six off *Delaware*. Their signals and their stations were fixed so as to form a complete line along the coast, and that they have determined to keep their stations during the whole winter. This I fancy it will be difficult for them to do; however, I thought it necessary the Board should know their plan.

I am, with most sincere respects to you all, dear sirs, your most humble servant,

CHARLES CARROLL.

To the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

I have not as yet seen here any of your Delegates. Questions of the greatest magnitude every day agitated and resolves entered into, and this State without a representative or voice.

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STEPHEN STEWARD TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

December the 21st, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to your order I have sent an anchor to Captain *Martin*, of six hundred and seventeen pounds. I have no anchor of eight hundred weight, which was the size he sent for. I have one of one thousand pounds. The anchor I now send him is full large enough for the brig. There is but one full Captain that now goes to sea that knows what weight anchor suits them without seeing the anchor. I detained the boat till the anchor was stocked, as there might be some difficulty in getting it stocked in *Annapolis*. You are now breaking into the materials I have provided for your little Navy, which I have spared no pains to get, and have got almost every kind for them. It don't appear to me that I am like to be rewarded for my trouble. Whenever you want ship, brig, schooner or sloop, bought for the use of the State, the commission is given to some body that perhaps don't merit the advantage more than myself. Since I have undertaken this business for you, I have been offered a commission from a neighbouring State, a commission to buy three ships, which would been to me at least one hundred and fifty pounds in my way. The whole reason my not accepting of this commission was, I was employed by the Council of Safety for the Province. You have employed three other yards to do your business in. Have any one of them turned you off on a single vessel but myself? I have built, rebuilt, rigged, fitted, and been in all the trouble for four fine vessels for you, without the assistance of a Captain's even provided men and provisions, and have the fifth and sixth vessel almost ready for you. I intend to *Baltimore*, next *Tuesday*, to attend Mr. *Lux's* rope-walk for cables and other cordage. I shall take a Province boat with me, the finest in this bay, to bring down materials with me. If you have any commands that way I shall call on you on *Tuesday*. Where am I to get guns for the galley? It is impossible to make the carriages without the guns.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

STEPHEN STEWARD.

For the honourable Council of Safety.

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CAPTAIN DEMS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, the 21st December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As I have not at present a First Lieutenant in my company, I would in the warmest terms recommend Mr. *John McCabe*, of *Baltimore*, to be by you appointed my First Lieutenant, as I know him to be an active good officer, and a man who has been exceedingly active in a military company in this town, and likewise know he has a good deal of interest, so as to enable him to assist me in raising the company. I therefore hope you will indulge me in this request.

By complying you will, honourable sirs, oblige your ready servant to command,

FRETRICK DEMS.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO COMMITTEE OF FREDERICK, IN MARYLAND.

Baltimore, December 21st, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I was duly honoured with your favour of the 19th instant, which I immediately communicated to Congress, who highly approve your zeal and activity for the promotion of the *American* cause.

In consequence of your letter, the Congress passed the foregoing resolution, and by this opportunity I forward you the eighteen thousand dollars, which you will please to apply agreeable to the terms of the resolve, and will please also to transmit to General *Washington* a particular state of the payments to the several Militia.

In confidence that you will expedite the march of the Militia as early as possible, I add not, but that I am, with every sentiment of esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient, and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

Honourable Committee of *Frederick*, in *Maryland*.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 21st, 1776.

SIR: Notwithstanding there are several *British* men-of-war cruising in our bay, the Continental sloop *Independence*, commanded by Lieutenant *Robinson*, has pushed through and got up here yesterday afternoon. There are on board eight hundred and fifty-six blankets, which were intended, with many others now expected in, for the use of the new inlistments; but the inclement weather and the severe duty the troops now under your command have to perform, induces me to think these blankets should be applied to their use. In this matter, however, you will please to judge and act as you see fit; for I shall send them to the camp for your orders so soon as the weather will permit them to be landed. There is also arrived in this sloop a quantity of cloths, which I shall put into the hands of Mr. *Mease*, Commissary, to have made up immediately. There are also nine hundred and nineteen muskets on board. These, I suppose, you do not want; and I will send them out of town, to the other stores, unless you signify a desire for any other application of them.

I have the pleasure to inform you that Mr. *Deane*, in his letter of the 30th *September*, received by this sloop, says he looks upon a *French* war as inevitable. He expects to furnish us with ample supplies for thirty thousand men, and a noble train of artillery, mortars, &c., so that, if you can but drive our enemies back to *New-York* for this winter, we may hope for much better things next spring than we have experienced of late.

I find my presence so necessary here in several departments, that I shall stay as long as I can with safety; but

as I am possessed of publick papers that must never fall into the hands of the enemy, I should be glad of a line from you whenever you think it would be best for me to retire; and if you have any commands here, in which I can be serviceable, be assured of my ready attention. Your several despatches to Congress have passed through my hands, and I have informed them fully of such things as have come to my knowledge respecting publick matters. Poor *Lee*, I pity him exceedingly, and feel much for the publick loss in him. Should you hear any thing of the treatment he meets with, I should thank you or Mr. *Tilghman* for a line on that subject. I fear he will meet with insupportable insults, and if so, his situation must be worse than that of the damned. I have been told to-day that you are preparing to cross into the *Jerseys*. I hope it may be true, and promise myself joyful tidings from your expedition. You have my sincere prayers for success, as nothing would give me greater pleasure than to hear of such occurrences as your exalted merit deserves.

I have the honour to remain, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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Philadelphia, December 21st, 1776.

SIR: This attends the blankets mentioned in my letter of this date, and underneath is an account of the bales and their contents, with the wagoner's receipt.

I ever remain your Excellency's obedient servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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*Invoice of Blankets.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. 1 to 5. | 5 | bales, containing 20 pieces, and each piece 22 blankets, - - - - - | make 440 |
| 22 to 26, | 5 | bales, containing - - - - - - - | 180 |
| 8, | 1 | do. containing - - - - - - - | 45 |
| 11, | 3 | do. containing - - - - - - - | 66 |
| 13, | 2 | do. containing - - - - - - - | 125 |
| | 16 | bales, containing in the whole - - | 856 |

Received, *December* 21st, 1776, of *Willing, Morris, & Co.*, sixteen bales, marked and numbered as above, said to contain eight hundred and fifty-six blankets, which I promise to see delivered to the order of General *Washington*, having signed two receipts for the same.

HUGH PEDEN.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 24, 1776.]

Philadelphia, December 21, 1776.

SIR: The express that carries you this letter has just called on me, saying that he came from the Convention of *New-York*. I thought it prudent to open the letter, and know whether the business it respected could be done here, or whether it must be sent forward; and finding it must go forward, and only detain him to make this apology, and to inform you that the sloop *Independence*, commanded by Lieutenant *Robinson*, (Captain *Young* being left behind sick,) pushed out from *Chincoteague*, where she first put in, and notwithstanding she was chased by six of the enemy's cruisers at our Capes, she got safe up here, and is now landing the cargo. I have determined to send eight hundred and fifty-six blankets that came in her, to General *Washington*, and have informed him they were imported for the use of the new recruits; but as the inclemency of the weather and the exceeding severe duty of the troops now with him entitles them to every comfort we can afford, I submit to him whether to make use of them for their use or not. The cloths I will deliver to Mr. *Mease*, with orders to have them made up fast as possible. Nine hundred and nineteen muskets shall be delivered to Mr. Commissary *Towers*, to wait the orders of General *Washington*, or of the Board of War, and I hope one or other of them will send orders soon as possible.

The Council of Safety want money, and have sent an express for a supply. I have borrowed sufficient for the Marine Department, although the disbursements are considerable. Captain *Biddle* will get more seamen than we expected. The *Delaware* is getting ready, and I have ordered the *Fly*, Captain *Warner*, down the bay, to watch the enemy's ships, and bring us word if they should quit that station. I have sent an express across the *Jerseys* to Captain *Baldwin*, of the *Wasp*, to cruise outside of them, to give notice to inward-bound ships; and have stationed the *Hornet*, Captain *Nicholson*, (who attempted to get out but could not,) in *Christeen Creek*, to act in conjunction with a large galley of this State, in defence of that creek, as there are many valuable stores up it. I shall get the sloop *Independence* hove down, and some little damage she received at *Chincoteague* repaired, and then send her also to watch the enemy's ships.

There are a large number of wagons in the city, and as I fear General *Howe* does not yet give up his plan of getting possession of it this winter, I will order a good part of the salt provisions now in the Commissary's care to be carried up to *Lancaster*, as we certainly ought to have inland magazines of provisions and of military stores; but I long to hear from you, that I may judge whether Congress approve of these things, which I have undertaken for the sake of serving my country.

Mr. *Smith* is not yet returned, and am very sorry for it, as I do think a good deal of money might have been borrowed by this time. I am very fearful that this bad weather will sicken the Associators and break up our campaign, whatever may be its effect on the enemy. There are some prisoners on board the enemy's ships at our Capes, that have wrote to me to procure their release. Amongst the rest Captain *Morgan*, of the *Bermuda* sloop, that carried Mr. *Deane* to *France*, who was returning here with despatches and some goods, and was unfortunately taken near *Cape May*. I will send a letter for Captain *Hammond*, of the *Roebuck*, open, to *Henry Fisher*, at *Lewis-Town*, to be sent off by a flag, in which I shall assure him that we have suffered great numbers of masters, mates, and men, belonging to merchant ships taken by our cruisers, to depart without thinking of detaining them for an exchange, and recommend his releasing these people, or he will oblige us to alter that part of our conduct. As this is strictly true in a number of instances that have come under my notice, I hope Congress will approve the design.

I am, with great regard and esteem, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

The Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE.

Philadelphia, 21st December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I am now the only member of Congress in this city, unless Mr. *Walton*, of *Georgia*, and Mr. *Clymer*, my colleague, still remain, which I am not sure of. I cannot pretend to give you a regular detail of our manifold misfortunes, because my books and papers are all gone into the country, as is my family. But these unfortunate events commenced with the loss of *Fort Washington*, by the reduction of which, the enemy made about two thousand seven hundred prisoners, and at this critical time, they, by treachery, bribery, or accident, intercepted some despatches from General *Washington* to Congress, also some of the General's private letters, particularly one to Mr. *Rutledge*, in which he had fully laid open the unfortunate situation he was then involved in, by the short inlistments of our Army; for the times of most of them expired on the 1st of *December*, and the rest on the 1st of *January*, when the whole army would leave him, as they had undergone great fatigue during the whole of the campaign; had suffered amazingly by sickness and the approach of winter, added to an appearance of much suffering for want of clothes.

All these things he stated fully, and the enemy became possessed of a most authentick account of his real situation. They determined to take advantage of it, and before General *Washington* had time to make any new arrangements at *Fort Lee*, on the west side of the *North River*, to which he had crossed, with about eight thousand men, a large body of troops landed above, and another below him, so that he was near being enclosed with a force vastly superiour. In this situation, he had nothing left for him, but to retire directly off the neck of land, on which that fort stands,

leaving behind him considerable baggage and stores, with most of our large cannon and mortars. He retreated to *Hackensack*, and was there in hopes of making a stand, until the Militia of the country should come to his assistance, but the vigilance of the enemy did not give him time for this. They pursued, and he retreated all the way through the *Jerseys* to *Trenton*, and from thence they forced him across the *Delaware*, where he still remains, to oppose their passage across the river.

Lord *Cornwallis* commanded the *British* forces in the *Jerseys*, until they reached *Brunswick*, where General *Howe* joined them with reinforcements, and determined to make his way to this city, without further loss of time. You may be sure the Militia of *New-Jersey* and this State were called upon to turn out, and defend their country in this hour of distress. Alas, our internal enemies had, by various arts and means, frightened many, disaffected others, and caused a general languor to prevail over the minds of almost all men, not before actually engaged in the war. Many are also exceedingly disaffected with the constitutions formed for their respective States, so that from one cause or other, no *Jersey* Militia turned out to oppose the march of an enemy through the heart of their country; and it was with the utmost difficulty that the Associators of this city could be prevailed on to march against them. At length, however, it has been effected; they have been up with the General about two weeks, and the example is likely to produce its effect in the country, as they are now pretty generally on their march towards *Trenton*.

During General *Washington's* retreat through the *Jerseys*, he wrote for General *Lee*, who was left to command on the east side of the *North River*, with about ten to eleven thousand men, most of whose inlistments are now expired, or near it. He obeyed the summons, and brought with him about three thousand men; with whom he followed the enemy's rear, but was obliged to make slow marches, as his people were in great want of shoes, stockings, and other necessaries, which he was obliged to collect from the Tories in the neighbourhood of his route. After he had passed a place called *Chatham*, near *Elizabethtown*, he lodged at a farm house. Some treacherous villain gave notice to the enemy, and the General's ill fate, or some other cause I am not acquainted with, delayed him there, until near ten o'clock on *Friday* morning, his army having marched, and their rear about three miles from him, when he was surprised by about seventy Light-Horse, who made him prisoner, and bore him off in triumph. This is an event much to be lamented. I sincerely pity *Lee*, and feel for the loss my country sustains; his abilities had frequently been immensely useful; the want of them will be severely felt.

The command of this party devolved on General *Sullivan*, who continued his route, fell in with General *Gates*, with five hundred men, returning from the lakes, and both joined General *Washington* yesterday. This junction is what we have long impatiently wished for, but still I fear our force is not equal to the task before them, and unless that task is performed, *Philadelphia*, nay, I may say *Pennsylvania*, must fall. The task I mean, is to drive the enemy out of *New-Jersey*, for at present they occupy *Brunswick*, *Princeton*, *Trenton*, *Pennytown*, *Bordenton*, *Burlington*, *Morristown*, *Mount Holly*, and *Haddonfield*, having their main body about *Princeton*, and strong detachments in all the other places, it is supposed with a design of attacking this city, whenever they can cross the *Delaware* on the ice, for they have only been kept from it by our sending up the gondolas and bringing off or destroying all the boats along the *Jersey* shore.

You will think the enemy are now in a situation for us to attack their scattered parties, and cut them off. This we think too, and are preparing to do it, but it will be a work of extreme difficulty to get at them; they have excellent intelligence of all our motions; we can hardly come at any certainty about theirs, for Lord *Howe* and General *Howe* issued a proclamation on the 30th of *November*, offering pardon to all who should submit within sixty days, and subscribe a declaration, that they will not hereafter bear arms against the King's troops, nor encourage others to do it. This has had a wonderful effect, and all *Jersey*, or far the greater part of it, is supposed to have made their submission, and subscribed the declaration required; those who do so, of course become our most inveterate enemies; they have the means of conveying intelligence, and they avail themselves of it.

In this perplexing situation of things, the Congress were informed, this day week, that an advanced party of *Hessians* and *Highlanders* had taken possession of *Burlington*; that they were pushing for *Cooper's Ferry*, opposite the city, and it was thought had the means of crossing the river. There were no troops to oppose them; our whole force, both by land and water, was above; it was therefore deemed unsafe for Congress to remain here, and absolutely necessary that they should be in a place of safety, where they could deliberate coolly and freely without interruption, and last *Saturday* they adjourned to *Baltimore*, where they are now sitting. This city was, for ten days, the greatest scene of distress that you can conceive; every body but Quakers were removing their families and effects, and now it looks dismal and melancholy. The Quakers and their families pretty generally remain; the other inhabitants are principally sick soldiers, some few effective ones, under General *Putnam*, who is come here to throw up lines, and prepare for the defence of the place, if General *Washington* should be forced to retreat hither. You may be sure I have my full share of trouble on this occasion, but having got my family and books removed to a place of safety, my mind is more at ease, and my time is now given up to the publick, although I have many thousand pounds' worth of effects here, without any prospect of saving them.

We are told the *British* troops are kept from plunder; but the *Hessians* and other foreigners, looking upon that as the right of war, plunder wherever they go, from both Whigs and Tories, without distinction, and horrid devastations they have made on *Long-Island*, *New-York Island*, *White-Plains*, and *New-Jersey*, being the only parts they have yet set foot on. Should they get this fine city, they will be satiated, if the ruin of thousands of worthy citizens can satisfy their avarice.

This is not the only part of the Continent that now feels the weight of their resentment. General *Clinton*, with from three to six thousand men, has invaded *Rhode-Island*, and it is said has taken possession of it. Whether he will make any attempt on the main, during this severe, inclement season, I do not know, but if he does, I hope he may find cause to repent it.

I must add to this gloomy picture one circumstance, more distressing than all the rest, because it threatens instant and total ruin to the *American* cause, unless some radical cure is applied, and that speedily; I mean the depreciation of the Continental currency. The enormous pay of our Army, the immense expenses at which they are supplied with provisions, clothing, and other necessaries, and, in short, the extravagance that has prevailed in most departments of the publick service, have called forth prodigious emissions of paper money, both Continental and Colonial. Our internal enemies, who, alas! are numerous and rich, have always been undermining its value by various artifices, and now that our distresses are wrought to a pitch by the success and near approach of the enemy, they speak plainer, and many peremptorily refuse to take it at any rate. Those that do receive it, do it with fear and trembling; and you may judge of its value, even amongst those, when I tell you that £250 Continental money, or 666 2-3 dollars, is given for a bill of exchange of £100 sterling, sixteen dollars for a half-johannes, two paper dollars for one of silver, three dollars for a pair of shoes, twelve dollars for a hat, and so on; a common labourer asks two dollars a day for his work, and idles half his time.

All this amounts to real depreciation of the money. The war must be carried on at an expense proportioned to this value, which must inevitably call for immense emissions, and, of course, still further depreciations must ensue. This can only be prevented by borrowing in the money now in circulation. The attempt is made, and I hope will succeed by loan or lottery. The present troubles interrupt those measures here, and as yet I am not informed how they go on in other States, but something more is necessary; force must be inevitably employed, and I dread to see that day. We have already calamities sufficient for any country, and the measure will be full when one part of the *American* people is obliged to dragoon another, at the same time that they are opposing a most powerful external foe.

For my part, I see but two chances for relief; one is from you. If the Court of *France* open their eyes to their own

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interest, and think the commerce of *North-America* will compensate them for the expense and evil of a war with *Britain*, they may readily create a diversion, and afford us succours that will change the fate of affairs; but they must do it soon; our situation is critical, and does not admit of delay. I do not mean by this that instant submission must ensue if they do not directly afford us relief; but there is a great difference between the benefits they will derive from a commercial connection with this country, in full health and vigour, and what they can possibly expect, after it is exhausted by repeated efforts during the precarious process of a tedious war, during which its cities will be destroyed, the country ravaged, the inhabitants reduced in numbers, plundered of their property, and unable to reap the luxuriant produce of the finest soil in the world. Neither can they, after a tedious delay in negotiation, expect that vigorous assistance from us in prosecuting the war that they may be assured of if they join us in its infancy. If they join us generously in the day of our distress, without attempting undue advantages because we are so, they will find a grateful people to promote their future glory and interest with unabating zeal; and from my knowledge of the commerce of this country with *Europe*, I dare assert, that whatever *European* Power possesses the preëmption of it, must of consequence become the richest and most potent in *Europe*. But should time be lost in tedious negotiations, and succours be withheld, *America* must sue for peace from her oppressors.

Our people knew not the hardships and calamities of war when they so boldly dared *Britain* to arms. Every man was then a bold patriot, felt himself equal to the contest, and seemed to wish for an opportunity of evincing his prowess; but now, when we are fairly engaged—when death and ruin stare us in the face, and when nothing but the most intrepid courage can rescue us from contempt and disgrace, sorry am I to say it, many of those who were foremost in noise, shrink, coward-like, from the danger, and are begging pardon without striking a blow. This, however, is not general; but dejection of spirits is an epidemical disease, and unless some fortunate event or other gives a turn to the disorder, in time it may prevail throughout the community. No event would give that turn so soon as a declaration of war on the part of *France* against *Great Britain*; and I am sure if they lose this golden opportunity, they will never have such another.

You will doubtless be surprised that we have not made better progress with our Navy, because you are unacquainted with the many difficulties and causes of delay that have encountered us. The want of sea-coal for our anchor-smiths has been a great bar to our progress, the disappointment in our first attempts to cast cannon has been another, but above all, we have been hindered by the constant calling out of our Militia, in a manner that did not admit of the necessary tradesmen being exempted. You will wonder at this; it would be a long story to unfold the reasons, therefore suffice that it is so. Doctor *Franklin* can inform you of many particulars respecting the Flying-Camp; therefore, I shall give you the present state of our Navy, according to the best of my knowledge at this time.

The frigate in *New-Hampshire* is a very fine ship, completed in every particular, except the want of cannon, which was to have been cast in *Rhode-Island*, but the spirit of privateering has prevailed so eminently there, that they have sacrificed every other pursuit to it, both publick and private, as I am informed; and we have ordered the guns cast in *Connecticut* for that frigate to be sent to *Portsmouth*. As soon as they arrive, the *Raleigh* will be manned, and sail on a cruise.

At *Boston* they have also two fine frigates. The *Boston*, of twenty-four guns, I expect is at sea before this time, commanded by Captain *McNeil*, a very clever officer. The other is nearly ready, commanded by Captain *Manly*.

In *Rhode-Island* were built the two worst frigates, as I have been informed by those that have seen the whole. These two are completely fitted, and were partly manned when we last heard from them; so that I hope they are now at sea.

In *Connecticut*, the frigate is said to be a fine ship; but she cannot get to sea this winter for want of cordage and other stores.

In *New-York*, two very fine frigates are blocked up by the enemy, and hauled into *Esopus Creek* for safety.

At this place, we have four very fine ships. One of them, the *Randolph*, Captain *Biddle*, of twenty-six twelve-pounders, will, I hope, go to sea in company with this letter; another, the *Delaware*, Captain *Alexander*, is getting ready, and I hope will get out this winter. The other two want guns, anchors, and men.

At *Baltimore*, is a fine frigate, now only waiting for an anchor and men.

Besides these, we have in service, the *Alfred*, *Columbus*, and *Reprisal*, ships from sixteen to twenty-four guns, the brigantines *Cabot*, *Camden*, *Andrew Doria*, and *Lexington*, of twelve to sixteen guns; the sloops *Providence*, *Hornet*, *Fly*, *Independence*, *Sachem*; and schooners *Wasp*, *Musquito*, and *Georgia Packet*, all in actual service; and they have had great success in taking valuable prizes, as indeed have numbers of privateers from all parts of *America*. We have besides, two very fine row-galleys, built here, of ninety feet keel, but they are not yet rigged; and it has lately been determined by Congress to build some line-of-battle ships, and at all events to push forward and pay the utmost attention to an *American* Navy.

The greatest encouragement is given to seamen, which ought to be made known throughout *Europe*. Their pay in our Navy is eight dollars per month, with the best chance for prize money that men ever had, and liberty of discharges after every cruise, if they choose it. In the merchant service they now get from thirty to forty dollars per month; and this leads me to the state of our commerce.

In the Eastern States they are so intent on privateering that they mind little else. However, there is some exportation of produce from thence, and as to imports, they are the best supplied of any part of *America*, having been surprisingly successful in captures. *New-York* being in the hands of the enemy, we have nothing to say to it; and the produce of *New-Jersey* will be totally consumed by their army and ours. In this State, (*Pennsylvania*,) we had last season the worst crop of wheat ever known, both as to quantity and quality. This being our staple commodity, and stores prohibited, our merchants have been led to purchase much tobacco in *Maryland* and *Virginia*, and their ships are employed in the export of this article, with some flour, boards, beeswax, &c. We have a good many imports, but as fast as goods arrive, they are bought up for the Army, or for the use of neighbouring States, and therefore continue to bear high prices.

The value of ships has risen in the same enormous proportion with every thing else, and ships that were deemed worth £1,000 twelve months ago, now sell for £3,000, or upwards. Every article belonging to them is also excessively dear, and hard to be got, and the insolence and difficulty of seamen is beyond bearing. In *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *South-Carolina*, and *Georgia*, they have plenty of valuable produce on hand, but no ships to carry it away, and constant cruisers all along the coast make it very dangerous to send ships from one port to another; so that look which way you will, you find us surrounded with difficulties—in the land service, in the sea service, and in our commerce.

Agriculture and mechanicks have their impediments, by the inlisting of soldiers, and frequent calls on the Militia. In short, nothing but the most arduous exertions, and virtuous conduct in the leaders, seconded by a spirited behaviour in the Army, and a patient endurance of hardships by the people in general, can long support the contest; therefore the Court of *France* should strike at once, as they will reap an immediate harvest. They may sell their manufactures for any price they please to ask; they will get in payment tobacco, rice, indigo, deer-skins, furs, wheat, flour, iron, beeswax, lumber, fish, oil, whalebone, pot and pearl ashes, and various other articles, and, if they please, here is an ample field to employ their shipping, and raise seamen for their Navy.

I will not enter into any detail of our conduct in Congress, but you may depend on this, that so long as that respectable body persist in the attempt to execute, as well as to deliberate on their business, it never will be done as it ought, and this has been urged many and many a time, by myself and others, but some of them do not like to part with power, or to pay others for doing what they cannot do themselves.

I have Mr. *Deane's* favour of the 30th of *September*, to myself, now before me. The letter by the same convey-

ance from *Martinico*, under cover of Mr. *Bingham's*, I sent down to the Committee at *Baltimore*, and wrote them my mind on the justice of your complaints, for want of intelligence. I had often told it to them before. You know well I was not put in that Committee to carry on the correspondence, but to find out the conveyances. However, I have been obliged to write all the letters that have been written for some time past, but as Colonel *Lee*, Mr. *Hooper*, and the Rev. Dr. *Witherspoon* are now added to the Committee, I shall excuse myself from that task, although I have thought it proper to give you a just state of our affairs at this time, because I do not suppose the Committee will be got fairly together in *Baltimore* yet, and when they do, it is probable they may not be fond of laying things before you so fully as I have done. Some of us are of very sanguine complexions, and are too apt to flatter ourselves that things are not so bad as they appear to be, or that they will soon mend, &c. Now my notion is, that you, gentlemen Commissioners, should be fairly and fully informed of the true state of affairs, that you may make a proper use of that knowledge, keeping secret what ought to be so, and promulgating what should be known.

Doctor *Franklin* will see this letter, for whose safe arrival my best wishes have often gone forth; and I embrace this opportunity of assuring him of the high respect and esteem I entertain for him. I also beg my compliments to Mr. *Lee*, if he is with you; tell him I have the commission, in which he is nominated, ready to send, but it is gone into the country with my papers, or I would send it by this conveyance. My own affairs necessarily detained me here after the departure of Congress, and it is well I staid, as I am obliged to set many things right, that would otherwise be in the greatest confusion. Indeed, I find my presence so very necessary, that I shall remain here until the enemy drive me away.

I have the honour to be, &c., ROBERT MORRIS.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL M'DOUGALL.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 21st December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I am this evening favoured with yours of the 19th, from *Chatham*. I not only approve of the disposition you made of the three regiments under Colonel *Vose*, because I think it was a very judicious one, but I had, previous to the receipt of your letter, determined upon exactly the same plan, and had sent orders to Colonel *Vose* to halt at *Morris-Town*, that he might afford protection to the well-affected in that neighbourhood, and give spirits to the Militia. If you find your health such that you cannot take an active part where you are, or stay there without further prejudice to it, I would have you return to *Peeks-Kill*, and there, in conjunction with General *George Clinton*, take charge of that department, as I have ordered General *Heath* to join me with as many of the *Connecticut* and *Massachusetts* Militia as can be spared.

I think, with you, that though your state of health may require a resignation, that this is not a proper time to make it; our enemies would probably attribute it to the late unfavourable aspect of our affairs, and therefore I would advise you to try whether a little rest might not contribute to the cure of a disorder which is generally brought on by colds and fatigue.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Brigadier-General *McDougall*.

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ORDERS TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL MAXWELL.

SIR: Having countermanded the march of the three Eastern regiments under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel *Vose*, and directed them to halt at *Morris-Town*, in the *Jerseys*, where I am informed that Colonel *Ford*, at the head of a body of Militia, has taken post; you are to repair immediately to that place, and take upon you the command, not only of the above regiments, but of the Militia also, and therewith to give all the protection you can to the country, and distress to the enemy, by harassing of them in their quarters, and cutting off their convoys.

You are to be extremely vigilant and watchful to guard against surprises, and to use every means in your power to obtain a knowledge of the enemy's numbers, situations, and designs. If at any time you should discover that they are moving from *Brunswick*, and that quarter, towards *Trenton*, or the *Delaware* in other parts, endeavour, if it can be attempted with a probability of success, to fall upon their rear, and, if nothing more can be done, annoy them in their march. Every piece of intelligence which you may think of importance for me to know, communicate it without loss of time. Keep up the spirits of the Militia as much as possible, and use your influence with the Eastern regiments to continue in service after the term for which they stand engaged expires. If in this you should fail, still keep the Militia together, and render what service you can with them; prevent all you can from joining the enemy, and receiving protections from them, which, from experience, have been found to afford no relief from the rapacious, plundering, ravishing soldier.

Give every encouragement and aid to the recruiting service; let all those who are engaged in that business, above the road leading from *Trenton* to *Brunswick*, make your Head-Quarters their place of rendezvous; and that men may be raised as soon as possible, besides the officers appointed by the State of *New-Jersey* for the established regiments, if you can meet with active, sprightly men, who you think could raise companies, and are fit to command them afterwards, you may authorize them to engage men upon the same terms and for the same time the Continental regiments are raised; but then I cannot agree to take them into pay, or be at any expense, till they have got at least fifty privates, besides non-commissioned officers, inlisted. When this happens, and a certificate of it produced to me from you, the bounty shall be drawn, and the pay of officers and men commence.

To encourage the Captains in this business, they shall have the nominating of their own subalterns, subject, however, to my negative, if I find they have made an improper choice, from local attachments and connections rather than publick good. They will be allowed a dollar and one-third for every recruit for whom certificates are obtained. Fix with the Commissary and Quartermaster upon the modes of supplying your troops with provisions and necessaries before you go.

Given at Head-Quarters, in *Bucks* County, this 21st day of *December*, 1776.

GO. WASHINGTON.

To Brigadier-General *Maxwell*.

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ORDERS TO CARPENTER WHARTON, ESQ., ASSISTANT COMMISSARY-GENERAL.

SIR: Lay in provisions for twenty thousand men, at the following places, and in the following quantities: At *York*, four months; at *Lancaster*, two ditto; at *Mill-Town*, ten days.

Besides the provisions at these places, which are to be considered as magazines, you should have some deposited on the roads leading from *Lancaster* to *Winchester*, in *Virginia*, and from the head of the bay to *Alexandria*, in the same State, for the accommodation of the troops in their march from the Southern Colonies.

You should also so far look round you as to know that there are in the vicinity of *Philadelphia*, and in the city itself, provisions enough to serve ten thousand men at least six weeks; but there will be no occasion as yet for large purchases or large deposits in this quarter.

Given at Head-Quarters, *Bucks* County, this 21st *December*, 1776.

GO. WASHINGTON.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 21st December, 1776.

SIR: I am honoured with your favours of the 7th and 12th of this instant. The first chiefly relates to your wishes that the troops of the State of *Connecticut*, whose time expires on the first of *January*, may, by entreaties and promises of reward, be induced to stay beyond their term. Past experience has repeatedly convinced us that troops, at the most favourable season of the year, and well supplied with every necessary, cannot be prevailed upon to stay a day longer than what they engage for. If that has been the case under the circumstances I have mentioned, it cannot be expected that men worn out with a fatiguing campaign, and in want of even necessary clothing, at the most inclement

season of the year, will or can stay beyond their engagement. Indeed, except they would inlist anew, or consent to stay a considerable time, I think they had better go home as fast as possible; for thereby they will have time to have refreshed themselves; and when they have forgot their fatigue, they will probably inlist again time enough to take the field in the spring.

I have felt for our unhappy prisoners all that you express n yours of the 12th, and I have done all in my power to alleviate their distresses. Colonel *Miles* procured a supply of eight thousand dollars from Congress, to be laid out in necessaries for them, which I hope would afford them some relief in that respect; but whether General *Howe* can accommodate them better in point of room, I will not determine. To be sure he cannot safely trust them abroad in a country which he has but just taken possession of. I have already sent in all or most of the prisoners that were in the States of *Pennsylvania*, *Jersey*, and *Maryland*, and made a demand of such officers in exchange as I thought were best entitled to a preference, beginning with those taken at *Quebeck* under Generals *Montgomery* and *Arnold*. But General *Howe*, without paying any regard to my request, sent out such as best pleased him, or who made the most urgent application. I have remonstrated sharply upon this head, and told General *Howe*, in express terms, that unless he will agree to send out such only as I name, I will not send any more of his prisoners in; but to this letter I have received no answer.

However, that we may lose no time in getting a total exchange carried into execution, I would recommend it to you to send all those in your State immediately to the commanding officer of the *British* troops at *Rhode-Island;* taking lists of the names, corps, and ranks of the officers, and number of the privates, which lists must be certified and signed by the eldest prisoner officer, and sent in by him; one of these lists to be immediately after transmitted to me, that I may make a demand of an equal number, and a line should be wrote by you, or some person deputed by you, to General *Howe*, desiring him not to send any of our people out in exchange for them till I make a requisition.

When I reflect upon what our situation in this quarter will be in ten days from this time, I am almost led to despair. As I said before, I cannot count upon those troops whose time is to expire on the first of *January*. I am then left with a few Southern regiments, almost reduced to nothing by sickness and fatigue, to oppose the main body of General *Howe's* Army, laying close upon my front, and most assuredly waiting for the dissolution of our Army to make as easy a conquest of the Province of *Pennsylvania* as they have done of *Jersey*. I do not find the Militia of *Pennsylvania* inclined to give me as much assistance as they are able to do, were they willing; though I am endeavouring to bring them out by every means, and am making use of both threats and persuasions to gain my end. I shall draw the new-inlisted troops together as fast as they can be collected, armed, and accoutred; but much cannot be expected from that source for some time. If the four regiments of Militia from your State, and the six thousand men ordered in by the State of *Massachusetts*, should arrive at *Peekskill*, General *Heath* will have a much larger body of men than he will have any occasion for at that place; and I had determined that they should cover the upper parts of *Jersey;* but under my present difficulties, I shall order as many as can be spared to proceed this far. The necessity of the times must plead my excuse for calling men so far from home, and at this season of the year, who have an enemy just landed upon their own coasts, and have not even a Continental regiment to assist them; but I trust they will undertake this cheerfully, when they reflect that they cannot insure that liberty which they have so nobly contended for, while our common enemy maintains any footing upon any part of this Continent.

I have the honour to be, &c., Go. Washington.

To Governour *Trumbull, Connecticut*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Camp above Trenton Falls, December 21st, 1776.

Sir: I have been honoured with your favour of the 8th instant. The loss of *Rhode-Island* gives me much concern, though an event that could not be well guarded against. I am happy that most of the stock had been removed, and wish the cannon could have also been brought away, our want of them being great by reason of our late losses. Notwithstanding this descent, and the intelligence of more ships going down the *Sound*, I cannot persuade myself that the enemy will attempt any thing capital upon the main; they will most probably confine themselves to the island. But if they have other views, I trust that the succours from the two neighbouring States, with your own force, will be able to baffle their most vigorous efforts and prevent the progress of their arms. It would give me infinite pleasure if the situation of our affairs in this quarter would allow me to afford you the assistance I could wish; but it will not. All in my power to do, I have done. Upon the first intelligence that a fleet was going down the *Sound* with troops on board, I wrote to Generals *Spencer* and *Arnold* to repair to the eastward, and to pursue such measures as circumstances should seem to require. My letter to General *Arnold* did not get to hand, owing to the uncertainty of his route, till he had almost reached this. He sets out to-morrow morning, and I doubt not these two gentlemen will render you many essential services. In respect to the other aid, I cannot give you. The *Delaware* now divides our small force from General *Howe's* Army, a large part of which is cantoned in the neighbouring towns, which, from appearances and many concurring reports, is only waiting an opportunity to pass. As soon as the ice is formed they will try to effect it. General *Howe's* object, beyond all question, is to possess *Philadelphia;* and I could heartily wish there was not too much grounds for some disagreeable apprehensions on that head. Without more vigourous exertions on the part of the people than what have appeared of late, I see but little to prevent him from accomplishing his purposes. In the course of a few days, the last of this month, the force I now have, by no means equal to his, will, by the impolicy and fatal system of short inlistments, be reduced to a mere handful, unless the Militia can be prevailed on to give their aid. As yet but very few, those of the city excepted, have got in motion, notwithstanding the most pressing solicitations, and apparent intentions of the enemy to invade their State and seize their capital. How things will turn out, the event must determine; at present the prospect is gloomy.

I have the honour to be, &c., Go. Washington.

To Governour *Cooke, Rhode-Island*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Camp above Trenton Falls, December the 21st, 1776.

Sir: I have been honoured with your favour of the 8th instant. The loss of the island of *Rhode-Island* gives me much concern, though an event that could not be well guarded against. I am happy that most of the stock had been removed, and wish the cannon had been also brought away, our want of 'em, by reason of our great losses, being great. Notwithstanding this descent, and the intelligence of more ships going down the *Sound*, I incline to think the enemy will not attempt any thing capital upon the main; they will most probably confine themselves to the island. But if they have other views, I trust that the succours from the two neighbouring States, with your own force, will be able to baffle them, or prevent the progress of their arms, their most vigourous efforts. It would give me infinite pleasure if the situation of our affairs in this quarter would allow me to afford you the assistance I could wish, but it will not. All in my power to do, I have done. Upon the first intelligence that a fleet was going down the *Sound* with troops on board, I wrote to Generals *Spencer* and *Arnold* to repair to the eastward, and to pursue such measures as circumstances should seem to require. My letter to General *Arnold* did not get to hand, owing to the uncertainty of his route, till he had almost reached this. He sets out to-morrow morning, and I doubt not these two gentlemen will render you many essential services. Other aid I cannot give you. The *Delaware* now only divides our small force from a large part of General *Howe's* Army, cantoned in the neighbouring towns, and which, from appearances and many concurring reports, is only waiting an opportunity to pass. As soon as the ice is formed they will try to effect it. General *Howe's* object, beyond all doubt, is to possess *Philadelphia;* and I heartily wish there was not too much ground for some dis-

agreeable apprehensions on that head. Without more vigourous exertions on the part of the people than what have appeared of late, I see but little to prevent him from accomplishing his purposes. In the course of a few days, the last of this month, the force I now have, by no means equal to his, will, by the impolicy and fatal system of short inlistments, be reduced to a mere handful, unless the Militia can be prevailed on to give their aid. As yet but very few, those of the city excepted, (and who have turned out in a spirited manner,) have got in motion, notwithstanding the most pressing solicitations, and apparent intention of the enemy to invade their State and seize their capital. How things will turn out, the event must determine; at present the prospect is gloomy.

The distresses of our prisoners in the hands of the enemy give me much concern; their sufferings, by all accounts, are very great. Ever since a cartel was settled between General *Howe* and myself, I have been endeavouring to effect an exchange as far as circumstances would admit of; but my attempts on this head have been attended with but little success. For the prisoners belonging to the *British* Army, and who have been sent in from *Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Maryland*, General *Howe*, or rather his Commissary, has undertaken, of his mere motion, and contrary to my express requisition, to return a number belonging to us who were not called for, and whose releasement should have been postponed till after that of many others. I have wrote to General *Howe* upon the subject, and presume in future that none will be sent out but those who are named by me. That this business may not remain an object of further delay, I would take the liberty of recommending that all the prisoners in your State be immediately sent in to the commanding officer of the *British* troops on *Rhode-Island*, taking two exact lists of the names, corps, and ranks of the officers, and the number of privates, signed by the officer of the highest rank, one to be sent in with him, accompanied by a line to General *Howe*, that the particular prisoners belonging to us, and to be received in exchange, will be required by me. The other list you will transmit me immediately, that I may make the requisition.

I have the honour to be, with much respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To the General Court of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

[The same to the *New-Hampshire* Convention.]

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GENERAL GREENE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Corell's Ferry, December 21st, 1776.

Sir: Although I am far from thinking the *American* cause desperate, yet I conceive it to be in a critical situation. The enemy in the heart of the country; the disaffected daily increasing; the Continental money losing its currency; the time for which the troops stand engaged almost ready to expire; very few inlisted upon the new establishment; the tide of publick sentiment at a stand, and ready to run through different channels; the people refusing to supply the Army, under various pretences, but evidently from a disaffection to the cause and to the currency, are combined evils, calculated to pave the way for General *Howe's* advances; who, having cantoned his troops advantageously, stands prepared to take advantage of those circumstances which, I am sorry to say, afford him but too favourable a prospect. It is necessary, in addition to this disagreeable train of evils, that the different corps of officers who are discontented and unsatisfied, either from a real or supposed injury in their appointments from the different States, should be reconciled, that recruiting may go on with spirit, that there should be an augmentation of our force and a larger train of artillery.

Effectually to remedy those evils, and oppose the enemy; to put the recruiting service in a favourable train; to establish the artillery and elaboratory upon a proper footing; to check the disaffected, and call out assistance; to give a currency to the Continental money, and form the necessary magazines, greater powers must be lodged in the hands of the General than he has ever yet exercised. It is impossible, in his present situation, and the short time he has to prepare for the ensuing campaign, for him to be in readiness so early as General *Howe* will take the field, unless you delegate to him full power to take such measures as he may find necessary to promote the establishment of the new Army. Time will not admit nor circumstances allow of a reference to Congress.

I can see no evil nor danger to the States in delegating such powers to the General, reserving to yourselves the right of confirming or repealing the measures. The General should have power to appoint officers to inlist at large. This is no time to be particular about proportions, or attentive to economy. The measure of our force should be the extent of our funds.

We have a formidable enemy to oppose, whose progress can only be checked by a superiour force; and however disagreeable the reflections, this is a serious truth, that the present existence of the civil depends upon the military power. I am no advocate for the extensions of military power; neither would I advise it at present, but from the fullest conviction of its being absolutely necessary. Remember the policy of the *Romans*, a people as tenacious of their liberties as any on earth. When their State was invaded, they delegated full powers to exert their whole forces. The state of war is so uncertain, dependent upon so many contingencies, a day, nay, an hour, is so important in the crisis of publick affairs, that it would be folly to wait for relief from the deliberative councils of legislative bodies. The virtue of the people, at such an hour, is not to be trusted; and I can assure you that the General will not exceed his powers, although he may sacrifice the cause. There never was a man that might be more safely trusted, nor a time when there was a louder call. If you intend to support your independence, you must not be too delicate in the choice of means.

Examples are daily made by General *Howe*, of our friends who fall in his way, while those who are disaffected to our cause are suffered to remain in peace and quiet amongst us. Many who are now well affected will be induced, from the risk and danger on the one side, and the apparent security on the other, to change their sentiments. A discretionary power to punish the disaffected is necessary. The Militia have refused to turn out, when there has been the greatest want of their assistance, and nothing but such a power can ever compel them. If the refusal of the Continental money, and the withholding of the necessary supplies from the Army, for want of such a power in the General, are to pass unfurnished, the one will put it out of our power to pay, and the other to support, the troops, and consequently must lay the foundations of all oppositions.

I am, with due respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

Nath. Greene.

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GENERAL GREENE TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Coryell's Ferry, December 21st, 1776.

Dear Sir: By your letter to General *Washington*, I find the *British* troops have landed on *Rhode-Island*. Although I am sorry my own country should be subject to their ravages, yet I rejoice that they are surrounded by a people who are united, and firmly determined in opposition. You may be subject to a partial evil, but *America* cannot fail to reap the advantage. You think you are greatly infested with Tories and disaffected, but there is but the shadow of disaffection with you to what there is here. The Friends, or Quakers, are almost to a man disaffected. Many have the effrontery to refuse the Continental currency. This line of conduct cannot fail of drawing down the resentment of the people upon them. The fright and disaffection was so great in the *Jerseys*, that in our retreat of one hundred and odd miles, we were never joined by more than a hundred men. I dare say, had that Army been in *New-England*, we should not have been under the necessity of retreating twenty miles. We are now on the west side of the *Delaware*, our force, though small, collected together; but small as it is, I hope to give the enemy a stroke in a few days. Should fortune favour the attack, perhaps it may put a stop to General *Howe's* progress. His ravages in the *Jerseys* exceed all description. Men slaughtered; women ravished; mothers and daughters ravished in presence of the husbands and sons, who were obliged to be spectators to their brutal conduct. I thereby, notwithstanding the general disaffection of a certain order of people, the Army will fill up. Should that be the case, nothing is to be feared.

By a vessel just arrived from *France*, with a valuable cargo, we learn a *French* war is inevitable. Short inlist-

ments has been, in a great measure, the source of all the misfortunes that we labour under, though, thank God! but few to what we at first expected. The Congress, in the infancy of politicks, could not be brought to believe many serious truths. By attending to speculative principles rather than real life, their maxims in war have been founded in folly. However, experience ripens judgment, and enables us to correct many an errour in business that at first we could not conceive of; and I don't doubt the Congress in time will be as able politicians in military matters as they are in civil government.

The Eastern Delegates made application to General *Washington* for me to come to *Rhode-Island*, but the General would not consent. He thinks more is to be trusted to the virtue of your people than to the force of this country. As the enemy have got possession of *Rhode-Island*, and done all the mischief they can, it will not be bad policy to let them remain in quiet until spring. To attempt any against them, unless you are sure of success, will be a very dangerous manœuvre. 'Tis an endless task to attempt to cover all the country. You must drive back the stock from the shores, and make a disposition to cover capital objects. By too great a division of your force, you'll be incapable of making any considerable opposition whenever they may think proper to make a descent. But it is my opinion they will be peaceable if you will; for, from the best accounts we can get, they consist of the invalids of the Army. They may attempt to plunder the shores, but nothing more than that this winter; for I am confident they have no hopes of penetrating into the country. If they make any descent, it will be against *Providence*, to seize the stores and burn the town. This is very probable, as the Tories will endeavour, in *Newport*, to spirit them on to such an attempt; but unless it is already done, you have nothing to fear.

I am told some malicious reports propagated industriously about me, respecting the loss of the baggage and stores at *Fort Lee*. They are as malicious as they are untrue. I can bring very good vouchers for my conduct in every instance; and have the satisfaction to have it approved by the General under whom I serve. Every thing was got off from that place that could be, with the roads and wagons we had to move the stores with. The evacuation of *Fort Lee* was determined upon several days before the enemy landed above us, and happily all the most valuable stores were away. The enemy's publication of the cannon and stores then taken is a grand falsehood; not an article of military stores was left there, or nothing worth mentioning.

The Congress have removed to *Baltimore*. General *Spencer* and General *Arnold* are coming to take the command at *Rhode-Island*. *Arnold* is a fine, spirited fellow, and an active General. I hope they keep the enemy at bay. My respects to your family, and all my *Providence* friends.

Believe me to be, with the greatest respect, your most obedient and very humble servant,

NATH. GREENE.

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GENERAL DICKINSON TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Yardly's Farm, 21 December, 1776.

SIR: Two persons returned yesterday from the *Jerseys*, who inform me that there is a very great body of the enemy in and around *Brunswick*, but they could not ascertain the number. One of them says they were sending off provisions, &c., towards *New-York*. They made strict inquiry about boats, but could not hear of any preparations of the kind.

Another person from *Crosswicks* informs me that he saw a scow and four batteaus above the bridge, belonging to *Lewis's* Mill, which he should have brought off with a small party, but that there was a guard of one hundred *Hessians* posted at the bridge. He is of opinion those boats were not collected by the enemy, but accidentally left there. A negro fellow, whose master lives in *Trenton*, whom I have just seen, informs me they are building boats at *Henry's* Mills, a mile from town, and that he was told by the soldiers there were many boats coming from *Brunswick*. What degree of credibility is to be given to this information I will not determine. I have endeavoured to prevail with some intelligent person to go down into *Trenton*, but hitherto without success. If 'tis agreeable to your Excellency, I will offer fifteen or twenty dollars to a good hand, who will undertake it, if such a one can be found. People here are extremely fearful of the inhabitants at *Trenton* betraying them.

I have delivered your Excellency's message (communicated to me by Colonel *Cary*) to the officers and men within my department, and hope it will have the desired effect.

Captain *Anderson*, with his party, returned yesterday, with the loss of one man taken, and two or three missing. Nothing material. The snow hastened his return.

I have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

PHILEMON DICKINSON.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Paramus, December 21st, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have received the honour of yours of the 16th and 18th instant.

I have the pleasure to acquaint your Excellency that on the 19th instant, a detachment of our troops, consisting partly of Continental troops, and partly of the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties, having marched down to the *English Neighbourhood* in the night, deceived the sentinel, and surprised the out-guard of Colonel *Buskirk's* regiment of new-raised troops, took a Sergeant and seventeen men prisoners, and sixteen new King's muskets, which have been brought safely to this place; after which they repulsed their main guard. We lost one man, and the enemy are supposed to have lost four. I shall order these rascally prisoners under close confinement.

The same evening, one Mr. *Honeywell*, of *Philipsburgh*, who was lately taken prisoner by the enemy, came from *New-York*. He is a gentleman of credit, and one of the Committee of the town. He informs us that General *Howe* is lately returned to *New-York*, as are the *Hessians* who lately went to *Rhode Island*. But that the *British* troops are still there; that there are a great many troops now in the city; that an embarkation of a body of them is soon to take place, and that it was supposed that General *Howe* was returned on that account; that they talk of making a movement to *Courtlandt's* Manor and *Peekskill*. This corresponds with a line which I lately received, which I take the liberty to enclose.

I am very glad that your Excellency has thought fit to order Colonel *Vose* to remain in the neighbourhood of *Chatham*. It was highly necessary. A body of the enemy are at *Aquackanuck*, said to be from two hundred and fifty to four hundred, with two pieces of cannon.

I shall march for *Peekskill* to-morrow morning. General *George Clinton*, with about one thousand of the Militia of *Orange* and *Ulster* Counties, ordered out by the Convention of the State of *New-York*, is to guard for the present at this post and the passes of the Highlands on this side of *Hudson's* river.

The brigantine which I mentioned in my last to have sailed from the dock at *Hackensack*, came to anchor about seven miles below the town; a party of our men went down and boarded her, and attempted to bring her up, but the wind being fresh it could not be effected. They then began to unload her into the boats; seven firkins of butter, one or two trunks, some wine, &c., were brought off; and upon return of the boats a body of the enemy came down, fired upon, and drove our people off, and took possession of the vessel. We took three or four seamen. I had given orders to the officer, in case of necessity, to set her on fire, but in the hurry and confusion he did not do it. She had on board a great variety of furniture, hay, &c. On opening one of the trunks, we find it to contain sundry articles of plate, inventory of which is enclosed. It is said to belong to one Mr. *Yates*, and that he is friendly. The same is said as to the effects which were on board the other vessels; but it seems a little extraordinary that our friends should convey their treasure into the hands of our enemies. I did not encumber myself with the furniture, as we had not wagons to fetch it away; but the provisions and liquors I have secured, and the sails and cordage of the vessels. The plate I shall deliver into the hands of the Assistant Quartermaster-General. I solicit your Excellency's opinion and direction respecting it. I also found Continental property scattered in divers houses, and at a store where it was deposited, as I was informed, for the enemy, about one hundred and sixty barrels

of flour. In another store, twenty-one barrels of pork, and in another, about thirty hogsheads of rum, gin, &c. The last two articles is said to be private property. I have brought off about one half of it. There are three or four claimers, one of whom we have in custody. But be the property whose it may, I thought it my duty to secure it. The remainder I fear will fall into the hands of the enemy, as we have not teams to secure it. I have sent the flour and pork to *Ramapaugh*.

The Colonels of the regiments here are uneasy on account of the pay of their regiments, as the hazard of getting their abstracts to your Excellency (one of which has been already taken) and the money back from the Paymaster is very great. They request me to lay the matter before your Excellency, and crave some mode of relief.

Upon my arrival at *Peekskill*, I shall endeavour to make such a disposition of the troops which I may have the honour to command, as may appear most expedient to answer the purposes which your Excellency is pleased to point out, and hope it will be such as may be approved by you. I shall cheerfully consult and coöperate with General *Lincoln* in all matters of importance.

Mr. *Honeywell* further informs that the talk in *New-York* was that *Russia*, *Hanover*, and *Portugal*, would aid *Great Britain;* but that they were doubtful of *France;* that they thought they should greatly distress, but never subdue *America;* that the great numbers of prisoners in the city and their extreme sufferings will induce your Excellency to submit to terms of accommodation; that three rooms in the old City Hall are fitting up for General *Lee*, with locks and bars, &c.

I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. Heath.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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*Inventory of Sundries taken at* Hackensack, *in a large chest going to* New-York.

December 17th, 1776.

4 *French* plated candlesticks, with sockets.
1 very large silver tureen.
3 large silver cake-dishes.
3 silver salvers.
1 silver beaker, very large.
1 pair silver cups.
1 pair do. gilt.
1 handsome silver branch.
1 large handsome silver tankard.
1 large silver coffee-pot.
1 do. do. butter-boat.
4 silver pickle-stands.
1 sugar-dish.
2 small silver salvers.
1 complete silver standish.
4 silver labels for wine.
1 large tureen.
1 silver trowell.
6 silver skewers.
2 silver beer-cups.
2 do. gilt do.
4 large soup-spoons.
4 gravy do.
8 silver salts.
8 salt-spoons, and 1 pair sugar-tongs.
A red case, supposed to contain a silver-plated tea-urn.

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The bearer hereof, Mr. *Sobriski*, is a most staunch friend, and has suffered much. He was the guide to our detachment that went to *English Neighbourhood*, and is well acquainted with all parts of this country, and is deserving of notice and respect.

W. Heath.

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SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 21st December, 1776.

My Lord: Captain *Emmerick*, who has been very useful to me in the course of this campaign, will have the honour of presenting this letter to your Lordship, on his return to *Britain*, in order to raise a corps of *German* Chasseurs.

If your Lordship is pleased to recommend such a measure to his Majesty, and it should meet with approbation, I have reason to believe the corps would be well commanded by Captain *Emmerick*, and can assure that troops of this class are much wanted, and would render essential services in the course of the war.

I have the honour to be, your Lordship's most faithful and most obedient servant,

W. Howe.

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GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

At a General Court-Martial, held by order of Major-General *Heath*, to try Lieutenant *Nowell*, of Colonel *Prescott's* regiment, arrested for unlawfully taking seven dollars in paper currency from a traveller, on the publick road near *Pirammus* Church, in the evening following the 19th of instant, *December*, and such other prisoners as shal be brought before them. Colonel *Wyllys*, President.

Members.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. Col. *Prentice*, | Capt. *Patch*, |
| Major *Holdrage*, | Capt. *Wright*, |
| Capt. *Petibone*, | Capt. *Mills*, |
| Capt. *Sill*, | Capt. *Ealy*, |
| Capt. *Derby*, | Capt. *Galop*, |
| Capt. *Barns*, | Capt. *Brewster*. |

Captain *Hyde*, Judge Advocate.

The prisoner, Lieutenant *Nowell*, being arraigned to the crime, plead Not guilty.

*Benjamin Lee*, witness, being produced, under oath saith, that *John Bardan* (the traveller from whom Lieutenant *Nowell* had taken the money) being asked what he intended to do with the Rebels, said he intended to kill them as fast as he could; but being stopped, said he would give him any thing to make up; further, said *Lee* says he heard the said Lieutenant *Nowell* tell said *Bardan* that he might go if he would give him twenty or twenty-four shillings, and that he see said *Bardan* give said *Nowell* money, and that said *Nowell* hurried said *Bardan* away. Further said *Lee* saith not.

*George Abbot*, a witness, being produced, under oath saith, Lieutenant *Nowell* brought *John Bardan* to Colonel *Prescott's* quarters, from whence *Benjamin Lee* set out with him to the guard by Lieutenant *Nowell's* order, but said *Lee* came back and told him much the same as the said *Lee* has witnessed concerning said *Bardan* being a Tory, &c. Further he says, that *Bardan* offered to pawn money until he got somebody to plead for him, and supposes he meant to deposite it in the hands of the man of the house, and not give it; but says he did not see any money given, or hear any thing said about it. Further he saith not.

Captain *Tine Vanzandtz*, on oath says, that *Bardan* came to General *Heath's* to complain, and said he offered to give money to Lieutenant *Nowell*, and did give him seven dollars to let him go; and further the witness says, that *Bardan* informed the General that he had fifty dollars; and being searched, no more than forty-three remained, which, with the seven, made the fifty, and that *Bardan* confessed to the General, being surprised. He confessed himself somewhat friendly to Government; and further the witness saith not.

Major *Gray*, on oath, agrees with Captain *Vanzandts;* and further says, being ordered by General *Heath*, he went to Lieutenant *Nowell*, and asked him whether he had seen any traveller between his lodgings and the church? Affirmed he had not. Being searched, some small change was found with him, which he declared was all he had; but on further search, he found six dollars in his pocket, and that said *Nowell* appeared in much consternation. Further the witness saith not.

Adjutant *Marsden*, on oath, agrees in full with Major *Gray* as to examining said Lieutenant *Nowell*, and finding the money; and further he saith not.

The Court having heard and considered the evidences maturely, do adjudge the prisoner to be guilty of the crimes laid to his charge; and do therefore sentence him to be dismissed from the Army with infamy, and make restitution of the one dollar remaining to the person from which he so wickedly took them.

Sam'l Wyllys, *President*.

The above sentence is approved of.

W. Heath, *M. G.*

GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Pyramus, 21st December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I am this moment favoured with the letter of your honourable House of the 17th instant. Being sensible of the importance of the passes of the Highlands, the security of them shall always be my first object, from which I will not suffer myself for any other consideration, however specious, to be diverted. The stores taken at *Hackensack* are now principally removed to the Highlands or *Peekskill*, and General *Heath*, agreeable to orders, proposes marching with his division to-morrow morning for the latter place. As this movement of General *Heath's* will leave the pass near *Sydman's* bridge without a man, I propose marching the two regiments I have here to *Ramapough* and that place, and to extend my guards and patrolling parties from thence towards *Ringswood* and this place. In this way I will give all the protection to the few friends we have in this quarter in my power, and at the same time scourge our enemies; but I can't think it would be advisable to continue these regiments so far advanced as this, as the enemy, who have a whole brigade at and near *Achquakannock* and *Newark*, might by a forced march get between us and the posts we are desired to defend.

The night before last General *Parsons* and myself, with five hundred of his troops and mine, set out about dark on a visit to our friends in the *English Neighbourhood*, where we were informed Colonel *Buskerk's* regiment of new levies and some companies of Light-Infantry were quartered. When we came to the first house in the *English Neighbourhood*, we detached Colonel *Woodhull*, with two hundred, to march east of the settlement, through the fields, to the edge of *Bergen* woods, to fix guards on the roads leading to *Burdett's* and *Bull's* Ferry, and with the remainder of his force to come in on the back of the enemy up the highway, so as to prevent their escape, while we, with the remainder, marched through the neighbourhood. About break of day we surprised and took their advanced guard, about a mile from *Bergen* woods. At the instant we effected this, and were about advancing to attack their main body, one of their horse rode up, and not standing on being challenged, was fired on by one of our people. This alarmed their party. They turned out, fired on us; we returned the fire, upon which they fled, and got off before Colonel *Woodhull* with his party, who had a rough march, could reach the main road. It was however a successful little expedition. We took twenty-three prisoners, eighteen excellent muskets, a wagon and Light-Horse, and killed four or five. It might have been much more so had it not been so exceeding cold, and the men beat out with the length of the march, which the road we took was at least twenty-eight miles going. I have not the least doubt but we should have killed and taken the whole party, and have cleared *Bergen* wood of their wood-cutters.

The Militia of the Counties of *Ulster* and *Orange* think it exceeding hard at this time to be called out while those of other Counties, equally interested in guarding the passes of the Highlands, are exempted from any part of the duty. They think one half of them, to wit, about one thousand, would be fully competent for the purpose; and considering the business they were first intended for is now in a great measure accomplished, I am of their opinion. That number, I believe, would continue with cheerfulness. If the whole is kept out, though I know they will—they must submit to it, if desired, it will be with a degree of reluctance. I wish, therefore, I might have liberty to dismiss one half of them. I am sure it will be best.

We are distressed about provisions; how are we to be supplied? Who is to be our Commissary?

I am your most obedient servant.

I forgot to mention that *Fort Lee* is demolished—we were five miles below it—and to inform you that Colonel *Ford*, with about five hundred of his Militia, attacked a much superiour number of the enemy on the 19th instant, drove them, killed twenty on the spot, with the loss of three wounded only.

The enemy's main Army are retreating towards *Brunswick*. Our people have had several successful skirmishes with them, and are in high spirits.

To the Hon. *Abraham Ten Eyck*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York, Fishkill.*

COLONEL ALLISON TO CAPTAIN JOHNSON.

SIR: I am directed by General *Clinton* to deliver all persons taken up by us, lurking about or in arms, over to the civil authority; and as the two fellows now under guard are inhabitants of *Ulster* County, I have thought it advisable to deliver them into the custody of Major *Johnston*, who, if he is in opinion with me, will send them to the Committee of your County. You are therefore directed to take the charge of conveying them to the commanding officer of your regiment.

Given under my hand, *Tappan, December* 21st, 1776.

WM. ALLISON, *Col.*

To Captain *Matthew Johnson.*

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COLONEL SWARTWOUT TO DR. M'KNIGHT.

Fort Constitution, December 21, 1776.

As we are necessitated for some salts and other medicine for the use of our regiment, should be glad Dr. *Osborn* could be supplied with them.

Your humble servant,

JACOBUS SWARTWOUT, *Colonel.*

Dr. *McKnight.*

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I can make no other demand for the medicine, as it belongs to the new Convention of *New-York*, than to urge the Colonel's request may be granted.

CHAS. MCKNIGHT.

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RESOLVES OF THE NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

In Convention of the Representatives for the State of New-York, } Fish Kill, December 21st, 1776. }

Whereas the condition of this State, invaded and surrounded by numerous enemies, requires the constant sitting of Convention for the despatch of the publick business: And whereas the enemy have possessed themselves of *Long-Island*, *Richmond* County, and the City and County of *New-York*, and it is out of the power of the Committees of those Counties to provide for the support of their respective Representatives, who, being driven from their habitations and deprived of their estates, are the less able to subsist at their own private expense, while they are burthened with the accumulated charge of maintaining their families and attending on the business of the State:

*Resolved therefore*, That this Convention will advance, on the credit of the said respective Counties, the allowances heretofore given to the Representatives of the said Counties in Convention, and which are in arrear since the 14th day of *May* last, and to the Representatives of the City and County of *New-York*, ten shillings per day, respectively; such allowance to be computed from the time the Convention removed to the *White-Plains*.

*Resolved*, That the said allowances be made on the certificate of the President or Vice-President of the Convention, or of the Chairman of the Committee of Safety. And that the Treasurer pay the same on such certificate accordingly.

*Resolved*, That the sums allowed and paid to such Representatives be charged to the account of the City and Counties which they respectively represent.

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In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, } December 21st, 1776. }

Whereas, from various intelligence received of the motions and designs of the enemy's Army, it appears highly probable that they meditate an attack upon the passes of the Highlands, on the east side of *Hudson's* river: And whereas the term of the inlistment of the Militia under the command of Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, which is at present stationed to defend the pass at *Peek's Kill*, expires on the last of this month, and that of great part of the division commanded by Major-General *Spencer*, which is stationed at *North-Castle*, on the 29th instant: And whereas his Excellency General *Washington*, by his letter of the 15th instant, has warmly recommended to this State to exert themselves in procuring temporary supplies of Militia till the new levies of the Continental Army can be brought into the field:

*Resolved*, That the whole Militia of the Counties of *Westchester*, *Dutchess*, and that part of the County of *Al-*

*bany* which lies to the southward of *Beesen Island*, be forthwith marched to the *North-Castle*, in *Westchester* County, well equipped with arms and ammunition, and furnished with six days' provisions and blankets, and a pot or campkettle to every six men, except such men as the Field Officers of the respective regiments shall judge cannot be called into service without greatly distressing their families, or who may be actually engaged in the manufacturing saltpetre, or of shoes and clothing for the use of the Army.

*Resolved*, That the said Militia be allowed Continental pay and rations, and that such men as cannot furnish themselves with arms, shall be supplied from the publick stores.

*Resolved*, That the Colonels or commanding officers of the respective regiments be empowered to hire or impress as many wagons or sleighs as shall be sufficient for transporting the baggage of the respective regiments to their place of rendezvous.

And whereas a Secret Committee, appointed by the Convention of this State on the 19th instant, have, in pursuance of the authority given them, directed a number of volunteers to be raised under the command of Colonels *Dubois*, *Graham*, and *Thomas*, and Lieutenant-Colonel *Hammon*, and Captain *Dutcher:*

*Resolved*, That all such volunteers be left under the direction and command of the officers under whom they have been respectively engaged, and not marched out with the body of the Militia.

*Resolved*, That the said Militia, when called out, shall be stationed at such posts, and obey such orders as they shall from time receive from a Committee for that purpose, to be appointed by a Convention of this State.

*Resolved*, That *Robert R. Livingston*, *Henry Wisner*, and *Zephaniah Platt*, Esqs., be a Committee for that purpose, and that they be further empowered to discharge from the Militia such mechanicks as the publick service or the necessity of the inhabitants may render expedient.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be written and sent by express to General *George Clinton*, informing him that the Convention of this State have reason to think that the enemy have in view to penetrate the passes of the Highlands, on the east side of *Hudson's* river; that the term of inlistment of great part of the division under the command of Major-General *Spencer* expires on the 29th instant, and submitting to his discretion the propriety of immediately crossing *Hudson's* river, with the whole, or part of the Militia under his command, to secure the posts at *North-Castle*, till such time as the Militia of *Albany*, *Dutchess*, and *Westchester*, shall march to that post, or a proper provision shall be made for defeating the designs of the enemy.

*Resolved*, That General *Spencer* be requested to exert his utmost influence with the troops under his command, to continue in service until such time as the Militia of this State shall arrive at the post now occupied by his division.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Trumbull*, the Commissary-General of the Continental Army, and Colonel *Hughs*, Assistant Quartermaster-General, be informed that a body of Militia of this State will march to secure the post now occupied by General *Spencer*, in *Westchester* County, with the utmost despatch, in order that they may make a proper and timely provision for the accommodation and subsistence of the said Militia.

*Resolved*, That application be made to Colonel *Chevers*, Commissary of Ordnance Stores, for the loan of as many firelocks and cartouch-boxes as may be necessary to equip such of the said Militia now called into service as may be destitute of the same, and that this Convention will indemnify him for this loan.

Extract from the Minutes.

ROBT. BENSON, *Secretary*.

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

December 21, 1776.

SIR: From various intelligence received by the Convention, they have great reason to believe that the enemy are meditating a vigorous expedition against the passes in the Highlands, on the east of *Hudson's* river, and sundry circumstances in the operations of the disaffected tend to confirm this apprehension. Those passes will next week be in a very defenceless situation; the term of the inlistment of General *Spencer's* division will then expire, and in all probability they will return home. When General *Heath*, who has received orders to cross the river, will arrive at *Peek's Kill*, is uncertain.

The Convention have for these reasons thought it necessary to call out all the Militia of *Westchester*, *Dutchess*, and of all that part of *Albany* which lies to the southward of *Barn Island*, and directed them to march to *North-Castle*.

As some time will be necessary to collect and march them to that place, and as there is reason to suspect that the enemy mean to take that route, they refer to your discretion, if the security of the passes on your side will admit of it, the propriety of immediately detaching the whole, or part of your brigade, to secure that post till such time as the Militia of *Westchester*, *Dutchess*, and of *Albany*, shall have arrived at that place, and proper provision made for defeating the design of the enemy.

To Brigadier-General *George Clinton*.

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO GENERAL SPENCER.

December 21st.

SIR: From various intelligence received by the Convention, there is reason to believe that the enemy are meditating a vigorous attack on the passes in the Highlands, on the east side of *Hudson's* river; for which reason all the Militia of *Westchester*, *Dutchess*, and part of *Albany* Counties, have been ordered to march to *North-Castle*.

The Convention have been informed that the terms on which great part of your division have been inlisted are nearly expired, and on their quitting that post before the arrival of the Militia would expose those very important passes to the most imminent danger. The Convention beg you will exert your utmost influence to detain them till such time as they may be discharged with less danger and injury to the *American* cause.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant.

By order.

To Major-General *Spencer*.

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York,
Fishkill, December 21, 1776.

SIR: I am directed by the Convention to make a further application to Congress on the subject of clothing for our levies. The situation of this State is such that it is impossible for us to get the usual articles necessary for this purpose; and after we had procured at *Philadelphia* a very considerable quantity, it was taken by the Committee of Safety in that city, and applied for the use of their own soldiery. It gave the Convention great pleasure to learn, about a month ago, that our sister Colony of *Massachusetts-Bay* had been able to procure materials for clothing their quota of troops, and that pleasure hath been greatly increased by our information of the capture of clothing for twelve thousand men by a Continental ship-of-war, and of the arrival of a vessel from *France* with a large assortment of clothing on account of Congress. As there is not any one State in *America* which has suffered so severely as *New-York* in the present war, as there is not one whose commercial resources have been so entirely cut off, we submit it to Congress whether she ought not to have a particular attention in the distribution of those articles which belong to the *United States*, and which by no care or industry can be procured on her separate account. In a word, sir, I am directed by the Convention to assure Congress that they are of opinion our regiments will be speedily filled, if we can get any thing to cover them; and that without clothes they cannot possibly get troops. General *Morris*, who is directed to repair to Congress, is charged with this letter, and instructed to urge for their answer.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, very humble servant.

By order: AB'M TEN BROECK, *President*.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq.

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO GENERAL MIFFLIN.

In Convention for the State of New-York,
Fishkill, December 21, 1776.

SIR: The Convention of this State have received information that a quantity of goods proper for clothing the Conti-

nental troops, are now at *Fairfield*, in *Connecticut*, under the care of Mr. *Thaddeus Burr*, and that those goods are your property. The levies raising in this State will probably be soon completed, if it were in our power to give the recruits their clothing. You are sensible, sir, that this State, by the loss of the sea-ports, have been wholly deprived of the means of importation. They, therefore, embrace the earliest opportunity of attending to this necessary object, and directed their State Commissary to purchase in other States such as were to be found. He was so far successful as to obtain a quantity in *Philadelphia*, which we are since informed have been expended for the use of the troops imbodied to the southward. We are much distressed by this disappointment, seeing that no resource is left but from the goods belonging to you; for though we have written to Congress with great importunity on this subject, we are very apprehensive that in the present critical state of the military operations, we cannot depend on their immediate assistance. I am, therefore, directed to request that you will be pleased to order Mr. *Burr* to deliver the goods in his possession to the agent of this Convention, for which we will readily pay you a reasonable price.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant.

By order: Ab'm Ten Broeck, *President*.

Major-General *Mifflin*.

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO GENERAL HOWE.

In Convention of the State of New-York, at Fishkill, December 21st, 1776.

Sir: On the application of the Rev. Mr. *Inglis*, and Messrs. *Philip I. Livingston* and *John Moore*, who came up the river protected by a flag from your Excellency to the Convention of this State, have consented to permit their ladies, with their families and effects, to go to *New-York*. Mrs. *Bruce*, and Mrs. *Lake* and her daughters, have obtained the like indulgence. Messrs. *Miles Sherbrook* and *Alexander Wallace* have license to proceed to *New-York*, to take the necessary care of their families and property. In order to give those ladies and gentlemen full protection, we have sent Major *Nicholas Fish*, under the sanction of a flag, to see them safe to *New-York*. As that gentleman may have it in his power to facilitate the removal of the families and effects of some of the subjects of this State, we have not the least doubt, sir, of your permission to him to bring out with him those women and children, with their property, of whom he will do himself the honour to inform you.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant

To his Excellency General *Howe*; and in his absence, the Commanding Officer of the City of *New-York*.

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[WILLIAM DUER] TO NEW-YORK DELEGATES IN CONGRESS.

[Without date.]

Gentlemen: I am directed by Convention to represent to you the difficulties that this State will labour under in procuring clothing for the troops they were to raise. Owing principally to the great supplies that have been all along drawn from here for the Northern and Eastern armies, more particularly for the first; to the removal of our merchants, who have for the most part carried their stores with them, out of this State; to the loss of *Long-Island* and *New-York*; to the wants of the inhabitants who are drawn from thence, and the stoppage of the only port by which we might hope to obtain them,—the Convention are fully persuaded that they will not only be unable to supply the Army, but that their own poor will be greatly distressed for want of necessaries, more especially as the few goods that remained have been purchased up by General *Schuyler*, agreeable to the directions of Congress, and are now in the Continental store at *Albany*. To these they cannot help setting up some claim, though perhaps it may be founded more in sheer necessity than their right. May request you, therefore, to lay these facts before Congress, and to obtain their leave to apply a part of them to the clothing of our men, assuring them at the same time that no means will be left unessayed to make our demand on the Continental store as small as possible.

Enclosed you have some resolutions relative to the hides of cattle killed for the use of the Army. We wish you to urge this matter with Congress as soon as possible. Our distresses are inconceivably great for want of that article, shoes having within this two months doubled in their price. The Convention have no doubt that that measure will meet with the approbation of Congress, not only from the pleasure they take in relieving the distressed, but because it will be a saving to them of near two dollars; since, because damaged for want of proper care, or for some other reason unknown to the Convention, they are sold by the Deputy Commissary in the Northern department, to people out of this State, on contract, for ten shillings apiece, when they are, or would, if properly preserved, be at least worth three dollars at *Albany*. At the same time, I must inform you that nothing can be effectually done unless a particular charge is given to the Deputy Quartermaster to afford every necessary assistance in preserving and transporting them across the lake.

I am, &c.

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JOS. TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Fishkills, 21st December, 1776.

Honoured Sir: Yours of 8th instant is now before me. I hope the battalions for immediate service will be here soon. The inlistments go on very well; much better than last year. The inducements are great, the clothing especially, in this weather, to naked men. I hope the Colony are well prepared for that part of the encouragements. Brother *Jonathan*, I suppose, is at home by this time. Brother *Jack* passed *Easton* some days ago, with General *Gates*. Is now at Head-Quarters. *Barnard*, my rider, returned this morning from Head-Quarters, opposite *Trentown*. By letters from the General and others to Convention here, and to myself, I find things wear a much better face that way than they have done, and that General *Howe* is retiring back to *New-York*, finding it impossible to cross *Delaware*. The *Jerseys* have been dispirited and discouraged, but they begin to come again to themselves. General *Heath* has been down to *Hackensack* and below, and has taken very considerable stores, &c., and is on the enemy's rear. General *Washington* is apprehensive the enemy's march, as if retreating, may be a feint, and is guarding against a surprise. He is pretty strongly reinforced from *Pennsylvania*, *Maryland*, and *Virginia*, and troops are coming over from *Carolina*.

I have the General's leave to retire to *Hartford* for the winter. I shall set off in the course of all next week, by which time I expect to have finished my matters here, and to hear further from Head-Quarters and Congress.

I am, honoured sir, your dutiful son,

Jos. Trumbull.

I wish Mr. *Phillips*, of *Rhode-Island*, my Deputy, may have leave to carry pork and beef out of your State to that for the Army there, as the salt is there, and the driving there may save transportation.

Governour *Trumbull*.

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RICHARD VARICK TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 14th January, 1777: Referred to Board of War.]

Saratoga, December 21st, 1776.

Sir: I do myself the honour to enclose you an exact return of the state of the garrisons at *Tyconderoga*, *Mount Independence*, and *Fort George*, abstracted from the muster-rolls of the several companies of the battalions stationed at those posts. The muster-rolls I will send down by the speediest safe conveyance. The Congress will observe, that though the strength of the garrisons at *Tyconderoga* and *Mount Independence* (as appears from the return) amounts to two thousand three hundred and eighty-four, including commissioned and non-commissioned officers, and including two hundred and ninety-six returned as sick, yet that a great part of those who are returned as having appeared at muster, were unfit for duty, and scarcely able to bear the fatigue of being a few minutes on the parade.

I thought it needless to mention in the muster-rolls or return, the terms for which the troops were engaged, as I supposed the Congress was fully acquainted with this matter; I shall only mention that most of the inlistments expire on the 31st instant, and 4th, 5th, and 9th *January*.

The muster-rolls of the commissioned officers are not so accurate as the articles of war require, the officers command-

ing battalions not having it in their power strictly to comply therewith.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, your most obedient and very humble servant,

RICH'D VARICK.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the honourable the Continental Congress.

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GENERAL HERCHKEIMER TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Canajoharry District, December 21, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: The petition of your petitioners humbly sheweth, that whereas a certain case of military proceedings in General *Herchkeimer's* brigade was taken before the Committee of this County, and countermanded, whereby we, as well as part of the publick are aggrieved, we are urged to appeal to your honourable Board for relief. The true circumstances of the case are as follows, viz: *John Kayser*, of *New-Germantown*, in *Palentine* district, a Captain of a company of Militia in Colonel *Jacob Klock's* battalion, of Gen. *Nicholas Herchkeimer's* brigade, some time ago, by a vacancy of a corporalship in his company through his corporal's inlisting as a Ranger, appointed and ordered *John Remersnider*, son of *Henry Remersnider*, of *New-Germantown* aforesaid, to be a corporal in the other's stead; which order was refused by both *Remersniders*, the father and son, under the pretence alleged by the father that his son was a miller, and therefore exempted of such military duties by law, according to the acts for the Militia of the State of *New-York*; but as it was well known, not only to the Captain, to his subalterns, and to the company, but to the whole neighbourhood, that the father, *Henry Remersnider* aforesaid, who has an old ragged mill in the neighbourhood, most always out out of order, has constantly been the miller himself when the mill was fit, and had water to grind, being but a small stream to it,—the said Captain therefore, considering the scheme of the old man in regard to the publick, put the lawful fine, agreeable to the Militia rules, upon the said *John Remersnider*, for refusing to accept and serve as a corporal; and upon still refusing of both *Remersniders* to pay the said fine, the Captain proceeded further in the recovery of the same, and distrained him. The father hearing of being distrained, threatened that if any man would come upon his ground in order to distrain for that purpose, he would kill him. Therefore the sergeant thought proper to take assistance along with him, to execute his office. It is true the father may be a man of sixty-odd years of age, and is exempt thereby of training, but yet of a hearty and strong constitution, well able to tend his mill, and truly better than the son, who has no knowledge of it, and almost never before tended the mill, nor yet, but at the time when the Captain calls a training. The father often before declared, that if one applied to him for the loan of horses or in other farming business, he had nothing to say in it; that his son was the farmer, and he had to dispose of such things. The father and son further, after the last voting of officers for that company aforesaid, said that if the son had been chosen an Ensign, he would have treated the electors, and provided the colours at his own cost; but for a private the father said he should not train. All these circumstances here related, and more in behalf of the said proceedings when called upon, can be proved by evidence. The said father, seeing that his scheme would not be accepted by the Captain, nor his will obtained, made then application to the Committee of this County, with the complaint that his son being a miller, was unjustly fined and prosecuted. The Committee upon such complaint, without hearing of one of the evidences in the Captain's behalf, resolved that the said *John Remersnider* shall be exempted from military duty, except in invasions, pursuant to the eleventh article of the Militia, and also that the fine recovered by the Captain for such refusal, save as above-mentioned, shall be rendered by the said Captain to the said *John Remersnider*. Considering this resolve of the Committee, and the proceedings thereof, we thought we were in duty bound to resent it as a grievance and imposition upon the officers of Militia of every rank, which will disturb the service in general, and in particular the company of said Captain *Kayser*, which, as we are informed, will take the same privilege, and not training, in case this *John Remersnider* shall be free through a deceitful scheme. Therefore, hoping that the rules and regulations of the Militia are not made, nor intended to be understood, explained, taken in deceit particularly or to the fraud of the publick, we, the superiour officers, who are resolved and willing to serve our country faithfully, and to have the Militia under our command ruled impartially, find ourselves aggrieved, and beg that your honourable Board would look into the case maturely and procure that justice may be done to the officers as well as to privates. We don't doubt that in particular the proceedings of the said Captain *Kayser* will be approved to be just and lawful, and therefore the abovementioned resolve of the Committee recalled.

We could add some other instances of like cases of fines tried by the Committee, and the resolutions thereof by them determined, which at most causeth a disrespect of their officers and discourtesy. The latter without prescription to your honourable Board. We would that any Militia case should be tried by a Court-Martial; and if one should think himself aggrieved, might apply to the Field Officers, and so on by degrees to the Brigadier-Generals, for a just inquiry and determination of the matter. If such an appeal to the Committee for every case tried by officers is allowed to the Militia, they always will run there for relief, and the trust reposed in us appears to be checked, and our authority void.

We remain, with respect, your humble petitioners, for ever pray, &c. Honourable gentlemen, your obedient humble servants,

NICHOLAS HERCHKEIMER, *Brig. Gen'l.*
EBENEZER COX, *Colonel.*
JACOB KLOCH, *Colonel.*

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MEMORIAL OF HENRY VAN SCHAACK.

*To the Honourable* JONATHAN TRUMBULL, *Esq., Governour and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State of Connecticut.*

*The Memorial of* HENRY VAN SCHAACK, *Esq., of the District of* KINDERHOOK, *most humbly sheweth:*

That your memorialist, in conformity to his engagements, returned to the State of *Connecticut* some days ago, without any restrictions on his conduct from those who are the occasion of his being your Honour's prisoner. That your memorialist left his family at the time his presence was most essentially necessary, on account of his father's death and the very bad state of his wife's health. That the extensive concerns of your memorialist's father, and other domestick concerns, makes it necessary that he should have it in his power to have frequent personal intercourse with the heirs and executors of his said late father. That in order to obtain an indulgence of so much consequence to his aged mother, and all her offspring, he begs leave, with all due respect, to propose entering into a parole, herewith shown to your Honour, subjecting the same to such alterations as may be prescribed. That in case this mode of security should not be approved of, your Honour's memorialist humbly begs leave to propose pecuniary collateral security, to any amount that can in reason be required, that he shall be forthcoming in the State of *Connecticut* at any time and place your Honour may please to direct.

Your memorialist, for the urgent reasons above assigned, prays that your Honour will be pleased in your wisdom to take the peculiar situation of an aged parent and her large family into consideration; but more particularly that of his wife, whose weak frame is tottering under the weight and pressure of a number of incidents too tedious to particularize, at the time when your Honour's attention must necessarily be taken up in matters of great magnitude to the publick.

And your Honour's memorialist, in duty, as well as inclination, will ever pray, &c.,

H. V. SCHAACK.

Middletown, 21st December, 1776.

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PETITION OF ROBERT R. WADDELL AND SAMUEL BURLING.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR: We the subscribers, your humble petitioners, having been informed that we are not to be included in the permission to return home, now agreed to be given by your Honour and the honourable Council to the gentlemen belonging to *New-York*, who were taken up on suspicion, and sent with us into this State, and that the reason why we are not permitted the same indulgence

is on account of an accusation brought against us of some improper behaviour on the 30th of last month, we beg leave to acquaint your Honour that we do not pretend to justify our conduct at that time, but your Honour may rest assured, that whatever improprieties happened that night were occasioned by our being in liquor, and not with any design or intention of offending your Honour, or any of the gentlemen in authority.

We are very sensible, and acknowledge with gratitude, the indulgences your Honour has shown us since we have been in this State. On that account we are extremely concerned that this unfortunate affair has happened, and we are ready and willing to make any concession your Honour may think proper. We hope your Honour and the honourable Council will reconsider our case, and grant us the same indulgence which your Honour has been pleased to allow the other gentlemen in our situation, and which is so absolutely necessary to our private affairs.

We are, with the greatest respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servants,

ROBT. R. WADDELL,
SAMUEL BURLING.

Middletown, 21st December, 1776.

To the Hon. *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour in chief in and over the State of *Connecticut*.

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PAROLE OF BENJAMIN WHITEHEAD AND OTHERS.

Whereas we, the subscribers, of the City and Province of *New-York*, have for some time past resided at *Middletown*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being apprehended and sent thither by his Excellency General *Washington*, as persons suspected of disaffection to the *United States of America;* and whereas, upon our application, his Honour *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of said State of *Connecticut*, hath permitted us to return to our families in *New-York*, and reside there till otherwise ordered, we do hereby pledge our faith and word of honour to said Governour *Trumbull*, that we will neither bear arms, nor excite or encourage others to bear arms, against this or any of the *United States of America*, and that we will not do or say any thing in prejudice of the interest or measures of this or any of said *United States;* that we will give no intelligence to the enemies of said States of any of the counsels, operations of war, or other transactions of this or any of said States; and that we will return to any place in this State, when required by his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, the General Assembly of *Connecticut*, or his Excellency the General of the Armies of the *United States* for the time being.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set out hands, this 21st day of *December*, A. D. 1776.

BENJA'N WHITEHEAD,
RICHARD BETTS,
GEORGE HEWLETT.

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HENRY NEWMAN TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

Providence, 21st December, 1776.

SIR: On my arrival here, my determination was to comply with my instructions from the Board of War as fully as possible. I accordingly applied to Captain *Melvill*, who delivered the articles he had received, which he has a receipt for, and are now in my possession; also one hundred and seven pounds sixteen shillings, for which I expect to account. The provisions remain in the same stores I found them in. I have taken an office in a convenient place for the business, and have applied to many of the principal people of trade in this place for such articles as are necessary for the subsistence of the Army, but found them very scarce and difficult to be obtained; upon which I wrote an advertisement for this day's paper, for such articles as are unsupplied by the Board, the result of which the next week will determine. I applied to the Commissary for this State (who at present supplies the *Massachusetts* Army) for information where to get the necessary articles. He informed he found it impossible to get all the articles specified in the establishment, and was obliged to substitute rum and molasses instead of beer and cider, and chocolate and coffee instead of milk, the latter being five pence per pint, and not a sufficiency at that price. He made me an offer of eight hundred or one thousand bushels of peas, at ten shillings per bushel, which, though very dear, I would have taken, but he refusing an order on the Board, on account of its being inconvenient, I was obliged to decline. There is now in the stores a quantity of fresh beef, which must be delivered some time next week, which, excepting the bread, is the only article we have at present to deliver. The pork is so bad, I am confidently informed the soldiers will not take it. Captain *Mellvill* has assisted me all in his power. There are two young men belonging to his company who appear to be acquainted with the business, and I believe would make very good assistants to whoever may officiate as Commissary, which berth I must beg leave to resign, as I think it will be more for the interest of the State to appoint somebody more acquainted with the business than I am. This, with several reasons that did not appear when I accepted, induces me to this request; in compliance with which, as soon as may be convenient, the Board will add to the obligation I am already under for the honour conferred in the appointment.

I am, with great respect, your humble servant,

HENRY NEWMAN.

To *Samuel Phips Savage*, Esq., President of the Board of War.

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JOHN PROUD TO COMMODORE HOPKINS.

Bedford, December 21st, 1776.

SIR: Mr. *Leonard Jarvis* being in *Boston*, I have the pleasure of informing you of the safe arrival into this port of the *Alfred's* valuable prize-ship. She got in last evening. Early this morning I despatched an express to Mr. *Jarvis*, to acquaint him of this good intelligence, that necessary measures may be taken for the security of her cargo. Mr. *Bucklin*, the mate of the ship, will soon be in *Providence*, who can give you an account of her loading.

I am, in Mr. *Leonard Jarvis's* behalf, most respectfully, your humble servant,

JOHN PROUD.

*Esek Hopkins*, in *Providence*.

I expect to see Mr. *Jarvis*, or receive his directions about the ship, *Monday* night.

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JAMES BOWDOIN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Referred to the Board of War.]

Boston, December 21st, 1776.

SIR: I lately informed you that Monsieur *Fanieul*, and a number of *French* gentlemen, had arrived here from *Cape François*, to offer their services in the Army of the *United States*. Two of them proceeded from hence with the letter, since which a petition of theirs to our General Court has been sent to you, for the consideration and determination of Congress. Mr. *Fanieul* being engaged much in this matter, and having some proposals to make to Congress, intends setting out for *Philadelphia* in a few days, and it is in consequence of his request I have the honour of transmitting to you this letter, to introduce him to you for that purpose.

The posts, ever since the new regulation took place, have been, and continue, very irregular, and have answered no purpose of intelligence from the Army, nor of quick communication between the several States and with Congress, which, in times like the present, are highly necessary, and to effect which was the reason of that regulation. It is of great importance that this business should be put on such a footing as to answer effectually the end intended.

I am, with great esteem, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Continental Congress.

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GOVERNOUR OF VIRGINIA TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Williamsburgh, December 22d, 1776.

SIR: I do myself the honour to transmit to you the enclosed resolutions, and beg leave to assure your Province of the most cordial coöperation of *Virginia* in every measure for your particular safety and the general interest of *America*.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

P. HENRY, Jr.

The Hon. *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, President of the Council of Safety, *Maryland*.

In the House of Delegates, December 21st, 1776.

VIRGINIA.

It being of the utmost importance that the nine Battalions heretofore raised within this Commonwealth and now in Continental service, should be completed, and the six new Battalions for the same service, as well as the three Battalions on the pay of the Commonwealth, raised with all possible expedition:

*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the Justices, the Members of the County Committees, the Militia Officers, and the other good people of this Commonwealth, to use their best endeavours to forward and encourage the recruiting service, upon which the safety and happiness of their country so much depends.

And whereas the present imminent danger of *America*, and the ruin and misery which threatens the good people of this Commonwealth and their posterity, calls for the utmost exertions of our strength, and 'tis become necessary for the preservation of the State that additional powers be given to the Governour and Council during a limited time, for the more speedy execution of the most vigorous and effectual measures, to repel the invasions of the enemy:

*Resolved therefore*, That the Governour be, and he is hereby, fully authorized and empowered, by and with the advice and consent of the Privy Council, from henceforward, until ten days next after the first meeting of the General Assembly, to carry into execution such requisitions as may be made to this Commonwealth by the *American* Congress, for the purpose of encountering or repelling the enemy, to order the three Battalions on the pay of the Commonwealth to march, if necessary, to join the Continental Army, or to the assistance of any of our States; to call forth any and such greater military forces they shall judge necessary, either by imbodying and arranging Companies or Regiments of Volunteers, or by raising additional Battalions, appointing and commissioning their proper officers, and to direct their operations within this Commonwealth, under the command of the Continental Generals, or other officers, according to their respective ranks, or order them to march, to join and act in concert with the Continental Army, or the troops of any of the *United American States*, and to provide for their pay, supply of provisions, arms, and other necessaries, at the charge of this Commonwealth, by drawing on the Treasurer for the money which may be necessary from time to time; and the said Treasurer is authorized to pay such warrants out of any publick money which may be in his hands, and the General Assembly will, at their next session, make ample provision for any deficiency which may happen. But this departure from the constitution of Government, being in this instance founded only on the most evident and urgent necessity, ought not hereafter to be drawn into precedent.

*Resolved also*, That the Governour be desired to transmit by express, copies of these Resolves to the *American* Congress, and to the neighbouring States of *Maryland* and *North-Carolina*, to satisfy them that we are exerting ourselves in defending the liberties of *America*.

*Resolved*, That our Delegates be instructed to recommend to the consideration of Congress whether it may not be necessary and expedient, in the present dangerous and critical situation of *America*, in order to give vigour, expedition, and secrecy to our military measures, to invest the Commander-in-Chief of the *American* forces with more ample and extensive power for conducting the operations of the war; and that they will earnestly exhort the different Legislatures of the *United American States* to adopt the most speedy and effectual methods for calling their Militia force into action and coöperating with the Generals of the *American* Armies.

JOHN TAZEWELL,
*Clerk of the House of Delegates.*

Agreed to by the Senate. J. PENDLETON, *C. S.*

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th December.]

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, 22d December, 1776.

SIR: We have received from Mr. *Henry Fisher* the enclosed papers, wherein it appears that a certain *John Wilbank*, at *Lewis-Town*, a person in several important publick stations, endeavouring to enforce submission to *Great Britain*. As he is not resident of this State, nor a subject of the same, we conceived it to be our duty to give you this information, as it is of great importance that severe examples be made of such traitors. A spirited exertion of the powers of the *United States* to apprehend such, when the enemy is in their neighbourhood, will give spirit to our friends, and discourage our enemies from making an open declaration of their principles.

By order of Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *Vice President.*

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 22d, 1776.

SIR: The Council this day received the enclosed letters from *Ticonderoga*. Their contents are so melancholy and important that we think it our duty to transmit them to you without delay. *America* has suffered more from herself than her enemies, and until a thorough reform can take place in the several departments, opposition will be vain. While more offices and a greater share of the publick business are heaped upon the same person than he can possibly attend to, the fault is not his if they are but indifferently executed.

It is the most important matter which can at this time attract the attention of Congress, and we hope to meet with their indulgence when we press it upon them. A few naked, sickly, and ill-attended troops, must fall a prey to their own distresses, if not to the enemy. The blessing of Heaven can scarcely be expected to attend a cause, however good, while the men who expose their lives in support of it, are so ill rewarded.

I have the honour to be, by order of Council, sir, your very humble servant,

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *V. P't.*

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Ticonderoga, December 4, 1776.

SIR: I received yours, as President to the Council of Safety, by Captain *Fishbourn*, complaining that the soldiers was not paid. I cannot answer for any neglect of that sort before I had the regiment. I very well know that all the sick was discharged from the general hospital by the Doctors, as unfit for service, said to be by General *Gates's* orders, which the General positively denies. I have ordered an advertisement in the papers, setting forth the mistake of their being discharged, and that they shall be paid all that's due them. Is it not very extraordinary, that Messrs. *Mease & Caldwell* will not let us know what the soldiers is to pay for their clothes, &c., and that one half of the wages is stopped, now almost for a year? How is it possible the men should have justice done them, when the pay is withheld by all the Paymasters, by *Mease & Caldwell's* orders? Even the half-pay that's received, is very lately, for want of cash. Pray now, who is in fault? We have enough to answer for from our own neglect, but if the soldiers have just cause of complaint, which I aver they have, let the saddle be put on the horse it belongs to. Fair play is a jewel.

For all this Army at this place, which did consist of twelve or thirteen thousand men, sick and well, no more than nine hundred pair of shoes have been sent. One third at least of the poor wretches is now barefoot, and in this condition obliged to do duty. This is shocking to humanity. It cannot be viewed in any milder light than black murder. The poor creatures is now (what's left alive) laying on the cold ground, in poor thin tents, and some none at all, and many down with the pleurisy. No barracks, no hospitals to go in. The barracks is at *Saratoga*. If you was here, your heart would melt. I paid a visit to the sick yesterday, in a small house, called a hospital. The first object presented my eyes, one man laying dead at the door, the inside two more laying dead, two living lying between them; the living with the dead had so laid for four-and-twenty hours. I went no further; this was too much to see, and too much to feel, for a heart with the least tincture of humanity.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOS. WOOD.

N. B. At present we have not one pair of shoes nor blanket in the store.

*Thos. Wharton*, Jun., Esq., President to the honourable Council of Safety, *Philadelphia*.

Ticonderoga, 4th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Yours of the 19th *October* I received, and note the contents. I have made strict inquiry concerning the supposed fraud you mention, and find no just foundation for a charge of that nature. If any of the soldiers have gone home without their pay, it is not the officers who were to blame. I believe there was some discharged the service, contrary to orders, by the Directors of the General Hospital, at *Fort George*. These were not paid off.

But lest that you should still conclude that it was the officers' fault, I am to inform you that our regiment never received pay but twice since they left *Philadelphia*, consequently had it not in their power to pay the men monthly. Add to this, one half of their wages is stopped by order of Congress, amounting to fourteen pounds, for the payment of not more than seven or eight pounds. Here there may be some ground for complaint, although none where it is so liberally bestowed.

You may rest assured I make it my study to see justice done to the soldiers. I could wish equal care had been taken in every department. The wretched condition they are now in for want of almost every necessary of the convenience of life, except flour and bad beef, is shocking to humanity, and beggars all description. We have neither beds or bedding for our sick to lay on or under, other than their own clothing; no medicine or regimen suitable for them; the dead and dying laying mingled together in our hospital, or rather house of carnage, is no uncommon sight. These are objects truly worthy of your notice, as well as of your most obedient, humble servant,

ANT'Y WAYNE.

To the Committee of Safety for the State of *Pennsylvania*.

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*Information received from Captain* FARMER, *Captain* ERWIN, *Lieutenant* LANG, *Lieutenant* GOURLEY.

*Thursday*, 19th *September*.—The three battalions mutinied, and appeared on the parade under arms. After this, they deserted in parties, with their arms—about two hundred men in the whole, fifty of whom are here now, the rest have taken other roads.

As to their complaints, the want of pay, the want of clothes, the want of blankets, the not receiving the particular species of rations: As to the pay, they had the whole to the 1st of *August*, and some have deserted immediately after having their full pay to the 1st *September*. The Musket battalion were clothed. Part of the Rifle battalion had left their clothes at *Philadelphia*, but had rifle-shirts, and they have about half the quantity of blankets necessary, but are scarce of shirts and stockings. Their complaint of want of provisions is not just. They cannot indeed procure the particular species mentioned in the rations.

A very great cause of desertion is owing to the loss of their Field Officers.

A party attempted to desert, (about thirty,) but were prevented by force. A corporal at their head thrust with his bayonet at Lieutenant *Lang*, which he parried. The corporal is in custody. The same corporal cocked his piece at Ensign *Davis*, and attempted to fire. One *Kelly*, of Captain *Brown's* company, and Sergeant *Scannel*, of *Howell's* company, are principal ringleaders.

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Sussex, in Delaware, December 19th, 1776.

*Isaac Smith*, of *Egg-Harbour*, of *Gloucester* County, in the State of *New-Jersey*, says that he was at the town of *Lewis*, on the 18th instant; that he saw Major *John Willbank* come to the house of Major *Henry Fisher*, in said town, and that he heard the said *Willbank* ask Mr. *Fisher* if he had any of the proclamations sent on shore from the *Roebuck* man-of-war, for that he had advertised the people to meet, and that he wanted one of them to read to them. Mr. *Fisher* answered, he had given them out to any body that asked for them, and at present had not any in the house. Which I do hereby certify.

ISAAC SMITH.

The same Major *John Willbank*, above-mentioned, was one of the Convention for the *Delaware* State, and has taken the oath of allegiance to the said State; is now one of the Legislative Council for the same, one of the Council of Safety for the County of *Sussex*, and Military Treasurer for the same. Query, Is he a proper person to serve in these important stations at this critical juncture?

HENRY FISHER.

Witness present when the above request was made:

Witness to prove Major *Willbank's* willingness to comply with *Howe's* proclamation, Widow *Elizabeth Hall*, *Adam Hall*.

THOS. GRAY.

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Philadelphia, Tuesday, December 24, 1776.

We hear, from good authority, that on *Sunday* last, between *Slab-Town* and the *Black Horse*, in the *Jerseys*, a party of our Army, under the command of Colonel *Griffin*, had a skirmish with the *Hessians*, and that the enemy were forced to retreat with precipitation, having some killed, and leaving behind them many knapsacks and other necessaries, amongst which was a hat shot through the crown. But the next morning, the enemy advancing with a considerable reinforcement, supposed to be about two thousand men, with seven or eight field-pieces, our little army was obliged to retreat (which they performed with great regularity) to prevent their being out-flanked by superiour numbers; and in the evening they had another skirmish at *Mount-Holly*, in which the enemy, as an intelligent person informs, had several killed and wounded. In both skirmishes our people had only two killed and seven or eight wounded. Our Army is at *Mooretown*, and that of the enemy is at *Mount-Holly*.

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COLONEL JOSEPH REED TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bristol, December 22, 1776.

DEAR SIR: *Pomroy*, whom I sent by your order to go to *Amboy*, and so through the *Jersey* and round by *Princeton* to you, returned to *Burlington* yesterday. He went to *South-Amboy*, but was not able to get over, upon which he came up to *Brunswick*, passed on to *Princeton*, and was prevented going to *Pennington*, upon which he returned to *Burlington* by way of *Cranberry*.

His intelligence is that he saw no troops, baggage wagons, or artillery, going to *New-York*, except about eight wagons, which he understood had the baggage of some of the Light-Horse who had been relieved, and were going into quarters. At *Cranberry*, he saw sixteen wagons going down to *South-Amboy* for the baggage of about five hundred men who were to quarter about *Cranberry*—inlisted Tories, commanded by one *Lawrence*. At *Brunswick*, he saw four pieces of cannon; the number of men he could not learn, but they did not exceed six hundred or eight hundred. *Princeton*, he says, was called Head-Quarters; and there he saw a very considerable body of troops coming out of the College, Meeting-house, and other places where they quartered. He understood they were settled in their winter quarters, and had given over further operations till the spring. In *Burlington* County he found them scattered through all the farmers' houses, eight, ten, twelve, and fifteen, in a house, and rambling over the whole country.

Colonel *Griffin* has advanced up the *Jerseys*, with six hundred men, as far as *Mount-Holly*, within seven miles of their Head-Quarters at the *Black Horse*. He has wrote over here for two pieces of artillery, and two or three hundred volunteers, as he expected an attack very soon. The spirits of the Militia here are very high; they are all for supporting him. Colonel *Cadwalader* and the gentlemen here all agree that they should be indulged. We can either give him a strong reinforcement, or make a separate attack. The latter bids fairest for producing the greatest and best effects. It is therefore determined to make all possible preparation to-day, and no event happening to change our measures, the main body here will cross the river to-morrow morning, and attack their post between this and the *Black Horse*; proceeding from thence either to the *Black Horse* or to the *Square*, where about two hundred men are posted, as things shall turn out with *Griffin*. If they should not attack *Griffin* as he expects, it is probable both our parties may advance to the *Black Horse*, if success attends the intermediate attempt. If they should collect their force and march against *Griffin*, our attack will have the best effects in preventing their sending troops on that errand, or breaking up their quarters and coming in upon their rear, which we must endeavour to do in order to save *Griffin*.

We are all of opinion, my dear General, that something must be attempted to revive our expiring credit, give our cause some degree of reputation, and prevent a total depreciation of the Continental money, which is coming in very fast—that even a failure cannot be more fatal than to remain in our present situation. In short, some enterprise must be undertaken in our present circumstances, or we must give up the cause. In a little time the Continental Army is dissolved. The Militia must be taken before their spirits and patience are exhausted, and the scattered divided state of the enemy affords us a fair opportunity of trying what our men will do when called to an offensive attack. Will it not be possible, my dear General, for your troops, or such part of them as can act with advantage, to make a diversion, or something more, at or about *Trenton?* The greater the alarm the more likely success will attend the attacks. If we could possess ourselves again of *New-Jersey*, or any considerable part of it, the effect would be greater than if we had never left it. Allow me to hope that you will consult your own good judgment and spirit, and not let the goodness of your heart subject you to the influences of opinions from men in every respect your inferiour. Something must be attempted before the sixty days expires which the Commissioners have allowed; for however many affect to despise it, it is very evident that a very serious attention is paid to it, and I am confident that unless some more favourable appearance attends our arms and cause before that time, a very great number of the Militia officers here will follow the example of those of *New-Jersey*, and take benefit from it. I will not disguise my own sentiments, that our cause is desperate and hopeless, if we do not take the opportunity of the collection of troops at present to strike some stroke. Our affairs are hasting fast to ruin, if we do not retrieve them by some happy event. Delay with us is now equal to a defeat. Be not deceived, my dear General, with small flattering appearances. We must not suffer ourselves to be lulled into security and inaction, because the enemy does not cross the river. It is but a reprieve: the execution is the more certain; for I am very clear that they can and will cross the river in spite of any opposition we can give them.

Pardon the freedom I have used. The love of my country, a wife and four children in the enemy's hands, the respect and attachment I have to you, the ruin and poverty that must attend me and thousands of others, will plead my excuse for so much freedom.

I am, with the greatest respect and regard, dear sir, your obedient and affectionate humble servant,

J. Reed.

His Excellency General *Washington*, Head-Quarters.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 22d December, 1776.

Gentlemen: I am honoured with yours of the 18th and 20th. I am of opinion, with you, that the ships which made their appearance in *Delaware Bay* never intended to come up, unless to create a division below, and thereby draw your attention from the upper part of the river. But I hope the weather will soon rid you of all apprehensions of an attack by water for a time to come.

Your collection of old clothes for the use of the Army deserves my warmest thanks. They are of the greatest use, and shall be distributed where they are most wanted. I think if the Committee, or some proper persons were appointed, to go through the County of *Bucks*, and make a collection of blankets, &c., in the manner you have done in *Philadelphia*, it would be better than doing it in a military way by me; for many people who would be willing to contribute or sell, if asked so to do by their neighbours or acquaintances, feel themselves hurt when the demand is made, backed by an armed force. But I would at the same time remark, that if any who can spare without inconvenience, refuse to do it, I would immediately give proper assistance to take from them.

I have not a musket to furnish the Militia who are without arms. This demand upon me makes it necessary to remind you that it will be needless for those to come down who have no arms, except they will consent to work upon the fortifications, instead of taking their tour of military duty. If they will do that, they may be most usefully employed. I would recommend to you to call in as many men as can be got, for the express purpose of working, for we shall most undoubtedly have occasion for every man who can procure or bear a musket. In less than ten days from this time, my Army will be reduced to a few *Virginia* and one *Maryland* regiment—Colonel *Hand's*, and the regiments lately under Colonel *Miles*, all very thin. The enemy are most assuredly waiting for that crisis; and except I am strongly reinforced by Militia, nothing can hinder them from reaching *Philadelphia*. I would, therefore, entreat you to collect every man you possibly can. Send people out to contradict the reports that are circulated that we have more men than we want, from which many, perhaps, that would turn out, if they thought there was a real necessity, remain at home.

I have ordered the Militia of this County to meet on the 28th, and march to *Philadelphia;* that of *Northampton* as soon as possible; and have directed the Colonels to make me a return of those who refuse to appear.

It is necessary that as the Militia come in they should make a return of their numbers to General *Putnam*. Be kind enough to inform the officers of this, and direct them to do it. Colonel *Biddle* has given directions to Major *Mifflin* to discharge all the wagons not wanted for the removal of stores, as we have a sufficiency for the Army here.

I am, &c., Go. Washington.

To the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Camp above Trenton Falls, December 22, 1776.

Sir: The accounts received from *New-York* respecting the distresses of our prisoners induce me to recommend to your honourable body that measures should be taken to effect an exchange as soon as possible and as far as circumstances will admit of. Ever since the cartel has been settled between General *Howe* and myself, I have been endeavouring to accomplish it; but my attempts have been attended with but little success. For the prisoners belonging to the *British* Army, and who have been sent in from *Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Maryland*, General *Howe*, or rather his Commissary, has undertaken, of his mere motion, and contrary to my express requisition, to return a number belonging to us who were not called for, and whose releasement should have been postponed till after that of many others. I have wrote to General *Howe* upon the subject, and presume in future that none will be sent out but those who are named by me. That this business may not remain an object of further delay, I would advise that all the prisoners in your State be immediately sent in to the commanding officer of the *British* troops on the Island of *Rhode-Island*, taking two exact lists of the names, corps, and ranks of the officers, and the number of privates, signed by the officer of the highest rank, one to be sent in with him, accompanied by a line to General *Howe*, that the particular prisoners belonging to us, and to be received in exchange, will be required by me; to which end I must request that the other list be immediately transmitted to me, that the requisition may be made.

It may be objected that the enemy's force, already formidable, should not be augmented; but the sufferings of our unfortunate people call for the exchange. The cartel has been agreed on, and I am satisfied the prisoners, when released and in arms against us, will not do us half the damage they would were they to continue. The influence of those who have gone from hence has been attended with the most injurious and pernicious effects.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

[Same to *New-Hampshire*, except the last paragraph.]

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO LEWIS GORDON.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 22d December, 1776.

Sir: The Council of Safety for this State have, by their resolve of the 17th instant, empowered me to call out the Militia of the County of *Northampton* to the assistance of the Continental Army under my command, that by our joint endeavours we may put a stop to the progress of the enemy, who are making preparations to advance to *Philadelphia*, as soon as they can cross the *Delaware*, either by boats or upon the ice. As I am unacquainted with

the names of the Colonels of your Militia, I have taken the liberty to enclose you six letters, in which you will please to insert the names of the proper officers, and send them immediately to them, by persons in whom you can confide for the delivery. If there are not as many Colonels as letters, you may destroy those that are not wanted. I most earnestly entreat you, sir, and the rest of the gentlemen of your Committee, to exert your influence among the people of the County, and endeavour to make them turn out generally in defence of their capital, which will most assuredly fall a sacrifice, unless the Militia of the Province contribute largely to its defence. Those who are so far lost to a love of their country as to refuse to lend a hand to its support at this critical time, may depend upon being treated as their baseness and want of publick spirit will most justly deserve.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. Please to make me a return of the names of the different Colonels.

To *Lewis Gordon*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Northampton*, at *Easton*.

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TO THE COLONELS OF MILITIA OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.—CIRCULAR.

The honourable the Council of Safety of the State of *Pennsylvania* having, by a resolve passed the 17th day of this instant, *December*, authorized me to call forth the Militia of *Northampton* County, to aid and assist the Continental Army under my command, I hereby require you immediately to order the Captains of your battalion to issue orders to the officers and privates of their respective companies to meet and join in battalion, with their arms and accoutrements in good order, at such time and place as you shall judge most convenient for that purpose, taking care that it may be as soon as you think such orders can reasonably and conveniently be conveyed to the people. And when your battalion, or any part of them, are so met, you are immediately to march to the city of *Philadelphia*, and there put yourself under the command of Major-General *Putnam*, or whoever the commanding officer may be; and I further require you to make me an exact return of the names and places of abode of such officers and privates as refuse so to meet and march to *Philadelphia*, that they may be dealt with as the resolve above referred to directs.

Given at Head-Quarters, in *Bucks* County, this 22d of *December*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, at Keith's, December 22d, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have been favoured with yours of the 13th instant, and wish you may have succeeded in your intended scheme to dislodge the enemy from *Hackensack* bridge.

In my letter of the 18th, I transmitted you a copy of a letter from the Council of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, advising that six thousand men were coming from that State, under General *Lincoln*, to supply the place of the Militia which had returned home, and of their troops whose time of service will soon expire. At the time of writing, I thought it probable that their reinforcement might be ordered to the State of *Rhode-Island*, in case of an invasion, and which I find has actually taken place, and, therefore, did not so strenuously urge that it should be sent here. Indeed, I had then hopes, from the information I had received, that a large proportion of the Eastern troops, who were marching to join me, had reinlisted; but, to my great distress and mortification, I find the report to have been without the least foundation, and that in the course of a few days, I am to be left with a handful of men. I therefore request that if these troops have come on to *Peekskill*, and also the four battalions which, I am advised by Governour *Trumbull*, have been raised in *Connecticut*, to serve to the 15th of *March* next, that after securing the passes and fortifications in the Highlands with a sufficient number, which, I should imagine, would not exceed twelve or fifteen hundred men at farthest, besides the forces which, I apprehend, will be provided for the purpose by the Convention of *New-York*, you will forward on all the rest with the utmost expedition, to join such troops as I may be able to collect for the defence of *Philadelphia*. That city is now the object of the enemy's designs. Let me entreat you to impress the officers and men with a due sense of its importance in the present contest for our liberty, and that without their speedy and early arrival it may be lost. I am persuaded these considerations will be duly regarded, and urge them on to every possible exertion. As yet but few succours belonging to this State have come in, nor do I hear that many are in motion; when they hear that other States are applied to, and pushing in aids for their defence, perhaps they will arouse from that lethargy which now keeps them back, against the most pressing calls of interest. In a word, sir, my situation and that of our cause, is critical and truly alarming. Without vigorous exertions and early succours, I do not see what reasonable hope there will be to preserve *Philadelphia* from falling into the enemy's hands. They will attempt to possess it as soon as the *Delaware* is so frozen as to admit of their passage; appearances and many concurring reports agree in this.

I have received yours of the 15th, and am happy to hear of your success at *Hackensack;* the stores you got will be of great service.

By a letter just received from General *McDougall*, I find he has been much indisposed, and is now at *Morristown*. I intend to write him to return to *Peekskill*, to conduct matters in that department with General *George Clinton*, requesting you and General *James Clinton* to come on with the Eastern troops which I have mentioned, if they have arrived at *Peekskill*, and it should be necessary for him to come.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c., Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Heath*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL SPENCER.

Camp, above the Falls of Trenton, December 22d, 1776.

Sir: When I wrote to you on the 14th instant, I had little doubt of receiving considerable support from the Militia of this State, and was taught to believe that a large part of the old troops (coming on with General *Lee*) had reinlisted. In the first, I have every reason in the world to fear a disappointment; in the latter, I find myself wofully deceived. It is easier, therefore, to conceive than describe the situation I am in,—left, or shall be in a few days, with only a very few Southern regiments (reduced almost to nothing) to oppose *Howe's* main Army, already posted in such a manner as to pour in his whole force upon us so soon as the frost affords him a passage over the *Delaware*, and our numbers such as to give no effectual opposition.

Thus circumstanced, it is a matter of concern to me, that in my last I directed you to take back any of the Militia designed for the support of the Army under my command; and have to request that, instead of ordering the return of any of those that were destined for this department, (by order of their respective States,) that you will hasten them on with all possible expedition, as I see no other chance of saving *Philadelphia*, and preventing a fatal blow to *America*, in the loss of a city from whence so much of our resources are drawn.

With respect to yourself, you will proceed agreeable to the directions in my former. It is not possible for me at this distance to lay down any particular rule for your conduct; circumstances, and the advice of your officers, must govern you, particularly that of General *Arnold*, who comes on to your assistance.

I am, sir, yours, &c., Go. Washington.

P. S. Let me hear from you frequently.

To Major-General *Spencer*.

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GENERAL M'DOUGALL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morris-Town, 22d December, 1776.

My dear General: I was happy to find that your favour to Colonel *Vose* directed him to stay in this State. But I am extremely chagrined that the object of that order is not likely to be effected.

This State is totally deranged, without Government, or officers, civil or military, in it, that will act with any spirit. Many of them have gone to the enemy for protection, others are out of the State, and the few that remain are mostly in-

decisive in their conduct. The Militia are without leaders, and many of them, not in the power of the enemy, are dispirited; besides, they have numerous and active enemies and false friends among them. Those under Colonel *Ford*, since the late skirmish, have decreased to about two hundred. In this deplorable state, I have received intelligence different ways that the enemy have it in design to march to this town from three different routes, viz: from *Brunswick* via *Baskinridge;* from *Elizabeth-Town* via *Chatham;* and from *Newark*, another. The force of the enemy at those posts and between them cannot, upon the lowest computation, on good advice, be less than three thousand nine hundred men.

Last night I called a council of the principal gentlemen and officers of the Militia, to determine what was proper to be done in the present exigency of our affairs. They were clearly of opinion that all the Militia which could be raised, would fall far short, with the Continental troops, of the strength of the enemy. I then represented to them the inutility of exposing Colonel *Vose's* corps to fall into the hands of the enemy, which would retard the new levies and be a loss to the cause in general, without any prospect of affording support to a people who would not aid in it themselves. Upon the whole, to satisfy some of the council, the most sanguine, it was determined to keep the Continental troops for a day or two, till we should be informed whether your motions after the enemy were likely to work relief by diversion; or whether you could spare any support as the enemy was retiring. But as my retreat was in danger of being cut off, if the enemy move to *Morris-Town*, as was apprehended, I have withdrawn the troops to this town, to keep my communication open with the country, and left guards below to watch the motions of the enemy.

If the Militia do not collect in a day or two, (as summonses are gone out for that purpose,) I shall be obliged, if the enemy move towards this, to carry off the troops to join General *Heath*, as I shall not be able to procure provisions sufficient to join you; indeed, it will be difficult to get enough for their march to *King's Ferry*. The warrants are not issued to raise the Continental troops, nor are there any steps taken to raise the levies which were to serve to the first of *April*. If some relief is not afforded to them, (and I am at a loss to know from whence it can come,) more than I have in my power, they will fall an easy prey to the enemy.

When I anticipate the bad consequences that will result to the common cause from the submission of this State, it renders me almost unfit for any business. The Northern expedition of last year cost me my eldest son, and the captivity of the other, who is now a prisoner on his parole to General *Carleton*. As he was at the taking of *St. John's* and *Chamblé*, I cannot but be of opinion that he is entitled to the benefit of one of the officers taken at those posts, for his release. He was a prisoner longer than any taken to the southward; and, in this view, a claim to be released before them. His name is *Ranald Stephen McDougall;* was Second Lieutenant in my old regiment. If the General has the naming of the officers who are to be exchanged for those taken at *St. John's* and *Chamblé*, I beg this youth may be one of them. Frequent interruptions I hope will excuse the incorrectness of this, as well as apologize for not copying it.

I have the honour to be, with great truth and regard, your Excellency's very humble servant,

ALEXANDER McDOUGALL.

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GENERAL SULLIVAN TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 14th March: Ordered to lie for further consideration.]

Wright-Town, 22d December, 1776.

MUCH RESPECTED SIR: I beg leave to introduce to your Excellency's notice and acquaintance, the bearer, Captain *Vernejon*. He has been with us some months, and has ever discovered to be the gentleman and soldier. At the time General *Lee* was taken, he acted with the greatest bravery and resolution; and had the whole that were there acted with the same spirit, our country would not have experienced the loss of so worthy an officer as General *Lee*. I beg your Excellency and the Congress to take such notice of him as a man of his merit deserves.

Dear sir, I am, with much esteem, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

JNO. SULLIVAN.

To his Excellency *John Hancock*, Esq.

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COLONEL NICOLL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peeks-Kill, 21 December, 1776.

SIR: Upon examination, I was surprised to find that the goods and chattels taken from *Joshua Barns*, on their way to the Ministerial Army, were not returned unto the Quartermaster-General's store by Colonel *Prescott*, according to General *Washington's* orders. I hope your Honour will inquire into the matter, and order every article returned, as I am determined to inquire into it, and if the whole are not taken care of for the use of the Continent, to advertise the state of the affair in full, looking upon the appropriation of such goods to private purposes worse than plundering or stealing.

From, sir, your most obedient, and very humble servant,

ISAAC NICOLL, *Colonel.*

To the Hon. Major-General *Heath.*

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MAJOR HUGHES (COMMISSARY) TO GENERAL HEATH.

Peekskill, December 22d, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I was at the *Fishkill* when the Tories, the arms, &c., arrived. They are to go up by water, to-morrow morning, with eight others, brought in to-day.

General *Wadsworth* writes me that the time for which his brigade were inlisted elapses on *Tuesday* next; in consequence of which, I set out in the morning to give direction relative to the camp furniture, &c.

If the *Bay* Militia are not in very soon, that is, in four or five days, we stand a pretty good chance of wintering in *New-York*—I mean those that don't feel poorly.

Colonel *Little*, who has the command, (Colonel *Nicoll* being gone home,) is endeavouring to raise a picket, and fix an alarm post. I waited on him two or three days since for that purpose. He is, in my opinion, a most excellent man, but, unhappily, at this time is really unable to go through the duties of the post. I shall inform General *Spencer* of our situation, and wait on General *James Clinton*, when I return. I hope you'll pardon my officiousness, for I cannot help thinking that a few enterprising men might seize this post with ease. The cannon are going up by water to-morrow to the *Fishkill*. This, I understand by Major *Craft*, is in consequence of a message from General *Spencer*.

The secret expedition of our Convention remains a secret to every body but the Tories and enemy. Such a tardy race of animals never before composed a Senate.

I am, dear General, your most obedient, and very humble servant,

HUGH HUGHES.

The Hon. Major-General *Heath.*

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GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fort Montgomery, 23 December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I send you enclosed a letter which I received last night from General *Spencer*, wherein you will see the necessity of sending him a number of men, as the troops under his command will be discharged next *Tuesday*, their time of engagement being then expired. And pray consider that the time of engagement of all the men at *Peekskill*, *Fort Independent*, *Fort Constitution*, and those near *New-Windsor*, (belonging to my brother's brigade,) expires the last day of this month. I have five companies here of my regiment, but when their times are out I cannot tell, nor never could find out, as they were inlisted by different officers, who put just what constructions they pleased on their warrants; and I believe they have never informed me right. Captain *Swartwout* says that his men's time were out the first of this month, and some before; and some of them have run off without a discharge, and I can't punish them for it, as he justifies them. I understand there are many more who say their time is out the last of this month; and what to do with them I cannot tell, till I have your directions; but if I could persuade them all to stay till next spring (as I believe I might the most of them) they would be of little service, as several of them are without shoes, &c., and has done no duty this long time on that account, which makes the duty come hard on the few that are provided with them. I send Captain *Swartwout* with this, that he may answer for himself concerning his company.

*

Captain *Schenck* informed me he had sent a quantity of flour to this fort, but I can't find out that any has come here; and if we are not provided with a quantity of flour, and soon, we shall want no men here.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JAMES CLINTON, *B. General.*

P. S. Enclosed is a return of Captain *Swartwout's* company, made yesterday.

The President of the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York, Fishkill.*

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HESTER DE WITT TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fishkill Landing, December 22, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The distressful situation of my husband, now a prisoner with the enemy in the city of *New-York*, suffering and starving for the want of the necessary assistance I am capable of affording him, drives me to the necessity of troubling your Honours with these few lines, praying you will please to take in your consideration to allow me the privilege of going to him with my children and what little I have with me. My circumstances at present plead strongly in my favour to be with him. Your granting me the above request will be the means of assisting a distressed friend to his country, who is suffering in the common cause, and to the utmost oblige your humble servant,

HESTER DE WITT.

To the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York.*

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ABNER SEELYE TO JOHN SESSIONS.

Albany, December 22, 1776.

SIR: The Committee of *Cumberland* and *Gloucester* having appointed me to the command of Captain *Day's* company of Rangers, from whose influence, together with yours and other gentlemen of the Committee, appointed to muster said Rangers, I am led to believe I may be approved of by Convention. My being with you when examining into the conduct of those companies gave me an opportunity of hearing the many errours and omissions they were guilty of; from which circumstance I am led to believe those companies cannot stand. As I am appointed a Captain in Colonel *Warner's* regiment by the honourable Continental Congress, a corps in which I hoped to see more service than in the one I now belong, I beg leave to return you now, and the rest of the gentlemen, my most hearty thanks for the honour done to me, and hope they will accept of my resignation, and that a reimbursement may be ordered of the expenses I have been at in raising those I have inlisted.

I am, with due esteem, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

ABNER SEELYE.

To *John Sessions*, Esq., at *Fish-Kill.*

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GENERAL LINCOLN TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Providence, December 22, 1776.

SIR: I this minute returned from *Bristol.* Left the Militia there from the *Massachusetts-Bay*, in a state of general discontent, arising, as they inform me, from their being unprovided with necessary clothing for the camp. I have ordered one regiment of our three months' men (as they are called) to remain on that post at present. Those, with about fourteen hundred under General *West*, are, in my opinion, a number sufficient now for that station. I therefore beg to suggest to your Honour whether, considering the state of the few Militia now there, it would not be best to let them return to their several homes. Indeed, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to keep them.

Your Honour's most obedient servant,

BENJ. LINCOLN.

Governour *Cooke.*

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DOCTOR GREEN TO DAVID GILLMAN.

Concord, 22 December, 1776.

SIR: I this day received your epistle. Am obliged to you for the good opinion you have been pleased to entertain of me, in desiring my company in the present campaign; but must return for answer that my domestick affairs (whatever my inclination might be) would be a sufficient bar to my acceptance.

From your humble servant, PETER GREEN.

*David Gillman*, Esq., *Pembroke.*

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ARTHUR LEE TO LORD SHELBURNE.

Paris, December 23d, 1776.

MY LORD: A very few hours after my last letter to your Lordship, brought me the desire of my country to serve her in a publick character. Your Lordship, I hope, thinks too well of me to suppose I could hesitate a moment. In fact, almost the same minute saw me bid adieu, perhaps forever, to a country where from choice I had fixed my fortunes, and to a people whom I most respected, and could have loved. But the first object of my life is my country; the first wish of my heart is publick liberty. I must see, therefore, the liberties of my country established or perish in her last struggle.

In truth, I have long despaired even of a struggle for liberty in *England*; I will not insult *Scotland* with the idea. It is not the subtle *Weddeburne*, poisoning the fountain of publick security, nor the ruthless *Thurloe*, deliberately butchering the liberties of his country, that make me despair; but yet, perhaps, the people are only not virtuous, and *America* may yet, with a sort of filial piety, reanimate her expiring Constitution.

Our *Pater Patriæ*, with whom and Mr. *Deane* I am joined in power, is in good health and spirits. If fate will have it, that *America*, as she has reared her temples and her altars to liberty, must furnish her victims too, I know not where she can find a sacrifice more respectable.

Should the event of this measure be found fatal to *England*, it is the perfidy of her Ministers, which would never offer any thing that could be trusted, which compels it, and to which the consequences are justly imputable.

I beg your Lordship to remember me as one who can never cease to have the most perfect esteem for you. I have communicated to the *Abbé Raynal* all the facts I could collect, in answer to his questions. He will write to you soon.

May I beg to be remembered to our friends in the college and to those out of it, who, I hope, will always do me the honour of remembering me; Colonel *Barré*, Mr. *Dunning*, Dr. *Priestly*, Dr. *Price*, &c.

I have the honour to be, &c., ARTHUR LEE.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Baltimore, December 23d, 1776.

SIR: I do myself the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your several favours of the 12th, 13th, and 15th instant, in the order of their respective dates, and to inform you that they were duly laid before Congress.

As General *Lee*, by the fortune of war, has become a prisoner in the hands of our enemies, the Congress are anxious to afford him all the relief in their power during his confinement. They have, therefore, resolved that a flag be immediately sent to General *Howe*, to know in what manner General *Lee* is treated, and have directed Mr. *R. Morris* (to whom I have written on the occasion) to forward to you for his use, one hundred half-johannes. The *United States*, from every principle of justice and generosity, are bound to render the situation of that gentleman as easy as possible during his captivity. His loss must be extremely regretted by every friend to this country.

The Congress, upon reconsidering the vote of the 11th instant, have come to a resolution expressing their approbation of your conduct in declining to publish it in general orders. They also approve of your sending General *Armstrong* to *Pennsylvania* and General *Smallwood* to *Maryland*, to stimulate the people to exert themselves on this occasion. I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Militia in the upper parts of *Maryland* are in motion, and seem at last sensible of the danger which threatens them.

The multiplicity of business which the Congress left unfinished at the time of there departure from *Philadelphia*, has induced them to appoint a Committee of three gentlemen, with full powers, to perfect the business in such manner as they shall judge proper.

You will please to pay the Militia who reinforce your Army, in the same manner as you pay your other troops; and on their discharge, allow them a penny per mile to bear their expenses on the way to their respective homes.

The enclosed resolves of Congress I transmit by their order, and beg leave to request your attention to them.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Baltimore, December 23d, 1776.

SIR: Your several favours of the 13th, 14th, 16th, and 17th instant, have been duly received, in the order of their respective dates, and laid before Congress. In consequence of which I am directed to transmit you the enclosed resolves.

The intelligence of General *Lee's* being taken prisoner is really alarming in the present state of our Army; and I am afraid his loss will be severely felt, as he was in a great measure the idol of the officers, and possessed still more the confidence of the soldiery. As the fortune of war has made him a prisoner, the *United States* are bound, by every tie of justice and generosity, to afford him all the relief in their power. They have accordingly resolved that one hundred half-johannes should be sent to General *Washington*, for the use of General *Lee*, should it be found practicable to convey money to him, which the Congress deem a matter of so much importance that they have ordered a flag to be sent to General *Howe*, to know whether he will permit it or not. I am, however, directed by Congress to request that you will lodge, for this purpose, the above-mentioned sum in the hands of General *Washington*.

The Congress, concurring in opinion with you that a Committee should be appointed in the city of *Philadelphia* to take care of the publick interest, and at the same time highly approving of the zeal and attention you have particularly discovered to the welfare of your country since their departure from that city, have nominated Mr. *Clymer*, Mr. *Walton*, and yourself, to execute such Continental business as it may be necessary to transact in *Philadelphia*. They have also directed that two hundred thousand dollars be immediately sent to the Commissary in *Pennsylvania*, subject to your drafts, and to be applied as you may judge proper. Should this sum prove insufficient, you are empowered to draw on the Loan Office for any additional sum you may think necessary for publick purposes.

The enclosed resolves will inform you that Congress highly approve of the conduct of yourself, Mr. *Walton*, and Mr. *Clymer*, in the care you have taken of publick business, and particularly of the attention *you* have shown and the plan *you* have laid for preserving the Continental frigates.

Be pleased to acquaint Mr. *Peters* that he is directed by the Board of War to repair to *Baltimore* as soon as possible, where his services are judged absolutely necessary by Congress.

I have the honour to be, with very great respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Pray forward the enclosed to the General by express.

To *Robert Morris*, Esq.

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WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON.

Baltimore, 23d December, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR: This will be handed you by *Alexander Rose*, Esq., of *Charlestown, South-Carolina*, a friend of *Samuel Purviance*, Esq., of this town, whose character you are not unacquainted with. Mr. *Rose* is on his journey to the eastward, and, I understand, intends visiting *Portsmouth;* in that case, I doubt not he will receive every civility from you due to Mr. *Purviance's* friend.

Captain *Avery*, who accompanies Mr. *Rose*, signalized himself as a brave officer in defence of the fort on *Sullivan's Island*. I beg leave to recommend both these gentlemen to the circle of your friends; and am, with great respect, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. WHIPPLE.

WILLIAM BLAIR TO GENERAL JOHNSON.

Taney-Town, December 23d, 1776.

SIR: The Thirty-Fifth Battalion met this day, and turned out tolerable well; but are unable at present to ascertain the number of volunteers; but shall let you know this week. The officers to be commissioned are as the list enclosed. We have, upon inquiry, found they were regularly chosen by the people. We are, sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. BLAIR,
NORM. BRUCE.

To Brigadier-General *Johnson.*

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BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Joppa, 23d December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Mr. *James Talbot*, a merchant in *Joppa*, and an officer in the Militia, in the Eighth Battalion, is desirous of procuring a Captain's commission in the Regulars to be raised as the quota of this Province.

I have known him for some time. He is a cool, serious, thinking man, a native of *America;* possesses, as far as I have ever heard, a fair character in trade and his dealings; has ever been ready to do his duty as a Militia officer; has on all occasions shown his readiness to meet the enemies of freedom upon every requisition. Early in this contest has solicited a commission, and, in my opinion, has spirit enough, added to his attachment to the cause, to meet the foe and do his duty in the field to the best of his skill and ability.

Mr. *John Wayne* would accept of a Lieutenancy under him. He is a native of *Great Britain*, married into a family of this neighbourhood, seems much attached to the cause of liberty, is well acquainted with the manœuvres generally taught in the Militia, and, I verily believe, would make a good officer.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

BENJAMIN RUMSEY.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of the State of *Maryland.*

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CÆSAR RODNEY TO THOMAS RODNEY.

Dover, December the 23d, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have but little news, little paper, and therefore very little to write. I received both your letters, the last yesterday, and am much pleased that your company meet with applause. As they know how, I hope they will continue to deserve it. You say you feel better for the little campaigning you have had. If you will take care to expose yourself no more than the good of the service and your duty require, I do not doubt it will continue. I am pleased to hear that the people of *New-Castle* County, by a sense of their duty, are rousing from their former slumber. There are some anxious spirits in this County, but fear they will not be able to produce another company in time. I am very sorry that Mr. *J. Dickinson*, and the other gent^n^ you mentioned, should have discovered sentiments inimical to the freedom and independence of the *American* States. I both hoped and believed they were of a different sentiment from that in this great interesting cause.

My sister *Sally* is a little poorly—taken yesterday. All the rest of both families are perfectly well. From present appearances, I think this campaign must soon end. God send it may, for this is a most inclement season for the poor soldiers. Nothing but the importance of the cause could support them in such a day of trial.

Remember me to *Johnny*. Tell him I am pleased that he has entered the service, and that I hope he will set about the business of war with firmness, and make it his study to acquire knowledge in that way. Don't forget to write by every opportunity.

I am yours,

CÆSAR RODNEY.

P. S. I cannot tell what has become of the shallop, or how she is to be got down, and am afraid she may be lost by ice. I wish she could be contrived down.

To Captain *Thomas Rodney*, Esq., in camp, near *Trenton.*

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ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 26th.]

Philadelphia, December 23d, 1776.

SIR: I have the pleasure to inform you that the Continental fleet in this port is increased by the arrival of the

*Andrew Doria*, Captain *Isaiah Robison*, from *St. Eustatia*, which place she left the beginning of this month, and next day fell in with a *British* sloop-of-war, of twelve guns, which she took after a very obstinate engagement, in which the *Andrew Doria* had two men killed, some wounded, the main-mast shot through, and some other damage. The sloop had many men wounded, three shot through her mast, her sails shot to pieces, and much damage done to her. This is one of the sloops the Lords of the Admiralty ordered Admiral *Gayton* to fit out at *Jamaica*: and Mr. *Jones*, who commanded her, has the King's commission as Master and Commander. He defended her obstinately, and is certainly a brave man. I will desire the Council of Safety to take his parole, and send him to some safe place. Captain *Robison* manned this prize, and ordered her in for this port. He also took a snow from *Jamaica*, laden with mahogany and logwood, and ordered her for this port; but it is next to an impossibility for them to get in. Nothing but the fast sailing of the *Andrew Doria*, and the extreme vigilance of the Captain, brought her safe past the enemy's ships, one of which lies in the *Cape May* channel.

The cargo on board this brigantine consists of 208 dozen pair of woolen stockings, 106 dozen pair of worsted stockings, 215 sailors' jackets, 23 great-coats, 50 pieces *Dutch* plains, 30 pieces (900 yards) flannel, 45 pieces blue, brown, and white cloth, 463 blankets, 218 pieces 7-8ths linen, containing 6,795 *Dutch* ells, 496 muskets, 326 pairs of pistols, and 100 pounds of powder, and 14,101 pounds of lead, for account of the Continent.

I received a letter last night from General *Washington*, by Colonel *Moylan*, requesting me to hurry Mr. *Mease* to have soldiers' clothes made up with all possible diligence. He says muskets are not wanted there, but that comfortable clothing is exceedingly wanted. Colonel *Moylan* advises by all means to send up the stockings and great-coats now arrived, which I think to do; but shall tell the General they were intended for the new levies, and leave him to dispose of them as he may think most beneficial to the service. The linens, plains, and cloth, I will deliver to Mr. *Mease*, with orders to have them made up; but he will find much difficulty, as all the tailors, or near all, are at the camp, and the Council of Safety dare not order them down, for fear the rest will follow. The blankets shall also go to the General, to be disposed of as he may think proper. The pistols, muskets, powder, and lead, I think had best be sent to *Lancaster;* but wish to hear from the Board of War, in answer to what I wrote before on this subject. The sailors' jackets must be put on board the fleet, being much wanted there.

I propose that Captain *Robison* should put all the seamen prisoners on board the *Randolph*, Captain *Biddle*, and that the latter should compel them to do duty whether they enter or not, only following the example set us by the *British* act of Parliament.

Mr. *Davis Bevan*, of this city, was taken about five weeks ago, coming into our capes, and carried to *New-York;* from thence brought round in the *Roebuck*, and suffered to land at *Cape Henlopen*, under a promise to return. He told me that he heard Captain *Hammond* and other officers say they are now determined to put a total stop to our trade. Six frigates were sent to cruise off *Georgia* and *Carolina*, six off the capes of *Virginia*, and six off our capes. They have fixed signals and stations, so as to keep up a complete line along the coast, and are determined to keep these stations throughout the winter, if possible. He says only part of the troops sent to *Rhode-Island* are to remain there; the remainder are going for *Carolina*. *Bevan* is an intelligent man, and had an opportunity of hearing and learning these things from Lord *Howe's* Under Secretary or Clerk, with whom he ingratiated himself, and was employed in writing for him on board the *Eagle*. I have sent Mr. *Bevan* down, with the letter mentioned in my last, to Captain *Hammond*, and I hope it will procure the discharge of Captain *Morgan* and the prisoners on board that fleet.

The schooner *Wasp*, commanded by Lieutenant *Baldwin*, has brought into *Egg-Harbour* a schooner laden with *Indian* corn and oats, bound from the Lower Counties to *New-York*. He has sent up the master and five or six others prisoners here. They had been on board the *Falcon* man-of-war, Captain *Linzie*, and subscribed the oaths of allegiance, certificates of which were found on them. I sent these papers to the Council of Safety, who committed the men to jail, as there is no Judge of the Admiralty in the *Jerseys*, and Judge *Ross* is at *Lancaster*. I think it advisable to send wagons to *Egg-Harbour* for the corn and oats to feed the Continental horses in this city. These articles are very scarce here, and will bear the carriage; but I will consult General *Putnam* and the Wagonmaster on this subject. As to the vessel, I am of opinion it would be best to sell her, without waiting for condemnation, as the proofs of her guilt are clear and incontestable, and she lies in too much danger to wait patiently for the usual forms. However, Congress or the Marine Committee will please to give a positive order what must be done in this respect. *Baldwin* had retaken a *French* schooner that had been taken going out of our capes by one of the men-of-war cruising there. He was bringing her into *Egg-Harbour*, when a fleet of fifteen sail hove in sight, two of which were two-deckers, one or two frigates, and an armed brigantine, pursued him so close that he was obliged to abandon his prize, and get into the inlet fast as he could. This happened last *Wednesday*. Being short of provisions, he intends coming in here; and I wish he may escape the enemy.

You will perceive, sir, that our fleet will be pretty numerous here, although their force but small, compared to the dangers that surround them. I have conversed with several of the Captains, and formed a plan for their getting safe out to sea, and taking such merchantmen with them as may be ready. They approve the plan, and I hope will execute it; but we must have time to get ready, and they must act with great vigilance and spirit to effect it.

Upon this occasion I cannot help saying that I am very uneasy, as I am neither instructed what to do, nor vested with proper powers to act as may appear best. I must, therefore, request that Congress, or the Marine Committee, will either instruct me pointedly what to do, or give me proper authority to act for the best, for the object is important, and if misfortunes happen, which is very probable, it would be hard that I should hereafter be blamed when the event is known, for measures that appear previously to be well calculated for the publick good. The vessels to be got out are the *Rondolph*, *Delaware*, *Andrew Doria*, *Independence*, *Hornet*, *Fly*, and *Musquito*, with many valuable merchantmen. The *Lexington*, *Sachem*, and *Wasp*, may be hourly expected in, if they escape the enemy. Sailors are scarce; tradesmen at the camp, and a kind of stupor seems to have seized every body that ought to give us assistance, so that it is inconceivable how slowly all work goes on, and with how much difficulty we can get any thing done. I have applied to the Council of Safety to order down some tradesmen to finish the *Delaware*, if possible. They wish, but fear to comply; and if they do not, she must after all remain here.

General *Washington* desires me to remain here as long as possible, and promises to give me notice if any immediate danger. He thinks the enemy are only waiting two events, and when they happen they will prosecute their designs against this city—that is, for ice to cross the river, and for the 1st *January*, when most of his Army will disband; and he says you might as well attempt to stop the winds from blowing or the sun in its diurnal as stop them from going when their time is up. General *Sullivan* brought him about two thousand men, General *Gates* about six hundred; and his whole force now consists of about five thousand men, besides the city Militia. It's true, the country Militia are coming in, but I suppose as many will leave him the 1st *January* as will join before that time; and if so, it will not be possible for him to save this city out of the hands of the enemy, after they cross the *Delaware*. On this view of things, I think we ought to hazard every thing to get the ships out, and I shall advise Mr. *Mease*, Mr. *Tod*, and all others that have Continental stores, to be prepared for removing them.

It is very mortifying to me when I am obliged to tell you disagreeable things; but I am compelled to inform Congress that the Continental currency keeps losing in credit. Many people refuse openly and avowedly to receive it; and several citizens that retired into the country must have starved if their own private credit had not procured them the common necessaries of life, when nothing could be got for your money. Some effectual remedy should be speedily applied to this evil, or the game will be up. Mr. Commissary

*Wharton* has told the General that the mills refuse to grind for him, either from disaffection or dislike to the money. Be that as it may, the consequences are terrible, for I do suppose the Army will not consent to starve.

At present, I don't recollect any thing to add to this letter; but as other occurrences happen. I shall give you the trouble of more letters. I think it is time that Mr. *Pluckrose*, the express I sent down with letters to you last *Tuesday*, should return, unless detained for some purpose of Congress. By him I sent a number of *French* letters, &c.

I am, with great respect, sir, your obedient servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

P. S. I am informed by Mr. *Moylan* that Colonel *Guyon* (I think that is the name) was taken prisoner with General *Lee*. He is the Colonel that came over in the *Hancock and Adams*, Captain *Smith*, from *Nantes*.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

—

[Without date.]

SIR: It is impossible for me to appear on behalf of the owners of the privateer *Phœnix*, Captain *Cunningham;* for although I was interested one twenty-fourth part in that vessel, yet I am not authorized by the other owners, nor indeed do I know who they are, except *Carter Braxton*, Esq., of *Virginia*, under whom my concern was held. This gentleman and another in *Virginia* are authorized to act for the whole; and it would be very improper for me to interfere, especially in a transaction that never had my approbation. Whatever charges may fall to my share to pay, I shall readily comply with; and I have pressed Mr. *Braxton* to come up on the occasion. I wish the Committee would write, and urge him to appear before them, that it may be settled; but I hope they will excuse me, for the reasons assigned.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To the Hon. *James Searle*, Esq.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 23d, 1776.

SIR: I had the honour to receive your obliging favour of yesterday, by Colonel *Moylan*. The contents give a most melancholy aspect to our affairs, and I wish to Heaven it may be in our power to retrieve them. It is useless at this period to examine into the causes of our present unhappy situation, unless that examination would be productive of a cure for the evils that surround us. In fact, those causes have long been known to such as would open their eyes. The very consequences of them were often foretold, and the measures execrated by some of the best friends of *America;* but in vain. An obstinate partiality to the habits and customs of one part of this Continent has predominated in the publick councils, and too little attention been paid to others. To criminate the authors of our errours would not avail, but we cannot see ruin staring us in the face without thinking of them. It has been my fate to make an ineffectual opposition to all short inlistments, to Colonial appointments of officers, and to many other measures that I thought pregnant with mischiefs; but these things either suited the genius and habits, or squared with the sentiments of some States that had sufficient influence to prevail; and nothing is now left, but to extricate ourselves from the difficulties in which we are involved, if we can. Let us try our utmost; man can do no more. I shall urge Mr. *Mease* to go on as briskly as possible with the clothing, but it's impossible for him to make much progress, as most of the tailors are at the camp. The muskets and other stores shall be sent out of the city, and such papers as I can spare shall be sent away. The fleet has always been my particular care, and at this time I am exceedingly anxious for its safety; but the difficulty of getting any thing done is inconceivable. Most of the tradesmen necessary to finish the *Delaware*, are at camp. I have applied to the Council of Safety to order some few of them down, and although they wish, yet they fear to do it, lest the rest should follow.

I have now under my care the *Randolph* and *Delaware* frigates, the brigantine *Andrew Doria*, sloops *Hornet*, *Independence*, and *Fly*, and schooner *Musquito*, all Continental armed vessels, besides several valuable merchantmen, all which I wish to get out to sea, and think it might be effected if every man concerned would exert himself in his department. I try to give them spirits and invigorate their exertions all in my power. The enemy have six sail cruising about our capes, and keep a special look-out. Notwithstanding this, the brigantine *Andrew Doria*, Captain *Isaiah Robison*, passed through them and got safe up this day. She left *St. Eustatia* the beginning of this month, and on the passage took a sloop of twelve guns, fitted out by Admiral *Gayton*, at *Jamaica*, agreeable to orders of the Lords of the Admiralty. She also took a snow from *Jamaica*, and ordered both prizes in here, but it's most likely they will be retaken. Before I quit this subject, permit me to observe that there is a Lieutenant *Josiah*, of our Navy, prisoner, and now at *New-York*, and we have prisoner at *York-Town*, in this State, a Lieutenant *Bogan*, of their Navy. I could wish an exchange between them could be effected. There is also a Doctor *Hodge*, Surgeon to Colonel *Cadwalader's* battalion of *Pennsylvanians*, now prisoner in *New-York*, a young man of much merit, and his abilities in his profession would render him very useful could he be exchanged.

The sloop taken by the *Andrew Doria* was commanded by a Mr. *Jones*, who has the King's commission as Master and Commander. He behaved bravely, and I am told he says Lord *Howe* will be desirous to redeem him. I suppose his rank to be equal to a Major's or Lieutenant-Colonel's, which I mention that your Excellency may advert to it, if you wish for an exchange of any particular officer of merit of that rank. This brigantine was sent by the Secret Committee for clothing and stores, and has brought in the following cargo: 208 dozen pair of woolen stockings; 106 dozen pair of worsted do.; 215 sailors' jackets; 23 great-coats; 50 pieces *Dutch* plains; 30 pieces (900 yards) flannel; 45 pieces blue, brown, and white cloth; 463 blankets; 218 pieces 7-8ths linen; 496 muskets; 326 pair pistols; 200 half barrels powder; 14,101 pounds lead. I have enumerated these articles, that you may judge what part is wanted for your Army; and your orders shall be complied with. I shall only observe that these imports were intended for the new levies; but circumstanced as you are, I think you should judge solely of the propriety of applying them to our present exigencies.

The brig *Lexington* and sloop *Sachem* may be hourly looked for with further supplies, also sundry merchantmen; but I dread their approach to our capes. They took a *French* snow in sight of the *Andrew Doria*, who protected her as long as it was possible.

I am fearful General *Lee* may suffer for want of money if the resentment of *British* officers runs as high as they have threatened; therefore to prevent present distress, I enclose herein a set of exchange, drawn by the late Governour *Eden's* Secretary, Mr. *Smith*, on Messrs. *Thomas Eden & Co.*, for one hundred pounds sterling, which I beg you will convey by a flag to General *Lee*, with an assurance of a further supply whenever he wants it. I have endorsed the bills, and flatter myself that many gentlemen now in *New-York*, to whom I am known, will advance the General the money upon them. I have no doubt but this matter may be so managed as that General *Lee* will certainly get these bills and the money for them, without putting you to much inconvenience; and with the utmost esteem I remain, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

P. S. Having sent my stores out of town, this is the best paper I can command at present.

*December* 24.—Not meeting any conveyance for this letter yesterday, I have since obtained the enclosed bill, drawn by Captain *Duncan M'Nicol* and *Hugh Fraser*, Lieutenant of the Royal Highland Emigrants, for £116 9*s.* 3*d.* sterling, in favour of *Alexander Ingles*, Esq., for amount of supplies to them in *Charles-Town*. It is drawn on Major *Small*, and I dare say will be paid; therefore I think it a preferable remittance to General *Lee* than bills on *London;* and hope you will convey it to him immediately. R. M.

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CAPTAIN COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, December 23d, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: I wrote you from *Christiana* Bridge on the 19th instant, and on the 21st arrived at this

place, when I waited on General *Putnam* for orders. He directed me to the Marine Board. On waiting on them my people were desired to assist in fitting out the *Delaware*.

There is nothing at this time appears alarming. The enemy are retreating, it's supposed to winter quarters. I am extremely willing to do every thing in my power to serve our country, but it appears to me, from what intelligence we have, that we shall not be wanting. In that case it will be better to be fitting out the *Defence*.

I have enclosed you a list of the officers and men now with me. They are in high spirits, and very desirous of engaging the enemy; and I am satisfied would have endeavoured to excel each other in being of most service to their country. I had not time before I set off to make mention of those gentlemen who are worthy of preferment. I now will use the freedom of mentioning my First Lieutenant, Mr. *Auchenbick;* likewise my Second, Mr. *Burnell*. Both those gentlemen are very deserving, and none more worthy within the circle of my acquaintance in the State of *Maryland*.

I am, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

GEO. COOK.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, *Annapolis*.

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ADDRESS TO THE INHABITANTS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

In Council of Safety, December 23, 1776.

FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN: The pressing exigency of the times induces us once more to address you, while we can deplore the calamities of our country without restraint, and before the voice of truth and the excretions of tyranny are forced back into the bosom of the wretched sufferer. On your vigorous exertions alone, at this time, will depend the privilege of ever addressing you in the style of freemen. Should the enemy be encouraged by farther success, devastation and ruin must mark their footsteps.

We call upon you, we entreat and beseech you, to come forth to the assistance of our worthy General *Washington*, and our invaded brethren in the *Jerseys*, if you wish to secure your property from being plundered, and to protect the innocence of your wives and children; if you wish to live in freedom, and are determined to maintain that best boon of Heaven, you have no time to deliberate. A manly resistance will secure every blessing. Inactivity and sloth will bring horrour and destruction. Step forth like men. Feed not yourselves with the vain expectation of peace and security; should the enemy succeed in reducing this country, such hopes will vanish like the dreams of the night, and plunge you into an irretrievable abyss of unspeakable misery.

Shall we, with Heaven and justice on our side, (unless we could impiously suppose that the Almighty has devoted mankind to slavery,) shall we hesitate to meet our enemies in the hostile field? The sons of *America* have not drawn their swords to invade the rights of others, nor to reduce populous countries to a state of desolation. It was not to plunder the wealthy, nor to wrest from the laborious farmer or industrious mechanick his hard-earned blessings, that *America* had recourse to arms. No! Whilst our most humble petitions and pathetick expostulations yet rung in the ears of our enemies, they wantonly attacked us on our own peaceable shores.

May Heaven, who bestowed the blessing of liberty upon you, awaken you to a proper sense of your danger, and rouse that manly spirit of virtuous resolution which has ever bid defiance to the efforts of tyranny. May you ever have the glorious prize of liberty in view, and bear with a becoming fortitude the fatigues and severities of a winter campaign: that, and that only, will entitle you to the superlative distinction of being deemed, under God, the deliverers of your country.

Many are the artifices of our enemies to delude and deceive. False tales of every kind are invented and propagated to amuse and delay you. For this purpose, among others, they have spread a report that your services are not wanted. Believe no such reports; they are propagated by traitors. Let all able-bodied men, whether Associators or not, step forth at this crisis, under the officers of the district where they reside, and march without delay to *Philadelphia*, except those of *Berks* and *Northampton*, who are to join General *Washington* at Head-Quarters.

We conclude with entreating all Committees of Inspection, Officers of the Militia, and every friend to his country, to exert their influence on the present occasion, and we have not the least doubt but their virtuous endeavours will be crowned with the most happy success.

By order of Council:

THOMAS WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER OF DISTINCTION IN THE AMERICAN ARMY.

Since I wrote you this morning, I have had an opportunity of hearing a number of the particulars of the horrid depredations committed by that part of the *British* Army which was stationed at and near *Pennytown*, under the command of Lord *Cornwallis*. Besides the sixteen young women who had fled to the woods to avoid their brutality, and were there seized and carried off, one man had the cruel mortification to have his wife and only daughter (a child of ten years of age) ravished; this he himself, almost choked with grief, uttered in lamentations to his friend, who told me of it, and also informed me that another girl of thirteen years of age, was taken from her father's house, carried to a barn about a mile, there ravished, and afterwards made use of by five more of these brutes. Numbers of instances of the same kind of behaviour I am assured to have happened; here their brutish lust were their stimulas; but wanton mischief was seen in every part of the country; every thing portable they plunder and carry off, neither age nor sex, Whig or Tory, is spared; an indiscriminate ruin attends every person they meet with; infants, children, old men, and women, are left in their shirts, without a blanket to cover them in this inclement season; furniture of every kind destroyed or burnt; windows and doors broke to pieces; in short, the houses left unhabitable, and the people left without provisions, for every horse, cow, ox, hogs, and poultry, carried off; a blind old gentleman near *Pennytown*, plundered of every thing, and on his door wrote, "Captain *Wills*, of the Royal *Irish*, did this!" As a notable proof of their regard and favour to their friends and well-wishers, they yesterday burnt the elegant house of *Daniel Cox*, Esq., at *Trenton Ferry*, who has been their constant advocate, and supporter of Toryism in that part of the country. This behaviour of theirs has so exasperated the people of the country, that they are flying to arms, and forming themselves into parties to waylay them and cut them off, wherever they can meet with them. This, and other efforts which are making, I hope will so strengthen them that they will soon find their situation very disagreeable in *New-Jersey*. Another instance of brutality happened near *Woodbridge*. One of the most respectable gentlemen in that part of the country was alarmed by the cries and shrieks of a most lovely daughter; he found an officer—a *British* officer—in the act of ravishing her; he instantly put him to death; two other officers rushed in with fusees, and fired two balls into the father, who is now languishing under his wounds. I am tired of this horrid scene; Almighty Justice cannot suffer it to go unpunished; he will inspirit his people (who only claim that liberty which he has entitled them to) to do themselves justice, to rise universally in arms, and drive these invading tyrants out of our country.

Published by order of the Council of Safety.

GEO. BICKHAM, *Secretary pro tem*.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO COLONEL REED.

Camp, above Trenton Falls, 23d December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The bearer is sent down to know whether your plan was attempted last night, and if not, to inform you that Christmas day at night, one hour before day, is the time fixed upon for our attempt on *Trenton*. For Heaven's sake, keep this to yourself, as the discovery of it may prove fatal to us; our numbers, sorry am I to say, being less than I had any conception of; but necessity, dire necessity, will, nay must, justify my attack. Prepare, and in concert with *Griffin*, attack as many of their posts as you possibly can with a prospect of success; the more we can attack at the same instant, the more confusion we shall spread, and greater good will result from it. If I had not been fully convinced

before of the enemy's designs. I have now ample testimony of their intentions to attack *Philadelphia*, so soon as the ice will afford the means of conveyance. As the Colonels of the Continental regiments might kick up some dust about command unless *Cadwalader* is considered by them in the light of a Brigadier, which I wish him to be, I desired General *Gates*, who is unwell and applied for leave to go to *Philadelphia*, to endeavour, if his health would permit him, to call and stay two or three days at *Bristol* in his way. I shall not be particular; we could not ripen matters for our attack before the time mentioned in the first part of this letter, so much out of sorts, and so much in want of every thing are the troops under *Sullivan*, &c. Let me know by a careful express the plan you are to pursue. The letter herewith sent, forward on to *Philadelphia*. I could wish it to be in time for the Southern post's departure, which will be, I believe, by eleven o'clock to-morrow.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. I have ordered our men to be provided with three days' provisions ready cooked, with which, and their blankets, they are to march; for if we are successful, which Heaven grant, and the circumstances favour, we may push on. I shall direct every ferry and ford to be well guarded, and not a soul suffered to pass without an officer's going down with the permit; do the same with you.

To *Joseph Reed*, Esq., or in his absence, to *John Cadwalader*, Esq., only, at *Bristol*.

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Hugh Gaine's New-York Mercury, December 23, 1776.

The brave Colonel *Harcourt*, of *Burgoyne's* Light-Horse, took *Lee*, the deserter from his King's service and late Rebel General, with a party of less than fifty men, in the face of all the vagabond retinue, without the loss of a single man. The Colonel, by several circumstances, found out his quarters, rode up to the house and surrounded it. *Lee*, fearful of being put to the sword, begged his life in a manner which shows that where just and loyal principles are not, true courage is never to be found. His life was granted by the brave commander for further consideration. *Lee* was brought to *Brunswick*, and is now confined under a strong guard at that place.

General *Clinton*, Lord *Percy*, and the troops under their command, have taken possession of *Rhode-Island* without firing a single gun. Sir *Peter Parker*, Commodore *Hotham*, and his Majesty's ships under their command, are safely moored in *Newport* harbour.

The Rebels are every where mouldering away like a rope of sand. With the most impotent bravadoes, they have not yet had the spirit to make any thing like a stand in a single encounter. The *New-England* people have neither money nor recruits; and the rest of the Colonies are nearly drained of their resources. Ruin, therefore, and destruction must be the consequence of continuing the war any longer.

Mr. *Washington*, with about two thousand poor wretches, who can get no subsistence but by following him, has fled to *Lancaster*, in *Pennsylvania*. Many people of *Philadelphia* are retired, with their goods and effects, into the back country, with but little provision for the winter.

The chain of posts formed by the *British* troops reach within seventeen miles of *Philadelphia*, upon the banks of the *Delaware*, and the first strong frost will afford them a natural bridge over it.

The *Allens*, and some other principal people of *Philadelphia*, are come in, and have claimed the protection of his Majesty's Army.

Great numbers in the *Jerseys* have likewise come in and taken the oaths; and two whole Counties have laid down their arms together, and subscribed the tests required in the Commissioners' proclamation. Most of them express the deepest sorrow for their late delusion, and freely acknowledge that when they lost *British* protection they fell into real slavery, and into slavery of the worst kind—the slavery of weak and wicked men.

It is reported that some of the coal ships from *Louisbourg* are taken by Rebel privateers, fitted out from the coasts of *New-England*. Those unhappy people will soon see that such ill-gotten and pirated goods will only lay the foundation of their own ruin.

General George Clinton to New-York Convention.

Ramapough, December 23, 1776.

Sir: In my last I mentioned the difficulty the Militia under my command in this quarter laboured under for want of a Commissary to supply them with provisions. Whole regiments have been days without any, except such scanty supplies as they have been able to purchase from the inhabitants. Most of the regiments are out this day. I was in hopes they might be furnished at the post near *Sydman's* bridge. General *Heath*, from the stores he told me were there, induced me to believe so; but, to my great disappointment, I am now informed that the Commissary at that place says he has not more meat in store or purchased than will be sufficient for the two regiments of *Tyler* and *Huntington*, who are to leave this in a day or two. He says he can't issue any, as his appointment is confined to *Parsons's* brigade. I have wrote twice to Colonel *Hays* on this subject, representing the difficulties we laboured under, and acquainting him that Convention expected he would, as a Commissary of their appointment, supply us. I sent the last letter by express to him yesterday, but he has never favoured me with an answer. The Militia think they are ill used, and I am sorry to say that, in my opinion, they have great reason to complain. They declare they will go home and leave me. Many have already gone, nor can I expect but that the rest will be as good as their word. Indeed they must desert or starve; and however well disposed, they will not submit to the latter. The consequences may be fatal to the country. I am not to blame. I have done every thing in my power. I have no further influence over them; nor can I, after not being able to perform my promises to them in the letter by which I called them out, and which contained no more than was fully warranted by the resolve of Convention, ever think of commanding them. It would be cruel as well as unjust to force them back to starve, nor shall I have strength enough to do it.

This moment your letter of the 21st instant, with the enclosures, were delivered me. General *Heath* marched yesterday for *Peekskill*, where he is, with his division and all the field-pieces, before this time. General *Lincoln*, from *Massachusetts-Bay*, is at *Danbury*, or soon expected there, on his way to *Peekskill*, with six thousand men. The state of the enemy's Army on this side is as follows: *Leslie's* brigade is at and near *Achquahanock* and *Newark;* three hundred with three field-pieces, at *Hackensack;* six companies of Regulars and three of *Buskirk's*, at the new bridge, arrived there yesterday evening. The enclosed letter from Colonel *Hathorn*, and a party I had out as far as *Paramus*, confirm this account, though I am not certain but the three hundred at *Hackensack* is part of *Leslie's* brigade. By to-morrow, if I am not mistaken, my number will not be equal to the enemy's at *Hackensack* and the bridge.

I observe by the resolves now sent me, two of my Colonels, and other officers, are put under the direction of a Secret Committee of your honourable House. In justice to myself, I beg leave to mention, I must consider this as a suspension of my command, at least as far as it respects the regiments and companies they command. As they cannot be subject to my orders, I can't be answerable for the conduct of the brigade.

I am, with due respect, your most obedient and humble servant,

Geo. Clinton.

To the Honourable *Abraham Ten Broek*, Esq., President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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Major Johnson to General Clinton.

December 23, 1776.

Sir: By orders of Colonel *Ellison*, I received two prisoners yesterday, as you will see by the enclosed. And as you are commander of that quarter, I think it proper to send them to you, with a guard, under the command of Captain *Drake;* and as I think them notoriously disaffected, by examination, I should be of opinion to have them well secured, and kept in close confinement until sent to Committee, as is in the enclosed directed. But if you should agree with my opinion, they should immediately be sent to the Provincial Congress of this State. So I remain your humble servant,

Johannes Johnson, *First Major.*

To Brigadier-General *Clinton.*

By virtue of his Excellency General *Howe's* orders, to me directed, for raising in this Province a company of fifty men, as soon as possible, you have my direction, by virtue of the power to me given, to recruit with all possible expedition to join in his Majesty's service in this Province for two years if wanted, or shorter time should the war be at an end; for which, being mustered, shall receive pay and clothing provided by his Majesty. Given under my hand at *King's Bridge*.

JOHN EVERITT.

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COLONEL HATHORN TO GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON.

Tapan, December 23, 1776.

SIR: This informs you that yesterday, early in the evening, we received information from one Mr. *Cristy*, whose character we found to be good, that there were six companies of Regulars and three of late inlisted Tories, at the new bridge. This news *Christie* had from one of the neighbour's sons, who, by the persuasions of his parents, had inlisted, had marched with them yesterday from *Bergen*, and is disposed to desert. A council of war was immediately called, and as there are three roads centre at *Tapan*, above the main body of our men, who lay many miles scattered, it was judged best to imbody and march to the north of said roads, place several sentries, and order scouts, which was soon done.

We have heard nothing from the enemy this morning; shall be glad if our conduct is approved of, and are ready with great cheerfulness to comply with future orders.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN HATHORN, *Col.*

N. B. We are now sending out our morning scouts, and determine, if possible, to know the situation of the enemy to-day.

I am informed by the person who brought the letter, that the scouts could not go out for want of provision.

To Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, at *Ramapough*.

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PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW-YORK.

Westchester County, December 23, 1776.

We, the subscribers, inhabitants of the County of *Westchester*, and members of the General Committee for said County, do, for ourselves and our suffering brethren, beg leave to lay before the honourable Convention the distressed situation they at present are in, praying that the Convention will take this important matter into their immediate consideration, and grant the good inhabitants of said County such relief as they in their wisdom may think expedient, and the necessity of the case required.

First, that the inhabitants of said County are in continual danger of being made prisoners, and their farms and habitations plundered by *Robert Rogers's* party, consisting of about seven hundred men, who daily make excursions in divers parts of said County, and taking with them by force of arms many of its good inhabitants, also their stock, grain, and every thing else that falls in their way, laying waste and destroying all that they cannot take with them, whereby the friends to this State, who reside in this quarter, are deprived of the necessaries of life.

Secondly, that we did apply to Colonel *Budd*, desiring him to raise the Militia for our relief, who replied, that as most of the well-affected and able part of the Militia were in the service, it was impossible for him to raise such a number of men as the nature of our request required.

Thirdly, that although there were two brigades quartered in said County, they did not (although not unacquainted with our distress) afford us any relief or assistance, and that we did apply to General *Spencer*, (then stationed near the *White-Plains*,) praying him to assist us, but we never received any answer to our request. He in a few days after removed from that place to *North-Castle* Church, leaving us entirely exposed to the ravages and cruelties of the enemy; that we are well informed, on General *Spencer's* being asked why he retreated so far back, he replied, that he thought us not worth defending. And General *Wooster*, who is now stationed at the *Saw-Pitts*, in the eastern part of the County, affords us no assistance; and we have been informed that some of his officers should have said that they would not defend the State, and if the enemy should make their appearance, they would retreat to the borders of *Connecticut*, and there make a stand. We would further inform your honourable House, that many of the Eastern troops, while in our country, instead of protecting its inhabitants from the enemy, did plunder and distress them more than the very enemy themselves, taking off with them our stock, household furniture, and even our farming utensils. From this alone, gentlemen, it must clearly appear to you, that we cannot expect any relief from that quarter.

From the above relation of facts, and many other circumstances that you are not unacquainted with, we make no doubt will induce you without delay to give us such relief as our much-distressed country now loudly calls for. We rely upon you, gentlemen, for assistance. Our lives and every thing dear and near to us depends on you for their preservation.

JOHN THOMAS, Jun., *Chairman Com.*
WM. MILLER, *Deputy do.*
JOSEPH YOUNG.
PETER VAN TASSEL.
FRED. JAY.

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NICHOLAS FISH TO GENERAL HEATH.

Flag of Truce, off Ver Plank's Point, December 23d, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: The flag of truce that was ordered by the Convention of this State to go to *New-York* with the persons, families, and effects of Mrs. *Inglis*, Mrs. *Livingston*, Mrs. *Moore*, the two Mrs. *Lake*, and Mrs. *Bruce*, (to the command of which I was by them appointed,) arrived here this evening. Shortly after our arrival Colonel *Tupper* visited us in person, and informed me that he had received your Honour's order to prevent our going to *New-York*, until all the letters and papers, excepting the private papers of the ladies' husbands, should be examined by your Honour. The reason of which, from Colonel *Tupper's* own saying, appears to be, that your Honour considers me as an officer acting in a civil line, I suppose from a consciousness of the expiration of the period of service of General *Scott's* brigade, to which I was formerly attached. But I would beg leave to inform your Honour, that notwithstanding that fact, I do consider myself as belonging to the Army, independent of the Convention's appointment of me to the flag; but was I not, this appointment, I conceive, fully constitutes me a military character.

In consequence of my instructions from Convention, I have administered the oath to each of the ladies, and to Messrs. *Wallace* and *Shearbrooke*, therein contained, which is to the following purport: "That they had not, nor would take on board, or carry by the sloop (in which we came) or flag (lying off *Ver Plank's Point*) any letters or papers but what they would respectively submit to my inspection, nor any goods, effects, or money, but what belonged to their respective husbands or them." Besides which, the Committee of *New-Windsor* and myself have examined with the utmost care, lest there should be provisions (beyond what we conceived necessary for their subsistence on the passage) conveyed by the said sloop to *New-York*.

As to the letters, the most of them have been examined by a Committee of Convention, and returned to me; others have been since handed to me, of which I have examined the others I intended to complete this night. But that we might not be unnecessarily delayed, I have transmitted them all to your Honour. I must therefore, sir, in tenderness to the ladies and their children, of which there are eighteen or twenty, and in a small boat much incommoded, solicit your Honour's attention to the examining of them as speedily as may be convenient.

I am, with due respect, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

NICH'S FISH.

To the Hon. Major-General *Heath*.

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Peek's Kill, &c., [24 December, 1776.]

Major *Nicholas Fish* having been appointed by the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York* to attend the families of the Rev. Mr. *Inglis* and others, within mentioned, to *New-York*, in a flag, and to solicit the removal of the families and effects of some of the subjects of this State from that place, I do hereby allow a flag for that purpose.

WM. HEATH, *Major-General.*

COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Clove, 23d December, 1776.

Dear General: Mr. *De Peyster* left *Paramus* last night at eleven o'clock; says that a boy of his acquaintance had been sent to *Hackinsack* on business, and was imprisoned by Major *Tenpenny*, at the *New Bridge*, on suspicion of his being a spy; that after being confined two hours, and sworn to secrecy, he was set at liberty. This boy was told by *Tenpenny* that he should be at *Paramus* this night. He was told by Mrs. *Zabriski* at the *Bridge*, that there were two thousand troops in and about *Hackinsack*. I am sending my list and baggage off to *Haverstraw*. Will it not be best to send some vessel from *Peekskill* to carry them up?

I am, with respect and esteem, your most obedient,

Jed. Huntington.

General *Heath*.

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WILLIAM DOBBS TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, December 23, 1776.

This is to certify the gentlemen of the honourable Convention, that at the evacuation of *King's Bridge*, and the soldiers were all gone into *Fort Independence*, that there lay there a pettiauger, unrigged, which I took and caused to be rigged and brought her past his Majesty's ships to this place, which craft I have since repaired, and yesterday I was called upon by one *Boyd*, and he demanded of me the receipt for her. I told him I would give him no receipt, but that I would write to the Convention concerning the craft; and I hope the honourable House will grant me said craft as my own property, as I have since understood that she then did belong to one *Merrit*, who is since gone to the Regulars. The gentlemen of the Convention well know the losses that I have met with by the King's ships. I have lost the quarter part of four pilot boats, which I would not at that time have taken six hundred pounds for, and I have never received the restitution of one farthing for them; and I shall rest the whole into your consideration.

So I remain, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

Wm. Dobbs.

To the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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SAMUEL TUDER TO PETER R. LIVINGSTON.

Poughkeepsie, December 23, 1776.

Gentlemen: As we are informed you have a quantity of tar at *Fishkill* Landing, and we are much in want of some for Mr. *De Grushe*, to tar the rigging for the ships, should be glad you would let Mr. *De Grushe*, the bearer, have some. He will inform you what quantity he will want.

I am, with great respect, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

Sam'l Tuder.

To the Hon. *Peter R. Livingston*, President of the Convention at *Fishkill*.

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JOHN FIELD TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

December 23, 1776.

I beg leave to inform your Honours that I happened at *New-London*, in the State of *Connecticut*, and at the request of the Committee, I assisted in bringing off the stock from *Long-Island* to the amount of £44 5*s*., lawful money, for which said Committee allowed; and that I am in great want of the same; and further, that my family is nigh the seat of war, and have been obliged to quit their habitations in the *Jerseys*, and are in distressed and needy circumstances; and I desire that your Honours would give an immediate answer. I must go to their relief as soon as possible.

So I remain your friend and humble servant,

John Field.

To the honourable Congress of the State of *New-York*.

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BENJAMIN MARVIN TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

23d December, 1776.

Gentlemen: I having from the first of the unhappy controversy between *Great Britain* and the States of *America*, engaged in the service of my country, not from sinister views to advance my private interest, but purely for the good of my country, and to maintain the liberty of the same, think it but reasonable that I should be continued in the same, considering I have sacrificed my interest in the cause of my country, and but just escaped with my life and the lives of my family, leaving all to be destroyed by our unnatural enemies; and not being duly represented, I am, gentlemen, under the disagreeable necessity to represent my case to you myself. I served the last year a First Lieutenant in the First Company of the Third *New-York* Regiment, and this year in the same capacity in the First Company, in the Second *New-York* Regiment, and for what I know, have given good satisfaction both to officers and men. And if there is any person hath brought any thing against me to your honourable House, to wrong my character, I should be glad to know it, that I might defend it; and, on the contrary, if I am deserving such treatment, I shall calmly retire from the service, and leave it to those who are more deserving. I would therefore petition your honourable House to take my case into your wise consideration, and if in your wisdom you think proper to do any thing for me, it will be gratefully acknowledged by your Honours' most humble servant,

Benj'n Marvin.

To the honourable Congress at *Fishkill*.

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AN ADDRESS OF THE CONVENTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

At this most important period, when the freedom and happiness, or the slavery and misery, of the present and future generations of *Americans*, is to be determined on a solemn appeal to the Supreme Ruler of all events, to whom every individual must one day answer for the part he now acts, it becomes the duty of the Representatives of a free people to call their attention to this most serious subject, and the more so at a time when their enemies are industriously endeavouring to delude, intimidate, and seduce them by false suggestions, artful misrepresentations, and insidious promises of protection.

You and all men were created free, and authorized to establish civil government, for the preservation of your rights against oppression, and the security of that freedom which God hath given you, against the rapacious hand of tyranny and lawless power. It is, therefore, not only necessary to the well-being of society, but the duty of every man, to oppose and repel all those, by whatever name or title distinguished, who prostitute the powers of Government to destroy the happiness and freedom of the people over whom they may be appointed to rule.

Under the auspices and direction of Divine Providence, your forefathers removed to the wilds and wilderness of *America*. By their industry they made it a fruitful, and by their virtue a happy, country. And we should still have enjoyed the blessings of peace and plenty, if we had not forgotten the source from which those blessings flowed, and permitted our country to be contaminated by the many shameful vices which have prevailed among us.

It is a well known truth, that no virtuous people were ever oppressed; and it is also true that a scourge was never wanting for those of an opposite character. Even the *Jews*, those favourites of Heaven, met with the frowns, whenever they forgot the smiles, of their benevolent Creator. By tyrants of *Egypt*, of *Babylon*, of *Syria*, and of *Rome*, they were severely chastised. And those tyrants themselves, when they had executed the vengeance of Almighty God, their own crimes bursting on their own heads, received the rewards justly due to their violation of the sacred rights of mankind.

You were born equally free with the *Jews*, and have as good a right to be exempted from the arbitrary domination of *Britain* as they had from the invasions of *Egypt*, *Babylon*, *Syria*, or *Rome*. But they for their wickedness were permitted to be scourged by the latter, and we for our wickedness are scourged by tyrants, as cruel and implacable as those.

Our case, however, is peculiarly distinguished from theirs. Their enemies were strangers, unenlightened, and bound to them by no ties of gratitude or consanguinity. Our enemies, on the contrary, are themselves Christians. They are of a nation and people bound to us by the strongest ties—a people by whose sides we have fought and bled, whose power we have contributed to raise, who owe much of their wealth to our industry, and whose grandeur has been augmented by our exertions.

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It is unnecessary to remind you that during the space of between one and two hundred years, every man sat under his own vine and his own fig-tree, and there was none to make him afraid. That the people of *Britain* never claimed a right to dispose of us, and every thing belonging to us, according to their will and pleasure, until the reign of the present King of that Island. And that to enforce this abominable claim they have invaded our country by sea and by land. From this extravagant and iniquitous claim, and from the unreasonable as well as cruel manner in which they would gain our submission, it seems as though Providence were determined to use them as instruments to punish the guilt of this country, and bring us back to a sense of duty to our Creator.

You may remember that to obtain redress of the many grievances to which the King and Parliament of *Great Britain* had subjected you, the most dutiful petitions were presented, not only by the several Assemblies, but by the Representatives of all *America*, in General Congress. And you cannot have forgot with what contempt they were neglected; nay, the humblest of all petitions, praying only to be heard, was answered by the sound of the trumpet and clashing of arms. This, however, is not the only occasion on which the hearts of Kings have been hardened; and in all probability it will add to the number of those instances in which their oppression, injustice, and hardness of heart, have worked their destruction.

Being bound by the strongest obligations to defend the inheritance which God hath given us, to Him we referred our cause, and opposed the assaults of our taskmasters, being determined rather to die free than live slaves, and entail bondage on our children.

By our vigorous efforts, and by the goodness of Divine Providence, those cruel invaders were driven from our country in the last campaign. We then flattered ourselves that the signal success of our arms, and the unanimity and spirit of our people, would have induced our foes to desist from the prosecution of their wicked designs, and disposed their hearts to peace. But peace we had not yet deserved. Exultation took place of thanksgiving, and we ascribed that to our own prowess which was only to be attributed to the great Guardian of the innocent.

The enemy with greater strength again invade us—invade us not less by their arts than their arms. They tell you, that if you submit you shall have protection; that their King breathes nothing but peace; that he will revise (not repeal) all his cruel acts and instructions, and will receive you into favour. But what are the terms on which you are promised peace? Have you heard of any, except absolute, unconditional obedience and servile submission? If his professions are honest—if he means not to cajole and deceive you—why are you not explicitly informed of the terms, and whether the Parliament mean to tax you hereafter at their will and pleasure? Upon this and the like points, these Military Commissioners of peace are silent; and, indeed, are not authorized to say a word, unless a power to grant pardons implies a power to adjust claims and secure privileges, or unless the bare possession of life, is the only privilege which *Americans* are to enjoy. For a power to grant pardon is the only one which their Parliament or Prince have thought proper to give them. And yet they speak of peace. But they hold daggers in their hands. They invite you to accept of blessings, and stain your habitations with blood. Their voice resembles the voice of *Jacob*, but their hands are like the hands of *Esau*.

If their Sovereign intends to repeal any of the acts we complain of, why are they not especially named? If he designs you shall be free, why does he not promise that the claim of his Parliament, to bind you in all cases whatsoever, shall be given up and relinquished? If a reasonable peace was intended, why did he not empower his Commissioners to treat with the Congress, or with Deputies from all the Assemblies; or why was not some other mode devised, in which *America* might be heard? Is it not highly ridiculous for them to pretend that they are authorized to treat of a peace between *Britain* and *America*, with every man they meet? Was such a treaty ever heard of before? Is such an instance to be met with in the history of mankind? No! The truth is, peace is not meant; and their specious pretences and proclamations, are calculated only to disunite and deceive.

If the King of *Britain* really desires peace, why did he order all your vessels to be seized and confiscated? Why did he most cruelly command that the men found on board such vessels, should be added to the crews of his ships of war, and compelled to fight against their own countrymen; to spill the blood of their neighbours and friends, nay of their fathers, their brothers and children? And all this before his pretended ambassadors of peace had arrived on our shores. Does any history, sacred or profane, record any thing more impious, more horrible, more execrably wicked, tyrannical or develish? If there be one single idea of peace in his mind, why does he order your cities to be burnt, your country desolated, your brethren to starve and languish and die in prisons? If any thing was intended besides destruction, devastation, and bloodshed, why are the mercenaries of *Germany* transported near four thousand miles, to plunder your houses, to ravish your wives and daughters, to strip your infant children, to expose whole families naked, miserable and forlorn, to want, to hunger, to inclement skies, and wretched deaths? If peace were not totally reprobated by him, why are those pusillanimous, deluded, servile wretches, among you, who, for present ease or impious bribes, would sell their liberty, their children, and their souls; who, like savages, worship every devil who promises not to hurt them, or obey any mandates, however cruel, for which they are paid;—how is it that these sordid, degenerate creatures, who bow the knee to this King, and daily offer incense at his shrine, should be denied the peace so repeatedly promised them? Why are they indiscriminately abused, robbed, and plundered, with their more deserving neighbours? But in this world, as in the other, it is right and just that the wicked should be punished by their seducers.

In a word, if peace was the desire of your enemies, and humanity their object, why do they thus trample under foot every right and every duty, human and divine? Why, like the demons of old, is their wrath to be expiated only by human sacrifices? Why do they excite the savages of the wilderness to murder our inhabitants, and exercise cruelties unheard of among civilized nations? No regard for religion or virtue remains among them. Your very churches bear witness of their impiety; your churches are used without hesitation as jails, as stables, and as houses of sport and theatrical exhibitions. What faith, what trust, what confidence, can you repose in these men, who are deaf to the call of humanity, dead to every sentiment of religion, and void of all regard for the temples of the Lord of Hosts?

And why all this desolation, bloodshed, and unparalleled cruelty? They tell you to reduce you to obedience. Obedience to what? To their sovereign will and pleasure! And what then? Why, then you shall be pardoned, because you consent to be slaves. And why should you be slaves now, having been freemen ever since this country was settled? Because, forsooth, the King and Parliament of an island three thousand miles off, choose that you should be hewers of wood and drawers of water for them. And is this the people whose proud domination you are taught to solicit? Is this the peace which some of you so ardently desire? For shame! for shame!

But you are told that their armies are numerous, their fleet strong, their soldiers valiant, their resources great; that you will be conquered; that victory ever attends their standard; and therefore that your opposition is vain—your resistance fruitless. What then? You can but be slaves at last, if you should think life worth holding on so base a tenure.

But who is it that gives victory? By whom is a nation exalted? Since what period hath the race been always to the swift and the battle to the strong? Can you be persuaded that the merciful King of kings hath surrendered His crown and sceptre to the merciless tyrant of *Britain*, and committed the affairs of this lower world to his guidance, control and direction? We learned otherwise from our fathers; and God himself hath told us, that strength and numbers avail not against Him. Seek, then, to be at peace with Him; solicit His alliance, and fear not the boasted strength and power of your foes.

You may be told that your forts have been taken, your country ravaged, and that your armies have retreated, and therefore that God is not with you. It is true that some forts have been taken, that our country hath been ravaged, and that our Maker is displeased with us. But it is also true that the King of Heaven is not like the King of *Britain*, implac-

able. If His assistance be sincerely implored, it will surely be obtained. If we turn from our sins, He will turn from His anger. Then will our arms be crowned with success, and the pride and power of our enemies, like the arrogance and pride of *Nebuchadnezzar*, will vanish away. Let us do our duty, and victory will be our reward. Let a general reformation of manners take place; let no more widows and orphans, compelled to fly from their peaceful abodes, complain that you make a market of their distress, and take cruel advantage of their necessities; when your country is invaded and cries aloud for your aid, fly not to some secure corner of a neighbouring State, and remain idle spectators of her distress, but share in her fate, and manfully support her cause; let universal charity, publick spirit, and private virtue, be inculcated, encouraged and practised; unite in preparing for a vigorous defence of your country, as if all depended on your own exertions; and when you have done these things, then rely upon the good Providence of Almighty God for success, in full confidence, that without His blessing all our efforts will evidently fail.

A people moving on these solid principles never have, and never will be, subjugated by any tyrant whatever. Cease, then, to desire the flesh-pots of *Egypt*, and remember their taskmasters and oppressions. No longer hesitate about rejecting all dependence on a King, who will rule you only with a rod of iron. Tell those who blame you for declaring yourselves independent, that you have done no more than what your late King had done for you. That he declared you to be out of his protection. That he absolved you from all allegiance. That he made war upon you, and instead of your King he became your enemy and destroyer. By his consent, by his own act, you became independent of his Crown. If you are wise you will always continue so. Freedom is now in your power. Value the heavenly gift. Remember, if you dare to neglect or despise it, you offer an insult to the Divine Bestower. Nor despair of keeping it. Despair and despondency mark a little mind, and indicate a groveling spirit. After the armies of *Rome* had been repeatedly defeated by *Hannibal*, that Imperial City was besieged by this brave and experienced General, at the head of a numerous and victorious army. But so far was her glorious citizens from being dismayed by the loss of so many battles, and of all their country, so confident in their own virtues and the protection of Heaven, that the very land on which the *Carthagenians* were encamped was sold at publick auction for more than the usual price. Those heroick citizens disdained to receive his protections or to regard his proclamations. They remembered that their ancestors had left them free,—ancestors who had bled in rescuing their country from the tyranny of Kings. They invoked the protection of the Supreme Being. They bravely defended their city with undaunted resolution; they repelled the enemy, and recovered their country. Blush, then, ye degenerate spirits, who give all over for lost, because your enemies have marched through three or four Counties in this and a neighbouring State,—ye who basely fly, to have the yoke of slavery fixed upon your necks, and to swear that you and your children after you shall be slaves forever! Such men deserve to be slaves, and are fit only for beasts of burden to the rest of mankind. Happy would it be for *America* if they were removed away, instead of continuing in this country, to people it with a race of animals who, from their form, must be classed among the human species, but possess none of those qualities which render man more respectable than the brutes.

There never yet was a war in which victory and success did not some times change sides. In the present, nothing has happened either singular or decisive. Inquire dispassionately, and be not deceived by those artful tales which emissaries from the enemy so industriously circulate.

A powerful and well-disciplined army, supported by a respectable fleet, invade this country. They are opposed by an army which, though numerous and brave, is quite undisciplined. Notwithstanding this manifest disparity, they have never thought it prudent to give us battle, though they have often had the fairest opportunities. True it is, that taking advantage of that critical moment when our forces are almost disbanded, they have penetrated into *Jersey*, and marched a considerable distance without being attacked. If any are alarmed at this circumstance, let them consider that we do not fight for a few acres of land, but for freedom—for the freedom and happiness of millions yet unborn. Would it not be highly imprudent to risk such important events upon the issue of a general battle, when it is certain *Great Britain* cannot long continue the war, and by protracting it, we cannot fail of success? The *British* Ministry, sensible of this truth, and convinced that the people of *England* are aware of it, have promised that the present campaign shall be the last. They are greatly and justly alarmed at their situation. A country drained of men and money, the difficulties of supplying fleets and armies at so great a distance, the danger of domestick insurrections, the probability that *France* will take advantage of their defenceless condition, the ruin of their commerce by our privateers,—these are circumstances at which the boldest are dismayed. They are convinced that the people will not remain long content in such a dangerous situation; hence it is that they press so hard to make this campaign decisive; and hence it is that we should endeavour to avoid it. Even suppose that *Philadelphia*, which many believed to be of such great importance, suppose it was taken or abandoned, the conquest of *America* will still be at a great distance. Millions, determined to be free, still remain to be subdued—millions who disdain to part with their liberties, their consciences, and the happiness of their posterity in future ages, for infamous protections and dishonourable pardons.

But amidst all the terrour and dismay which have taken hold upon some weak minds, let us consider the advantage under which we prosecute the present war. Our country supplies us with every commodity which is necessary for life or defence. Arms and ammunition are now abundantly manufactured in almost all the *American* States, and our armies will be abundantly supplied with all military stores. We have more fighting men in *America* than *Britain* can possibly send. Our trade is free, and every port of *France* and *Spain* affords protection to our ships. Other nations, invited by the advantages of the commerce, will doubtless soon follow their example; and experience must convince the most incredulous that the *British* Navy cannot exclude us from the sea. If their armies have invaded, ravaged, and plundered our dominions and our people, have we not successfully attacked them on their boasted empire of the ocean? Have not our privateers brought into our ports of *America* *British* property to the amount of more than fifteen hundred thousand pounds? And do we not daily receive the most valuable cargoes from foreign countries, in spite of those fleets whose colours have waved in triumph over the globe? The article of salt, about which some of you have been uneasy, will soon be fully supplied. The shores of *America* are washed by the ocean for more than two thousand miles. Works for manufacturing salt have been erected and proved successful, and many cargoes of it are expected, and have arrived, in the neighbouring States. Provisions of every kind abound among us. From our plenteous stores *Great Britain* hath heretofore supplied her necessities, though she now most wantonly and ungratefully abuses the kind hand which hath ministered to her wants and alleviated her distress. As to clothing, the rapid increase of our manufacturers, and the supplies we obtain from abroad, quiet all fears upon that subject. By the most authentick intelligence from *Europe*, we are informed that the people of *France* are ripe for a war with *Britain*, and will not omit the present opportunity of extending their commerce, and humbling their rival. Every State in *Europe* beheld with a jealous eye the growing power of the *British* empire, and the additional strength she daily received from this amazing Continent; for they could not but perceive that their own security was diminished in proportion as her power to injure them increased. Whence is it, then, that some persons pretend to assure you that *France*, *Spain*, and the other *European* States, are not disposed to favour you? The wise and virtuous of all nations have pronounced our cause to be just, and approved the manner in which our resistance hath been conducted.

Whoever, therefore, considers the natural strength and advantage of this country, the distance it is removed from *Britain*, the obvious policy of many *European* Powers, the great supplies of arms and ammunition cheerfully afforded us by the *French* and *Spaniards*, and the feeble and destitute condition of *Britain*,—that she is drained of men and of money, obliged to hire foreign mercenaries for the execution of her wicked purposes; in arrears to her troops for a

twelvemonth's pay, which she cannot or will not discharge; her credit sunk; her trade ruined; her inhabitants divided; her King unpopular, and her Ministers execrated; that she is overwhelmed with a monstrous debt, cut off from the vast revenue heretofore obtained by taxes on *American* produce; her *West-India* Islands in a starving condition; her ships taken; her merchants involved in bankruptcy; her designs against us wicked, unjust, cruel, contrary to the laws of God and man, pursued with implacable, unrelenting vengeance, and in a manner barbarous and opposed to the usage of civilized nations;—whoever considers that we have humbly sought peace and been refused; that we have been denied even a hearing; all our petitions rejected; all our remonstrances disregarded; that we fight not for conquest but only for security; that our cause is the cause of God, of human nature and posterity;—whoever, we say, seriously considers these things, must entertain very improper ideas of the Divine justice to which we have appealed, and be very little acquainted with the course of human affairs, to harbour the smallest doubt of our being successful.

Remember the long and glorious struggle of the *United Netherlands* against the power of *Spain*, to which they had once been subjected. Their extent was small, their country poor, their people far from numerous, and unaccustomed to arms, and in the neighbourhood of their enemies. *Spain*, at that time the most powerful kingdom in *Europe*, her fleet formidable, her armies great, inured to war, and led by the best Generals of the age, and her Treasury overflowing with the wealth of *Mexico* and *Peru*—endeavoured to enslave them. They dutifully remonstrated against the design. Their petitions were treated with contempt, and fire and sword was carried into their country to compel submission. They nobly resolved to be free. They declared themselves to be independent States, and after an obstinate struggle, frustrated the wicked intentions of *Spain*.

*Switzerland* presents us with another instance of magnanimity. That country was oppressed by cruel tyrants, but the people refused to continue in bondage. With arms in their hands they expelled those tyrants, and left to their descendants the portion of freedom.

Even *England*, whose Genius now blushes for the degeneracy of her sons, hath afforded examples of opposition to tyranny which are worthy to be imitated by all nations. His sacred Majesty *Charles* the First, lost his head and his Crown by attempting to enslave his subjects; and his sacred Majesty *James* the Second, was for the same reason expelled the kingdom, with his whole family, and the Prince of *Orange* chosen King in his stead. The *English* were too wise to believe that the person of any tyrant could be sacred, and never suffered any man to wear the crown who attempted to exercise the powers of royalty to the destruction of the people from whom those powers were derived.

This practice is not only consistent with human reason, but perfectly consonant to the will and practice of God himself. You know that the *Jews* were under his peculiar direction, and you need not be informed of the many instances in which he took the crown from such of their Kings as refused to govern according to the laws of the *Jews*.

If, then, God hath given us freedom, are we responsible to him for that, as well as other talents? If it be our birthright, let us not sell it for a mess of pottage, nor suffer it to be torn from us by the hand of violence! If the means of defence are in our power and we do not make use of them, what excuse shall we make to our children and our Creator? These are questions of the deepest concern to us all. These are questions which materially affect our happiness, not only in this world but in the world to come. And surely, "if ever a test for the trial of spirits can be necessary, it is now. If ever those of liberty and faction ought to be distinguished from each other, it is now. If ever it is incumbent on the people to know truth and to follow it, it is now."

Rouse, therefore, brave Citizens! Do your duty like men! and be persuaded that Divine Providence will not permit this Western World to be involved in the horrours of slavery. Consider that, from the earliest ages of the world, Religion, Liberty, and Empire, have been bounding their course towards the setting sun. The Holy Gospels are yet to be preached to those western regions, and we have the highest reason to believe that the Almighty will not suffer Slavery and the Gospel to go hand in hand. It cannot, it will not be.

But if there be any among us dead to all sense of honour and love of their country; if deaf to all the calls of liberty, virtue, and religion; if forgetful of the magnanimity of their ancestors, and the happiness of their children; if neither the examples and success of other nations, the dictates of reason and of nature, or the great duties they owe to their God, themselves, and their posterity, have any effect upon them; if neither the injuries they have received, the prize they are contending for, the future blessings or curses of their children, the applause or reproach of all mankind, the approbation or displeasure of their Great Judge, or the happiness or misery consequent upon their conduct in this and a future state, can move them, then let them be assured that they deserve to be slaves, and are entitled to nothing but anguish and tribulation. Let them banish from their remembrance the reputation, the freedom and happiness, which they have inherited from their forefathers. Let them forget every duty, human and divine; remember not that they have children; and beware how they call to mind the justice of the Supreme Being. Let them go into captivity, like the idolatrous and disobedient *Jews*, and be a reproach and a by-word among the nations.

But we think better things of you. We believe, and are persuaded, that you will do your duty like men, and cheerfully refer your cause to the great and righteous Judge. If success crown your efforts, all the blessings of Freedom will be your reward. If you fail in the contest, you will be happy with God, and liberty in Heaven.

By the unanimous order of the Convention:

AB'M TEN BROECK, *President.*

Fishkill, December 23d, 1776.

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COLONEL VAN SCHAICK TO COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Albany, December 23, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I enclose the Committee a list of the officers in the First Battalion who have declined the service, &c.

I take the liberty to recommend to the notice of the Committee, in the room of those who have declined: for Lieutenants, *Nathaniel Henry*, *Guy Young*, and *Henry Defendorf*; for Ensigns, *Jonathan Brown*, *Bennet*, *Thomas Hicks*, *Jacob Ja. Klock*.

Several of the above gentlemen I have furnished with money, and immediately sent them on the recruiting service, in order that this most necessary business might not be delayed any longer.

In a former letter I recommended *Timothy Hughes* and *Francis Shaw*. Those gentlemen have since been provided for in Colonel *Livingston's* regiment.

I am, with perfect esteem, the Committee's most humble servant,

G. V. SCHAICK.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Middletown, in Connecticut, 23d December, 1776.

SIR: I am now to acquaint you that on the 3d instant I received intelligence from *New-London*, by express, that ten large ships of the enemy were then standing into that harbour. Orders were issued for the Militia of the country immediately to march for the defence of that place, who accordingly proceeded in great numbers. By the 5th instant the enemy's fleet was increased to upwards of eighty sail, many of which came down the *Sound* by *Hell-Gate*, and others round *Montauge Point*. On the 6th instant they got under sail, steering eastward, and before night left the harbour, which released our Militia from any further fatigue and service at that place.

Soon after the fleet left *New-London*, I received information from Governour *Cooke* by express, the enemy were arrived at *New-Port*, and some of their fleet standing up the bay towards *Providence*, with a pressing request to lend them immediate aid by the assistance of our Militia; which was complied with, and the Militia from the eastern parts of this State marched to *Providence*. I am now informed that the troops from the State of *Massachusetts*, this, and *Rhode-Island*, assembled at and near *Providence*, amount to eight or ten thousand men.

The enemy have landed at *New-Port*. Have not been able to ascertain their numbers. The accounts vary from four to eight thousand, including invalids.

In this situation of affairs received a request from the As-

sembly of *Rhode-Island*, to appoint a Committee from this State, to meet at *Providence*, with Committees from that State, *Massachusetts*, and *New-Hampshire*, to consult the expediency of raising an army for their more immediate defence. The present exigency was such we could not but comply with the request for immediate defence against the common enemy. Have accordingly appointed a Committee, to consult with the other States the necessary measures to be taken for our immediate safety, until such time as the Continental Congress can make such regulations for our defence against this part of the common enemy as they may judge necessary. A copy of their commissions you have herewith transmitted. I presume that under these circumstances, when the least delay in preparation for defence might be attended with fatal consequences, immediate self-preservation will not only excuse the procedure, but obtain the approbation of Congress thereon. It is necessary the certificates for the loan office should be hastened to Treasurer *Lawrence*, as soon as possible, and may be of special service to forward a suitable number of tickets in the State Lottery.

Permit me to remind you of the necessity of supplying the corps under General *Spencer* with a sufficient quantity of money, to pay off the premium to the soldiers who may inlist in the Continental Army, as I am informed he is wholly destitute. It is possible some money might be obtained for that purpose from the Loan Office in this State, in a short time after the necessary papers are received; but this mode may by no means be relied on with sufficient certainty to prevent the sending forward what sums may be obtained from your Treasurer.

I am, with great truth and regard, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JON. TRUMBULL.

President *Hancock*.

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At a General Assembly of the Governour and Company of the State of *Connecticut*, in *New-England*, in *America*, holden by adjournment at *Middletown*, in said State, upon the 18th day of *December*, Anno Domini 1776:

Whereas, a large body of troops of the *British* Army, defended by a strong fleet, have taken possession of the Island of *Rhode-Island*, and threaten an invasion of some of the adjoining States of *New-England:* And whereas, the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* and the State of *Rhode-Island* have proposed that Committees from the States of *New-England* meet at *Providence*, in the State of *Rhode-Island*, as soon as may be, to consult for their immediate defence and safety: And whereas, from the operations of war in *New-York* and *New-Jersey*, a free communication with the Congress is in some measure interrupted, and the General and Army of the *United States* are employed in their defence against the common enemy:

*Resolved by this Assembly*, That *Eliphalet Dyer*, *Richard Law*, *Nathaniel Wales*, Jun., and *Titus Hosmer*, Esquires, be, and are appointed, a Committee on behalf of this State, to meet the Committees of the other States of *New-England*, at *Providence*, in the State of *Rhode-Island*, or at any other place where they may convene, on the 23d day of *December*, instant, or as soon as may be, and consult with them of the expedience of raising and appointing an Army for the more immediate defence of the *New-England* States against the threatened invasion, as well as for the more general defence in the common cause, and of such regulations as may be necessary to support the credit of our currencies to prevent oppressing the soldiery and inhabitants by extravagant prices, and in general of every measure to expedite the raising and appointing an army, or necessary for common defence; and to make report to this Assembly, or in the recess thereof, to his Honour the Governour and Council of Safety, of whatever they may judge fit to be done, for approbation; and that suitable measures may be pursued thereon, until the whole subject-matter can be laid before the honourable Congress of the *United States of America*, measures taken, and directions given by them thereon.

A true copy of record:

Examined by GEORGE WYLLYS, *Secretary*.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Middletown, December 23d, 1776.

SIR: I am honoured with your favour of the 12th instant. It gives me great satisfaction to find that the plan we have adopted for supplying the new Army with necessaries meets with your approbation.

I fully agree with you in sentiment as to the importance of having a sufficient regular force in the spring. Am informed the inlistments for that purpose in the corps under General *Spencer* is in danger of being retarded for want of money to advance the premium for inlisting, of which he is wholly destitute in his present department. Hope the speediest measures may be taken to supply this defect, and have mentioned the subject to Congress in my letter of this date, as I fear the consequences of a delay.

Your Excellency is doubtless informed that a part of the enemy's fleet and army are gone to the eastward. They lay before *New-London* several days, which occasioned many of our Militia to assemble at that town. The enemy have since landed and taken possession of *Rhode-Island*. Their fleet consists of upwards of eighty sail. The account of the number of their troops varies from four to eight thousand, including invalids. The Militia that are assembled at and near *Providence*, from the neighbouring States, are said to be about ten thousand. The future movements of the enemy on this side the *North River* cannot be foreknown; however, I shall endeavour to comply with your proposal in the disposition of the four regiments to be raised till the 15th *March*.

Our Assembly is now sitting, and there appears some probability that a considerable number of troops from this State will set forward for your assistance, but as the measures proposed for that purpose are in embryo, I cannot give any certain encouragement; but should the measures succeed, will give you the earliest intelligence, that suitable provisions may be made for them.

I am, with great truth and sincerity, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JONTH. TRUMBULL.

To his Excellency *George Washington*, Esq., General and Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the *United States of America*, at Head-Quarters.

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PETITION OF ISAAC CORSA.

*To the Honourable* JONATHAN TRUMBULL, *Esq., Governour and Commander-in-Chief of the State of* CONNECTICUT.

*The Petition of* ISAAC CORSA, *of the City of* NEW-YORK, *humbly sheweth:*

That your Honour's petitioner has been informed that the reason of his being refused leave to return to his family was owing to his behaviour on the night of the 30th ultimo. He begs leave to represent to your Honour, that he did not insult the civil authority or the guard in any shape, and refers to those gentlemen who were on duty that night for the truth of his assertion. Mr. *Walton* and your petitioner were set at liberty at the same moment, upon declaring that the guard had only done their duty in stopping them at that hour. Your Honour's petitioner, during the whole time of his confinement, has endeavoured to avoid giving even a shadow of offence. Had he acted otherwise, he must have been very ungrateful, having experienced on every occasion your Honour's indulgence and lenity, as well as that of the civil authority. Your petitioner, therefore, humbly hopes your Honour will indulge him with liberty of visiting his family, (which is in a most disagreeable situation,) under the same restrictions as the rest of the prisoners.

And your petitioner will ever pray. ISAAC CORSA.

Middletown, December 23d, 1776.

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PAROLE OF ISAAC CORSA AND OTHERS.

Whereas we, the subscribers, of the City and Province of *New-York*, have for some time past resided at *Middletown*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being apprehended and sent thither by his Excellency General *Washington*, as persons suspected of disaffection to the *United States of America;* and whereas, upon our application, his Honour *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of said State of *Connecticut*, hath permitted us to return to our families in the Province of *New-York*, and reside there until otherwise ordered: We do hereby pledge our faith and word of honour to said Governour *Trumbull*, that we will neither bear arms, nor excite or encourage others to bear arms against this or any of the *United States of America*, and that we will not say

or do any thing in prejudice of the interest or measures of this or any of the said *United States of America*; that we will give no intelligence to the enemies of said States, of any of the councils, operations of war, or other the transactions of this or any of said States; and that we will return to any place in this State when required by his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, the General Assembly of *Connecticut*, or his Excellency the General of the Armies of the said *United States* for the time being.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands, this 26th day of *December*, 1776.

ISAAC CORSA,
ROBT. R. WADDELL,
SAMUEL BURLING.

PAROLE OF HUGH WALLACE AND OTHERS.

Whereas we, *Hugh Wallace*, *Frederick Phillips*, *James Jauncey*, and *James Jauncey*, Jun., Esqs., and *Gerard Walton*, *William Jauncey*, and *John Miller*, all of the City and Province of *New-York*, have for some time past resided at *Middletown*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being apprehended and sent thither by his Excellency General *Washington*, as suspected of disaffection to the *United States of America*; and whereas, upon our application, his Honour *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of said State of *Connecticut*, hath permitted us to return to our families in *New-York*, and reside there till otherwise ordered: We do hereby pledge our faith and word of honour to the said Governour *Trumbull*, that we will neither bear arms, nor excite or encourage others to be in arms against this or any of the *United States of America*; and that we will not do or say any thing in prejudice of the interest or measures of this or any of the said *United States*; that we will give no intelligence to the enemies of said States of any of the counsels, operations of war, or other transactions of this or any of said States; and that we will return to any place in this State when required by his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, the General Assembly of *Connecticut*, or his Excellency the General of the Armies of the said *United States* for the time being.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands, this 23d day of *December*, A. D. 1776.

HUGH WALLACE, GERARD WALTON,
FRED. PHILLIPS, WILLIAM JAUNCEY,
JAS. JAUNCEY, JOHN MILLER.
JAS. JAUNCEY, Jun.,

PAROLE OF JOHN MUNRO.

Whereas I, *John Munro*, of *Cambridge* District, in the County of *Albany*, and State of *New-York*, Esq., have for some time past resided at *East-Haddom*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being apprehended and sent thither by the General Committee for the City and County of *Albany*; and whereas, upon my application, his Honour *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of said State of *Connecticut*, hath permitted me to return to my family in *Cambridge* aforesaid, and reside there till the first day of *March* next: I do hereby pledge my faith, word, and honour, to said Governour *Trumbull*, that I will neither bear arms, nor excite or encourage others to bear arms, against this or any of the *United States of America*, and that I will not do or say any thing in prejudice of the interest or measures of this or any of said *United States*; that I will give no intelligence to the enemies of said States of any of the counsels, operations of war, or other the transactions of this or any of said States; and that I will return to any place in this State after the first of *March* aforesaid, which his said Honour Governour *Trumbull* may be pleased to direct for my confinement or residence.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 23d day of *December*, A. D. 1776.

JOHN MUNRO.

J. N. VARNUM TO GENERAL LEE.

Providence, 23d December, 1776.

SIR: I have but one moment to inform you that the enemy, between five and six thousand men, are in possession of *Rhode-Island*. Their menaces are directed against *Providence*; but as the *New-England* States are forming a plan for its effectual security, the enemy must, I think, desist from their plan.

The immense prize-ship has just arrived at *New-Bedford*, which occasions my immediate departure into that quarter, to prevent any manœuvres of General *Clinton* to retake it. This makes it impossible for me to give you a full account.

The State have honoured me with the command of their troops.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

J. N. VARNUM.

To General *Lee*.

GENERAL LINCOLN TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Providence, December 23, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: We have now certain intelligence that the ship with clothing, taken by the *Alfred*, is arrived at *Bedford*. Some troops will be forwarded from *Howland's* Ferry as a guard, and to aid in unloading her. Her cargo is of so much importance to the *United States*, and the loss of it so great a disappointment to our enemies, that it is the opinion of some here that they will run every hazard yet to take possession of her. As the Militia from the County of *Plymouth* have been permitted to return home, is not this valuable ship an object so worthy our attention as to make it expedient for a part of them once more, for a few days, to go into camp? and will it not be necessary to give orders to some wise, prudent, and expeditious officers, to impress all the teams in the neighbourhood of *Bedford*, if they cannot otherwise be procured, to assist in removing the cargo to some inland town? This State applied to me to impress teams in our State for this purpose; I declined, as well from an aversion I have that the military should ever invade the province of the civil authority, as from knowing that it was justly detested in the State of the *Massachusetts*, as being in every respect unsafe and impolitick. I satisfied the Board by informing them what had been the mode in our State, and yet I would write to the Council on the matter, which, I hope, will apologize for me, if any should think I have departed from my line in the foregoing observations.

I most ardently wish for the advice of the General Court. I am instructed to give aid to this State, or to march the troops towards *York*, as the general service may require. I am at a loss to know, under the present state of affairs, what will best promote the general good.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

B. LINCOLN.

GENERAL GODFREY TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

Tiverton, in the State of Rhode-Island, December 23, 1776.

SIR: Your letter of the 17th is come to hand, wherein I am informed of your care in ordering provisions and warlike stores for the supply of the *Massachusetts* forces now near the State of *Rhode-Island*. The latter has been distributed by Major *Thompson*, as per his receipts received. The former, I am informed, is at *Providence*, which is distant from my encampment. As to the number of Militia round *Rhode-Island*, belonging to this State, I suppose about one thousand, as I cannot receive a just return. The report now prevailing is, the enemy in *Newport* consists of four or five thousand, chiefly *Hessians*, and now employed in carting straw on board their vessels and taking accounts of the sugars upon the island, for what purpose is uncertain. The embarrassment for a dismission of the Militia is very great. Hope I shall soon receive orders for that purpose.

In great haste, I am your Honour's most humble servant,

GEORGE GODFREY.

To *Samuel Phips Savage*, Esq., President Board of War.

GENERAL WARD TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 24th February: Referred to the Board of War.]

Boston, December 23, 1776.

SIR: Having been informed the Army were in distress for want of clothing, and there being a quantity on board a prize lately brought into this port by Captains *Skimmer* and *Tucker*, in the service of the *United States*, I have forwarded to the Army at or near *New-York* the several articles contained in the enclosed invoice. I should have had them appraised before they were forwarded, but found they could not be without the State's suffering thereby; therefore

they were forwarded to the Quartermaster-General, with a desire that he would have them appraised before they were made use of, which I hope will be agreeable to Congress.

Mr. *Faneuil* will deliver this letter to you. He is a *French* gentleman, and the author of the plan of a regiment, which was forwarded to Congress by the General Assembly of this State some time since; and I beg leave to introduce him to you and the honourable Congress.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD.

Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Congress.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO COMMISSARY NEWMAN.

War Office, Boston, December 23d, 1776.

SIR: Your letter of 21st just now came to hand. Agreeable to your request, the Board will as soon as possible appoint a Commissary, until which you will pursue the business in the best manner in your power.

By order of the Board.

SAM'L SWAN, *Secretary p. t.*

Mr. *Henry Newman.*

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE.

War Office, Boston, December 23d, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The Board of War for the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, having it in command, among other things, to procure a quantity of flour and iron, have taken the liberty to enclose you invoice and bill lading of six hogsheads of sugar and four hogsheads of rum, which wish safe to your hands. You will dispose of the rum and sugar for the most you can obtain, and despatch the schooner back with a full load of common flour, with the addition of four tons of pig iron and two tons of bar iron.

This vessel, the Board propose shall be followed by several others under the like address, probably one or more of them large vessels, for *Europe*, not doubting, from your well-known established character, that you will exert yourselves to give them all possible despatch.

I am, gentlemen, by order of the Board, your most humble servant,

S. P. SAVAGE, *Pres't p. t.*

Messrs. *Samuel* and *Robert Purviance*, *Baltimore.*

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JOSEPH DIMUIK TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Dated at Falmouth, December ye 23, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: You may remember that you gave orders for raising two companies, to be stationed on *Nashaun*. The Captains have both been with me since I returned, and say they cannot inlist any men, by reason of the wages being so low. I have been endeavouring to forward the matter, but find that to be the universal complaint. If your Honours are pleased to give any further orders about the matter, I shall endeavour to conduct agreeable thereto.

I am yours to serve,

JOSEPH DIMUIK.

To the honourable the Council of the State of the *Massachusetts-Bay.*

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"PERSEVERANCE" ON THE PROBABILITY OF SUCCEEDING IN THE WAR.

I have been surprised that, among such a number of declamatory pieces as have appeared in the publick papers on the justice of the war, and the barbarity of our enemies, there has been a total silence on the probability of succeeding in it. The right of taking up arms—the wickedness of the Ministry—reflections on the Tories, and the like, have become common-place subjects, too trite even to inflame the passions of the vulgar. I would wish, if we have any able pens left, that they would drop these exhausted themes, and instead of them examine the operations of the war.

It is to be hoped, for the honour of the country, that no friend to its liberties thinks of submitting; though some may be discouraged at General *Howe's* late successes. Such may dismiss their fears when they consider and compare the situation and advantages of the two armies. The *British* forces amounting to forty-four regular regiments, (with near eighteen thousand foreign troops,) upwards of thirty thousand of which are said to be under General *Howe*. General *Washington's* army are supposed rather to have exceeded that number, though not much, through the whole campaign, consisting, for the most part, of new-raised, undisciplined Militia.

A large body of the troops were posted on the *Jersey* side, another in the city of *New-York*, and a third on *Long-Island*. The shipping, by passing up the *North River*, interrupted the communication between the *Jersey* shore and *York*, and made movements to obstruct the passage over to *Long-Island*. Thus our Army became divided into three separate bodies, each of which were in danger of being obliged to oppose the whole force of the enemy, though but one third as numerous. General *Howe* had no occasion to divide his forces—had no rivers nor shores to guard; accordingly he bent his whole force upon *Long-Island*. Had General *Washington* reinforced the Army there to a number sufficient to withstand them, *York* and the *Jersey* shore must have been nearly evacuated. This would have answered all the purposes of the enemy, as *York*, and not *Long-Island*, was their object. Or had a general action taken place upon the Island, a defeat would have been ruinous, past redemption, as there was no room for our retreat; and a victory could have been of little consequence to us, as their shipping would have protected them from pursuit.

The motions of the Navy plainly evinced their design of cutting off the supplies and retreat of our Army. Under these circumstances, envy itself must confess that General *Washington*, in evacuating *Long-Island*, was directed by a consummate prudence; unwilling to risk all on the event of a single action.

The evacuation of *York* was a natural and necessary consequence, being commanded by *Long-Island*. The action on the Island was by no means general, but only of the advanced guard of our Army against great odds. From this skirmish may be gathered the most convincing indications of the natural bravery of our men, and the necessity of severe discipline. Neither *York* nor *Long-Island* are of any consequence in a military view. Even the provisions of the latter were mostly bought and carried off before its evacuation. The remainder is not much more than sufficient for the support of the inhabitants, which General *Howe* is too politick to deprive them of. Their subsequent acquisitions are of still less consequence, and plainly the result of General *Washington's* defensive system of war. It is said the stores of *Fort Washington* were chiefly removed before it was taken; and we have plenty of prisoners to exchange for the men.

In our condition, a defensive war is more prudent than an offensive one. Their army must waste away every campaign, by sickness, by skirmishes, through fatigue and hardship, and by the badness and scarcity of provisions. They can neither be recruited nor provided but from a great distance, and at an immense cost. Their whole hope of success depends upon frequent, signal, and decisive victories, which they have hoped to gain before our Army is disciplined. The expense of feeding and paying great fleets and armies at such a distance is too enormous for any nation upon earth to bear for a great while. Add to this the exhausted state of their revenue, which greatly depended on the *American* trade, now wholly stopped, and we may conclude, that their hope of conquest depends upon their speed. Our army is maintained at one fifth part the expense of theirs. The single article of transport hire would maintain it. It is said ninety thousand tons of shipping are employed in their service constantly, at thirteen shillings and four pence a ton per month. I am persuaded our resources for war are likely to hold out longer than theirs. Of men and provisions we have a plenty. Our warlike stores increase every day. Cannon we can cast at pleasure, and powder we manufacture faster than we consume it. The whole expense of the war is centered among ourselves, not contracted with foreigners, like the debt of *Britain*.

The stoppage of our trade stops our luxuries, and makes new manufactures necessary and practicable. Our armed vessels bring in valuable cargoes constantly, by which the Continent is enriched to an amazing amount; and that it is probable we are richer than we were in the beginning of the war.

With these inexhaustible and increasing resources, why should we be discouraged? When our soldiers are inlisted

for the war, discipline must daily increase, and they will doubtless soon equal the regular troops. Our army can easily be recruited after a defeat, while our enemies must cross the *Atlantick* to repair any misfortune. In every action, they have undoubtedly lost the most men, which is owing to the indisputable superiority of our fire, which, though made with less regularity is directed with a better aim than theirs.

The world must have a poor idea of our spirit, if we suffer it to fall on this first call for its exertion. Have we felt a tenth part of the hardships the States of *Holland* suffered? Or does our case look half so difficult? They were weak, divided, and near their enemy, and indeed without any of the advantages we possess, who are numerous, united, and at a distance from our foes.

After a succession of splendid victories obtained over *France* by the Duke of *Marlborough*, in each of which more men were slain than in the whole of this war, still that kingdom made a formidable resistance, and procured an honourable peace. States are not conquered by victories, but by the less noted operation of selfishness and dissension.

Never, in the annals of history, has the persevering courage of an united people been conquered.

From these reasons, I will venture to advance it as a prophetick maxim, that *America* will never be conquered by any other foes than her own want of perseverance, spirit, and virtue.

PERSEVERANCE.

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SAMUEL CHASE TO GENERAL SULLIVAN.

Annapolis, December 24, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I thank you for your letter of the 12th *November*, which I received a few days before the Congress left *Philadelphia*. I shall with pleasure continue our former correspondence, and wish it was in my power to communicate to you any thing worthy of your notice. Our intelligence from our Army will be sooner known to you than to Congress, and I wish you could drop me a line to gratify my anxiety and to stop false reports.

I perfectly agree with you as to the impropriety of our military system. The several States will forever be influenced by local attachments. I am convinced the nomination to office will, in many instances, be very injudicious. If we expect to succeed in the present war, we must change our mode of conduct. The business of the Congress must be placed in different hands. Distinct and precise departments ought to be established. A gentleman of the military must be of the Board of War.

Our advices from *Paris* are flattering. I hope *America* will never submit to the tyrant of *Britain*. I declare, as an individual, I would rather become a subject of *France;* but I am afraid all my countrymen are not of my stubborn temper. The sullen, unrelenting monarch of *Britain* should never lord it over me. I despise, I hate, and wish to destroy him and all such tyrants. I forbear to add. I feel my indignation to rise. Farewell.

Your affectionate and obedient servant,

SAM'L CHASE.

The Hon. *John Sullivan*, Esq., Major-General of the Continental Army.

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SAMUEL CHASE TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Strawberry Mount, December 24th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I believe the account now delivered you is just. Mr. *Stone* ordered the clothes for Captain *Watkins's* company, and I should have paid the debt if I had been furnished with the cash.

Your obedient servant, S. CHASE.

The honourable the Council of Safety.

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THOMAS JOHNSON, JUN., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Frederick-Town, 24th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I enclose you a resignation of Mr. *Azel Waters*, as Quartermaster in Colonel *James Johnson's* battalion. Mr. *Richard Butler*, whom I think a very good man, is desired to be commissioned in his stead. You have, too, a letter and its enclosure, I received this afternoon from Colonels *Bruce* and *Blair*. I hope the returns you have before you will supply the omission of some of the General's hands; if not, I really do not know what can be done, unless you can trust the Committee or me to fill up the hands of such as you may be at a loss for. I shall write to Colonel *Bruce*, informing him of the omission, and desiring him to write to you; but to prevent delay, I had much rather receive the commissions, if they can issue.

I had no suspicion that the Militia commissions in this and *Washington* County were in such disorder. This morning Captain *Brosslur*, of the new battalion, came to town on purpose to tell me that none of the officers of his company, nor, as he believed, of any other company of that battalion, had yet received a commission. I went to the minutes of the Committee, and on a long search, could only find five companies had been returned. I shall enclose in this a certificate as to them, for fear if any return was ever made to the Council, which I doubt, it may have been mislaid. I very much wish I could get up commissions for all the gentlemen who are entitled to them.

I imagined from what passed in the Committee last night, they would have sent off an express this morning to have known for a certainty whether the Militia could have had any supply of blankets, &c., from the Council of Safety; but this morning, on my several friends mentioning it, the gentlemen seemed disinclined to it, presuming you would not furnish them. They were never wanted more than by those who now offer to turn out, and I cannot forbear repeating my former request, that if you possibly can, you will forward shoes, stockings, and blankets, especially the latter, to *Taney-Town*, or this place. I understand part of our arms were left at *Philadelphia*, to be removed some distance from thence. Will you be pleased to send orders for the delivery of them to our people?

The Committee, as I wrote you, resolved the Militia ought generally to march, and the humour seems to be that all ought to march. It will, if any thing general, leave the country rather too naked. I should have liked better that about one half were to march, but I do not know that it was possible to contrive it so.

I have hired the bearer on purpose to carry this, and bring your answer. I wish him not to be detained.

I am, sirs, your most obedient servant,

TH. JOHNSON, JUN.

The honourable Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

25th.—Colonel *Beatty's* battalion met to-day. They march on *Saturday*. *B. Johnson's* battalion also met to-day. They march, I believe, on *Monday*. I enclose you a list for commissions in *James Johnson's* battalion. Please also to send a commission for *Carleton Tannyhill*, in the room of , who has not lately attended his company; nor do I believe his company would allow him. This company is in *Baker Johnson's* battalion. I believe, if you think it proper, the Militia of this County will be pretty generally pleased at going under me. Therefore, unless the Militia from any of the other Counties will be much dissatisfied, I think you had better give me orders.

Your obedient, &c., T. J.

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BALTIMORE COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Baltimore, 24th December, 1776.

HONOURABLE SIR: Your letter of the 9th instant, conveying a resolve of this date, being by some unlucky accident delayed, and not coming to hand till ten days after, on the first meeting of Committee on yesterday it was laid before them, and they have deputed us to inform you that they are not vested with any authority over the Militia, and consequently cannot assume the power of ordering them into service, the Council of Safety only being possessed of that power. The Committee of *Baltimore* are always ready and willing to render the honourable Congress any service within the circle of their jurisdiction, which is indeed very limited.

The present emergency of removing the publick stores to this town, and the necessity of an immediate guard, being represented to Captain *Nath'l Smith* and Captain *Furnival*, of the Artillery companies of this State, and Captain *Cox*, of the Militia, they have readily undertaken to give every assistance in their power; and Captain *Smith*, as commanding officer, has regulated the guard accordingly at the publick

stores, the treasury, the gaol, and over the *Jersey* prisoners; but it being too fatiguing to the soldiers to continue such hard service, when their other duty requires their attention, we have applied to the commanding officer of our Militia to supply the necessary guards, agreeable to your requisition of yesterday, which he has very readily consented to do for the present. But we beg leave to represent to you, that as the guard is numerous and our Militia companies in town very thin, it is attended with peculiar inconveniences, as it takes off many tradesmen from their occupations at a time when the publick are wanting their work, and therefore, the sooner a proper military guard can be got it will give more satisfaction, as well as be much less expensive. Our Committee have been informed by Mr. *Benjamin Griffith*, that the room in the gaol for the reception of the prisoners is now repaired, and made comfortable; that he has procured provisions and fire-wood, but that blankets cannot be obtained, and therefore hope the honourable Congress will furnish them from the publick stores. The Committee are looking for proper houses to accommodate the prisoners, if they can be procured that are sufficient, which they much doubt. They have also appointed Mr. *John Griffith* to the care of the Hospital, and request that a sum of money may be put in his hands for that purpose.

We are, with great respect, honourable sir, your most obedient servant,

William Lux, And. Buchanan,
Samuel Purviance, Jun., Jno. Smith.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Congress.

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### WILLIAM WHIPPLE TO JOHN LANGDON.

Baltimore, 24th December, 1776.

My dear Sir: My last from *Philadelphia* I think was a day or two before Congress adjourned from that place, which was the 11th instant. They met here the 20th, and are now doing business with spirit. The near approach of the enemy to that city struck such a panick in all orders of people there, except Tories, (of which you know there are not a small number,) that the contagion seized the nerves of some members of C——, which caused a removal to this place, which I assure you was much against my inclination; however, I hope it's all for the best. The main body of the enemy advanced as far as *Trenton*, and a party of five hundred to one thousand visited *Burlington*. Whether any of them remain at the last-mentioned place, we have not had any late accounts; but by the last account they remained at *Trenton*, and at some places farther up the river. Our Army, by the loss at *Fort Washington* and the expiration of inlistments, were reduced to a handful, by no means sufficient to make a stand against the enemy before they reached the *Delaware*. General *Washington* was there joined by some Militia from *Philadelphia*. His Army is daily increased by Militia, besides he has lately been joined by the division lately commanded by General *Lee*, also by a body of troops from *Ticonderoga*, under command of General *Gates*; so that they are now pretty strong, and I think (if they have got rid of the panick that seized them at the time they lost *Fort Washington*) they may still give a good account of *Howe's* Army, and be amply revenged for the brutal cruelties, and worse than savage ravages, committed by those infernal instruments of tyranny. For the consolation of the Tories, these barbarians reek their vengeance indiscriminately on Whig and Tory. Notwithstanding all this, some are so infatuated as to go and sue for pardon, among which are three of the *Allens*, viz: *Andrew*, *John*, and *William*. Thus, as far as my hand will permit me, I have given you a state of the Army in this quarter.

I should be very happy if I could hear the levies for the new Army were completed in the Eastern States. I expect there will be a still further requisition. It is absolutely necessary that we should have a very formidable Army in the field immediately. I hope every friend of *America* in the several States will forward this business with every possible exertion.

The accounts from *France*, which are down to *October*, are very favourable. I wish, for the consolation of my friends, I was at liberty to communicate them, but circumstances will not admit of it; but I can say thus much, in the words of a correspondent, "A general war in *Europe* seems unavoidable." A vessel is arrived at *Philadelphia* with about one thousand stand of arms, a considerable parcel of blankets and other woolens, and other valuable articles.

We have not had a Marine Board since we arrived here, nor have I been able to get the dimensions of the ship that is to be built in *N. H.*, but I hope the business of collecting timber, &c., is going on. So soon as the Committee meets, I intend to procure orders for two or three small vessels, say of sixty or eighty tons, to be sent here for iron; they can take in iron sufficient to ballast them, and fill up with flour. I am in no doubt of obtaining this order, therefore wish you would procure those vessels immediately. Many articles may be sent here that would pay a good freight, of which I shall furnish you with a list in my next. Iron and flour may be had here much cheaper than at *Philadelphia*.

I am, with every sentiment of esteem, your most obedient servant,

Wm. Whipple.

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### PETITION FROM THOMAS SLATER.

[Read December 26, 1776.]

Baltimore, December 24, 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen: Your petitioner was taken in *Delaware* river, in *May* last, by Captain *Alexander*, in the Continental armed schooner *Wasp*, and confined in *Philadelphia* State-prison till removed to this town; which I would now take the liberty to beg that your Honours would grant me the indulgence of a parole. If admitted, I will strictly comply with, and I flatter myself that I can give security for my performance if required. This shall be esteemed as a particular favour by your most obedient, humble servant,

Thos. Slater.

To the honourable Continental Congress.

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### DONALD M'LEOD AND OTHERS, PRISONERS, TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read December 26th, 1776.]

From the Jail of Baltimore, December 24th, 1776.

Gentlemen: We are sensible of the obligation your *Carolina* prisoners are under, by your passing a late resolve in their favour, in consequence of which they are to be supplied with the necessaries of life and to be removed to a more comfortable habitation; and being of the number of said prisoners, we beg leave to offer you our hearty thanks for your good and humane intentions; but being on a different footing with the other prisoners from *North-Carolina*, we think it our duty to inform you that we are appointed officers in the King's Regular Army, consequently cannot come under any restrictions or engagements but such as are usual among people in that character. We, therefore, expect a parole on the same terms that has been granted by you to others of the King's officers, and a chance of exchange for officers of the same rank, which we doubt not will be sent for us if applied for. In your adherence to justice, we have hopes that so reasonable a request will be granted.

We are, gentlemen, your most humble servants,

Don'd McLeod,
Alex'r McLeod,
Kenneth McDonald.

To the President and other Members of the honourable Continental Congress in *Baltimore*.

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### ROBERT MORRIS TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.

Philadelphia, December 24th, 1776.

Sir: I received two or three weeks past your favour respecting the obligation given by Mr. *Van Bibber* and Mr. *Harrison*, to a Captain *Prole*, (I think his name is, for my papers are out of town and your letter with them,) and both before and after the receipt of that letter I took much pains to persuade him to receive the money; but this he positively refused to do. He only sought here after an additional security, as he had the option of demanding payment here or in the *West-Indies*.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

Robt. Morris.

To *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, Esq., President of the Council of Safety, *Maryland*.

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ADDRESS OF PENNSYLVANIA ASSEMBLY.

In Assembly, December 24, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the following Address to the Inhabitants of *Pennsylvania*, be forthwith printed, and sent to the several Counties of this State:

FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN: It is much easier for you to conceive, than for us to describe, the evils consequent on the invasion of a country by a rapacious and plundering soldiery. Such is now the situation of the neighbouring State of *New-Jersey*, and such soon will be ours, unless the enemy, who have taken advantage of the accidental weakness of our Army to make a winter campaign, are repelled by the strongest and most immediate exertions.

Every species of ravage and calamity have already marked the footsteps of our enemy, and they are now within a few miles of your Metropolis, waiting to cross the *Delaware*, to glut their inordinate lust of rapine and desolation, in the plunder of that rich and populous city. The most insensible cannot but perceive the shock our common cause must suffer, if this unfortunate event should take place. Every one must be awake to the misery that must in this case attend every individual of this country. The love of ease, we hope, cannot so far prevail on you as to keep you from the field at this critical and alarming time. We speak to a people that a few months ago would with eagerness have flown to arms at the first appearance of their country's danger. We know the value you have ever set on liberty, that best gift of God; with the maintenance of liberty is now connected your personal happiness, and every dear and valuable blessing—the chastity of the wives of your bosom, your daughters, which else may be violated by a brutal soldiery. But it is not a temporary evil only that is to be suffered should our enemy prevail: the power of "binding us in all cases whatsoever," claimed by a *British* Parliament, is to reach your posterity, and to rivet chains upon them forever. You once seemed sensible of this, and were determined to die rather than submit. The same grounds of dispute remain between *Great Britain* and us; the same spirit and determination should also still remain.

We are not insensible to the fatigues and hardships of those who engage in a winter's campaign, but we hope and believe this call on the Militia will be the last; the Continental Army will shortly be more formidable than ever, and, as once before, will again, by God's blessing, give a favourable turn to our affairs; but if a fatal necessity should again require your exertions, it is now, and will be, the business of your Representatives in this House to fix, as soon as possible, the Military establishment of the State upon such just and equitable principles as will make the common duty of defence a common and equal burthen to all its inhabitants.

Extract from the Minutes.

JOSIAH CRAWFORD, *Clerk pro tem.*

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RICHARD DALLAM TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

New-Town, December 24th, 1776.

SIR: The time of the Flying-Camp will be up in a few days, for which department I was at first particularly appointed. As I expect they will immediately go off for *Philadelphia* and apply for their pay to the Treasurer, I think it necessary I should be there to settle their accounts, as sums of money have been paid on account to many of the officers and men. I think it my duty to mention this to your Excellency, because those that were discharged on first *December* applied to Congress for payment, and received orders on the Paymaster there, although they had received large sums of money before, which is like to cause a confusion in our accounts that we shall not easily settle. I have on hand one hundred and sixty thousand dollars. As about fifty thousand will do for my department, if your Excellency thinks proper I should go to *Philadelphia*, I can leave the remainder with Colonel *Palfrey*, the Paymaster-General.

I am, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

RICHARD DALLAM,
*Deputy Paymaster-General.*

To his Excellency General *Washington*, at Head-Quarters.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Camp, above Trenton-Falls, December 24, 1776.

SIR: That I should dwell upon the subject of our distresses, cannot be more disagreeable to Congress than it is painful to myself. The alarming situation to which our affairs are reduced, impels me to the measure. Inquiry and investigation, which in most cases serve to develope and point out a remedy, in ours present more and greater difficulties. Till of late, I was led to hope, from report, that no inconsiderable part of the troops composing the regiments that were with General *Lee*, and those from *Ticonderoga* under General *Gates*, had inlisted again. This intelligence, I confess, gave me reason to expect that I should have, at the expiration of the present year, a force somewhat more respectable than what I find will be the case.

Having examined into the state of those regiments, I am authorized to say from the information of their officers, that but very few of the men have inlisted. Those who have, are of the troops from *Ticonderoga*, and were permitted to visit their friends and homes, as part of the terms on which they would reengage. In respect to those who marched with General *Lee*, I cannot learn that any have. Their refusal, I am told, has not proceeded more from an aversion to the service, or any fixed determination not to engage again, than from their wishes to return home. The non-appointment of officers in some instances, the turning out of good and appointing of bad in others, and the incomplete, or rather no arrangement of them,—a work unhappily committed to the management of their States. Nor have I the most distant prospect of retaining them a moment longer than the last of this instant, notwithstanding the most pressing solicitations and the obvious necessity for it. By the departure of these regiments, I shall be left with five from *Virginia*, *Smallwood's* from *Maryland*, a small part of *Rawlins's*, *Hand's* from *Pennsylvania*, part of *Ward's* from *Connecticut*, and the *German* Battalion, amounting in the whole at this time from fourteen to fifteen hundred effective men. This handful, and such Militia as may choose to join me, will then compose our Army.

When I reflect upon these things they fill me with much concern, knowing that General *Howe* has a number of troops cantoned in the towns bordering on and near the *Delaware*, his intentions to pass as soon as the ice is sufficiently formed, to invade *Pennsylvania*, and to possess himself of *Philadelphia*, if possible. To guard against his designs, and the execution of them, shall employ my every exertion; but how is this to be done? As yet but few Militia have gone to *Philadelphia*, and they are to be our support at this alarming crisis. Had I entertained a doubt of General *Howe's* intentions to pass the *Delaware* on the dissolution of our Army, and as soon as the ice is made, it would now be done away. An intercepted letter from a gentleman of *Philadelphia*, who has joined the enemy, to his friend and partner in the city, declares that to be their design; that the Army would be there in ten or twenty days from the 16th instant, the time of his writing, if the ice should be made; advises him by no means to remove their stores, that they would be safe.

The obstacles which have arisen to the raising of the new Army, from the mode of appointing the officers, induce me to hope, if Congress resolve on an additional number of battalions to those already voted, that they will devise some other rule by which the officers, especially the field-officers, should be appointed. In case an augmentation should be made to the Eastern regiments, a deviation from the former mode will operate more strongly as to them than to other battalions, because there have been many more officers in service from those States than the regiments voted to be raised would admit of, by which means several deserving men could not have been provided for had the utmost pains been used for the purpose; and many others of merit have been neglected in the late appointments, and those of little worth and less experience put in their places or promoted over their heads. This has been the case with many of the best officers.

The enclosed letter from the Paymaster-General will show the state of the military chest, and the necessity of a large and immediate supply of cash. The advances to the officers for bounty and the recruiting service, are great; besides, the regiments, at the expiration of this month, will require pay of their claims. At the same time, it will show the justice of the clamours made by some officers respecting their pay, and the abuses they have practised. Whenever they have not been paid, it was because their abstracts were not made up.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. If the publick papers have been removed from *Philadelphia*, I hope those which I sent by Lieutenant-Colonel *Reed*, before we left *New-York*, have not been forgot. If they have not, I beg the favour of you to break open the chest, and send me the several letter-books, sealed up, having frequent occasion to refer to 'em.

Go. Washington.

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*Return of the Forces in the service of the States of* America, *encamped and in quarters on the banks of* Delaware, *if the State of* Pennsylvania, *under the command of his Excellency* George Washington, *Esq., Commander-in-Chief of all the Forces of the* United States in America. *December 22d*, 1776.

| BRIGADES AND REGIMENTS. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. Colonels. | Lieutenant Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | First Lieutenants. | Second Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Staff. Chaplains. | Adjutants. | Quartermasters. | Surgeons. | Mates. | Paymasters. | Non-Com'ed. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | RANK AND FILE. Present, fit for duty. | Present sick. | Absent sick. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. | Wanting to complete. Sergeants. | Drums and Fifes. | Rank and File. | Alterations since last Return. Inlisted. | Discharged. | Dead. | Deserted. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Right Hon. Earl of Stirling.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Reed | - | - | - | 4 | 10 | 9 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 26 | 9 | 119 | 32 | 230 | 67 | - | 448 | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | 2 |
| Colonel Haslet | 1 | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 5 | 1 | 92 | 32 | - | - | - | 124 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Weedon | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 19 | 7 | 134 | 19 | 360 | 62 | 11 | 586 | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | - |
| Major Williams | - | - | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 18 | 2 | 160 | 19 | 188 | 98 | - | 465 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2 | - | 2 | 18 | 15 | 17 | 16 | - | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | - | 68 | 19 | 505 | 102 | 778 | 227 | 11 | 1623 | - | - | - | - | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| *General Mercer.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Durkee | 1 | - | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 24 | 11 | 248 | 8 | 148 | 58 | 3 | 465 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Colonel Stone | - | 1 | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 4 | 139 | 8 | - | - | 2 | 149 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Colonel Hutchinson | - | - | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 9 | 6 | 83 | 3 | 169 | 120 | - | 375 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Bradley | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 8 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 22 | 8 | 94 | - | 153 | 73 | 5 | 325 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Colonel Rawling | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | 2 | 93 | - | 19 | - | - | 112 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12 |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 13 | 18 | 14 | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 77 | 31 | 657 | 19 | 489 | 251 | 10 | 1426 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | 16 |
| *General Stephen.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Elliott | - | 1 | - | 5 | 7 | 7 | 9 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 20 | 11 | 167 | 14 | - | 19 | - | 200 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Scott | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 11 | 8 | 96 | 17 | - | 8 | - | 121 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Buckner | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | 9 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 16 | 9 | 141 | 41 | - | 17 | - | 199 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 18 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | 47 | 28 | 404 | 72 | - | 44 | - | 520 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *General De Fermoir.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Hand | 1 | - | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 25 | 17 | 194 | 36 | 211 | 76 | 3 | 520 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Hawsegger | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 10 | 294 | 36 | 18 | 10 | 11 | 369 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 55 | 27 | 488 | 72 | 229 | 86 | 14 | 889 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *General Ewing.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Watt | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | 9 | 5 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 24 | 3 | 135 | 30 | 50 | 34 | - | 248 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Colonel Clotz | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 18 | 3 | 130 | 16 | 15 | 2 | - | 163 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Montgomery | 1 | - | - | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 3 | 126 | 26 | 78 | 44 | 1 | 275 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 2 |
| Colonel M'Callister | - | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 10 | 3 | 86 | 24 | 44 | 6 | 3 | 161 | - | - | - | 11 | 5 | 19 | 7 |
| Colonel Moor | - | - | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 12 | 2 | 70 | 8 | 50 | 10 | 7 | 145 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 4 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 27 | 14 | 11 | - | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | - | 74 | 12 | 547 | 104 | 237 | 96 | 11 | 995 | - | - | - | 11 | 6 | 19 | 11 |
| *Colonel Hitchcock.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Nixon | - | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 17 | 11 | 156 | - | - | - | - | 156 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Varnum | - | 1 | - | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 12 | 5 | 131 | - | - | - | - | 131 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Hitchcock | 1 | - | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 9 | 6 | 114 | - | - | - | - | 114 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Little | - | 1 | - | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 19 | 3 | 108 | - | - | - | - | 108 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Lippet | 1 | - | - | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 18 | 4 | 171 | - | - | - | - | 171 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 17 | 18 | 17 | - | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | - | 18 | 33 | 680 | - | - | - | - | 680 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *Colonel Glover.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Sheppard | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 17 | 9 | 169 | 94 | 2 | 221 | 1 | 487 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Colonel Webb | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 76 | 7 | 171 | 11 | 95 | 217 | 19 | 513 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Colonel Glover | 1 | - | 1 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 17 | 6 | 124 | 10 | 2 | 207 | - | 343 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Colonel Bailey | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 13 | 1 | 115 | 6 | 129 | 218 | - | 468 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Colonel Baldwin | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 16 | 6 | 175 | 86 | 59 | 123 | - | 443 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Total | 5 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 20 | 21 | 25 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | 75 | 29 | 754 | 287 | 287 | 986 | 20 | 2344 | - | - | - | 3 | 1 | - | 2 |
| *Colonel Serjeant.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colonel Serjeant | 1 | - | - | 6 | 3 | - | 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 8 | 5 | 122 | 6 | 235 | 72 | - | 435 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Ward | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 15 | 3 | 126 | 7 | 205 | 60 | 20 | 418 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonal Chester | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 10 | 10 | 221 | - | - | - | - | 221 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Reed | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 103 | 3 | 103 | 230 | 1 | 442 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel M'Dougall | - | - | - | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 1 | 36 | - | 9 | - | - | 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Colonel Ritzema | - | 1 | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 | - | 62 | 8 | 8 | - | - | 78 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 3 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 16 | 15 | 17 | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 56 | 23 | 672 | 24 | 560 | 362 | 21 | 1639 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 21 | 15 | 18 | 150 | 139 | 26 | 124 | 5 | 25 | 26 | 14 | 12 | 2 | 527 | 202 | 4707 | 680 | 2590 | 2952 | 87 | 10106 | - | - | - | 15 | 16 | 22 | 31 |

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO SAMUEL GRIFFIN.

Camp, above Trenton-Falls, 24th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: The unfortunate mode adopted by Congress for the appointment of officers under the new establishment, has been big with every evil, and among others, with the most shameful delays. In short, so much confusion and uncertainty attend the appointments, for want of an arrangement of the officers, that I do not see whether we are like ever to recover from it. This has determined me, in the present exigency of our affairs, to encourage, by every means in my power, the raising of men for Continental service. And as your camp may be a proper place to set a work of this sort on foot, I wish you would select such persons as you shall judge fit to command companies in the first place, and likely to raise them in the next, and promise them, in my name, that if they can raise companies upon the Continental terms and establishment, or even if they can engage fifty privates, I will immediately, upon a certificate thereof from you, take both officers and men into pay, allow the officers the dollar and third for every man they inlist, and the men their bounty of twenty dollars, &c.

You will observe, I do not mean to take either officers or

men into pay till at least fifty are engaged to a company, and a certificate obtained of it; because, as I intend these in aid of the eighty-eight battalions voted by Congress, I cannot consent to burthen the Continent with the expense of an additional number of officers, unless they are accompanied with men; these companies are to be raised upon the same terms, and for the same time, of the other battalions, and will, as they are raised, be regimented. As an encouragement to the Captains, they may nominate their own subalterns; but then, I will reserve the right of negativing them in case I find their choice falls upon improper persons from local attachments rather than the publick good. If you can set eight companies of this kind on foot, and will facilitate the recruiting of them, I think I can undertake to engage you the regiment, and a principal share in the nomination of the field-officers. In this work you are to recollect that no officers already appointed in the new establishment are to be withdrawn from it, lest confusion should be introduced thereby; and that my wish and desire is, that these companies may be raised as far as possible in the *Jerseys*. At present I shall only add, that I am, with esteem, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To *Samuel Griffin*, Esquire.

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Head-Quarters, Bucks County, 24th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: The necessity of collecting a body of troops to supply the place of those whose term of inlistment expires on the first of next month, obliges me to press you to march forward, with as much expedition as possible, to this place, or wherever my Head-Quarters may be, with such part of the troops under your command as may be judged expedient and agreeable to the order I have already lodged with Generals *Heath* and *Spencer*.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To the Officer commanding the *Massachusetts* Militia, on their march to *Peek's Kill*.

[The same to the Officer commanding the *Connecticut* Militia.]

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE ST. JOHN'S INDIANS.

Brothers of the St. John's Tribe: It gave me great pleasure to hear from Major *Shaw*, that you kept the chain of friendship, which I sent you from *Cambridge* in *February* last, bright and unbroken.

I am glad to hear that you have made a treaty of peace with your brothers and neighbours of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, who have, agreeable to your desire, established a truck house at *St. John's*, out of which they will furnish you with every thing you want, and take your furs in return.

My good friends and brothers, Governour *Pierre Temna* and the warriours that came with him, shall be taken good care of, and when they want to return home, they and our brothers of *Penobscot* shall be furnished with every thing necessary for their journey.

Brothers: I have one thing more to say to you. Our enemy, the King of *Great Britain*, endeavoured to stir up all the *Indians* from *Canada* to *South-Carolina* against us. But our brethren of the *Six Nations*, and their allies the *Shawnees* and *Delawares*, would not listen to their advice, but kept fast hold of our ancient covenant chain. The *Cherokees* and the Southern tribes were foolish enough to hearken to him, and to take up the hatchet against us; upon which our warriours went into their country, burnt their houses, destroyed their corn, and obliged them to sue for peace, and to give hostages for their future good behaviour.

Never let the King's wicked counsellors turn your hearts against me and your brethren of this country, but bear in mind what I told you last *February*, and what I tell you now.

In token of my friendship for you, I send you this from my Army on the banks of the great river *Delaware*, this 24th day of *December*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PASSAMAQUODIA CHIEFS.

Brothers of Passamaquodia: I am glad to hear by Major *Shaw*, that you accepted of the chain of friendship which I sent you last *February* from *Cambridge*, and that you are determined to keep it bright and unbroken.

When I first heard that you refused to send any of your warriours to my assistance, when called upon by our brothers of *St. John's*, I did not know what to think; I was afraid that some enemy had turned your hearts against me. But I am since informed that all your young men were employed in hunting, which was the reason of their not coming. This has made my mind easy, and I hope you will always in future join with your brothers of *St. John's* and *Penobscot*, when required.

I have desired my brother, the Governour of *Massachusetts-Bay*, to pay you the money which Captain *Smith* promised you for sending my letters to the *Mickmac Indians*.

Brothers: I have a piece of news to tell you, which I hope you will attend to. Our enemy, the King of *Great Britain*, endeavoured to stir up all the *Indians* from *Canada* to *South-Carolina* against us. But our brethren of the *Six Nations*, and their allies the *Shawanese* and *Delawares*, would not hearken to the advice of the messengers sent among them, but kept fast hold of our ancient covenant chain. The *Cherokees* and Southern tribes were foolish enough to listen to them, and to take up the hatchet against us; upon which our warriours went into their country, burnt their houses, destroyed their corn, and obliged them to sue for peace, and give hostages for their future good behaviour.

Now, brothers, never let the King's wicked counsellors turn your hearts against me and your brethren of this country, but bear in mind what I told you last *February*, and what I tell you now.

In token of my friendship I send you this from my Army on the banks of the great river *Delaware*, this 24th day of *December*, 1776.

Go. Washington.

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GOVERNOUR TRYON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, December 24, 1776.

My Lord: On the 10th instant I reviewed the Militia of *Queen's* County, at *Hampstead*, when eight hundred and twenty men were mustered; and on *Thursday* following, I saw the *Suffolk* Militia at *Brookhaven*, where near eight hundred men appeared, to all of whom, as well as to the Militia of *Queen's* County, I had in my presence an oath of allegiance and fidelity administered, the form of which is herewith transmitted.

I took much pains in explaining to the people (having formed them into circles) the iniquitous arts, etc., that had been practised on their credulity, to seduce and mislead them; and I had the satisfaction to observe among them a general return of confidence in Government. A very large majority of the inhabitants of *Queen's* County have indeed steadfastly maintained their royal principles, as have small districts in *Suffolk* County. Some men from *South* and *Easthampton* townships, who attended the review, assured me, Rebel parties from *Connecticut* were then on the eastermost part of the island, and which prevented in general the settlers in that quarter from attending my summons; but that they are very desirous to live under a peaceable obedience to his Majesty's authority. The enclosed letter from their *Presbyterian* minister will more fully explain their sentiments.

Three companies, I learned, had been raised out of *Suffolk* County for the Rebel Army; most of whom, I was made to understand, would quit that service, if they could get home.

I have the pleasure to assure your Lordship, through the whole of this tour I did not hear the least murmur of discontent, but a general satisfaction expressed at my coming among them; and to judge from the temper and disposition I perceived in them, there is not the least apprehension of any further commotions from the inhabitants on *Long-Island;* all are industrious in bringing to market what provisions the island affords.

The late successes of his Majesty's arms in the *Jerseys* and *Rhode-Island*, will assuredly open considerable resources of provisions and forage for the Army, which, with the plentiful and abundant supplies from the mother country, will enable this high-spirited and victorious army to take the field early next spring.

The General has been pleased to give my Secretary, Colonel *Fanning*, a warrant to raise a battalion of Provincials of five hundred men; they are to be listed for the *American* service, and for the term of two years, or during the war, at the General's option. This corps, I expect, will be completed so as to be ready to take the field with the Army.

While on *Long-Island*, I gave certificates to near three hundred men, who signed the Declaration prescribed by the King's Commissioners' Proclamation of the 30th *November* last. Large bodies of the people have already taken the benefit of the grace therein offered them.

I am, with perfect esteem and respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant,

WM. TRYON.

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GENERAL SPENCER TO GENERAL HEATH.

North-Castle, December 24th, 1776.

SIR: The time the troops here engaged for, expires this day, when they will return. You will therefore send a Captain and sixty men to guard such of the Commissary's stores as remain near *Croaton* Bridge.

Your humble servant, JOS. SPENCER.

To the Commanding Officer at *Peekskill*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL LINCOLN.

Peekskill, December 24th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have received a letter from his Excellency General *Washington*, informing that a body of Militia from the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* are on their march for this place, and that they are to rendezvous at *Danbury*, in the State of *Connecticut*. I returned to this place yesterday from the *Jerseys*, and find the situation of things at this place to be such as requires an immediate reinforcement. I must, therefore, request, that if your troops are arrived you will hasten them, or a part of them, to this place, as soon as possible. If General *Lincoln* is not arrived, and there should be a probability that he is detained at *Rhode-Island*, or elsewhere, the commanding officer is desired to order forward the troops, or a part of them, without delay.

I am, dear sir, yours affectionately, W. HEATH.

General *Lincoln*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Peekskill, December 24th, 1776.

SIR: On the 3d instant I received a letter from the honourable President of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, representing that complaint had been made to the Committee of Safety, of depredations committed by Captain *Ford* and his company, and that certain resolutions had passed in the Committee, which were to be transmitted to his Excellency General *Washington*, with a request that Captain *Ford* be delivered up, in order to answer for his misconduct in a course of justice; and that, in the mean time, I would detain Captain *Ford* in custody, and to give orders for securing such of the plundered effects as could be found.

Detesting a spirit of plundering, and at all times determined to bring offenders to justice, I immediately ordered Captain *Ford* under arrest, and several of his men under guard. Soon after being ordered over into the *Jerseys*, I have not heard any thing further of the matter until this day, when receipts, copies of which are enclosed, were presented to me, with a complaint that the prisoners lay confined, and were not brought to trial.

By the receipts, it appears that the parties injured have had reparation made them. It now remains that the offenders be brought to trial for the offence. I must, therefore, beg that you will inform me, as soon as possible, whether you desire that they should be given up to be tried by civil law? If not, I shall immediately order them to be tried by court-martial. A speedy determination is necessary, as they are all artificers, and much wanted at this time; and such as are not guilty should return to their duty.

I am informed that a troop of Horse, belonging to the State of *Connecticut*, have been for some time posted at *Fishkill*, and that they are not much wanted there. If it be so, a part of them will be of great service at this place, and should be glad that they may be ordered down accordingly.

I am, sir, with respect and esteem, your most humble servant,

W. HEATH.

President of the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York*.

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*Receipt given to Captain* FORD.

Camp, at Peekskill, December 18th, 1776.

I, the subscriber, do acknowledge to have received of Captain *Phineas Ford*, in full for the things that said Captain *Ford* and his men did take out of the house of *Solomon Pugsley*, near the lines of the enemy, at *White-Plains*, on *Philips's* Manor. I say received in full in behalf of *Solomon Pugsley* and the Widow *Elizabeth Pugsley*.

Received per me: STEPHEN OAKLEY.

*Ezekiel Thrall.*

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STEPHEN OAKLEY TO GENERAL SPENCER.

Camp, at Peekskill, December 18th, 1776.

SIR: This is to inform you that I have received satisfaction for the things that Captain *Phineas Ford* is now under an arrest for, and four of his men under guard for. And as received satisfaction, so desire that the whole may be released from their confinement.

STEPHEN OAKLEY.

General *Spencer*.

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COLONEL JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fishkills, 24th December, 1776.

SIR: I find that the stores near *Pine's Bridge* are not all removed, and that the troops below and the guards at that place are to be dismissed to-morrow. I must beg you to place proper guards over the stores till they can be removed, &c.

I am, most respectfully, sir, your most humble servant,

JOS. TRUMBULL, *Commissary-General.*

Major-General *Heath*.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York,
Fishkills, December 24th, 1776.

SIR: We were honoured with your Excellency's favour of the 15th instant, and most readily accept your apology for not answering ours of last month, since we are not ignorant of the straits into which our temporary inlistments have thrown you, and have found in the difficulties which your Excellency had to contend with, no small addition to those under which we labour. You will see by the enclosed resolve that we have, agreeable to your Excellency's request, called out great part of our Militia, besides those that are on the west side of *Hudson's* river, under the command of Brigadier-General *Clinton*, with a view to supply the place of the troops who are shortly to leave us. But, sir, we cannot but help observing that we do not put too much confidence in our endeavours, for reasons that will be explained to your Excellency by Mr. *Benson*, the bearer hereof. We have had frequent intimations that the enemy design shortly to make a push for this place, and some of them so well founded, as to convince us that nothing but our being in a proper state of defence will frustrate the design. As the difficulties under which we labour have not escaped your attention, we persuade ourselves that your Excellency will contribute, so far as is consistent with the general welfare, to remove them. This we conceive can be in no way so effectually done as by sending some of the new-raised regiments, if any are completed, to secure the defiles in the Highlands. This we know must be regulated by circumstances, of which your Excellency is the only proper judge; and to your decision, after having barely hinted it, we most cheerfully submit.

The necessity of the troops sent to the northward are inconceivably great, and unless speedily supplied must render the forces we raise entirely useless. We have directed Mr. *Benson* to press the Congress to fall upon some means of furnishing us out of the stores they have purchased in the Eastern States. Perhaps our request, if backed by your

Excellency's recommendation, would be more speedily complied with.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient and very humble servant.

By order: Ab'm Ten Broeck, *President.*

His Excellency General *Washington.*

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, } Fishkill, December 24th, 1776. }

Sir: Your letter of the 12th instant, covering an account for removing a number of inhabitants, with stock, &c., from *Long-Island* to your State, was duly received. The amount of Mr. *John Field's* demand, being £44 5*s.*, lawful money, has been paid to him here, agreeable to your request; the remaining balance, to wit: £630 4*s.*, I am directed to transmit to your Excellency by the messenger, *Benjamin Montanye*, and to request the favour of your Excellency to cause the same to be paid to the several persons to whom it is due.

Whenever Mr. *John Vaits* transmits his account properly audited, payment will be ordered him.

I have the honour to be your Excellency's most obedient servant.

By order: Abm. Ten Broeck, *President.*

His Excellency Governour *Trumbull.*

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In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, } December 24th, 1776. }

The Committee to whom was referred the letter from Governour *Trumbull*, with the accounts therein enclosed, of sundry persons, for transporting many of the inhabitants, with their effects and stock, &c., from *Long-Island*, delivered in their report; which was read and unanimously agreed to, and is as follows, to wit:

"Your Committee do report, that they have examined an account which was forwarded to this Convention by his Excellency Governour *Trumbull*, amounting to £674 9*s.*, lawful, equal to £899 5*s.* 4*d.*, *New-York* currency, for transporting a number of inhabitants from *Long-Island* over to the State of *Connecticut*, with their stock, &c. That they find the account ascertained by three gentlemen, who have been appointed for that purpose by the Committees of *New-London* and *Groton*, and whom Governour *Trumbull* declares are gentlemen of character. That your Committee are therefore of opinion that the said account ought to be allowed, and that the sum of £44 5*s.*, lawful, equal to £59 *New-York* currency, part thereof for services performed by Mr. *John Field*, be paid to him as he is now here. That the remaining balance of £630 4*s.*, lawful, equal to £840 5*s.* 4*d.*, *New-York* currency, be remitted to his Excellency Governour *Trumbull*, for the purpose of discharging the said accounts. That your Committee have examined another account, also transmitted by Governour *Trumbull*, for services performed by *John Vail*, which the *Connecticut* auditors have not thought fit to certify as just, and are therefore of opinion that it be disallowed for the present."

Extract from the Minutes.

Robt. Benson, *Secretary.*

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In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, } a. m. December 24th. }

Your Committee, appointed to confer with Colonel *Trumble* relative to the want of provisions at the Forts *Montgomery* and *Constitution*, and also for the Militia who are now in the service under General *George Clinton*, and relative to a plan for importation of salt for the State of *Connecticut* and *New-York*, do report, that Colonel *Trumble* says that the want of provisions at the Forts *Montgomery* and *Constitution* is owing to the passes in the Highlands not being sufficiently guarded to justify him in pouring any large quantity of provisions in those forts, and that he, notwithstanding, believes they are well provided by this time. That he is now going to *Peekskill*, and will take care that they are duly supplied. That Colonel *Hay* is authorized by him to supply the Militia with provisions on the west side of *Hudson's* river.

With regard to the plan for importation of salt for the State of *Connecticut* and *New-York*, he informs your Committee that he is authorized by the General Congress to import a quantity for the use of the Army, and that he has laid a plan with the State of *Connecticut* to send out a number of vessels for that purpose, one half of each adventure to be on account of the General Congress, and the other half on account of the State of *Connecticut*. That several vessels are already sailed in the course of last month, and others now fitting out. And that if the Convention of *New-York* incline to join in said plan, he is willing to interest them into it, and so divide the risk into three equal parts between the General Congress, the State of *Connecticut*, and the State of *New-York*. That the vessels so taken in here are appraised, and the value thereof insured to the respective owners.

Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that if such a plan be entered into by this Convention, it will greatly tend to the supplying this State with that necessary article.

All which is most humbly submitted.

Isaac Roosevelt,
Christ'r Tappen.

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, } Fishkills, December 24th, 1776. }

The Convention have directed me to enclose to your Excellency an extract of a letter from General *Washington*, and to hint the necessity of securing the passes to the Highlands, which are in some measure the keys of this State, the importance of which, in this controversy, is evident from the uniform endeavours of the enemy to possess themselves of it, and the command that it would give them over the *Indian* stations.

This State has suffered greatly in the course of the war. Five entire Counties, and part of a sixth, are in the possession of the enemy; much, therefore, cannot be expected from them; but whatever they can do, has and will be done. As they feared the evils arising from short inlistments, they raised upwards of twenty-one hundred men over and above our quota, who are to continue in service until the last day of *December;* afterwards, at the request of General *Washington*, they sent down six hundred men to garrison the forts in the Highlands, whose time of inlistment expired the first day of this month. We have also been frequently under the necessity of calling out a very considerable part of our Militia. When the enemy quitted this State, and General *Washington's* Army was greatly reduced, Convention thought it expedient to send some into *New-Jersey*, as well to raise the spirits of the Whigs there as to oblige the enemy to weaken their Army, by leaving garrisons behind them. They accordingly sent down near two thousand men, under the command of Brigadier-General *George Clinton*, who are still in the field, and have been very successful in several skirmishes with the enemy. These, sir, are the exertions we have made, by which you may easily conceive that we are not a little exhausted and harassed. In this situation, we are informed that the few troops which are left under the command of Generals *Spencer* and *Heath* are to be disbanded in a few days; and the whole safety of this State, and that of *America*, which it in a great measure involves, will be left to our Militia. We have, therefore, made a farther draft from them; but, sir, they fear that these will be insufficient to guard the passes on the west, and those on the *Albany* post-road, on the east side of *Hudson's* river, if they should be attacked by any considerable force, which they have strong reasons to believe they will be; the Convention are therefore obliged to call upon *Connecticut* to defend the passes on the oblong road, which are not less the inlets into that State than this, and which they have reason to fear will, without their assistance, be but slightly guarded. They need not urge the necessity of raising your levies with all possible expedition, and of keeping, in the mean time, a body of Militia on foot, to guard against the danger of being without an Army, since they are fully satisfied that you are apprised of the importance of those measures, and that they will be executed with the same spirit which has hitherto so honourably characterized *Connecticut.*

The Convention have directed me to inform your Excellency that an act lately passed by your Legislature, prohibiting the transportation out of your State of several articles enumerated therein, has given the most serious concern to

them, as by the misfortunes of war the inhabitants of this State are now deprived of a sea-port, they have no possible means of procuring many of the necessaries of life, but from the Eastern States, whose commerce is still open. The Convention are satisfied that it could never be your intention to add to the distresses by which they are unavoidably afflicted, and therefore doubt not that this will be remedied as soon as mentioned.

I have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant.

By order: AB'M TEN BROECK, *President.*

His Excellency Governour *Trumbull.*

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COLONEL PARSONS TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Middletown, 24th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I have to inform your Honour that *Jacob Tillotson*, Ensign of the Fourteenth Company in the Third Regiment of Militia in this State, did neglect and refuse to attend the duties of his said office in the late alarm on the 5th instant, by neglecting to march to *New-London*, agreeable to orders given out to the commanding officer of said company, he being duly notified.

I have the honour to be, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

MARSHD. PARSONS,
*Lieut. Colonel of the Third Regiment of Militia.*

To the Hon'ble *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq.

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*Return of Clothing sent by* PETER T. CURTENIUS *to* ESOPUS, *and delivered in the Store of Captain* JOHN ELVENDORP. *December 24th*, 1776. *Marked and numbered as per margin, viz:*

| *Numbers.* | Tierces. | Hogsheads. | Boxes. | Milled Stockings, pairs. | Check Shirts. | White Shirts. | Buckskin Breeches. | Felt Hats. | Wooden canteens. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | - | - | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | - | - | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 | 1 | - | - | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 | 1 | - | - | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | 1 | - | - | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6 | 1 | - | - | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 7 | 1 | - | - | 204 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8 | 1 | - | - | - | 255 | - | - | - | - |
| 9 | 1 | - | - | - | 255 | - | - | - | - |
| 10 | 1 | - | - | - | 255 | - | - | - | - |
| 11 | 1 | - | - | - | 235 | - | - | - | - |
| 12 | 1 | - | - | - | 200 | - | - | - | - |
| 13 | 1 | - | - | - | 210 | - | - | - | - |
| 14 | 1 | - | - | - | 212 | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | 1 | - | - | - | 210 | - | - | - | - |
| 16 | 1 | - | - | 60 | 107 | - | - | - | - |
| 17 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 216 | - | - | - |
| 18 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 230 | - | - | - |
| 19 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 216 | - | - | - |
| 20 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 150 | - | - | - |
| 21 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 116 | - | - | - |
| 22 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 114 | - | - |
| 23 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 120 | - | - |
| 24 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 108 | - | - |
| 25 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 100 | - | - |
| 26 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 118 | - | - |
| 27 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 110 | - | - |
| 28 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 110 | - | - |
| 29 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 200 | - | - |
| 30 | - | 1 | - | 120 | - | - | 129 | - | - |
| 31 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 85 | - |
| 32 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 334 | - | - | - |
| 33 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 360 | - | - | - |
| 34 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 360 | - | - | - |
| 35 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 252 | - | - | - |
| 36 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 230 | - | - | - |
| 37 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 226 | - | - | - |
| 38 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 82 |
| 39 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 82 |
| 40 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 75 |
| 41 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 87 |
| 42 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 100 |
| 43 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 90 |
| 44 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 230 | - | - | - |
| 45 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 252 | - | - | - |
| 46 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 467 | - | - | - |
| 47 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 369 | - | - | - |
| 48 | Barrel. | - | - | - | - | 53 | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 200 | - | - |
| 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 180 | - | - |
| 3 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 190 | - | - |
| 4 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 191 | - | - |
| 5 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 190 | - | - |
| 6 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 109 | - | - |
| | 35 | 17 | 1 | 1608 | 1939 | 4061 | 2169 | 85 | 529 |

*Return of Sundries sent to* NEW-WINDSOR, *addressed to Mr.* JAMES JACKSON, *and by him sent over to* FISHKILLS, *by order of the Convention, viz:*

| *Numbers.* | Tierces. | Hogsheads. | Barrels. | Boxes. | Frocks. | Knapsacks. | Hats. | Flints. | Shoes. | Tent Bags. | Officers' Tent. | Car'dge Paper. | Buckskin Breeches. | White & Check Shirts. | Muskets. | Milled Stockings. | Wooden Canteens. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 134 | - | 94 | - | - | - | 56 | - | - | - | - |
| 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 150 | - | - | - |
| 10 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 50 | - | - | - | - |
| Delivered Dec'ber 3, 1776, to James Jackson | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 107 | 190 | 192 | 5000 | 74 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 146 | 926 | 74 | 1608 | 529 |
| Whole amount delivered at Esopus | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 107 | 190 | 192 | 5000 | 74 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 146 | 926 | 74 | 1608 | 529 |
| Esopus brought forward | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 107 | 190 | 192 | 5000 | 74 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 146 | 926 | 74 | 1608 | 529 |
| 1 | - | - | - | - | 91 | 24 | 4 | 3000 | 38 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | - | - | - | - | 16 | 166 | 64 | 2000 | - | - | - | - | - | 17 | - | - | - |
| 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13 | 1 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 41 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 107 | 190 | 257 | 5000 | 74 | 13 | 1 | 6 | 2315 | 6236 | 74 | 1608 | 529 |

N. B. Besides the above, I have 87 pair Buckskin Breeches making at *Wolf-Hill*, which will be finished in four or five weeks. I have also the offer of 1,000 Shirts made of this country linen, and of 1,000 wooden Canteens. If they are wanted, should be glad the Convention would please to let me know.

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COLONEL PARSONS TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Middletown, 24th December, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR: I have to inform your Honour that Captain *Jonathan Starr*, Jr., of *New-London*, present Captain of the Independent Company in that town, subjected to and under the regulations of the Third Regiment of Militia in this State, at the time of the alarm on the 5th and 6th instant, did neglect and refuse to lead forth his said company for the defence of that, or any neighbour town that might then be invaded, and for reason offered that he would not take up arms in support of independence. The matters at large may more fully appear by the representation made to me by the other officers of said company.

I have the honour to be, with respect, your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

MARSHF'D PARSONS,
*Lieutenant-Colonel of the Third Regiment.*

To the Hon'ble *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq.

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JOHN M'LEAN TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Danbury, December 24th, 1776.

This is to acquaint your Honour that there is five prisoners here, sent from the State of *New-York*, viz: one Commissary for the Engineers, one Lieutenant of the Sixteenth Regiment, one Captain of Transport, one of their wives, and one child, which is in utmost want of necessary clothing, and have made application to the Authority, Selectmen, and Committee as nothing of that kind could be procured here, that we would write to your Honour in regard to their want of clothing, that as they behaved themselves with decorum and decency since they have been here, and understand they have conducted themselves up to their parole while at *Bedford*. They say, if your Honour would grant them liberty to send one of their number to *New-York*, there they are sure of procuring those neces-

sary clothing they want. We therefore would acquaint your Honour that they really are in great want of articles of clothing, and leave to your Honour to order provision for them, as your wisdom thinks best. But should your Honour conclude one of them go to *New-York*, we would rather choose Mr. *Acmudy* should go, as he has a wife and child here, which we think is a very good pledge for his return; and his behaviour has been, since here, conducted with the strictest politeness. In the mean time we leave the whole matter to your Honour's determination; and am, sir, for myself and the rest of the Authority, Selectmen, and Committee, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN McLEAN.

N. B. The above *Acmudy* is brother to Doct. *Acmudy*, at *New-York*. Should your Honour think proper to return an answer, you will please to direct me, or the Selectmen, as above written. By order of the Committee.

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PAROLE OF JOSEPH READE.

Whereas I, *Joseph Reade*, of the City and Province of *New-York*, Esq., have for some time past resided at *Windham*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being apprehended and sent thither by the Committee of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, as one suspected inimical to the *United States of America*; and whereas, upon my application to his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, of the State of *Connecticut*, he hath permitted me to return to *New-York* to take care of my interest and effects, and there to reside till otherwise ordered: I do hereby pledge my faith and word of honour to said Governour *Trumbull*, that I will neither bear arms, nor excite or encourage others to bear arms, against this or any other of the *United States of America*, and that I will not do or say any thing in prejudice of the interest or measures of this, or any, or all, of the *United States*, in the present controversy with *Great Britain*; and that I will give no intelligence to the enemies of said States of any of their counsels, operations of war, or other the transactions of this, or any of the *United States*, and that I will return to any place in this State when required by his said Honour Governour *Trumbull*, or the General Assembly of this State, or the Convention of the State of *New-York* for the time being.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 24th day of *December*, A. D. 1776, at *Windham*, in the State of *Connecticut*.

JOS. READE.

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THOMAS CUSHING TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Providence, December 24, 1776.

SIR: I have just time to inform you that we have news this day from the *Jerseys*. General *Washington* has been obliged to retreat to the other side of the *Delaware*, opposite to *Trenton*, where he has about ten or twelve hundred men. General *Howe*, with an army consisting, it is said, of about nine thousand, is at *Trenton*, and it is reported, designs to proceed to a place in the *Jerseys* directly opposite to the city of *Philadelphia*, and there cannonade and bombard the city, perhaps pass the river, and plunder it. General *Lee*, on *Friday*, the 13th instant, was taken prisoner by a party of Light-Horse, about fifty in number, at about two miles distant from the Army he commanded, and about twenty miles from the enemy. They carried him off with, out his hat or cloak. His Aid-de-camp is arrived in town and brings this intelligence. This is a great loss. It is reported the troops under General *Gates*, and those that were under General *Lee*, had joined General *Washington*. General *Lincoln* has just informed me that he has certain intelligence that the troops at *Rhode-Island* have all, but about fifteen hundred, reembarked. Whither they are bound, is uncertain; some conjecture to this town, some say to *Dartmouth*, and some imagine to *Boston*. We shall soon learn their destination. Our Militia that repaired to this State, in consequence of the requisition of Governour *Cooke*, having left their families very suddenly, are mostly returned home. Those that remain are very uneasy, and I believe will not tarry much longer; so that if General *Lincoln*, in pursuance of the opinion of Council, was immediately with the men under his command to proceed to *New-York*, there would be no men belonging to our State left for the defence of this.

In great haste, I remain, with respect, your most humble servant,

THOMAS CUSHING.

Hon. *James Bowdoin*, Esq.

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JAMES LOVELL TO JOHN AVERY.

Boston, December 24, 1776.

SIR: After maturely deliberating the circumstances of my publick and private relations, I have concluded it to be my duty not to decline that honour to which, as you informed me on the 5th of this month, I am appointed by the joint ballot of both Houses of Assembly in this State.

Conscientiously devoted to the interests of *United America*, and animated by my late sufferings in the common cause of her freedom, I dare hope, by an unremitted application to the duties of this very honourable appointment, to obtain the future approbation of my constituents, or at least to prevent their regret, for those benevolent and generous considerations which evidently governed their ballot in my particular case.

I am, with esteem, your friend and humble servant,

JAMES LOVELL.

*John Avery*, Esq., Deputy Secretary.

You will kindly determine about the propriety of a formal communication of the above to the honourable Council.

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N. LOTBINIERE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[No. 1.] Boston, December 24th, 1776.

SIR: This is the third letter I have wrote you since the 20th of last month, the day of my arrival in this city, viz: the first directed to Mr. *Benjamin Franklin*, who I was well acquainted with in *London*, and also seemed to place as much value on my acquaintance as I did in his, but at the moment of the post's departure, I was told that he had embarked for *France* three weeks before that time; then it being impossible for me to copy the letters over, I had only leisure to write on the back, and beg that you would be so kind as to open it, and make the same use of it he would have done if present. It contained an open letter for my son, and I hope you have been so kind, sir, as to cause it to be delivered to him. The master of the post told me that that packet had been forwarded to you by Captain *Faulkner*, who left this city on *Thursday*, 21st of last month. The second was dated the 4th instant, and delivered the same to Mr. *Freeman*, a clerk to the Committee of this city, who, I was told, was to set off the next day to the Congress; but said letter remained on the Committee's table; which hearing of, and that his journey had been put off, I sent for it, and delivered it at the Post Office on *Thursday*, the 12th instant. In the interval of those two dates, I delivered to Mr. *Walker*, who was going to *Philadelphia* with two *French* gentlemen, a second letter for my son, which he promised to forward to him with the greatest safety and despatch. Still I have no answer from him, nor do I know if he is acquainted with my arrival in this country; and it is only in an indirect manner I have heard of his enjoying a tolerable state of health. You may judge, sir, that having put this only son, who heretofore has seemed deserving my sincerest affection, and with the mortal uneasiness I have suffered on his account for above a twelvemonth past, as well as on account of my wife and daughter now in *Canada*, from whom I have not heard directly for two years past, and from whom I might hear with certainty by my son, it is cruel in Mr. *Walker* to have deprived him of my letter, which he took charge of, and promised me so earnestly to forward. Those whom you employed to forward to him the one enclosed in my first letter, I fear have committed the same neglect; which deprives both father and son from a communication which would be satisfactory to them, after so long an absence and so much inquietude.

You must have perceived, sir, by my two first letters, the great and ardent desires of my soul for the success of the *American* arms, since, although I have not been able yet to communicate to you the proofs I can show of my particular commission to come to this country, I have not been backward in communicating to you my ideas on your present positions, and that of the enemy, which I thought the fittest for the actual preservation of your States, and to enable you

to complete it as soon as you will be able to act offensively (and was I with you I should think this time now come.) My zeal for this, I think, will sufficiently be demonstrated, if you observe that at the time I left *France* the commission I accepted of could not be granted without a reserve of disavowing me in case things did not succeed in the manner expected. I have not acted with less ardour and zeal since my arrival in this Province, although under the double risk of being disavowed by your Congress, or by the Court which has secretly employed me, as one who may, and they know can be, of the greatest service to you by his knowledge of war and politicks, as well as with the local of this Continent. However, I cannot confine my zeal within myself, until I shall be with you, and am induced to endeavour to convince you, that your most dangerous enemies are those false brethren who unhappily are to be found in all your States in too great numbers, whose only occupation and aim is to discourage your people, by deluding them under the insupportable yoke prepared for them, and which once laid on, they never will be able to extricate themselves from. It is, then, this first and most dangerous enemy which must be eradicated without delay, and forever, by even the severest laws, accompanied by some striking examples, though not in great numbers.

I had from the power that employed me, the strictest recommendations and orders to all whom their authority extended, to procure me every means and conveniency in my way to this Continent, with the greatest security and despatch. The respect and consideration such orders procured me, in all the places belonging to that Power, through which I passed, or made any stay, could not be kept secret here, and has even been published by several subjects of this State, and *Frenchmen*, who are actually here, who could not help regarding me as in a superiour rank to those who commanded in the places where they saw me. In spite of all this, and of such demonstrative proofs, sufficiently evident to every thinking being who is not blinded by his enmity to this country, I have nevertheless been exposed, and accused in the most respectable place of this city, and from thence publickly, of being a declared enemy to those States. Some have even been so infamous as to hold me out to the publick as a spy of the *British* Court, although certainly those who took charge to publish such a report, acted against the testimony of their own conscience; so that every step I took, by my particular observation, to render myself useful to this State, and to employ my talents in its favour, which then appeared to me very essential, were poisoned to my disadvantage, and regarded as corroborating proofs which strengthened their suspicions against me. I was a long time ignorant of this, and it only came to my knowledge by an accident, which will be repeated to you by Messrs. *Faneuil* and *Price*, to whom I have mentioned the whole, as well as the endeavours I made to discover the source from whence it proceeded, or at least to stop its progress and effect, in which I have not yet succeeded, although I applied to one of the two officers, that seemed to me more concerned than I had a right to be, in discovering the source of the whole and following it through all its windings and turnings. It would be out of my power, sir, to conceal from you my sensibility and the pain which I feel at such an affair, not as to myself, although it seems an attempt aimed at my honour, (which happily is secured against such frivolous suspicions, by being so well known in many parts of *Europe*,) but on account of this country and the speedy satisfaction which I could have procured to the power by which I am employed, as I am now stopped in my endeavours for the good of this country, by the insinuations with which they have impressed the publick against me; and I am apprehensive it will be a difficult matter to destroy that prejudice, and regain that general and unrestrained confidence which ought to have been placed in me from the moment of my arrival, and the open manner of my first appearance. I have not yet, sir, received the least answer from Congress, and you may easily judge, particularly after the affair above-mentioned, that I cannot go without, and without your positive orders for my own safety, my servants, and baggage, on the road, otherwise I might be exposed to be stopped in the way. Therefore I beg you will send them to me as soon as possible, that I, in person, at least may be with you within a fortnight. I now see things, I think, in a pretty clear light, as well in regard to your position, as that of the enemy, so as to judge what may be proper to be done—where the evil lays, what may be directly remedied, and what referred to another time. I even think that I now foresee very clearly what the enemy will attempt next campaign, and I confess that I have already informed the *French* Court of it, and of my designs in consequence; assuring them, that if I am credited here, so as to determine the operations, and that *France* determines to support it in the manner I have mentioned, all will be ready here to concur in that system. The method I have taken to write for the first, was via *St. Pierre de Miquelon*, with direction to send a vessel immediately, with copy of my letter, and even the original, if there remained no more vessels in that port bound to *France*. This letter is to go from *Wellfleet* (*Cape Cod*) to *St. Pierre*, by a schooner which was to sail immediately, and perhaps she is already gone. I recommended that my letter might be concealed even in the master's breeches, in case he should be taken. The second, via the *Mole*, in sloop which will sail the day after to-morrow; which I have wrote in ciphers, and directed to the Count *d'Ennery*, General of *Hispaniola*; in which I have mentioned the same projects and ideas; and I desire the General to send it to *France* as soon as possible. I intend to send a duplicate of this second letter by Captain *Marion*, in a ship bound to the same island, which will sail about the latter end of next week, and in which I would take my passage, if I thought I could be of no use here.

I remitted to Mr. *Walker*, at his departure from *Boston*, a recital of the affair which detained me five years in *England*, to be delivered to you at his arrival at *Philadelphia*, in order that you might have a timely knowledge of the incontestable right I have to the lordships of *Dalainville* and *D'hocquart*, at the head of *Lake Champlain*, extending to the lower end of *New Lake George*, to the west of the river which joins that lake to *Lake Champlain*. The lordship of *D'hocquart* is situated on the east side of that river, and begins about two miles above *Crown-Point*, and extends near the entrance of the river *Au Loutres*. Each of those lordships have four leagues in front from north to south, on five leagues depth; the first to the west and the second to the east. When I shall have the honour to see you, sir, I shall inform you more fully of this affair. In case Mr. *Walker* should neglect to give you the copy I desired him to deliver, Mr. *Faneuil* or Mr. *Price* may do the same, as I gave each of them one for that purpose. Besides the knowledge you may obtain of that affair by said memorial, (in which I hope to receive justice from the Congress, as it was presented to the King, his Ministers, the members of both Houses of Parliament, and almost all the foreign Ministers then in *London*, and the principal persons in *France*,) you will see in what manner I treated the Ministers and principal persons of the *British* Court, whose spy they have dared here to call me. There are some, and unfortunately too many, in your States, who render them more service than any stranger could, however inclined.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration and respect, sir, your most humble, obedient, servant,

THE MQ'S DE LOTBINIERE.

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*Copy of a Letter to my son, wrote by Mr.* WALKER.

[No. 2.] Boston, November 21st, 1776.

I sent yesterday, my dear son, a letter to you, under cover to Mr. *Franklin*; but I did not then know he was gone to *France*, but it will reach you through the hands of Mr. *Hancock*, President of the Congress, whom I have desired to open my letter to Mr. *Franklin*, and to make the same use of it he would have done, as well in regard to you as to the other contents of said letter. This will be delivered you by Mr. *Walker*, who sets off for *Philadelphia* in two hours, and which he has promised to deliver you carefully.

It is too late, my dear son, to yield to that spirit of enthusiasm to which you have been led. I am told (by Mr. *Walker*) by the persuasion of *Longueil* and *Bel-Etre*, I don't think you have done any honour to your judgment, when you preferred their advice to mine, particularly in so critical a time. My self-love convinces me that if you had properly reflected, you would have preferred my advice to theirs. If you had regulated your conduct on the letters I wrote you from *London*, you would have avoided many losses and

sorrows, and you, as well as others, who, without the least foundation, followed the same course, would not now be exposed to the reproaches of your mother country, in which your ancestors made a figure, against which for some time you appeared in arms: for you could not be ignorant of the interest *France* took in the success of the cause against which you were persuaded to fight. It occasioned the greatest surprise in *France* when they were informed that the *Canadian* noblesse had joined the Royalists in such a cause, particularly after the treatment which they had received, without the least occasion given, which tended to no less than to reduce them to a lower state than their vassals, and which they would have accomplished if they had had a sufficient time to execute their schemes. I refer to tell you much more, as we shall meet; until when I wish you a perfect health. Believe me, my dear son, the best father and friend you could have required of God.

LOTBINIERE.

All my letters from *France* give me the title of Marquis. You run no risk in conforming to it.

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ARTHUR LEE TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

December 25th, 1776.

It was with infinite pleasure I received my dear brother's letter, by the hands of Dr. *Franklin*, whom I joined at this place on the 22d *December*, the day after his arrival. We have had an audience, been received, and presented our propositions. As yet we have received no answer, nor can we divine what it will be. They are very timid and secret, but we have hopes. In the mean time we are endeavouring to procure artillery, arms, ammunition, and clothing, to fit you for another campaign, which, if it be as undecisive as this, will nearly exhaust the enemy's strength. Two things, however, I would wish to impress upon your minds: to look forward and prepare for the worst event, and to search for every resource within yourselves, so as to have as little external dependence as possible. The events of the year 1777 are of such infinite importance, that no industry and no expense can be too great to turn them to our advantage. If they are decidedly in our favour, our liberties and properties will be assured forever.

I have sent for your sons hither. I mean to keep *Ludwell* with me, and if his genius suits, to train him to arms, chiefly in the engineering line. *Tom* I will send to you with our despatches, when they are of importance. He is now of an age to be useful to you in *Virginia*, from whence your absence must greatly damage your affairs.

Yours affectionately,

ARTHUR LEE.

To *Richard Henry Lee*, Esq.

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SAMUEL WRIGHT TO COLONEL RICHARDSON.

Queen Ann's County, December 25th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Since my returning home, finding my friends exceedingly against my entering the service again, beg leave to resign the commission you have been kind enough to appoint me to. Return you my hearty thanks for the honour conferred upon me; and am, with the greatest respect, yours,

SAMUEL WRIGHT, *of Thomas*.

Colonel *William Richardson*, *Caroline* County.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO ASSEMBLY OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Baltimore, December 25th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Since I did myself the honour of addressing you last on the subject of the enclosed resolve, the Congress have received fresh intelligence from Generals *Schuyler* and *Gates*, urging the necessity of an immediate compliance therewith. In consequence of which, they have directed me to represent to you, that without your immediate aid and assistance, the important fortress of *Ticonderoga* will unavoidably fall into the hands of our enemies, the troops who at present garrison that and the adjacent posts having determined not to remain there after the term of their inlistment expires.

It is needless to use arguments on the occasion, or to paint the dreadful consequences to gentlemen already fully acquainted with them, of leaving the back settlements of the *New-England* States open to the ravages of our merciless foes. If any thing can add to your exertions at this time, it must be the reflection that your own most immediate safety calls upon you to strain every nerve. Should we heedlessly abandon the post of *Ticonderoga*, we give up inconceivable advantages; should we resolutely maintain it, (and it is extremely capable of defence,) we may bid defiance to General *Carleton*, and the northern army under his command. But our exertions for this purpose must be immediate, or they will not avail any thing. The thirty-first of this instant, the time will expire for which the troops in that important garrison were inlisted, and *Lake Champlain* will, in all probability, be frozen over soon after. For the sake, therefore, of all that is dear to freemen, be entreated to pay immediate attention to this requisition of Congress, and let nothing divert you from it. The affairs of our country are in a situation to admit of no delay. They may still be retrieved, but not without the greatest expedition and vigour.

If nothing was at stake but your own peace and security, I should not be so earnest on the occasion. It is the fate of posterity (which depends upon our conduct) that stamps a value on the present cause. I beseech you, therefore, by all that is sacred; by that love of liberty and your country which you have always manifested; by those ties of honour which bind you to the common cause; by that love of virtue and happiness which animates all good men; and, finally, by your regard for succeeding generations, that you will, without a moment's delay, exert yourselves to forward the troops to *Ticonderoga* from your State, agreeably to the enclosed requisition of Congress.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

To the Assembly of *New-Hampshire*.

[Same to Assembly of *Massachusetts-Bay*, and to the Assembly of *Connecticut*.]

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BENJAMIN HARRISON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 25, 1776.

SIR: Congress are in immediate want of a fast-sailing vessel. Every endeavour has been used to procure one without success, nor have they the least chance left of getting one unless your honourable Board will spare Captain *Martin's* brig. I should by no means ask the favour, knowing how necessary this vessel is to the State of *Maryland*, if the occasion was not of the most pressing nature. Should the Board be so obliging as to part with her, Congress expect to pay what the vessel and cargo cost, with every charge of wages and outfit. You'll please to lay this matter before the Board, and favour me with their answer by the express.

I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,

BENJ. HARRISON.

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WILLIAM ELLERY TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Baltimore, December 25th, 1776.

SIR: I did myself the honour of writing to you by Captain *Garcia*, the 10th instant, since which nothing new hath taken place that I know of in the Army, excepting the capture of General *Lee*, by a party of the enemy's Light-Horse, on the 13th. By some fatality, as General *Sullivan* in a letter to Congress expresses himself, General *Lee*, with his family, took lodging in a farm-house, about three miles distant from the Army under his command. Some Tories informed the enemy of his situation. They sent off eighty Light-Horse to take him, who surrounded and attacked the house. The General, with his family, made a manly resistance, but were finally obliged to submit, and the poor General was carried away the captive. A fatality, strange indeed, for some time past, hath seemed to attend our affairs. The loss of *Fort Washington*, when twenty-six hundred of our men were captivated in an inglorious manner; the loss of *Fort Lee*, by surprise, with a great quantity of stores, and the capture of the General, who was honoured by his name being given to that fort, and, in short, all our affairs, have in a strange manner proceeded. I hope in God better fortune will attend our future operations. General *Howe's* Army, by our last advices, had extended itself along the *Delaware*, towards

the north principally, with an apparent design to pass the river. General *Washington* had posted his Army along the river so as to obstruct their passage. Some of the Militia of *Pennsylvania*, the Lower Counties, and *Maryland*, are about to reinforce, and some have actually reinforced, his Army; and General *Sullivan*, on whom the command of the division late under the command of the unhappy *Lee* is devolved, was on the 13th of this month marching to join him. When they join, they will together make a respectable Army, sufficient to prevent *Howe's* entering *Pennsylvania*. Indeed, the armies must before this have formed a junction, if General *Sullivan's* division hath not been repulsed by General *Howe*. We expect to hear from *Philadelphia* every moment; if any thing new shall arrive before I am obliged to close my letter

You have doubtless before this heard of the removal of Congress to this place. This is the first opportunity I have had, and this is circuitous, (via *Boston*,) to inform you of it. The enemy was so near, and affairs in the city in such confusion, that it was improper and unsafe to continue there, and for reasons too long for a letter. *Baltimore* was fixed upon as the most suitable place for holding Congress in for the present. I should like the place well enough, if it was less distant from the Army, less dirty, and less expensive.

It is long since I have heard from my constituents. What is doing, and how matters stand in our State, I know no more than an inhabitant of the moon; although it would be beneficial to have every necessary information seasonably.

We have an account that a fleet, with eight or ten thousand men, have gone to *Newport*, and that the Island was evacuated by the inhabitants; but that the enemy had not landed. By a letter from General *Wooster* to Congress, of the 8th of this instant, we are informed that the fleet on the 6th were off *New-London*. If it be true that so large a force hath gone to *Rhode-Island*, something more is intended, in my opinion, than the bare taking the town of *Newport* for winter-quarters. I suspect that they mean to take possession of *Providence*, and from thence penetrate into the *Massachusetts-Bay*. If they attack *Providence*, it will be by land. They will pass up the bay to *Warwick Neck* perhaps, then land, and march to the town. There ought to be a good redoubt at *Warwick Point*, to check their landing and give time for troops to be arrayed to oppose their progress. I think that this division of the enemy's Army affords us a fine opportunity to make an efficacious stroke on them. As soon as I had notice that I thought I could depend upon, I immediately proposed to the *New-England* Delegates to write to General *Washington*, informing him that a fleet, with a large body of troops under *Clinton*, had sailed for *Rhode-Island*, and desiring him to send General *Gates* or *Greene*, with such Brigadier-Generals as could be spared, to take the command and direction of the troops that might be raised in *New-England*, to repel the enemy from the Island, or oppose their making any inroads into the country. It was agreed to, and a letter wrote. The General told us in answer, that he had received previous notice, and had sent orders to Generals *Arnold* and *Spencer*, who were then at *Albany*, to repair to *New-England*, and take the command of the yeomanry that should muster on this occasion. I hope that the Militia will universally turn out, and not suffer the enemy to enter and ravage our State as they have done the *Jersey*. I hope that they will turn out in such numbers as to be able to give an effectual blow to the enemy in our quarter. If the Army under *Clinton* should receive a mortal wound from the brave *New-Englanders*, it would, in my opinion, bring the war to a speedy close; whereas, if this opportunity of the division of the *British* Army should be neglected, or not improved, the war, in all probability, will be protracted to a great length, if not speedily issued in our destruction, in the destruction of all we hold dear; for we have good reason to think that a reinforcement of twenty thousand men will be sent over next spring. By a letter from an unknown, but I suppose a good hand, read in Congress this day, it appears that the Court of *London* had attempted, and were attempting by every means they could devise, to procure aid from every Power in *Europe*, or to induce them to a neutrality; and the writer of the letter gave it as his opinion, that what they could collect in *Germany*, together with recruits raised in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, would amount to about that number; and that *Russia* would not furnish them with any men. From hence the necessity appears that we should act in every quarter this winter with the spirit of men contending for an invaluable prize.

By expresses from *Philadelphia*, received this day, it seems that the Militia of that State begin to rouse themselves, and are collecting very fast to reinforce General *Washington*. I have some hopes that *Howe* will be drove out of the *Jersey* this winter. If this should take place, and the *New-England* States should give *Clinton* a sound drubbing, we then need not fear what *Britain*, with all her mercenaries, should attempt.

There are brave enterprising spirits in *Providence*. They burned a *Gaspee*. They may burn the *British* fleet. I hope they will make the trial, and every effort to destroy both fleet and army. I imagine that there are a number of seamen in port belonging to the Navy of the *United States*, as well as privateers. These men, I should think, could be easily induced to enterprise any thing. They are brave, and well know that if the *British* fleet is suffered to remain in our bay, there will be an end to privateering, by which they have made immense gain. What I have wrote on this head goes on this supposition, that a fleet with a large body of troops is at *Rhode-Island*, and flows from that warm regard I have for the State of *Rhode-Island*, and the glorious cause in which we are embarked. In this cause I am willing to exert, and have exerted, my best abilities; for this I have suffered great anxiety; have left wife and children, and the sweetest and closest connections in life. Where my wife and children are I know not. I hope they have escaped from *Rhode-Island*, and are not fallen into the hands of the enemy. If they should have been so unhappy, I hope the State will interfere in their behalf, and procure their release.

I wish that an additional Delegate may have been chosen, and that he may have set off for Congress. If it should not have been done, I hope it will be speedily done, and that an addition might be made to the salary already voted; and I believe that the Assembly will not think me mercenary, nor an addition unnecessary, when they are informed that I am obliged to give six dollars a week for boarding myself, and that every article of living is doubled within a year or two. I ask no more of the State than sufficient to give me a decent support while I am in its service, and I know the generosity of my constituents too well to doubt of their disposition to do what is right in this instance. To that generosity and good disposition I readily submit this matter; and am, with the sincerest regard, their and your Honour's friend and humble servant,

WILLIAM ELLERY.

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COLONEL THORNTON TO MESHECH WEARE.

Baltimore, 25 December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: The near approach of the enemy to *Philadelphia*, the slowness of the Militia, and the advice of friends, induced the Congress to adjourn to this town, which is about one hundred and ten miles southwest from *Philadelphia*. By our last advices the Militia are joining our Army in great numbers, from which we have great hopes that General *Howe* and his Army will soon be in our power, or return to *New-York*. The Congress have encouragement of assistance in the spring. Nothing will be wanting on their part to support independence, defeat the enemy, and render the *United States* great, honourable, and happy.

An inexcusable neglect in the officers, want of fidelity, honour, and humanity in the doctors, and avarice in the suttlers, has slain ten soldiers to the enemy's one, and will soon prevent every man of common sense from putting his life and fortune in the power of such as destroy both without pity or mercy. I have proposed to Congress that every State in future should appoint one or more Suttlers, as they think proper, for their own men, to be supplied by a Committee appointed by said State with every thing necessary for sick and well men, at a price stipulated by said State; the Suttlers and Committee to be paid by and accountable to said State; and a Superintendent who shall have no other business but to see that every soldier belonging to the State is properly supplied and supported agreeable to their circumstances, and that proper stoppages be made for what they receive, when they are receiving their wages. The Congress

approve of the method, but say it is the business and duty of each State to take care of their own men, and they expect they will. This may appear expensive, but when it is considered that by this or some better method, that the Council and Assembly think of, we may soon (when it is published) have an Army in the field able to defeat any *Britain* can send, and without we shall soon have none but officers; all which is humbly submitted to the wisdom and prudence of the honourable Council and Assembly, by him who has the honour to be, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient and humble servant,

MATHEW THORNTON.

P. S. The Honourable Colonel *Whipple* is well. I have received no letter since I left *New-Hampshire*. Please to take the trouble to present my compliments to the honourable Council and Assembly, and to *William Parker*, Esq.

The Hon. *Meshech Weare*, Esq., President of the Council of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

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Baltimore, December 25, 1776.

Major-General *Gates* and Brigadier-Generals *St. Clair* and *Maxwell*, arrived a few days ago at General *Washington's* Head-Quarters from *Ticonderoga*.

Colonel *Ford*, of *Morris* County, in *New-Jersey*, who has several hundred men under his command, has harassed the enemy very much by surprising their guards, and taking their wagons, stores, &c.

Captain *Ephraim Anderson*, of *New-Jersey*, has gained great honour in several enterprises against the enemy near *Trenton*.

A number of the *Boston* Tories have lately died, unpitied and unlamented, at *Halifax*, in *Nova-Scotia*. The famous General *Brattle* is among the number.

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MARINE COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN NICHOLSON.

December 25, 1776.

SIR: As the severe weather is like to make in, Captain *Biddle* will try to make a push with the *Randolph*; and as it is of the utmost consequence that you should get to *Carolina* if possible, I think it most for the publick service that you should go down the bay in company with him, and I hope this will find you in readiness. You will see the ship as she comes down, and must join her as soon as you can, and you must concert with Captain *Biddle* the best plan you can think of for getting out. I am fearful an expedition is gone or will soon go against *Charles-Town*; therefore you must proceed cautiously, and get into the first safe harbour in that State that you can, and give immediate notice to the President and the Continental Agents of your arrival.

I am, sir, by order of the Marine Committee, your humble servant,

ROBERT MORRIS, *V. P.*

Captain *John Nicholson.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Head-Quarters, 25th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have your obliging favours of the 21st and 23d. The blankets are come to hand; but I would not have any of the other goods sent on till you hear again from me.

I agree with you that it is in vain to ruminate upon, or even reflect upon, the authors or causes of our present misfortunes. We should rather exert ourselves, and look forward with hopes, that some lucky chance may yet turn up in our favour. Bad as our prospects are, I should not have the least doubt of success in the end did not the late treachery and defection of those who stood foremost in the Opposition while fortune smiled upon us make me fearful that many more will follow their example, who, by using their influence with some and working upon the fears of others, may extend the circle so as to take in whole Towns, Counties, nay Provinces. Of this, we have a recent instance in *Jersey*; and I wish many parts of *Pennsylvania* may not be ready to receive the yoke.

The security of the Continental ships-of-war in *Delaware* is certainly a capital object, and yet to draft the many hands necessary to fit them out, from the Militia, might be dangerous just now. Perhaps, in a little time hence, their places may be supplied with country Militia, and then, if the exigency of affairs requires it, they certainly ought to be spared.

I will just hint to you a proposition that was made, or rather talked of, a few days ago, by the officers of two *New-England* regiments, whose time of service will expire on the 1st *January*. They are, most of them, watermen, and they said their men would willingly go on board the frigates and navigate them round to any of the ports of *New-England*, if it was thought they would be safer there than in *Delaware*. You may think of this, and let me hear from you on the subject if the proposition pleases you.

Lieutenant *Boger*, of the Navy, is already gone in; and I have made a demand of Lieutenant *Josiah* in exchange, but I have not heard whether Lord *Howe* accedes to it. I will procure the release of Doctor *Hodge* as soon as it can be done without injuring others by giving him the preference, as I have always made it a rule to demand those first who have been longest in captivity. I will take the same steps in regard to Mr. *Jones*, commander of the sloop taken by the *Andrew Doria*.

I shall take the earliest opportunity of sending in your letter to General *Lee*, with the bill drawn upon Major *Small*.

From an intercepted letter from a person in the secrets of the enemy, I find their intentions are to cross *Delaware* as soon as the ice is sufficiently strong. I mention this that you may take the necessary steps for the security of such publick and private property as ought not to fall into their hands should they make themselves masters of *Philadelphia*, of which they do not seem to entertain the least doubt.

I hope the next Christmas will prove happier than the present to you, and to, dear sir, your sincere friend and humble servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

P. S. I would just ask whether you think *Christeen* a safe place for our stores? Do not you think they would be safer at *Lancaster*, or somewhere more inland?

*Robert Morris*, Esq.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL PUTNAM.

Camp, above Trenton-Falls, December 25th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I am glad to hear by your son that you are getting better again. If I had not been well convinced before of the enemy's intention of possessing themselves of *Philadelphia* so soon as the frost will form ice hard enough to transport them and their artillery across the *Delaware*, I have an intercepted letter which puts the matter beyond a doubt. If, therefore, the citizens of *Philadelphia* have any regard for the town, not a moment's time is to be lost in putting it in the best posture of defence possible; but lest this should not be done, I would have the publick stores of every kind that can be, removed, except such as may be necessary for immediate use, and except provisions. I think the stores should go towards *Lancaster* instead of *Christeen* bridge, unless they can be water borne (at this time to the bridge) and readily transported from thence into the country. Should not this be the case, may they not easily be seized at *Christeen*? I think they may; but this matter should be inquired into.

I am sorry Colonel *Griffin* has left the *Jerseys*. Some active officer of influence ought, in my opinion, to repair there, to inspirit the people and keep the Militia from disbanding, and, if possible, to encourage them to assemble.

Let me know the exact state and strength of the Militia with you, that I may know how to govern myself; also of the expectation you have of more coming in.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

P. S. If a party of Militia from *Philadelphia* could be sent over to support the *Jersey* Militia about *Mount-Holly*, would it not serve to prevent them from submission? I wish you could get Colonel *Forman*, and endeavour, in my name, to prevail upon him to exert himself in this business. I want to see him myself much on this account.

Pray send the letter to Mr. *Hancock* by express, if the post does not set out immediately for *Baltimore*.

To Major-General *Putnam.*

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COURT-MARTIAL ON CALEB GREEN.

At a General Court-Martial, held by order of Major-

General *Heath*, at *Mandeville's* Tavern, *December* 25th, 1776, to try such prisoners as shall be brought before them: Colonel *Wyllys* President.

Members.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieut. Colonel *Cooper*, | Captain *Ball*, |
| Major *Purdy*, | Captain *Shipman*, |
| Captain *Pettibone*, | Captain *Scott*, |
| Captain *Maxwell*, | Captain *Platt*, |
| Captain *Morse*, | Captain *Steward*, |
| Captain *Darby*, | Captain *Blanc*. |

Captain *Hyde*. Judge-Advocate.

*Caleb Green*, a soldier in Colonel *Thomas's* regiment, and my company, confined for desertion. *Samuel Townsend*, Captain, to the officer of the main guard, *Peekskill*, 9th *December*, 1776.

The prisoner to the crime pleads Not guilty.

*Abraham Egburt*, on oath, testifies, that himself and the prisoner had liberty to go to the Hospital, to recover their health. They went, and found no Doctor, nor any body to assist them; from the Hospital the prisoner went to his own home, about two miles, and that he has not seen him since, till he returned to his own company, the 8th of *December*.

*William Brown*, on oath, testifies, that he was sent to order the prisoner to camp, but on being informed by his neighbours that he was unable to go to camp, never went to him. I was sent to him a second time, about the beginning of this month. I forwarded the order by the prisoner's brother, and the prisoner made no delay in coming.

*Nathan Merrit* testifies, that he agrees with *William Brown*, and further saith, that about the 25th of last *November* he was at the prisoner's house, and that he appeared very unwell.

*Daniel Lewis*, on oath, agrees with *Nathan Merrit* respecting the prisoner's health.

The Court having heard the evidences offered, do unanimously adjudge the prisoner not guilty of the crime laid to his charge.

Sam'l Wyllys, *President*.

I do hereby approve the sentence. W. Heath.

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ROBERT YATES TO JAMES DUANE.

Claverack, December 25th, 1776.

Sir: The bearer hereof, Mr. *Jeremiah C. Miller*, is the young gentleman whom I heretofore recommended to the Committee of Arrangement for an ensigncy. As he does not know whether he is appointed, he now calls on you for information. He is at present called out with the Militia to the Highlands; and should he be appointed, it would probably be necessary for him to join his regiment.

I have understood by Mr. *Abraham Yates*, who this morning passed by here in his way to *Albany*, that the Government report is completed. He was in so great a hurry to go up, that I had no opportunity of receiving from him any information upon this important subject. If you could give me your thoughts upon it, you'll oblige me much. I should also be glad to know the day you expect to return to the *Fishkill*, as it is probable I shall accompany you.

I am, with the greatest esteem, your most obedient servant,

Robt. Yates.

To the Hon. *James Duane*, Esq., Manor *Livingston*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut*, *Middletown*, *December* 25th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy Governour, *Jabez Huntington*, *William Williams*, *William Hillhouse*, *Benjamin Huntington*, *Thomas Seymour*, Esqrs.

*Voted*, To refer an Account of Colonel *William Pitkin* to the Committee of Pay-Table for adjustment, and to draw on the Treasurer for what they shall find justly due, &c.

*Voted*, That Messrs. *Bunting*, *Waddle*, *Corsey*, *Whitehead*, *Bets*, and , be permitted to return to their places of abode in the State of *New-York*, upon their giving their parole, in writing, not to give any intelligence, nor do or say any thing against the service of the *American* States, and return back to this State on being requested.

*Voted*, To permit *Terence McDermott*, a prisoner of war in this State, to go to *New-York*, on his parole, for thirty-one days, and then to return and deliver himself up, unless within that time he obtain the liberty of some gentleman of equal rank in the *American* service, in exchange for him, &c.

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TERENCE M'DERMOTT TO GEORGE WYLLYS.

Sir: I sailed from *Cork* early in the year '75, in order to join his Majesty's Sixteenth Regiment of Foot, quartered at *Pensacola*, as a volunteer, and arrived, after a very long passage, at *Philadelphia*, where I was made prisoner. When I left home, there was not the most distant idea of an *American* war; nor was there the least reason to suspect it.

The multiplicity of publick business in which the Governour has been lately engaged, prevented me from communicating my private affairs, in order to make a request which I humbly conceive I can now make with the greatest propriety, particularly as the same indulgence I mean to ask has been granted to sundry gentlemen in the *American* service, both by Generals *Carleton* and *Howe*, and a compliance with which I presume can be of no disadvantage to the *American* cause. Necessity obliges me to ask leave to go to *New-York* for thirty days, on parole, in order to negotiate some private affairs, as I am the elder brother of a long family, who are very young, and unable to help themselves, and must necessarily view me in the light of a parent; and my confinement having prevented every opportunity of hearing from my agent, the want of which may not only injure myself, but militate very much against my brothers and sisters; and as you are a gentleman of humanity, I beg leave to request you will represent my situation to the Governour, and use your influence to obtain this favour, which shall ever be gratefully acknowledged by, sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

Ter. McDermott.

*George Wyllys*, Esq.

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PAROLE OF TERENCE M'DERMOTT.

In consequence of a particular favour granted me by his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, in giving me liberty to go to *New-York* for thirty-one days, on parole, to transact private affairs of my own, I, *Terence McDermott*, an officer in his *Britannick* Majesty's service, do promise and engage, on the word and honour of a gentlemen and soldier, that I will not convey any intelligence, say or do any thing prejudicial to these States; and also, that I will not bear arms against the same until exchanged; and that I will, within thirty-one days from the date hereof, deliver myself up to Governour *Trumbull*, unless within that time I obtain the liberty of some gentleman of equal rank in the *American* service, who shall be approved of by his Honour the Governour, or any other person he shall be pleased to appoint. I likewise give my honour that my business shall be entirely confined to my own private affairs.

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In Committee of Safety, December 25th, 1776.

Resolved to permit Mr. *Terence McDermott*, to go to *New-York*, upon the terms and for the time mentioned and proposed in the foregoing form of a parole, upon his executing and delivering the same to his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, in writing.

Attest: Benj. Huntington, *Clerk*.

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MEMORANDUM.

If Governour *Trumbull* shall agree to accept of a gentleman in the Continental service, of Mr. *McDurmott's* rank, Mr. *McDurmott* will use his influence to have one of equal rank set at liberty. Young Mr. *Wylliss*, he flatters himself, he will obtain liberty for. If this cannot be effected, Mr. *Durmott* will give any security the Governour pleases to ask, that he will return in less than thirty-one days, and will, during that term, consider himself bound in honour by his parole, which shall be faithfully kept by him.

Mr. *Babbage*, Captain *Hays*, Lieutenants *Feltham* and *Richardson*, and sundry others, have obtained liberty, some of them to go home, and others into General *Howe's* camp for a certain time, on private business.

STEPHEN HOPKINS TO JAMES BOWDOIN.

Providence, December 25, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: We, the Committees appointed by the States of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, *Connecticut*, *New-Hampshire*, and *Rhode-Island*, to consider of the measures to be taken at this critical conjuncture for the common defence, and now convened at *Providence*, are of opinion that the enemy, having with a large body of land forces and a great number of ships-of-war and transports, taken possession of the Island of *Rhode-Island* and the *Narragansett-Bay*, will penetrate the country, unless a sufficient force be kept up to repel them; that their taking possession of this town will be attended with the most pernicious consequences to *New-England*, and, of course, to all the *United States*; and that for the immediate defence and security of *New-England*, it is necessary that the forces from your State under the command of Major-General *Lincoln*, ordered to march, or who may be marching, through this town, be retained here until a proper representation of the matter be made to Congress, and they give orders therein, or unless some further movements of the enemy shall make it necessary to march them elsewhere. We are fully convinced that the Militia, called suddenly upon an alarm, and quite impatient of fatigue and discipline, will prove ineffectual to oppose so large a body of the enemy; and as we have information that the enemy have taken on board their transports a quantity of hay and straw, and embarked a considerable number of troops, we are induced the more strongly to recommend the measure.

We submit this representation, and desire you would give orders to General *Lincoln*, who hath been appointed by the State of *Rhode-Island* to the command of all the forces in it, to continue his troops here until further orders from you, or if it shall be necessary, to march them elsewhere.

We are, very respectfully, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient and humble servants.

Signed in behalf of the Committee, by

STEPHEN HOPKINS, *President*.

To the Hon. *James Bowdoin*, President of the Council of the *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO JOHN WATSON.

War Office, Boston, December 25th, 1776.

SIR: The Board of War for this State having occasion for two hundred hogsheads of tobacco; and being recommended to you by Mr. *Simeon Eliot*, tobacconist of this town, as a gentleman that could supply us with that quantity at thirty shillings per hundred weight, to be delivered here free of charge, desire you would as soon as possible let us hear from you, advising whether you can supply us at the same. If the proposal is agreeable to you, will immediately send the same to *Boston* by teams, and your draft on the Board for the pay of the same, as soon as the tobacco is delivered, shall be duly honoured.

By order of the Board:

J. WARREN, *President*.

Mr. *John Watson*.

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COLONEL WHITE'S STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS IN AMERICA.

London, February 25, 1777.

Yesterday Lieutenant-Colonel *White*, Aid-de-Camp to General *Howe*, arrived at Lord *George Germain's* office, from *America*, with the following intelligence: That about Christmas last, General *Washington*, at the head of a large body of Provincials, attacked the left wing of the King's forces near *Trentown*, in *New-Jersey*, consisting of several brigades of *Hessians*. The night preceding the grand affair, they drove in our advanced posts, and the next morning began their attack very briskly about six o'clock, when, after a smart engagement, the *Hessians*, who were unfortunately detached, were routed, seven hundred of whom were taken prisoners, and their Colonel, *Reyne*, killed. The Forty-Ninth and Seventeenth Regiments of *British* were ordered to advance to bring off *Dunhoff's* corps, which they effected, but with great loss. The left of our Army is now at *Princess-Town*, in the midway between *New-York* and *Philadelphia*, and about twenty miles from *Trentown*. He further adds, that General *Lee* was made prisoner by Colonel *Harcourt*, who had marched near forty miles from the Army with his party of forty Light-Dragoons, who surrounded the head-quarters of the Rebel General, about three miles from the Provincial Army, which was guarded by near fifty men; that on hearing the firing, General *Lee* ran to the door, with two *French* officers, one of whom was shot dead by his side; that being thus taken by surprise, he was put upon a horse, and galloped off with in despite of all his overtures for a parley; that *Lee*, when he was brought in, demanded to be received under the proclamation; but on being refused the benefit thereof, and told that he would be tried as a deserter, he flew into the most unbounded rage, and exclaimed against the repeated acts of false faith and treachery which had reduced him to his present situation. He is now a close prisoner at *Brunswick*.

Colonel *White* further says, that the Congress had removed from *Philadelphia*, on the approach of General *Howe*, to *Lancaster*, about forty-five miles distant from their late place; that it was now rendered very contemptible by the divisions that had long agitated it, and the revolt of several of its principal members, particularly the family of the *Alleynes*, who had all quitted their seats in this Congressional Senate, come in to Government, and taken the benefit of the proclamation; that General *Washington* continues to occupy the heights, with a reduced and mutinous force of about ten thousand men; for that the time being up of the principal part of the Rebel Army, they were quitting the service, and returning home in a state the most wretched and discontented, &c.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE ACTION AT TRENTON; WRITTEN BEFORE THE AMERICAN ACCOUNT OF IT ARRIVED IN ENGLAND.

London, February, 1777.

As the capture of the *Hessians* and the manœuvres against the *British* took place after the surprise of General *Lee*, we find that *Lee* is not the only efficient officer in the *American* service. We find also, that the mere running through a Province is not the subduing of it. It is a bad rule to think the fate of *America* decided by the transient possession of open villages and hamlets; and those who adopt this rule, are in danger of the poet's satire:

> While their weak heads, like towns unfortified,
> 'Twixt sense and nonsense daily change their side.

General *Howe* has lately been obliged to relinquish *West-Jersey* and *White-Plains*, quite up to *King's Bridge*; and who knows that the taking even of *Philadelphia* may'nt be more lasting. *Charles* the Third twice entered *Madrid*, and was twice forced to retreat from thence: *Charles*, however, was always King of *Spain*—in the neighbourhood of his Army.

It is likewise a bad rule to call ourselves prosperous in proportion as we penetrate the country; for our danger increases in proportion to our distance from the fleet, and our dispersion. Perhaps the small scale of our maps deceives us; and as the word *America* takes up no more room than the word *Yorkshire*, we seem to think the territories they represent much of the same bigness: though *Charles-Town* is as far from *Boston*, as *London* is from *Venice*. *Braddock* might tell the difficulties of this loose, rugged country, were he living. *Amherst* may still do it. Yet these officers found a willing people to help them; and General *Howe* finds nothing willing.

Well may the Brothers be at a loss for the next campaign, when there is no ruling fortress to direct them, the attack and possession of which would give them command over the country. We have undertaken a war against farmers and farm-houses, scattered through a wild waste of continent, and shall soon be mortified at hearing our General obliged to garrison woods, and scale rocks and mountains, to wait for boats and pontoons at rivers, and to have many of his convoys and escorts as large as armies. These, and a thousand such difficulties, will rise upon us in the next stage of the war. I say next stage, because we have hitherto spent one campaign and some millions, in losing one landing place at *Boston;* and at the charge of seven millions and a second campaign, we have replaced it with two other landing places (or sally-ports) at *Rhode-Island* and *New-York*. Men with military ideas must allow that the war itself but opens in the ensuing campaign. But I believe the *English* nation won't always rest contented, if our success is to meet

with a full stop, whenever "the Rebels throw themselves into strong holds," and "a strong country;" particularly should the major part of the country prove cast into the same mould.

The success of a war of parties must necessarily be various, were it only from the accidental difference of numbers in those parties. The advantages in these actions, for some years to come, will probably be in our favour; but we shall at last certainly teach them how to beat us. I would in the mean time recommend it to each side to be calm and moderate; for often one side has for a month or two, perhaps, been revelling in the triumph of victory, a defeat may come and damp their spirits for the following month: like the vibrating of a balance, which at last, however, must settle with the heavier weight. All the events that have yet taken place in *America*, are trivial and bloodless, compared with what we may hereafter expect from thence. Horrour runs through me, when I think of the prospect.

As we seem pleasant and well satisfied, at the idea of largely augmenting our forces in *America*, I must tell your readers, (what they don't all of them know,) that an army generally loses one fourth of its whole numbers every campaign, from slaughter, sickness, and so forth.* Notwithstanding the seeming inactivity of our Army last year, it has shrunk away so fast, and is so incomplete, that by the time the transports arrive in *May*, these reinforcements will turn out to be only recruits, and this must be done over again every year. But recruiting in *Germany* will perhaps soon go on heavily; and so I think it ought, if we must pay them not only for all we inlist, but for all we lose.

The Brothers, as I understand, have sent for more assistance, a great part of which they must be refused. The request, I think, is a signal of their fears, and intimates that they mean to throw the blame of ill success from themselves upon the Ministry, to whom it certainly belongs. They speak truly, however; they must have a much larger force to do any thing effectual.

I am entirely of opinion with *Voltaire*, that every great conqueror must be a great politician. Something more is required than the mere mechanical business of fighting, in composing revolts, and bringing back things to their former order, for any length of time. When General *Howe* talks so peevishly of the burning of *New-York* and the murder of Captain *Philips*, he throws aside all memory of the burning of *Falmouth* and other towns, and of the conduct of the *Hessians*, who, like other mercenaries, can't be kept attached without much license and plunder. He ought to have known that *New-York* was evacuated by order of Congress, to prevent its being burnt, and that nothing is more common in war than the resentment of the peasantry. When he says, however, with respect to the fate of this unfortunate youth, that "the enemy seem from several late instances to have adopted this mode of war," he confesses that the fact, supposing his idea of it well founded, is both new and unfrequent. But I never indulge in personalities. The characters of the Brothers were once respectable, and I could willingly have praised them; but I shall leave the spoiling of those characters to themselves.

I am, sir, yours, &c., A. B.

*See *Pringle*, *Montecuculli*, &c., &c.

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOUR OF VIRGINIA.

*By his Excellency* PATRICK HENRY, *Jun., Esq., Governour or Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth of Virginia: A Proclamation.*

Whereas the present critical situation of *American* affairs renders necessary the utmost exertion of every sister State, to put a speedy end to the cruel ravages of a haughty and inveterate enemy, and secure our invaluable rights: I have therefore thought proper, by and with the advice of the Privy Council, to issue this my Proclamation, hereby most earnestly exhorting and requiring the several County Lieutenants, and other officers of the Militia within this Commonwealth, and all other subjects of the same, forthwith to use their utmost endeavours to associate so many Companies of Volunteers as may be willing to engage in the defence of this State, or march to the assistance of any other, should the exigency of things demand it, and, without loss of time, to inform me of their success in this business. Each Company must consist of sixty-eight men rank and file, under one Captain, two Lieutenants, and an Ensign, to be chosen by the Company. It will be necessary that the men should furnish themselves with the best guns and other arms which can be procured, also powder-horns, cartouch-boxes or pouches, and blankets.

And I do hereby promise, that all such persons as shall engage in this service shall receive the pay and rations provided by this State for their regular troops; also forage for such horses as they, or any of them, may find for the expeditious marching of the troops, and forwarding the same; and that such volunteers shall not be obliged to serve longer than the particular exigence that called them forth continues, or their place can be supplied by regular troops.

Given under my hand, this 26th day of *December*, in the first year of the Commonwealth, and in the year of our Lord 1776.

PATRICK HENRY, Jun.

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JAMES LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE TO DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER.

Talbot County, December 26th, 1776.

SIR: A sincere desire to render my country every service in my power, induced me to accept the enclosed commission; but finding myself disappointed, that many of us rather disposed to quarrel with his neighbour than face the enemy, that a general discontent prevails, and unwillingness in the people to do any duty or even attend musters, and a disregard to any sort of order, several battalions without field officers, and others absolutely refusing to obey the commands of those appointed over them, has determined me to resign that commission with which I was honoured by the Convention; and wish he that succeeds me may give general satisfaction.

I am, with the greatest respect, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

JAS. LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE.

To the Hon'ble the President of the Council of Safety, in *Annapolis*.

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DANIEL OF ST. THOMAS JENIFER TO COLONEL PLATER.

Stepney, December 26th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed you have a letter from the President of the Board of War, and the proposed answer to it from our Board, which, if approved by you, *I. M. Thomas* may be sent on to Colonel *Hale* for his assent, in order to save time.

With my compliments to Mrs. *Plater*, I am your obedient servant,

DAN'L OF ST. THOS. JENIFER.

To the Hon'ble Colonel *Plater*.

P. S. I have kept a copy of the letter to Mr. *H.*, and will bring it to town with me. It will save time; and the post be permitted to proceed without calling upon one of our clerks.

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MEMORIAL.

*To the Honourable Mr.* HANCOCK, *President of the Continental Congress:*

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: I am conscious of no crime. I see nothing in the whole career of my life that can appear inconsistent with the nicest principles of probity and military honour. I should be sorry that this supplication should be understood as the insinuations of an injured officer, rather than the humble effusions of a soul which has always been a stranger to inaction. Yes, honourable gentlemen, there is nothing which my heart aspires to more than to demonstrate the purity of my sentiments, in that grand field of glory which this alarming crisis opens to our view. If, therefore, the honourable members of Congress be pleased to grant me the honour of finishing this campaign with my regiment, I solemnly pledge my honour, in the presence of God and the Congress, that I will appear at my trial when required.

I am, with the most profound respect, most honourable gentlemen, your most humble and obedient servant,

MEYNIERE,
*Officer of the American service.*

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

December 26th, 1776.

Sir: I have just received by the return of *Pluckrose*, the express, your favour of the 23d, and am very happy to find my conduct merits the approbation of Congress. They may depend on my utmost exertions to promote the publick good on every occasion that offers; and it is with singular pleasure I communicate any thing that will give you satisfaction, as I know what follows must.

Captain *Charles Alexander*, whom I sent up to Colonel *Cadwalader* for a few tradesmen, necessary to finish his sloop, says that whilst he was with the Colonel, a note came in from *Trentown*, giving an account that General *Washington* is now master of that place; that he had sent down to the ferry three hundred prisoners; had taken all the enemy's baggage and stores at that place; that the action had been pretty hot, for an hour or an hour and a half; that the *British* then run away towards *Bordenton*, and our people after them. This account is just confirmed by a letter from Mr. *Barclay* to Mr. *Mease*, who says Mr. *Tilghman* had come down to the ferry and gave him the account. This manœuvre of the General had been determined on some days ago, but he kept it secret as the nature of the service would admit. Colonel *Cadwalader* and General *Ewing* had orders to cross the river from their respective posts at the same time the General crossed from his, but the ice driving down from the falls impeded, and indeed prevented them from effecting this business. Colonel *Cadwalader* got over one thousand men near *Burlington*; but could not land his artillery on account of the ice, and this day being such extreme bad weather, he was compelled to bring them back; but on receiving the advice from *Trenton*, he determined to go again. I am confident he will be over this night; and I do suppose General *Ewing* will not remain of this side; so that, if General *Washington* does but follow up the blow and pursue them downwards, I think this will prove a mortal stroke to the enemy's intended expedition against this city.

Colonel *Griffin* is returned from his expedition, after a little skirmishing, as the enemy brought too powerful a body against him; however, about four hundred *Jersey* Militia remain at *Mount-Holly*, and I think General *Putnam* should reinforce them, as here are lately come in a considerable number of Militia. Indeed, I believe he has sent over a reinforcement, but to-morrow morning I will speak to him on this subject, as it is now too late at night.

Mr. *Sherman* arrived here yesterday. I have not seen, but am told, he brings an account that General *Heath* has crossed the *North River*, retaken *Fort Lee* and *Hackensack*, with all the baggage and stores at those places, and one hundred and thirty prisoners; and that he was employing wagons to remove the stores into places of greater safety. And from another quarter I am told General *Washington*, previous to his attack on *Trentown*, had given General *Heath* suitable orders.

You will observe I am not perfectly master of General *Washington's* plan. But it appears to me that he has directed General *Heath* to continue his march in the enemy's rear. Those that are between *Huckensack* and *Trentown* will be drawn off from General *Washington*, and leave him to pursue the flying heroes towards *Burlington*, where I expect Colonel *Cadwalader* will cut off the communication between them and about two thousand *Hessians* and *Highlanders*, that came to *Moore's Town* against *Griffin*. If this is the plan, I think it well laid; and if the General is properly supported in the execution, why shall we not put a glorious end to the campaign of 1776? It must, I had like to say it shall be so.

Captain *Robinson*, of the *Andrew Doria*, tells me just now that he hears his prize-sloop is got up to the chevaux-de-frise; and as this is the first of King *George's* own vessels that we have taken, I should be glad the Congress would order her into their service, and give the command of her to Lieutenant *Dunn*, of the *Andrew Doria*, who has been in the service from the first, and is said to be an officer of merit. Should General *Washington* follow up his blow, we may get time to fit out all the vessels; but if *Howe* comes here, we cannot do it for want of tradesmen.

The letter for General *Washington*, from Congress, shall be sent to him in the morning by Major *Pierce*, and a copy of the resolves you enclosed. I suppose there is a copy in the letter to him, but as you do not mention it I think it best to send them.

I am happy to find the attention Congress have paid to General *Lee*, and flatter myself they will be well pleased to learn that I had wrote a letter to him, enclosing a bill drawn by two officers of the Royal Highland Emigrants, on Major *Small*, for one hundred and sixteen pounds sterling, that had been supplied them by my friends in *Carolina*, where they are prisoners. This letter I sent open to General *Washington*, who promised to send it in with a flag; and in that letter I told General *Lee* I hoped he would be permitted to write me when he wanted more money, and he might depend on receiving it. Notwithstanding the supply I sent in, I shall desire General *Washington* to send a flag to know if gold will be admitted, and I will make a point to collect it.

Mr. *Walton* is now here. We have sent for Mr. *Clymer*, and to-morrow we shall enter on business as Committee men; and if our best endeavours to serve the publick can secure the approbation of Congress, we shall have it.

The enclosed letter from the General to your Honour being directed to you here, I judged it best to open it. I shall keep the contents to myself, as I shall of all letters of that kind; but I mentioned to the General what he deemed good news from *France*, and it had a good effect.

I am, most truly, sir, your most humble servant,

Robt. Morris.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 26, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have just received yours of yesterday, and will duly attend to those things you recommend to my consideration. At present, I have to enclose you a letter from Congress, which I suppose contains their resolves of the 20th instant; but as the President does not say in his letter to me that they are enclosed to you, and as it is necessary you should have them, I take the liberty to send herewith a copy of them.

I am well pleased to see the attention they pay to General *Lee*, and I shall make a point to collect and send your Excellency soon as possible the one hundred half-johannes they order.

You'll observe Mr. *Clymer*, Mr. *Walton*, and myself, are appointed a Committee to transact the Continental business here that may be necessary and proper, and I apprehend it will frequently be necessary that we should know the substance of your correspondence with Congress. Your letters to the President, if sent open, under our cover, shall always meet despatch, and their contents kept secret. And when you think it improper we should see them before the Congress, seal them, and they shall go forward untouched; and if you don't approve of submitting them to our inspection at all, write us freely, and your wishes in that respect shall be complied with.

We have just heard of your success at *Trenton*. The account is but imperfect, but we learn you are master of that place and of all the baggage and stores our enemies had there, and of three hundred prisoners, and that your troops were still in pursuit of the flying enemy. I have just wrote to Congress, and told them this much, as the substance of our account just come down; and I told them further, I had been informed that you had executed in this matter your part of a well-concerted plan; that General *Heath*, at *Hackensack*, had orders from you, and that General *Ewing* and Colonel *Cadwalader* also had orders to cross *Delaware* at the same time you did, but had been prevented by driving ice. Good news sets all the animal spirits to work; the imagination is heated, and I could not help adding, that I expected General *Heath* was to continue his march towards *Brunswick*, which would draw the attention of any troops posted there and at *Prince-Town*, whilst you would pursue the flying heroes to *Bordenton* and *Burlington*, where *Ewing* and *Cadwalader* would stop them, and cut off their communication with the two thousand *Hessians* and *Highlanders* that came after *Griffin*; nay, I almost promised them that you should, by following up this first blow, finish the campaign of 1776 with that eclat that your numerous friends and admirers have long wished for.

I congratulate you most heartily on what is done, and am,

with perfect esteem, dear sir, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To his Excellency *George Washington*, Esq., General and Commander-in-Chief, &c.

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COLONEL CADWALADER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bristol, 26th December, 1776.

SIR: The river was so full of ice that it was impossible to pass above *Bristol*, where I intended, and therefore concluded to make an attempt at *Dunks's Ferry*. As soon as it was dark, I sent down all the boats I could muster, and marched down about eight o'clock. I embarked a few men to line the river, and prevent any person escaping to give intelligence to the enemy; and these were followed by a part of the First Battalion of Militia; then two field-pieces, with which I went over to see if it was practicable to land them, and, upon examination, found it was impossible, the ice being very thick. Upon reporting this to the field-officers, they were all of opinion that it would not be proper to proceed without cannon. During this time the Third Battalion was landed. We concluded to withdraw the troops that had passed, but could not effect it till near four o'clock this morning. The whole then were ordered to march for *Bristol*. I imagine the badness of the night must have prevented you from passing as you intended. Our men turned out cheerfully. We had about eighteen hundred rank and file, including artillery. It will be impossible for the enemy to pass the river till the ice will bear.

Would it not be proper to attempt to cross below and join General *Putnam*, who was to go over from *Philadelphia* to-day with five hundred men, which number, added to the four hundred *Jersey* Militia which Colonel *Griffin* left there, would make a formidable body? This would cause a diversion that would favour any attempt you may design in future, and would expose their baggage and stores if they attempted to cross. It is impossible in our present situation to cooperate with General *Putnam*. The Militia will be easier kept together by being in motion, and we shall have some service from Colonel *Hitchcock's* brigade, whose time of inlistment will be up in a few days. We have procured a considerable number of shoes, stockings, and breeches, for them. They are in good spirits, and inlist very fast.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL CADWALADER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bristol, 26th December, 1776—nine o'clock.

SIR: We are now perfectly prepared, and would cross immediately, but the troops lost their rest last night. We have determined to pass over to the neck of land a little above *Bristol*, at six o'clock in the morning, proceed to *Russel*, down the Square, and from thence to *Bordenton*. I imagine if a part of your Army was to take possession of the other side of *Crosswix Bridge*, which is a pass easily defended, and the main body march round by *Crosswix*, we might perfectly surround the troops at *Bordenton*, so as to prevent one man from escaping. There are about two hundred men posted at *White Hill*, which post may be easily seized, and will be a commanding one for us. If possible, I should be glad to hear from you before we set off.

General *Putnam* was to cross at *Philadelphia* to-day, if the weather permitted, with one thousand men. Three hundred went over yesterday, and five hundred *Jersey* Militia are now there, as Colonel *Griffin* informs me to-day. These corps compose a formidable force. The plan would be more complete if General *Putnam* was one day's march advanced.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most humble servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A PRISONER IN NEW-YORK TO A GENTLEMAN IN NEW-LONDON, CONNECTICUT, DATED 26TH DECEMBER, 1776.

The distress of the prisoners cannot be communicated by words. Twenty or thirty die every day. They lie in heaps unburied. What numbers of my countrymen have died by cold and hunger, perished for want of the common necessaries of life! I have seen it. This, sir, is the boasted *British* clemency! I myself had well-nigh perished under it. The *New-England* people can have no idea of such barbarous policy. Nothing can stop such treatment but retaliation. I ever despised private revenge, but that of the publick must be in this case just and necessary. It is due to the manes of our murdered countrymen; and that alone can protect the survivors in the like situation. Rather than experience again their barbarity and insults, may I fall by the sword of the *Hessians*.

I am, &c.

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GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peek's Kill, December 26th, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: Yesterday General *Wadsworth's* brigade went home, leaving the stores without a guard until I sent one down.

The Militia of this State are coming in. None have as yet arrived from the eastward. Brigadier-General *Warner* was at *Danbury* the last night, with four companies only; more are hourly expected. General *Lincoln* is on the road. I have sent your Excellency's letter by express to meet him.

I have received per Colonel *Sheldon*, one hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, and shall apply them to the purposes directed by your Excellency.

The case of the regiments of General *Lee* and *Sullivan's* divisions, which are divided, partly at your Excellency's camp and partly here, will be very difficult. The naked, convalescents, and sick, were left here. They constitute the greater part of the regiments, and cannot get home with out their wages, being destitute of money; and unless the Colonels who are with your Excellency, send the men's wages to them, they will suffer. Colonel *Read* and Colonel *Little* are here, with such of their regiments as were left behind. I shall endeavour to secure all the arms, accoutrements, ammunition, &c., which are in the hands of the troops belonging to the States, before they leave the camp, if possible.

I find by your Excellency's orders of the 21st of *January* last, that such recruits as should find "their own arms, provided they were good, should be allowed one dollar for the use of them." I should be glad to be informed if there was another order that such as had arms found them should pay the like sum for the use of them. Such an order I thought there was, but cannot find it as yet, and therefore request a determination from your Excellency; until which I shall delay the payment of the *December* abstracts.

The state of the reginent of Artillery, a corps most essential to an army, is such that I cannot omit making mention of it to your Excellency. Many of those who are here would have inlisted, but no attempts have been made towards it. They will all go home in a few days, and we shall not have men to discharge a cannon, unless I can prevail upon some of them to continue until I hear from your Excellency.

The Convention of this State, for about a fortnight, have been meditating a secret expedition. It is still a profound secret, but talked of every where. This, or some other intention of the enemy, has induced them, as I am just informed, to send a brigade of *Hessians* up to *King's Bridge*.

The moment I am able I shall pay attention to *West-Chester* County. I have ordered a regiment down to-morrow, and hope, ere long, not only to curb the disaffected and pick up some of the enemy, but also avail myself of quantities of forage from that quarter.

It is reported here that your Excellency has lately given orders respecting such plunder as may be taken from the enemy, or those who take up arms against us. If any new orders have been given in this respect, I should beg to be acquainted with them.

As soon as the tents, arms, tools, &c., are collected and stored, a return of all the stores shall be made to your Excellency.

I should be glad to know if your Excellency would have the artificers again engaged, or any part of them, and

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whether in a distinct corps, or taken from the regiments, as has been practised heretofore.

I have the honour to be, most respectfully, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. Heath.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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JOSEPH TRUMBULL TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Peekskill, 26th December, 1776.

Honoured Sir: I came to this place this day, and by *Sunday* shall leave it, on my way through *Crum-Pond*, *North-Castle*, *Horse-Neck*, &c., for *Hartford*, where I expect to spend most part of the winter, in preparing and laying my accounts before auditors. We have nothing new. I am in good health except a bad cold.

I am, honoured sir, your dutiful son,

Jos. Trumbull.

Governour *Trumbull*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL THOMAS.

Peekskill, December 26th, 1776.

Sir: You are immediately to march the regiment under your command to *North-Castle*. You will there protect the teamsters who will be sent down to that place to remove a number of sleds, &c. When that is done, you will post your regiment in such manner as to give protection to the well-affected, to curb the disaffected, and prevent any light parties of the enemy from ravaging the country. You will keep a most vigilant look-out, and keep patrolling parties constantly between your troops and the enemy. You will give frequent intelligence of any discoveries which you may make of the enemy, or of any quantities of forage that you may discover. You will keep your troops under strict order and discipline, and prevent abuses. When the time to which your regiment is engaged expires, you will carefully return such arms, accoutrements, and ammunition, as they may have at any time received from the publick stores. The Militia of *West-Chester* County, who have been ordered by the honourable Convention of the State of *New-York* to rendezvous at *North-Castle*, you will (unless some other superiour officer should be there) post in such manner as best to effect the purposes for which you are sent on command. If you can prevail on your regiment to continue ten days longer in the service, after the expiration of their present inlistment, I think it will promote the service.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

W. Heath, *M. G.*

To Colonel *Thomas Thomas*.

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GENERAL HEATH TO COLONEL PALFREY.

Peeks Kill, December 26th, 1776.

Dear Sir: I received your favour of the 17th instant of Colonel *Sheldon*, with one hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, in Continental bills, for the payment of the troops, &c. I am much pleased with your nomination of Mr. *Hazard* for your next deputy at this place. I sent for him the next morning, but found that he was gone to *Philadelphia*, where, perhaps, you may have seen him. I afterward sent to Mr. *Glover*, who is so much indisposed as wholly to decline acting in that capacity. I have therefore appointed Major *Huntington* to officiate *pro tempore*, until Mr. *Hazard* returns, when I hope to prevail upon him to accept the trust. I have delivered to Major *Huntington* twenty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars; the remainder is still in my care. There are to be paid off here five regiments of General *Parsons's* brigade, five of General *George Clinton's*, one of General *James Clinton*. General *Wadsworth's* brigade, and Colonel *Read* and *Little*, who are here with the greater part of their regiments, are soliciting that theirs may be paid here also. Colonel *Read* has, however, since sent an officer to you. He has doubtless ere this time been with you. One of the Colonel *Douglasses*, of the late *Connecticut* Militia, has an abstract examined by you, and the warrant wrote but not signed. He has sent to know if it can be paid here. If all these should be paid off here, and the recruiting officers should be successful, we shall ere long want more money. Colonel *Sheldon* tells me that he shall want a large sum as soon as Mr. *Hazard* returns. If he refuses, I will name some other person for your approbation, unless you will do it yourself. I shall take care that he complies with your directions.

I am, dear sir, yours affectionately,

W. Heath.

Colonel *Palfrey*.

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PROCEEDINGS OF A GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL.

Peeks Kills, December 26th, 1776.

At a General Court-Martial held by order of Major-General *Heath*, for the trial of all such prisoners as might be brought before them, Colonel *Wyllys*, President of said Court.

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| Lieut Colonel *Cooper*, | Captain *Shippman*, |
| Major *Billings*, | Captain *Scott*, |
| Captain *Mills*, | Captain *Platt*, |
| Captain *Venton*, | Captain *Stewart*, |
| Captain *Teller*, | Captain *Graham*, |
| Captain *Barns*, | Captain *Blaine*. |

Captain *Jedadiah Hyde*, Judge Advocate for said Court.

The Court met by adjournment of yesterday. The Court adjourned till *Saturday*, the 28th, at ten o'clock, at this place.

*Saturday, December the 28th.*—The Court met by adjournment.

*Joseph Niclos*, prisoner, being brought before the Court, being charged with desertion last *March* from Captain *Perkins*, of the Train; he being asked whether guilty or not, of the charge, pleads Not guilty.

As no evidences appears in support of the charge, the Court are of opinion that he be released from his confinement.

*William Ogden*, being brought before the Court upon a charge of secretly going into the prison room, the prisoner pleads not guilty of the charge.

And no evidences attending the Court to support the charge against him, the Court judge that the prisoner be released from confinement.

*Thomas Joyce* being brought before the Court, for fighting, being noisy in disturbing the Court, and taking eleven dollars for three handkerchiefs, from *John Cole*, when he ought to have had but seven and a half dollars, the prisoner pleads Not guilty.

*Isaac Robinson*, being sworn, declareth and sayeth, that he saw *Thomas Joyce* deliver three handkerchiefs to *John Cole*, and afterwards that said *Joyce* took one handkerchief back, and the deponent delivered the handkerchief to the above *Riell*. *Tabell* swears that *Thomas Joyce* bought one dozen silk handkerchiefs of him, the deponent, and that *John Cole* was about purchasing two handkerchiefs for his comrades, and one for himself, as an encouragement to them to inlist; and that *Joyce* sold this *John Cole* three handkerchiefs for two dollars and a half each, but afterwards this *Joyce* took one handkerchief back. Further says, that one was taken off the neck of the other; that said *Cole* demanded his change of *Joyce*, but refused to give any back, and said that *Cole* had had four.

*Daniel Horn*, being sworn, declares and says, that *John Cole* wanted him to inlist, and promised to give him a silk handkerchief for him and his messmates, upon which *John Cole* bought three handkerchiefs, and delivered the whole of the handkerchiefs to the deponent; upon which he took and tied one round his neck, and kept the other two in his hand; and he also saw *Cole* pay him, the said *Joyce*, eleven dollars and demanded the change, but *Joyce* refused to give any back, and confirms the above evidence in respect to the taking the handkerchief off his neck.

The Court having taken maturely into consideration the above evidences, adjudge the prisoner guilty of the crimes laid to his charge, and sentence him to receive on the naked back fifteen lashes, and to refund the change to *John Cole*.

Sam'l Wyllys, *President*.

I do approve of the foregoing sentences.

W. Heath, *M. Gen'l*.

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COLONEL HUMFREY TO MAJOR BIRDSALL.

26 December, 1776.

Sir: I have just now received orders for the whole battalion to march on *Wednesday* next, towards *North-Castle*,

there to remain till they may be relieved by new-raised levies; to be allowed sleighs or wagons to carry their baggage, and be in full pay. I hope you will prepare to march with the battalion. Your compliance will oblige your most humble servant,

WILLIAM HUMFREY.

To Major *Benjamin Birdsill.*

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COLONEL SWARTWOUT TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Fort Constitution, December 26th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I now send by the bearer, Ensign *Weaver*, two yoke of oxen and cart, which were the property of Mr. *Frederick Van Cortland*, at *Kingsbridge*. The oxen and cart was pressed, in order to carry the baggage of my regiment to the *White-Plains* from *Peekskill:* were sent with medicines to *Fishkill*, from which place I sent for them here, to haul down timber to make rafts; and as they can't be of any farther service here, have thought best to have them sent to you, gentlemen, to order with them as you think fit. You will be good enough to direct the bearer to whom he must deliver the cattle, and the receiver to give a receipt for them.

I am, gentlemen, with greatest respects, your very humble servant,

JACOBUS SWARTWOUT, *Col.*

To the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkills.*

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NEW-YORK COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO GENERAL HEATH.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, } Fish Kill, December 26th, 1776. }

SIR: I this day received your favour of the 24th instant, which I laid before the Committee, in answer to your request, with regard to the disposition of the prisoners taken up for plundering inhabitants of this State. I am directed to transmit you the enclosed resolves, by which you will see the determinations of the Committee with respect to them. The Committee confide in your ready compliance with their request.

I am also directed to inform you that the troop of Horse, which were some time stationed at this place, some time since returned to *Connecticut*, with the consent and advice of the Convention of this State, on account of the scarcity of forage.

I am, sir, with respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

ABM. TEN BROECK, *President.*

Major-General *Heath.*

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In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, } Fishkill, December 26th, 1776. }

*Resolved*, That General *Heath* be requested to send the Prisoners now in confinement at *Peeks Kill*, for thefts and plundering the inhabitants of this State, under guard to the Gaol of *Dutchess* County, at *Poukeepsie*, there to remain till thence delivered by due course of law; and General *Heath* is farther requested to cause the names of the said prisoners to be transmitted to the Committee of Safety or Convention of this State, that a proper mittimus may issue to commit them.

Extract from the Minutes.

ROBT. BENSON, *Secretary.*

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut, Middletown, December* 26th, 1776--

Present: His Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy Governour, *Jabez Huntington, William Williams, William Hillhouse, Benjamin Huntington*, Esquires.

Sundry Officers were appointed in the Continental service, instead of others that refused, as appears by the lists and arrangements.

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BEATING ORDERS TO LIEUTENANT BURR.

*To Lieutenant* GEORGE BURR, *greeting:*

You being by the General Assembly of this State, holden at *Middletown* the 18th of *December* instant, appointed Ensign of a company, to consist of twenty men, including one Sergeant, to be stationed at *Fairfield*, and to continue in service one year from the first day of *January* next, unless sooner discharged, you are therefore hereby authorized and directed, forthwith to inlist and cause to be inlisted such company of able-bodied, effective men, who shall have and receive as an encouragement and reward, viz: Each non-commission officer and soldier finding himself a good blanket, twelve shillings, and for finding a good fire-arm, bayonet, cartouch-box, and accoutrements, and the acceptance of his chief officer, ten shillings, as a premium; and sixpence per diem for billeting from their inlisting until they shall be supplied by the publick, and one month's pay advanced; and shall have the following pay and wages, viz: Lieutenant, five pounds eight shillings; Sergeant, forty-eight shillings; and Privates, forty shillings, per calendar month; and are carefully and diligently to attend the duty of their offices and places, and may be called off on any special emergency for the relief of any places on the sea-coast of this State when attacked or in danger.

And considering the necessity of every exertion for defence against the invasion and ravages of our enemies, and the great demand for soldiers in more distant services, and for many other reasons, it cannot be doubted but you will be able immediately to fill up your said company.

Given under my hand, at *Middletown*, the 26th day of *December*, A. D. 1776.

JONTH. TRUMBULL.

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PAROLE OF STEPHEN DE LANCEY.

Whereas I, the subscriber, of the city of *Albany*, and Province of *New-York*, have for some time past resided at *Hartford*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being apprehended and sent thither by the General Committee of the County of *Albany*, as a person suspected of disaffection to the *United States of America*; and whereas upon my application to his Honour *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of said State of *Connecticut*, hath permitted me to return to my family in the Province of *New-York*, and reside there till otherwise ordered: I do hereby pledge my faith and word of honour to said Governour *Trumbull*, that I will neither bear arms, nor excite or encourage others to bear arms, against this or any of the *United States of America*, and that I will not do or say any thing in prejudice of the interest or measures of this or any of the said *United States of America*, and that I will give no intelligence to the enemies of said States of any of the counsels, operations of war, or other the transactions of this or any of said States, and that I will return to any place in this State when required by his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, the General Assembly of *Connecticut*, or his Excellency the General of the Armies of said *United States* for the time being.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 26th *December*, 1776.

STEP'N DE LANCEY.

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Boston, December 26, 1776.

Amongst the worthies who have joined, or put themselves under the protection of, *Howe* and company, at *Trenton*, we find the names of the following noted personages, viz:

*James Galloway*, Esq., late a member of the Congress, Speaker of the *Pennsylvania* Senate, and printer of a publick newspaper in *Philadelphia.*

*John Allen*, Esq., (son of the celebrated rhetorical, impartial, learned judge, whose memory will outlast the five mile stone,) late a member of the *Philadelphia* Committee of Observation, Inspection, &c.

*Andrew Allen*, Esq., (brother to *Jack*,) late a member of Congress, one of the *Pennsylvania* Committee of Safety, and, at the same time, a sworn advocate for *George* III., of *Britain*, and his creatures.

*William Allen*, Esq., (brother to *Andrew*,) late a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Continental service, which station he resigned—not because he was totally unfit for it, but because the Continental Congress presumed to declare the *American* States free and independent, without first asking the consent and obtaining the approbation of himself and wise family.

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COLONEL GILMAN TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY.

Pembroke, 26 December, 1776.

HONOURED GENTLEMEN: I acquainted Doctor *Green* of his appointment as Surgeon to my regiment. His answer I

enclose. As the House holds the appointment of a Surgeon sacred to themselves, I would not, neither do I desire, to take the prerogative to myself of appointing one. Mr. *Bartlett* waits on your Honours for that purpose. Should be glad he may be despatched as soon as possible. I should be glad if the advance pay and travelling money for my Adjutant and Surgeon, if one is appointed, may be sent by Mr. *Bartlet*. I should have set out this day for *New-York*, but am pretty sure the snow has hindered the march of the men for some days, but am in hopes they are generally on their march by this time.

I am, with respect, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

D. Gillman.

To the honourable Council and House of Representatives of *New-Hampshire*.

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JAMES LYON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Machias, December 26th, 1776.

Honourable Gentlemen: Although obscure and unknown, I beg leave, with filial respect and confidence, to approach the supreme power of *North-America*, to which I esteem it a peculiar honour and happiness to be subject, on a publick errand, the importance of which must be ascertained by your better judgment.

Your Honours may easily recollect that Captain *Jonathan Eddy*, of *Cumberland* County, in *Nova-Scotia*, has twice waited upon Congress, requesting a small army to be employed subduing that Province. Your Honours best know what encouragement he received. The same gentleman asked the same favour of the Court of this State; and, as he informed us, the Court were pleased to grant him a small quantity of provision and powder, and orders to raise as many men in this eastern part of the State as he should see fit. Accordingly, relying much upon the readiness of the inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia* to favour his bold enterprise, he collected, if I mistake not, about thirty men; and with this formidable army he embarked in boats at this place in order to subdue a Province. His army grew, however, at every settlement he passed through on his way. When he arrived at *Sheapody* he surprised and took a small party of the enemy, who were posted there. When he reached *Cumberland*, the inhabitants joined him in general, and in a few days after, a sloop arrived with provisions, &c., for the fort, which they bravely took possession of, after the enemy had taken out a small proportion of the stores. With this sloop they also took the Chaplain of the fort, Mr. *Eagleson*, the Surgeon, Captain *Barron*, and near fifty men, which are sent to *Boston*. Upon our receiving this intelligence of their success, and being requested to send them all the assistance in our power, forty-nine of us immediately set out in boats, as a reinforcement, on the evening of the 9th instant. The first boat arrived at *Sheapody*, under the command of Lieutenant *David Prescott*, and who surprised and took four of the enemy at the house of one *Deck*, who, together with Mrs. *Deck*, informed him that a man-of-war and two armed brigs and two transports, had arrived at *Cumberland*, the 26th ultimo; and on the 29th the enemy sallied out of the fort, and drove our people entirely off. We lost one man, an inhabitant of *Cumberland*, and one *Indian*, a *Mickmack*. The loss on the other side unknown. That Captain *Eddy* and his party were on their march to this place, by way of *Maugerville*, on *St. John's* river. That the enemy burnt up almost all the stores our people had collected; burnt many of the houses and barns of our friends, and driven men, women, and children, almost naked into the woods. That Colonel *Gorham* had issued a proclamation, inviting the inhabitants to come in, and promising protection to the persons and property of those who would lay down their arms, till the King's pleasure should be known; and that many had actually complied. This unexpected news put a stop to our uncomfortable voyage, and obliged us to return. And when we had returned as far as *St. John's*, we met with Captain *Samuel Hodgers*, who was with Captain *Eddy*, and he confirms the above account.

I mention these things thus minutely, that the honourable Congress may know the exact state of that unhappy Province. It is more than probable that the wretched inhabitants will now be obliged to take up arms against us. Were I permitted to give my opinion respecting *Nova-Scotia*, I should say that it ought immediately to be subdued by a force sufficient to hold it when taken, and that these troops be inlisted during the war. I believe that five or six thousand would be sufficient, and that *St. John's* river should be strongly fortified in the first place, to secure a retreat and keep up a communication. This may be easily done, as nature has evidently designed it as a place of strength. I must add, that Province is much more valuable than is generally thought. It has a sea-coast of three hundred leagues at least, including the *Bay of Fundy*, and an excellent fishery near every shore, which is an endless source of provision, wealth, and seamen. It contains more land than *Pennsylvania*, and is capable (I boldly assert it, for I am acquainted with both countries) of supporting more inhabitants. This, however bold it may seem, I think I could demonstrate, were it necessary. I had almost forgot its navy-yard, which has cost *Britain* nearly a million of money, and would be an immensely valuable acquisition to this Continent. That harbour in our hands would be a sufficient protection to our fishery. But in the possession of *Britain*, or any other Power, our fishery, and, indeed, all our *European* commerce, would be in perpetual danger. *Britain* or *France* may have *Newfoundland* for what I care, till God enables us to rule the seas; but I fear that either of those Powers would be bad neighbours on the Continent. *Halifax*, I am sure, will be a bone of contention under any foreign jurisdiction. I strongly suspect that *France*, whose ambitious views your Honours are not ignorant of, intends to take immediate possession of her former dominions in *America*. This all the *French* gentlemen I have conversed with assert in so many words, and add, that *Spain* must have hers, else we shall be too formidable. We have, indeed, sufficient evidence to believe that neither of those Powers mean to quarrel with us at present, for our trade is an object most worthy of their attention. But if they take possession of the *British* dominions, which we either cannot or will not conquer, how can we complain with even a shadow of reason? A *French* ship, on pretence of springing a leak at sea, put into *Halifax* this summer on purpose to view its strength, which I have from a *French* gentleman who conversed with the pretended Captain of the ship, who was in reality the Captain of a frigate. Should both *France* and *Spain* assert what they call their right, I tremble for the consequences. Your Honours will doubtless duly consider these things, and act as you think proper. It matters not, I well know, whether I approve or disapprove of the measures of Congress, but it may not be amiss to say, that in my judgment, wisdom, moderation, genuine patriotism, and impregnable fortitude, form the amiable characteristicks of all the measures already pursued, and I will, I must, cordially acquiesce in all your wise determinations. I ardently wish, however, that a respectable armament may be sent into *Nova-Scotia* by the middle of next *March* at farthest, and I could wish to go with them. I should think an army, guarded by two or three of our frigates, would proceed with most safety by way of the *Bay of Fundy*, and a sufficient number of cannon, &c., might easily be conveyed across the country to a hill directly opposite the navy-yard, and *Halifax* is nearly within point blank shot of both. My worthy friend, *John Allen*, Esquire, of *Cumberland*, in *Nova-Scotia*, who is probably present with Congress, can doubtless corroborate the chief I have wrote.

I am, honourable gentlemen, very respectfully, your most humble, and dutiful servant and subject,

Jas. Lyon.

P. S. I blush to send my first thoughts to Congress in all their native rudeness and deformity, but time will not permit me to copy and correct them, and humbly beg to be excused.

To the honourable and grand Congress of *North-America*.

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Williamsburgh, December 27, 1776.

Colonel *Carrington*, of the Artillery, just arrived from *Hampton*, brings us the agreeable intelligence of a most valuable cargo being gone up to *Baltimore* from *Cape François*, which comes in a brig that was sent out by Congress, and has on board eight hundred stands of arms, fifteen tons of gunpowder, a quantity of sulphur, and a very large assortment of blanketing and coarse cloths for the soldiery. A number of *French* passengers came in the vessel, one of them an officer of rank. The Captain of her says, that the *French* show the utmost civility and give every encourage-

ment to the *Americans*, and have cruisers out to protect their trade; also that a declaration of war was every moment expected from the *French* Court. And that gunpowder, woolens, and almost every other kind of goods, were in great plenty at the Cape, and to be bought on good terms.

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GEORGE WELLS TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 27th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I take this opportunity of informing you that I have launched one of the row galleys, and that I shall push on the other as fast as possible. Please let me know how she is to be masted.

As I am informed that there is some sheet-lead in this town belonging to you, I'd be obliged to you to send me an order for some, as I want it for scuppers and magazine.

Please to send me per bearer, Mr. *Barry*, any further directions or commands you may have for me, which shall be punctually observed, by, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

GEORGE WELLS.

The hon'ble Council of Safety for the State of *Maryland*, *Annapolis*.

Gentlemen, please to send me per bearer, Mr. *John Barry*, the sum of seven hundred pounds, on account of the row galleys, and also the amount of the accounts for repairing the old vessels belonging to you, which accounts he carries, and you'll oblige your humble servant,

GEORGE WELLS.

To the hon'ble Council of Safety for the State of *Maryland*.

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JOHN HALL TO THE BOARD OF WAR.

Annapolis, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: We are greatly embarrassed by your request to part with Captain *Martin's* vessel. She was purchased by our agent in the *West-Indies*, and is now claimed by Captain *Stone*, who hath replaced her, and we have undertaken to indemnify the Sheriff. If we part with her Congress must take the risk off our hands.

Should you want a fast-sailing vessel, there is a brig at *Baltimore*, taken by the ship *Defence*, which we ordered our agent to buy for this State. That vessel you may have, if she will suit Congress. We are unwilling to part with *Martin's* vessel, she being now laden, and we expect her cargo of coarse woolens, &c., now ready at *Martinique* or *Eustatia*. However, if the honourable Congress cannot supply them else otherwise, we must let them have the brig and cargo, upon the terms they request, with this addition, that the State ought to be indemnified. We shall keep matters a day or two, in expectation of hearing from you again.

For and on behalf of the Council.

I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,

J. HALL.

To the Hon'ble *Benjamin Harrison*, Esq., President of the Board of War.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Baltimore, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed resolves, which I do myself the honour of forwarding, will inform you of the steps taken by Congress in the present critical state of our affairs.

Your favour of the 23d instant came to hand, and was immediately laid before Congress. The uneasiness you mention therein, with regard to your want of proper powers, is no doubt by this time removed, Congress having authorized the Committee in *Philadelphia* to adopt such measures in the business of the Continent as they shall judge proper. You will, therefore, in conjunction with Mr. *Clymer* and Mr. *Walton*, act not only in Marine matters, but in all others, as you shall think necessary and most conducive to the publick good.

I wrote you some time ago, per express, informing you that Congress had appointed a Committee in *Philadelphia*, to conduct all publick business, and at the same time enclosed you their resolves. To them, therefore, as well as to those herewith transmitted, I beg leave to refer your attention, and have only time to assure you that I am, with great esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *Pres'dt.*

The moment I can steal a little time, I will write you fully; till then you must excuse me.

To *Robert Morris*, Esq.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Baltimore, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed resolves, being of the utmost importance, will naturally claim your attention, without any particular recommendation or comment. They are evidently calculated to retrieve the situation of our affairs, and I trust will have the desired effect.

I have wrote to the Councils of Safety of *Massachusetts-Bay* and *Pennsylvania*, on the subject of erecting magazines in their respective States, for both arms and ammunition.

The commissions necessary in pursuance of the enclosed resolves, shall be forwarded as soon as possible. I have only time to add, that I am, with the most perfect esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *Pres'dt.*

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 27th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your favour by Captain *Casdrop*, I duly received, and communicated to Congress. In consequence of which they directed two hundred thousand dollars to be advanced you, agreeably to your request, you to be accountable for the same, which sum is committed to the care of Captain *Casdrop*. I wish it safe to hand, and that it may answer valuable purposes. Being much engaged, can only add, that I am, with much esteem, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 27, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The great importance to the welfare of these *United States* of supporting the credit of the Continental currency, will suggest the propriety of the above resolve, which I am commanded by Congress to transmit to you, and to request you will take measures for an immediate compliance therewith. I have wrote to the General to give you every necessary assistance in carrying your determinations on this subject into effectual execution.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO JOSEPH TRUMBULL.

Baltimore, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: After acknowledging the receipt of your favour of 13th instant, I am to inform you that some time since I transmitted a resolve, empowering you to import any quantity of rice from *Carolina* you should think proper. In addition to that resolve, the Congress have come to the enclosed, authorizing you (agreeably to your own plan) to import such quantities of flour and other provisions from the Southern States as you may judge necessary for the support of the Army. The Delegates of *Virginia* will write immediately to the Governour and Council of that State to contract for the delivery of ten thousand barrels of flour, to your order, for which purpose you will please to send vessels to take them in. Your drafts on me for payment thereof shall be duly honoured.

I am, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

To *Joseph Trumbull*, Esq., Commissary-General.

ROBERT MORRIS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Philadelphia, December 27, 1776, ten o'clock, a. m.

SIR: Captain *Peters* informs me he has just seen a letter from Colonel *Cadwalader*, wrote late last night, to the Council of Safety, wherein he says he has no account from General *Washington;* but from private information that he can depend on, our victory at *Trenton* has been complete. The killed, wounded, and prisoners, are very considerable. That we have taken sixteen pieces of their cannon. A wagon load of *Hessian* arms, with some *Hessians*, were sent over the ferry. Colonel *Cadwalader* was to cross over from *Bristol* this morning, before day, with his whole force. General *Putnam* is now sending him a reinforcement of fifteen hundred men, and the gondolas, under command of General *Mifflin*, who is returned from a successful excursion.

We shall change the face of affairs, and I hope soon to see you back here.

I am, respectfully, yours, &c.,

ROBT. MORRIS.

P. S. Captain *Peters* will soon follow this, but he must go via *Lancaster*.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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COMMITTEE FOR TRANSACTING CONTINENTAL BUSINESS TO THOMAS SMITH.

Philadelphia, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: The Congress have thought proper to appoint us a Committee to transact all Continental business in this city that may be necessary and proper; and they have empowered us to draw on the Loan Office for such sums of money as may be wanted, little suspecting there was no such office or officer to be found in *Philadelphia*. For our parts, we have been impatiently waiting your return, and are sorry to say the publick service has suffered by your absence. Had we been possessed of the notes, we could have borrowed considerable sums, which may probably be otherwise disposed of by this time. We expect your immediate attendance, and are, sir, your humble servants,

ROBT. MORRIS,
GEO. CLYMER,
GEO. WALTON.

*Thomas Smith*, Esq., *Lancaster*.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO BENJAMIN HOGELAND.

December 27th, 1776.

SIR: Colonel *Fanning's* battalion of *Virginians* are on their march for this place, and a detachment thereof, if not the whole regiment, may now be expected at the *Head of Elk*, either commanded by Colonel *Fanning* or by Colonel *James James;* therefore, soon as you receive this, send the letter herewith to the *Head of Elk*, and if they send a proper officer with an order, pay him, or either of them, two thousand dollars, take a receipt for it as received from you by my order, for the use of that battalion, and send the receipt to me, or keep it until further orders from, sir, your humble servant,

R. MORRIS.

Mr. *Benjamin Hogeland*.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO COLONEL FLEMING.

December 27th, 1776.

SIR: We have just received your letter of the 27th instant, to the Secretary of the Board of War, and are glad to find your regiment on their march this way. But we cannot conceive it necessary to send tents or arms to the *Head of Elk*, as the troops can quarter in houses on their march, or may come by water from *Christiana Bridge*. Arms are not necessary, as there is no enemy in the way. Blankets, shoes and stockings, we will provide, if possible under our present circumstances.

General *Washington* has struck an unexpected stroke at *Trenton*, where he now reigns master. We hope to drive the enemy out of *New-Jersey;* and if you hasten up, you'll come in for a share of the glory.

Mr. *Benjamin Hogeland*, at *Christiana Bridge*, will supply you with two thousand dollars, which you'll please to send a proper officer to receive, and give a receipt for it. The amount will be charged to your account; therefore you must render an account of the expenditure of it on the behalf of the Committee of Congress left in this city to transact Continental business.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To Colonel *Fleming*, of the Ninth *Virginia* Regiment, or the Commanding Officer.

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CAPTAIN NICHOLSON TO SAMUEL PURVIANCE, JUN.

Philadelphia, December 27th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: An hour's detainment of the tide gives me an opportunity of writing the particulars of yesterday's action at *Trenton*. General *Washington*, with about four thousand men, crossed on the Christmas night, and surrounded the town. The enemy was surprised, and collected confusedly. After a short resistance, they grounded their arms, and surrendered to the amount of seven hundred and fifty (*Hessians* solely). They lost thirty killed and wounded, and we two killed and three or four wounded; Captain *Washington* among the last, who commanded the advanced party, but not mortally. Had the weather proved favourable, and the other three divisions got over, there would, I have no doubt, the whole of them shared the same fate with those. Their Light-Horse scampered away on the first alarm, and all those on the outskirts of the town made their escape, about as many as were taken. There are one Colonel, two Majors, four Captains, seven Lieutenants, and eight Ensigns, prisoners; with six field-pieces, two standards, and one thousand stand of arms, twenty drums; one Colonel wounded, and left on his parole in *Trenton*, our people having returned on this side again. We should have whipped them in the same manner at *Bordentown*, could our men under Colonel *Cadwalader* have crossed; but the weather and ice made it impossible.

This affair has given such amazing spirit to our people, that you might do any thing or go any where with them. We have vast numbers of fine Militia coming in momently, but none from our Province.

I believe an attack is intended to-morrow upon the *Hessian* main body at *Bordentown*, in which I intend serving with my people as Artillerymen, and are embarked for that purpose on board the galleys. Immediately it is over, (please God,) I intend down, and am doubtful if I can bring an anchor with me. But more of this hereafter. I am not pleased about it.

I am yours, most sincerely,

JAMES NICHOLSON.

To *Samuel Purviance*, Jun., Esq., *Baltimore*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: We have the pleasure to transmit you two letters, received this morning from Brigadier-General *John Cadwalader*, containing an account of an action between part of our Army, under the command of his Excellency General *Washington*, and part of the *British* Army. Other letters confirm the loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded and prisoners, to be very considerable.

We are sending off reinforcements of Militia, in hopes this very important blow may be followed up. The great advantage which will arise to our cause must be apparent. Our Militia were turning out by degrees, but this will give them a new stimulus; and we are in hopes our worthy General will not remain without proper succours.

It may afford Congress some satisfaction to be informed that this Council has maintained their authority in the fullest extent, notwithstanding the near approach of the enemy, and the confidence which the Tories and disaffected derived from that cause. It is necessary to inform you that we found ourselves frequently embarrassed with business relative to the Army, that properly lay in the War Office Department; but now understand, with much pleasure, that your honourable body has empowered some of their members to transact that business here.

By order of Council. I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: The enclosed letter we meant to send by express this morning, but was informed by *Robert Morris*, Esq., that he had despatched a messenger with an account of the successful expedition of our troops to *Trenton*. We thought proper to delay a few hours for a more particular account. We have since met with a private trusty hand, and take the freedom to enclose you a copy of a letter this minute received from an officer of distinction in the Army, giving a more particular account of that action than any we have yet received; which we congratulate the honourable Congress thereon. We have it also from good authority that many of the *British* light-horse are taken; the riders, thinking their situation rather dangerous, took to their heels and escaped. Besides the arms mentioned in the enclosed letter to have fallen into our hands, we have taken about two hundred stand in General *Dickinson's* house at *Trenton*.

By order of Council. I have the honour to be, respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *President*.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq.

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[No. 1.] Bristol, 26th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: There was a general attack to be made last night. The river was impassable here, and we made the attempt at *Dunker's Ferry*, but found it impracticable to get over our cannon. We returned this morning to *Bristol* about four.

I this moment have an account by Mr. *McLane*, a man of veracity, that he was at *Trenton Ferry* this morning, and heard a very heavy firing on the river and *Penny-Town* roads, that leads to *Trenton*. The heavy firing lasted about an hour, and continued to moderate for three quarters of an hour. The Light-Horse and *Hessians* were seen flying in great confusion towards *Bordentown*, but without cannon or wagons, so that the enemy must have lost the whole. A party of our men intercepted about a dozen *Hessians* in sight of our people, on this side, and brought them to the ferry and huzzaed. I have ordered the boats from *Dunks's*, and shall pass as soon as possible. We can muster here about eighteen hundred men, if the expedition last night in the storm does not thin our ranks. Has General *Putnam* crossed, and with what numbers? Pray let me know. Every thing of this kind gives confidence to the troops. I have no doubt of the report. A heavy firing was heard at this place. An attempt was made to pass at, or a little below, *Trenton Ferry*, but could not get over. That would have made the victory still more complete.

I received the three boats about one o'clock at night; but have still detained the two most valuable—I mean those that carried down the twelve-pounders. They were ferry boats belonging to *Dunks's*. If the wind blows we cannot transport our cannon.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

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[No. 2.] Bristol, 26th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I wrote this morning to General *Washington*, directed to General *Irving*, at *Trenton Ferry*, who informs me that he cannot yet ascertain the particulars of this morning's action. One wagon, loaded with arms, was brought down to the ferry, (*Hessian* arms,) and safe landed on this shore, and six *Hessians*. We have taken fourteen or sixteen pieces of cannon, a considerable quantity of stores and clothing. The number of killed, wounded, and prisoners, is very considerable.

We have got our boats up from *Dunks's*, and shall embark in the morning, before day. We are greatly at a loss for the boats you promised to send up to transport our cannon. I ordered the three horse-boats that arrived last night (which were very useful) to remain till further orders; but they went off last night. If the gundolas were to come up again, they would be of great use.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

Pray let the gundolas make the attempt, and return if impracticable to get up.

To the honourable the Council of Safety, *Philadelphia*.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER OF DISTINCTION AT NEWTOWN, BUCKS COUNTY.

Baltimore, January 1, 1777.

Yesterday Congress received the following intelligence from the Council of Safety, as come from "an officer of distinction in the Army," dated *New-Town, Bucks* County, *December* 27, 1776:

It was determined some days ago that our Army should pass over to *Jersey*, in three different places, and attack the enemy. Accordingly about two thousand five hundred men, and twenty brass field-pieces, with his Excellency General *Washington* at their head, and Major-General *Sullivan* and *Greene* in command of two divisions, passed over on the night of Christmas, and about three o'clock, a. m., were on their march by two routes towards *Trenton*. The night was sleety, and the roads so slippery that it was daybreak when we were two miles from *Trenton*. But happily the enemy were not apprised of our design, and our advanced party were on their guards at half a mile from the town, when General *Sullivan's* and General *Greene's* divisions soon came into the same road. Their guard gave our advanced party several smart fires as we drove them, but we soon got two field-pieces at play, and several others in a short time; and one of our Colonels pushing down on the right, while the others advanced on the left, into the town. The enemy, consisting of about fifteen hundred *Hessians*, under Colonel *Rohl*, formed and made some smart fires from the musketry and six field-pieces, but our people pressed from every quarter and drove them from their cannon. They retreated towards a field, behind a piece of wood, up the creek from *Trenton*, and formed in two bodies, which I expected would have brought on a smart engagement from the troops, who had formed very near them; but at that instant, as I came in full view of them, from the back of the wood, with his Excellency General *Washington*, an officer informed him that the party had grounded their arms and surrendered prisoners. The others soon followed their example, except a part which had got off in the hazy weather towards *Princeton*, and a party of their Light-Horse, which made off on our first appearance. Too much praise cannot be given to the officers of every regiment. By their active and spirited behaviour, they soon put an honourable issue to this glorious day.

I was immediately sent off with the prisoners to *McKonkey's Ferry*, and have got about seven hundred and fifty safe in town, and a few miles from here, on this side the ferry, viz: one Lieutenant-Colonel, two Majors, four Captains, seven Lieutenants, and eight Ensigns. We left Colonel *Rohl*, the commandant, wounded, on his parole, and several other officers and wounded men at *Trenton*. We lost but two of our men that I can hear of, a few wounded, and one brave officer, Captain *Washington*, who assisted in securing their artillery, shot in both hands. Indeed, every officer and private behaved well; and it was a most fortunate day to our arms, which I the more rejoice at, having an active part in it. The success of this day will greatly animate our friends, and add fresh courage to our new Army, which, when formed, will be sufficient to secure us from the depredations or insults of our enemy.

General *Ewing's* division could not pass at *Trenton* for the ice, which also impeded General *Cadwalader* passing over with all his cannon and the Militia, though part of his troops were over; and if the whole could have passed, we should have swept the coast to *Philadelphia*. We took three standards, six fine brass cannon, and about one thousand stands of arms.

Published by order of Council of Safety.

G. BICKHAM, *Secretary pro tem.*

By an authentick account received this morning, the following is a list of prisoners taken, viz: One Colonel, two Lieutenant-Colonels, three Majors, four Captains, eight Lieutenants, twelve Ensigns, two Surgeon-Mates, ninety-nine Sergeants, twenty-five Drummers, nine Musicians, twenty-five servants, and seven hundred and forty privates.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER IN THE AMERICAN ARMY, DATED NEWTOWN, (IN PENNSYLVANIA,) DECEMBER 27, 1776.

By Colonel I have the pleasure of giving you an account of an advantageous victory obtained over the *Hessians* yesterday. To give you a just idea of the affair, it

will be necessary to give you some intelligence of the original plan of the attack. Something was necessary to check the progress of the enemy; it was therefore resolved by his Excellency to attack the *Hessian* Army at *Trenton;* for which purpose every thing was in readiness, and on Christmas night we marched down to the river with upwards of two thousand men and twelve pieces of artillery, at *McConkey's Ferry, Delaware* river, and at half after three o'clock began our march to *Trenton.* A colder or severer season I never felt; rain and hail, with high winds. But no difficulties were too much for our worthy commander to surmount at this important crisis. At eight o'clock we began the attack in several divisions; his Excellency commanded in person, and in about three quarters of an hour they surrendered. The killed on our part was four, and eight wounded. We intended the attack should have been before daylight, but the fatigue of marching and trouble of crossing the *Delaware,* detained us, which perhaps was fortunate, for we were told the enemy had been out at reveille beating, their wagons loaded, and ready for a retreat; but the extremity of the weather made them conclude we were not coming, (as they had information,) and so all turned in, and thought themselves quite secure. We began the attack with artillery and musketry; and too much praise cannot be given to our brave troops; his Excellency was pleased at their undaunted courage; not a soul was found cowardly skulking, but was fierce for the battle. Colonel
was to have crossed opposite *Bristol,* and formed in junction with us. Had this been the case, we should have made prisoners of about two thousand. We took of the enemy, one Colonel, two Lieutenant-Colonels, three Majors, four Captains, eight Lieutenants, twelve Ensigns, one Judge-Advocate, two Surgeons' Mates, ninety-two Sergeants, twenty Drummers, nine Musicians, twenty-five officers' servants, seven hundred and forty rank and file; forty, or thereabouts, killed, about eighty wounded; six brass field-pieces, two of which were twelve-pounders, twelve brass-barrel drums, two kettle-drums, trumpets, clarionets, hautboys, &c., &c., &c.; four standards, twelve or thirteen hundred fine muskets, four wagons of baggage, two ditto loaded with Grenadiers' caps, swords, &c.; forty fine horses. We stove about forty hogsheads of rum we could not carry off.

The weather was so amazingly severe, our arms so wet, and men so fatigued, it was judged prudent to come immediately off with our prisoners and plunder. Further accounts you shall have as soon as I get leisure.

I could sincerely wish the printers would publish the *American* Crisis. It's well calculated, as it carries the truth with it, and will doubtless be of service at this time.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Camp at Newton, December 27, 1776.

Dear Sir: I this minute received the honour of your favour of the 26th; and you may be assured that I shall with great pleasure transmit all my despatches to Congress through your hands, and unsealed. The enclosed to them will give you a full account of the attack on *Trenton,* and to which I beg leave to refer you. I regret much that the ice prevented Colonel *Cadwalader* from passing. Could he have got over with his troops, I am persuaded we should have been crowned with much success. The same cause hindered General *Ewing.* With his aid, to have seized the bridge leading from *Trenton,* not a *Hessian* would have escaped from thence. The situation of our troops, and the apprehension that the means of obtaining succour would become more difficult, made it necessary that we should return, in the opinion of the General Officers, with the prisoners we had taken.

I am, in haste, with great esteem, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

To *Robert Morris,* Esq.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 31st.]

Head-Quarters, Newtown, 27th December, 1776.

Sir: I have the pleasure of congratulating you upon the success of an enterprise which I had formed against a detachment of the enemy lying in *Trenton,* and which was executed yesterday morning.

The evening of the 25th I ordered the troops intended for this service to parade back of *McKonkey's Ferry,* that they might begin to pass as soon as it grew dark, imagining we should be able to throw them all over, with the necessary artillery, by twelve o'clock, and that we might easily arrive at *Trenton* by five in the morning, the distance being about nine miles. But the quantity of ice, made that night, impeded the passage of the boats so much, that it was three o'clock before the artillery could all be got over, and near four before the troops took up their line of march. This made me despair of surprising the town, as I well knew we could not reach it before the day was fairly broke. But as I was certain there was no making a retreat without being discovered and harassed on repassing the river, I determined to push on at all events. I formed my detachment into two divisions, one to march by the lower or river road, the other by the upper or *Pennington* road. As the divisions had nearly the same distance to march, I ordered each of them, immediately upon forcing the out-guards, to push directly into the town, that they might charge the enemy before they had time to form.

The upper division arrived at the enemy's advanced post exactly at eight o'clock; and in three minutes after I found, from the fire on the lower road, that that division had also got up. The out-guards made but small opposition, though, for their numbers, they behaved very well, keeping up a constant retreating fire from behind houses. We presently saw their main body formed; but from their motions they seemed undetermined how to act. Being hard pressed by our troops, who had already got possession of part of their artillery, they attempted to file off by a road on their right, leading to *Princetown;* but, perceiving their intention, I threw a body of troops in their way, which immediately checked them. Finding from our disposition that they were surrounded, and that they must inevitably be cut to pieces if they made any farther resistance, they agreed to lay down their arms. The number that submitted in this manner was twenty-three officers and eight hundred and eighty-six men. Colonel *Rall,* the commanding officer, and seven others, were found wounded in the town. I don't exactly know how many they had killed, but I fancy not above twenty or thirty, as they never made any regular stand. Our loss is very trifling indeed, only two officers and one or two privates wounded.

I find that the detachment of the enemy consisted of the three *Hessian* regiments of *Lanspatch, Kniphausen,* and *Rohl,* amounting to about fifteen hundred men, and a troop of *British* Light-Horse; but, immediately upon the beginning of the attack, all those who were not killed or taken, pushed directly down the road towards *Bordentown.* These would likewise have fallen into our hands, could my plan have been completely carried into execution. General *Ewing* was to have crossed before day at *Trenton Ferry,* and taken possession of the bridge leading out of town; but the quantity of ice was so great, that though he did every thing in his power to effect it, he could not get over. This difficulty also hindered General *Cadwalader* from crossing with the *Pennsylvania* Militia from *Bristol.* He got part of his foot over; but finding it impossible to embark his artillery, he was obliged to desist. I am fully confident, that could the troops under Generals *Ewing* and *Cadwalader* have passed the river, I should have been able, with their assistance, to have driven the enemy from all their posts below *Trenton.* But the numbers I had with me being inferiour to theirs below me, and a strong battalion of Light-Infantry being at *Princetown* above me, I thought it most prudent to return the same evening with the prisoners and the artillery we had taken. We found no stores of any consequence in the town.

In justice to the officers and men, I must add, that their behaviour upon this occasion reflects the highest honour upon them. The difficulty of passing the river in a very severe night, and their march through a violent storm of snow and hail, did not in the least abate their ardour; but, when they came to the charge, each seemed to vie with the other in pressing forward; and were I to give a preference to any particular corps, I should do great injustice to the others.

Colonel *Baylor,* my first Aid-de-Camp, will have the honour of delivering this to you; and from him you may be made acquainted with many other particulars. His spirited

behaviour upon every occasion requires me to recommend him to your particular notice.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

Enclosed you have a particular list of the prisoners, artillery, and other stores.

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*Return of the Prisoners taken at* Trenton, *the 26th December, 1776, by the Army under the command of his Excellency General* Washington.

| *Regiments.* | Colonels. | Lieut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Surgeons' Mates. | Sergeants. | Drummers. | Musicians. | Officers' Servants. | Rank and File. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Landspatch ... | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | 38 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 206 | 274 |
| Kniphausen... | - | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | 25 | 6 | - | 6 | 258 | 303 |
| Rohl ..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 25 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 244 | 303 |
| Artillery ..... | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | - | - | 1 | 32 | 38 |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 2 | 92 | 20 | 9 | 25 | 740 | 918 |

Six double-fortified brass 3-pounders, with carriages complete: 3 ammunition wagons; as many muskets, bayonets, cartouch-boxes, and swords as there are prisoners; 12 drums; 4 colours.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, Newtown, 27th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: Your favour of the 21st instant has come duly to hand, in which you have mentioned the receipt of my letters of the 16th and 18th of this month. I now enclose you a duplicate of the one dated the 21st, lest that should have miscarried.

I have the pleasure of congratulating you upon the success of an enterprise which I had formed against a detachment of the enemy lying in *Trenton,* and which was executed yesterday morning.

The evening of the 25th, I ordered the troops intended for this service, which were about two thousand four hundred, to parade back of *McKonkey's Ferry,* that they might begin to pass as soon as it grew dark, imagining we should be able to throw them all over, with the necessary artillery, by twelve o'clock, and that we might easily arrive at *Trenton* by five in the morning, the distance being about nine miles; but the quantity of ice made that night, impeded the passage of the boats so much that it was three o'clock before the artillery could all be got over, and near four before the troops took up their line of march; this made me despair of surprising the town, as I well knew we could not reach it before the day was fairly broke; but as I was certain there was no making a retreat without being discovered and harassed on repassing the river, I determined to push on at all events. I formed my detachment into two divisions, one to march by the town or river road, the other by the upper or *Pennytown* road. As the divisions had nearly the same distance to march, I ordered each of them, immediately upon forcing the out-guards, to push directly into the town, that they might charge the enemy before they had time to form. The upper division arrived at the enemy's advanced post exactly at eight o'clock, and in three minutes after, I found from the fire on the lower road, that that division had also got up. The out-guards made but small opposition, though, for their numbers, they behaved very well, keeping up a constant retreating fire from behind houses. We presently saw their main body formed, but from their motions, seemed undetermined how to act. Being hard pressed by our troops, who had already got possession of part of their artillery, they attempted to file off by a road on their right, leading to *Princetown;* but perceiving their intentions, I threw a body of men in their way, which immediately checked them. Finding from our disposition they were surrounded, and that they must inevitably be cut to pieces if they made any resistance, they agreed to lay down their arms. The number that submitted in this manner were twenty-three officers, with seven others who were found wounded in the town. I don't exactly know how many they had killed, but I fancy not above twenty or thirty, as they never made any regular stand. Our loss is trifling, only two officers and one or two privates wounded.

I find that the detachment of the enemy consisted of three regiments, to wit: of *Anspack, Kniphausen,* and *Roll,* amounting to about fifteen hundred men, and a troop of Light-Horse; but immediately on the beginning of the attack, all those who were not killed or taken pushed directly down the road towards *Bordentown.* These would likewise have fallen into our hands, could my plan have been completely carried into execution. General *Ewing* was to have crossed before day, at *Trenton Ferry,* and taken possession of the bridge leading out of town; but the quantity of ice was so great, that though he did every thing in his power to effect it, he could not get over. This difficulty also hindered General *Cadwalader* from crossing with the *Pennsylvania* Militia, from *Bristol;* he got part of his foot over, but finding it impossible to embark his artillery, he was obliged to desist. I am confident that could the troops under Generals *Cadwalader* and *Ewing* have passed the river, I should have been able, with their assistance, to have driven the enemy from all their posts below *Trenton;* but the number I had with me being inferiour to theirs below me, and a strong battalion of Light-Infantry at *Princeton,* I thought it most prudent to return the same evening, with my prisoners and the artillery we had taken. We found no stores of any consequence in the town.

In justice to the officers and men, I must add, that their behaviour on this occasion reflects the highest honour upon them; the difficulty of passing the river in a very severe night, and their march through a violent storm of snow and hail, did not the least abate their ardour, but after they came to the charge, seemed to vie with each other in pressing forward; and were I to give a preference to any particular corps, I should do great injustice to the others.

I some time ago mentioned to you the importance of attacking the enemy's detached posts, when it can be done with a good prospect of success. The best of consequences must result from their being harassed on every occasion on that quarter.

With respect to the stores you have taken, you must use your own discretion; you can certainly judge with greater propriety what is to be done than I can, who am so far distant.

I am, sir, yours, &c., Go. Washington.

P. S. I must request you will forward the Militia with all possible expedition. The prisoners we have taken amount in number to nine hundred and eighteen, of which thirty are officers. We have also got about one thousand stand of arms, and four standards, and six brass pieces of artillery.

To Major-General *Heath.*

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COLONEL MOYLAN TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Head-Quarters, Newton, 27th December, 1776.

*A Return of Prisoners taken at* Trenton, *December 26th, 1776, by General* Washington *and the Army under his command.*

| *Regiments.* | Colonels. | Lieut. Colonels. | Majors. | Captains. | Lieutenants. | Ensigns. | Surgeons. | Sergeants. | Drummers. | Musicians. | Officers' Servants. | Rank and File. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lanspach ... | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | - | 38 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 206 | 274 |
| Kniphausen .. | - | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | - | 25 | 6 | - | 6 | 258 | 303 |
| Rhol..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 25 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 244 | 304 |
| Artillery .... | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | - | - | 1 | 32 | 38 |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 2 | 92 | 20 | 9 | 25 | 740 | 918 |

Dear Sir: Above is a very rough but as just a sketch of the prisoners taken yesterday morning, as I can collect. I was unfortunately too late to share in the honours of the day, being catched in the storm, and little imagining that any attempt would have been made at such an inclement time. There were about twenty killed and wounded; amongst the latter, the Colonel, one Lieutenant-Colonel, and one Major. Our loss very inconsiderable; two or three killed, and as many wounded. Captain *Washington,* a fine spirited officer of *Weedon's,* is amongst the latter. Six pieces of artillery, brass double-fortified three-pounders, twelve drums, four standards, and about one thousand stand of arms, were taken. If the whole plan could have been put into

execution, there is little doubt but the whole of the *Hessians* along the *Delaware* would have been done for.

The spirited conduct of the whole that went over, which, from the best computation, did not exceed twenty-two hundred, was great. You must remember what a morning yesterday was, for men clad as ours are to march nine miles to attack an enemy provided with every necessary, and elated with a succession of advantages over our handful of men, whom they were accustomed to see retreating before them. What a change in the scene! About fifty Light-Horse, and between six and seven hundred, pushed off before our men could be posted; the remainder submitted with their arms in their hands.

Colonel *Baylor* can inform you of more particulars, if he stays long enough with you. He goes to Congress with the good news. *Gates* promised to send me the plan for the battalion of Horse. When he does, shall trouble you with it. Adieu, my dear friend; believe me, I am most truly yours,

STEPHEN MOYLAN.

To *Robert Morris*, Esq., Member of Congress, at *Philadelphia*.

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COLONEL CADWALADER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Burlington, 27th December, 1776, ten o'clock.

SIR: As I did not hear from you this morning, and being prepared to embark, I concluded you were still on this side, and therefore embarked and landed about fifteen hundred men, about two miles above *Bristol*. After a considerable number were landed, I had information from the Paymaster of Colonel *Hitchcock's* brigade, that you had crossed over from *Trenton*. This defeated the scheme of joining your Army. We were much embarrassed which way to proceed. I thought it most prudent to retreat, but Colonel *Reed* was of opinion that we might safely proceed to *Burlington*, and recommended it warmly, lest it should have a bad effect on the Militia, who were twice disappointed. The landing in open daylight must have alarmed the enemy, and we might have been cut off by all their force collected to this place. We had intelligence, immediately afterward, that the enemy had left the *Black Horse* and *Mount Holly*. Upon this we determined to proceed to *Burlington*. Colonel *Reed*, and two other officers, went on from one post to another till they came to *Bordenton*, where they found the coast clear. Colonel *Reed* and Colonel *Coxe* are now there; and we shall march at four, to-morrow morning, for that place. This information has induced me to proceed, though not quite conformable to your orders which I received on the march this afternoon.

If you should think proper to cross over, it may be easily effected at the place where we passed; a pursuit would keep up the panick. They went off with great precipitation, and pressed all the wagons in their reach. I am told many of them are gone to *South-Amboy*. If we can drive them from *West-Jersey*, the success will raise an army by next spring, and establish the credit of the Continental money to support it. I shall write you to-morrow, I hope from *Trenton*.

I am, sir, your most obedient, very humble servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

I have eight six-pounders, brass, and two three-pounders, iron.

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COLONEL TILGHMAN TO COLONEL CADWALADER.

Head-Quarters, Newtown, 27th December, 1776, ten at night.

DEAR SIR: I am commanded by his Excellency to inform you, that since he wrote you this morning, giving you an account of his return from *Jersey*, he had heard that you had passed over this day. By not having this from your own hand, he presumes you imagined he continued yesterday in *Jersey*, after his success at *Trenton*. Upon a supposition that you are over, he has ordered General *Mifflin*, who is coming up with fifteen hundred men from *Philadelphia*, to pass the river and join you. The General will cross the day after to-morrow with the Continental battalion. He would do it sooner, but the men have undergone so much fatigue that they want rest. He therefore desires that you would keep your ground, and not attempt any thing, (without you see a certainty of success,) till he passes the river, because a miscarriage would defeat all the good effects of our late victory. General *Ewing* will likewise pass over with his brigade, and I think it will be very hard if we cannot, by a junction of our forces, put Count *Donnop* to the rout.

I am yours, &c., T. TILGHMAN.

P. S. Keep the time of the General's intent to pass a secret.

To Colonel *John Cadwalader*, *Pennsylvania* Militia.

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COLONEL BURD TO WILLIAM ATLEE.

Tinian, 27th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I send you herewith the present state of my battalion, as I have related to General *Mifflin*. I mean that you should read my letter to the General, and then seal and deliver it. I have informed the officers in the battalion that I shall attend at any time and place of rendezvous to supply any company or detachment, that intend to march, with money, and render every other acceptable service in my power. You will observe that I have resigned the command of the battalion, and the Major did say at *Middletown* that he would also resign. How that may be, I cannot say; but think it may be proper, for the present, to send any orders that may be necessary to the Major.

I am, with much esteem, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

JAMES BURD.

Please to let Mr. *Shippen* peruse my letter to the General before you deliver it, and this to you, if you think proper. Ut supra, J. B.

*William Atlee*, Esq.

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COLONEL BURD TO GENERAL MIFFLIN.

Tinian, 27th December, 1776.

SIR: I had the honour to be favoured with your orders last night, dated 23d current, previous to which I had resigned the command of the battalion. But this morning, by Captain *Croutch*, have forwarded your orders to Major *Cornelius Cox*, who at present commands the battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel *Murray* being taken prisoner at *Fort Washington*. I think it my duty to give you my reason for resignation, and the more especially at this time of publick danger. If I had had an opportunity of a personal conference, I think I would have convinced you that I not only had reason for this step, but a necessity for so doing. I would inform you that the battalion is very long, between forty and fifty miles in length, and broad withal; that it requires time to communicate any orders, and inconvenient to get the whole battalion together, especially at this season of the year. However, in consequence of the orders you refer to, I gave out orders for the whole battalion to meet in three districts, on *Monday*, the 9th instant, the middle of which I attended myself; and further, directions for all the officers of the battalion to meet me at *Garbert Mill*, on *Tuesday*, the 10th instant, to make report of their proceedings. Accordingly on *Tuesday* they all did meet me, and the report was that few volunteers were to be found; upon which I gave orders in writing, and sent them to every company in the battalion, that the whole battalion should rendezvous at *Middletown*, on *Monday*, the 16th current, in order to march by divisions to join General *Washington;* and those that were not provided with arms, &c., I promised to have them provided at *Philadelphia;* that money nor nothing should be wanting.

I attended, ready to march with the battalion, from *Monday*, the 16th, to *Sunday* night, the 22d instant, and not one man turned out but eighteen, seven of whom were officers, myself included, except a small company of volunteers, commanded by Captain *Elder*, of thirty-three, officers included, whom I marched off. I put it to the vote of the eighteen, if I should not march with them: it was carried against me—I should not. On *Saturday* morning I was on my journey to go to *Lancaster* to see you. The officers advised I should not proceed, but remain to endeavour to get the battalion to march; this they thought more advisable for the good of the service. Lest I should stand in the way, I thought proper to resign, offering at the same time my personal attendance, and to render any service accept-

able upon notice being given me of such being wanting. You will no doubt expect I should give some reasons for such conduct in the battalion at this time. I cannot suggest any, unless the following may be the reasons: that three companies have already marched to camp, one of which, viz: Captain *James Murray's*, still remains there; that Captain *Smith* has taken two companies from the battalion, and Captain *John Murray* one, which renders the battalion so weak that they have not more, or very few men more, left than are sufficient to attend their cattle, &c., prejudice against myself. I have commanded the battalion ever since our troubles began, with pleasure to myself and to the battalion seemingly for any thing I know to the contrary, and have been able to comply with all orders heretofore given me, which was not the case in the last instance to which your orders alludes. And from what I have already said, I make no doubt I will stand unimpeached in your judgment, and of all those of my superiour officers; judging that I have done every thing in my power.

After making an apology for troubling you with this long scrawl, I beg leave to subscribe myself, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES BURD.

The Honourable Brigadier-General *Thomas Mifflin*, Esq.

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COLONEL DE HART TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morris-Town, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: In consequence of your Excellency's orders and request, by General *Maxwell*, I have this day begun the recruiting service of the First *Jersey* Regiment, and shall expedite it with all possible speed. Had I been determined to remain longer in the *Jersey* service, I should long before have done it, and nothing but your Excellency's request, and this critical period of time, should have induced me to have done it now.

I find it necessary that the old troops of this regiment should be paid off their arrears. Many of them demand a settlement before they will reinlist. I am now collecting the pay-rolls of the Captains, who are much scattered in different parts of this Province and *Pennsylvania*, and shall, as soon as possible, make a settlement of the regimental accounts. Recruiting money is likewise necessary, as the officers cannot do without it. If your Excellency should think proper to give your order for five thousand or six thousand dollars on the Paymaster for that purpose, Lieutenant *Morrison* will be the bearer thereof to me. Many of our officers, for the want of any fixed place of Head-Quarters for the regiment, are at this time not easy to be found. I believe great part of them are at your camp. Lieutenant *Morrison* will take your Excellency's directions in what way to collect them. I have ordered them all to this place, if not countermanded by your Excellency.

The enemy have about five hundred or six hundred *Highlanders* at *Newark*, and about as many *Waldeckers* at *Elizabeth-Town*. They have withdrawn their outposts from *Boundbrook* and that way, into *Brunswick*. They have as yet made no attempts on this place, although we find it's the daily conversation of their Army.

Our three months' recruiting service goes on well, and I am this day informed that the three regiments of *Greaton's*, *Bond's*, and *Porter's*, here, have mostly agreed to stay till the 15th *January*. A party of Militia, of about three hundred men, are at *Pluckamin*, and we have about the same number here. The spirit of our people begins much to revive. I have the greatest confidence that, with care and attention, we shall be able to maintain this part of the Province.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

WM. DE HART,
*Major of the First Jersey Regiment.*

To his Excellency General *Washington*, at *Delaware* River.

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PETITION FROM CAPTAIN HAMLEN.

*To the Honourable* WILLIAM HEATH, *Esq., Major-General in the service of the* UNITED STATES:

*Honoured sir, the Petition of your Petitioner humbly sheweth:*

That your petitioner, by order of General *Nixon*, took the charge of a number of sick belonging to his brigade, in *Orange-Town*, the Province of *New-York;* and as various reports have circulated, and are still circulating, to the prejudice of your petitioner, viz: your petitioner making application of publick stores, received from Colonel *Tupper* for the use of the sick under my care, and sundry other accusations, which would only create a multiplicity of words not worthy of troubling your Honour with; therefore, as your petitioner is thus prejudiced to his dishonour, he would esteem it a favour your Honour would order a Court of Inquiry, as quick as may be, that he may have a publick hearing; and your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

ELEAZER HAMLEN.

Peeks Kill, 27th December, 1776.

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GENERAL GEORGE CLINTON TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

Ramapough, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: Since I wrote you yesterday, Colonel *Hay* has been with me, and has taken proper measures for supplying the troops under my command in this quarter with provisions. And I doubt not but it will be regularly done in future. He tells me that he never had the least intimation from Convention that such a body of men were ordered to this quarter, and had not made any provision for them, and that he never received my last letter; which I believe to be true.

In a former letter to the honourable Convention, I mentioned the propriety of dismissing part of the Militia, retaining only in the service about one thousand of them. I am convinced, unless this is done, their minds will be much soured and the cause thereby greatly injured. And I flatter myself that number will be sufficient to guard the passes on this side the river, and protect the well-disposed inhabitants. For though we have had frequent reports of large bodies of the enemy coming this way by different routes, and confirmed by letters from pretended friends in the city, and common reports and other circumstances among the Tories, I am convinced it was no more than an artful contrivance to retard the recruiting service, and unnecessarily harass the country by drawing out the Militia; and this you will find to be the case with the dreaded expedition on your side the river.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

GEO. CLINTON.

To *Abraham Ten Broeck*, Esq., President of the honourable the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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MAJOR MOFFAT TO JOHN M'KESSON.

Peekskill, 27th December, 1776.

SIR: Enclosed is a list of the officers in Colonel *Nicoll's* regiment, who have not received commissions for the service of this campaign. General *Clinton* has been several times applied to for them, but they never came to the regiment yet. What the matter has been, I cannot tell, but I suppose it slipped the General's memory. By order of Colonel *Nicoll*, before he left this post, I have sent Adjutant *Howell* for them, on account that the regiment will be disbanded in a few days. And the officers think that they have been treated with neglect, that they have not received their commissions before.

You will be good enough to lay the matter before Convention, if necessary, and dismiss the bearer as soon as possible. No news at present.

I am, with respect, truly your most obedient and very humble servant,

THOMAS MOFFAT, *Major.*

To *John McKesson*, Esq., Secretary to the Convention of the State of *New-York*, at *Fishkill*.

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*A List of Officers belonging to Colonel* NICOLL'S *Regiment that want Commissions.*

Captain, *John Wood;* has been Adjutant.
*Jacob Dunning*, First Lieutenant; has been Second Lieutenant.
*Israel Wells*, Second Lieutenant.

Under Captain *John Little*, who is already commissioned:
*Samuel Cole*, Second Lieutenant, has been commissioned below his present rank.

Captain, *Joshua Brown*; has been First Lieutenant.
*Henry Brewster*, Jun., First Lieutenant.

Under Captain *William Blain*, who is already commissioned:
*Thomas Sears*, First Lieutenant; has been Second Lieutenant.
*David Rogers*, Second do.; has been Ensign.
Captain, *James Smith*; has been First Lieutenant.
*Barnet Marlin*, Second Lieutenant.

Under Captain *Samuel Raymond*, who is already commissioned:
*Richard Langdon*, First Lieutenant; has been Second Lieutenant.

In the company that was raised, and some time commanded by Captain *John Wisner:*
*Obadiah Gore*, Second Lieutenant.
*Stephen Howell*, Adjutant; *Benjamin Wallworth.*

JONATHAN POLLARD TO ABRAHAM TEN BROECK.

Head-Quarters, Peekskill, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: The General received your favour of yesterday, and by his desire I transmit to you the names of the prisoners alluded to in your letter: Captain *Phineas Ford*, *Ephraim Tripp*, a Sergeant, *Ephraim Hathaway*, a Sergeant, *James Gray*, a Corporal, and *Peter Sears*, a Corporal. The four last have not been examined, but accused by their Captains.

The travelling being so bad, the General thinks not to send the prisoners on till to-morrow, when he shall send them to your care to forward them.

I am, sir, with respect, your humble servant,

JONA. POLLARD, *A. D. C.*

To the Hon'ble *Ab'm Ten Broeck*, President of the Convention for the State of *New-York.*

RECOMMENDATION OF LIEUTENANT LAWRENCE.

New-Windsor, December 27th, 1776.

Lieutenant *Lawrence*, of my regiment, being desirous to continue in the service, if there was a vacancy for him, and applies to me for a recommendation. He is desirous to serve in your regiment, if you can help him to a place; if not, I hope you will use your endeavour to have him appointed in some other, as I believe he will make a good officer, as he is always willing to do his duty; but the officers of my regiment have never had it in their power to show their courage.

I am, your humble servant,

JAMES CLINTON, *B. Gen'l.*

JOHN DUNCAN TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Hermitage, near Schenectady, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: Even if gratitude did not sufficiently prompt, would be much wanting in duty not to return you my most sincere thanks for the many favours received whilst a captive under your care. My grateful sense of your admitting me to visit my aged father and family, to you and yours, by me shall never be forgot, and I most ardently wish that you and them may always be as happy as that act made me and mine. It was with some difficulty I was admitted to remain at home the six weeks contained in your pass, though I have lately obtained leave to abide on my farm till called on by the Committee of *Albany*; and had I not in that case, till a few days ago, been in some expectation to have returned to *Hartford*, would have wrote your Honour before now.

I beg leave to be gratefully remembered to the worthy gentlemen of your Council, who so readily concurred in granting my request; and am, with real esteem and due respect, sir, your most obedient and much obliged humble servant,

JOHN DUNCAN.

To his Honour Governour *Trumbull.*

GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

State of Connecticut, Middletown, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 19th came to hand per Mr. *Babcock*. I feel for your distresses and my country, and the apparent prospect of our northern posts being left so naked and destitute. Shall neglect nothing in my power for the good of the service. Among other things, it appears of great importance to forward the recruiting, or raising of a new Army, which suffers for want of money to pay the premiums. You are kind enough to offer advancing a sum sufficient for one regiment or more, if it can be spared. The good of the service obliges me to ask for it. You will, therefore, be pleased to order your Paymaster to issue a sum sufficient to raise one regiment, and deliver the same to Colonel *Swift* or Lieutenant-Colonel *Starr*, one of which will wait on you for that purpose. They are faithful and valuable officers, and will exert themselves to promote the raising a regiment, which will probably be ordered to join your department. I have no doubt but you will give him all the despatch which the nature of the service requires.

I am, sir, with the greatest esteem and regard, your most obedient, humble servant,

JON'N TRUMBULL.

P. S. Am informed by Colonel *Swift* that he could not obtain the mileage and marching money for his regiment in the last campaign, which he expected at *Albany*. As you were then at *Saratoga*, he was not able to wait on you for the necessary orders; that the men complain much for the want of it. Am sure you will consider, and see that perfect justice is done him in this matter.

Hon'ble Major-General *Schuyler.*

PAROLE OF PHILIP PALMER.

Whereas I, *Philip Palmer*, of *West-Chester*, in the State of *New-York*, have for some time past resided at *Windham*, in the State of *Connecticut*, being apprehended and sent thither by the Committee of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, as one suspected inimical to the *United States of America:* And whereas, upon my application to his Honour Governour *Trumbull*, of the State of *Connecticut*, he hath permitted me to return to *West-Chester*, to take care of my interest and effects, and there to reside till otherwise ordered: I do hereby pledge my faith and word of honour to said Governour *Trumbull*, that I will neither bear arms, nor excite or encourage others to bear arms, against this, or any other of the *United States of America*, and that I will not do or say any thing in prejudice of the interest or measures of this, or any, or all of the *United States*, in the present controversy with *Great Britain*, and that I will give no intelligence to the enemies of said States of any of their counsels, operations of war, or other the transactions of this or any other of the *United States*, and that I will return to any place in this State when requested by his said Honour Governour *Trumbull*, or the General Assembly of this State, or the Convention of the State of *New-York* for the time being.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this 27th day of *December*, 1776, at *Windham*, in the State of *Connecticut.*

PHILIP PALMER.

Present: EBEN'R BACKUS.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPREHENSION OF MAJOR FRENCH AND OTHERS.

*One hundred and twenty Dollars reward.*

Major *Christopher French*, Ensign *Joseph Moland*, and the infamous *Gurdon Whitmore*, broke gaol, and escaped this evening. Said *French* and *Moland* are Continental prisoners. Said *French* is about fifty years of age, wears his hair, is small of stature, hard favoured. Said *Moland* is about twenty-five years of age, tall, walks erect, wears his hair, light complexion. Said *Whitmore* is short, well made, has black eyes, wears his hair. It's expected they will change their dress, as they did when they run away before. Any person that shall take up the aforesaid prisoners, or either of them, and return them to the gaol at *Hartford*, shall receive as a premium, forty dollars for each, and all necessary charges, by

BARZ. HUDSON, *Gaoler.*

December 27th, 1776.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM COLONEL HUNTINGTON TO HIS SON, DATED ROXBURY CAMP, 27TH, 1776.

I spent this afternoon at General *Spencer's*, with the *Indian* Chiefs. They walked with a number of officers about

our encampment, to view our situation and works. The Guards turned out under arms to receive them: that pleased them much, as they are very fond of tokens of respect, as well as other people.

JOHN WATSON TO MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR.

East-Windsor, Connecticut, December 30, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 25th instant, I have now received. When I saw Mr. *Elliot* last, I did not pretend to set a price at which I could engage to deliver any quantity of tobacco; and since I returned home, I find the price with us advanced fifty per cent. since last year, which is much higher than I expected. I am engaged to buy some, which I propose to send to the *West-Indies*, about seven or eight thousand, and the tobacco is now chiefly purchased out of the hands of the planters; consequently it will be out of my power to supply you with any quantity at any thing near the price you mention.

Am, sir, your very humble servant,

JOHN WATSON.

Mr. *J. Warren*.

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF WAR TO COLONEL CRAFTS.

War Office, Boston, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: By a resolve of the Board of War of this State, you are ordered, as commanding officer of the garrison of *Boston*, and the forts in the harbour of said town, to make a return to the said Board immediately of every kind of military stores, including ordnance and ammunition, now in your possession, belonging to the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*. Whereof fail not.

By order of the Board.

J. WARREN, *President*.

Colonel *Thomas Crafts*.

MESHECH WEARE TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 20 January, 1777: Referred to the Committee of Treasury.]

Exeter, December 27th, 1776.

SIR: This State, very desirous of exerting with full vigour all the strength of their small Republick in the common cause, find themselves much obstructed in pursuing their resolutions, for want of money; and the depreciation of the present currency is such that discourages them from emitting any more. I have therefore sent *James Belton*, Esq., express, to request of the honourable Congress twenty thousand dollars, to purchase shoes, stockings, and other clothing for the Army, agreeable to the resolutions of Congress; also that money may be transmitted to Colonel *John Stark*, Colonel *Enoch Poor*, and Colonel *Alexander Scammell*, persons appointed to command the three battalions directed to be raised in the quota of this State to serve during the war, to enable them to pay the bounty to the soldiers; which money we understand they could not procure from the Paymasters in either the Northern or Eastern departments, the chest being empty. Also a sum, in part of what this State hath advanced for the Continent, the accounts of which advance will soon be forwarded.

In behalf of the Council and Assembly. I am, sir, your very humble servant,

MESHECH WEARE, *President*.

Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq.

MESHECH WEARE TO MATHEW THORNTON AND WILLIAM WHIPPLE.

Exeter, December 27, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Enclosed I send you the copy of a vote, appointing you, with Colonel *Bartlett*, Delegates to represent this State in Congress one year from the first of *January* next. Mr. *Betton*, who brings you this, is sent by the General Court to solicit money for this State for several purposes, as he will show you in his instructions. The great need we have of a supply for our Treasury must excuse my very earnest desire of all your aid in procuring the same. Great sums we must advance, in addition to the Continental establishment, or no men can be inlisted here. Every thing is so amazing dear that the soldiers say their wages will not half support them. We expect soon to be under the necessity of raising a body of men to relieve the *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut* Militia, at *Rhode-Island*. One thousand of our Militia are just come home from *New-York*, and five hundred newly raised are now on their march for that place. All the intelligence you are permitted to disclose from Congress, be kind enough to send us, especially good news, which are almost strangers to us at present, and therefore shall receive them as a rarity.

I am, your very humble servant,

MESHECH WEARE.

P. S. The names of the persons for field officers in the Continental battalion raised here have been sent forward some time for approbation. As the regiment is now ordered to *Ticonderoga* by General *Ward*, we desire you to forward the appointments.

Hon'ble *Mathew Thornton* and *William Whipple*.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY TO WILLIAM DUER.

Exeter, December 27, 1776.

SIR: The prisoners sent from your State have been received here, and disposed of agreeable to the resolutions of your Committee, and the advice of Mr. *Benson* sent from you. Great uneasiness prevails among them, and their clamours of being sent here without an examination at home and consciousness of their innocence which they assert, has had considerable influence among the people in these parts in their behalf. Three of the prisoners, of the number of those not directed to be confined in jail, have liberty to return to *New-York*, viz: *Timothy Clossen*, *Joseph Gage*, and *Elias Doty*, to provide necessaries for themselves and other prisoners here; and to return in six weeks, unless they have license from the Convention of *New-York* or your Committee to remain at home. And as a great number of them make such protestations of their not being sensible of their having ever given occasion for any person to suppose them unfriendly to the *American* cause, we wish an impartial inquiry might be made into their characters, and if any may appear innocent who were taken up, and sent from their homes in the confusion and unavoidable hurry that you was involved in at that time, that an order may be sent for their discharge; also particular directions to this State relative to their future disposal and regulation of the prisoners. Some of the persons who had the liberty of providing their own lodgings have eloped, the number and names we cannot transmit, as this letter is wrote to be forwarded by a person ordered to *Philadelphia* on urgent business, and cannot be detained. However, one *John Vandeburgh*, Esq., is among the number. Many more we expect will follow their example. The five hundred dollars sent by your State is expended, and a considerable sum advanced to support the prisoners in jail, which amount to near seventy, and necessaries for some others, who appear poor and naked, though not in prison. As our Treasury is empty and can't be soon supplied with ourselves, it would very much assist us at this time to have such a sum transmitted from you as you think adequate to support the prisoners while they may tarry here. I am, &c.

*William Duer*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee for Inquiring into, Detecting, and Defeating all Conspiracies formed against the State of *New-York*.

THOMAS THOMPSON TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY.

Portsmouth, December 27, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have to inform you that the schooner lately commanded by Captain *Burke*, now a tender to the *Milford*, was run on shore last night at *Little Harbour*. She has four officers, passengers, besides the one that commands, and about fifty men. The officers shall be sent off early to-morrow morning. Should be glad of your further directions in the behalf of the *United States* for the disposal of the prisoners who are now in custody of Colonel *Long*, all but the officers, who are in my care.

Your humble servant,

THOS. THOMPSON.

To the honourable the Council and Assembly of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

COLONEL LONG TO NEW-HAMPSHIRE ASSEMBLY.

Portsmouth, December 27, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: This morning I received advice of one of the enemy's tenders being drove into our harbour. I thought

it my duty to secure her, being apprehensive that the prisoners might attempt an escape with the prize. I immediately ordered a number of soldiers to embark on board boats, to take possession of her; and in the interim, prepared others to follow, in one of which I went myself. When I came on board I found Colonel *Mooney* and Major *Hodgdon*, with a sufficiency of men to bring her to town. We hove her from off the shore, and proceeded as far up the river as the tide would permit before it was spent, after which I gave orders for the prisoners to be brought to town, who are now, to the number, I think, of forty-three or forty-five, under a proper guard, exclusive of five officers who were brought up by Captain *Pinkham*, (the person that brought her in,) and put to lodge at a publick house. The Captain of the *Raleigh* ordered a guard on them, for which I am much obliged. This night, Captain *Salter*, in conjunction with Captain *Robert Parker*, who I have appointed pilot of her, will bring her to her mooring. I shall be obliged for an order for the disposition of all the prisoners, excepting those who will be accompanied to *Exeter* to-morrow by Captain *Dearing*, to be examined and disposed of as you may judge proper.

I am, gentlemen, with due respect, your most obedient servant,

PIERCE LONG.

P. S. I beg leave to observe that Captain *Pinkham* had this vessel delivered to him by the officers and people belonging to her, to do with her as he thought proper, which induced him to make this push. He has libelled her, and applied to a friend to transact his business.

To the honourable Council, &c., of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

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PETITION OF JOHN GROUT.

*To the Gentlemen Committee of the town of* CHARLESTOWN, *in the Province of* NEW-HAMPSHIRE:

*The Petition of* JOHN GROUT, *of* CHESTER, *in the State of* NEW-YORK, *most humbly sheweth:*

That a wicked conspiracy has lately been formed in the said County by a part of the people (the notorious *Charles Phelps* at the head of the conspiracy) to disunite the States of *America*, and to set them to quarreling among themselves at this time when harmony and friendship is so necessary for our common defence.

The conspirators began by denying the jurisdiction of the State of *New-York* over the County of *Cumberland*, and claiming to put themselves under the jurisdiction of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, and for this purpose procured a majority of a small part of the County Committee to write and send such claim to the General Convention of the State of *New-York;* which extraordinary procedures justly alarming that Convention, they made some spirited resolves thereon, which your petitioner hereunto annexes, and begs leave to refer you. These resolves being sent to the County Committee, they, at a full Committee met at *Westminster* on the first *Tuesday* of *November* last, fully rescinded said claim, and made, in the name and behalf of the people of the said County, a full, ample, and formal submission to the jurisdiction and authority of the State of *New-York*. To which submission a small part of the said County Committee entered their dissent, and withdrew themselves. But finding that the virtuous people of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* would give them no aid in the quarrel they have begun with the State to which they belong, they are now endeavouring to effect their wicked designs of disturbing the union and harmony that now exists among the *United States* by making a quarrel at this all-important day between the States of *New-Hampshire* and *New-York;* and for this purpose have procured an inhabitant of *New-Hampshire*, one *David Currier* by name, to complain of your petitioner for an assault; and your petitioner having by *Chester* Committee been adjudged to be guilty, they have ordered that your petitioner be delivered to said *Currier* in *New-Hampshire*, to be by him there imprisoned until your petitioner shall pay and make such satisfaction as said *Currier* shall arbitrarily impose on him, (a copy of which unprecedented and arbitrary judgment is hereunto annexed,) from which judgment your petitioner appealed to the General Committee of the said County of *Cumberland*, agreeable to the laws and rules established in such cases by the Convention of the said State of *New-York;* but the said Committee of *Chester* avowing a full revolt from that State, in high contempt of the said Convention, and breach of the rights of your petitioner as a member of that State, have absolutely refused to allow such appeal, and your petitioner is now in custody of one *William Atwood*, to be delivered here to said *Currier* for the purposes aforesaid. Your petitioner flatters himself that the virtuous Committee of the town of *Charlestown* will protect your petitioner from all wrongs and violences from the hands of said *Currier* within their district, and will give a full proof of their design to cultivate and improve the good understanding now existing between the two States, by protecting your petitioner, and delivering him from the unconstitutional imprisonment he is under within your district, and that you will give the Convention of *New-York* a pleasing proof that the Committee of *Charlestown*, in *New-Hampshire*, will discountenance all violences which shall be offered to the peaceable subjects of that State, contrary to their just rights and the true dignity of *New-York*, by any and every contentious person who may seek the destruction of the friendship that exists between the said States.

Your petitioner, therefore, most humbly prays that you would please to order him safely to be returned to the County of *Cumberland*, where he belongs, and delivered to the Chairman of the said County Committee, that so he may prosecute his appeal there agreeable to his rights as a member of the State of *New-York*, and according to the rules and regulations by the Convention or Assembly of that State in such case lately made and provided; and your petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

JOHN GROUT.

Charlestown, in the State of New-Hampshire, December 27, 1776.

P. S. *December 27th*, 1776, *seven o'clock, p. m.*—Mr. *Atwood* has delivered the petitioner to Mr. *Currier*, and he is now in Mr. *Currier's* custody.

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Chester, 25 December, 1776.

*To* DAVID EARLL, *greeting:*

You are hereby required to take *John Grout* and bring him forthwith to Landlord *Grub's*, in said *Chester*, for which this shall be your sufficient warrant, from

GEORGE EARLL.

A true copy of the original.
Attest:

DAVID EARLL.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 28th, 1776.

SIRS: I have bought the brig, agreeable to your orders, at a very great price. The people all seemed determined to have her. She cost two thousand five hundred and fifty pounds. I suppose she is a fine sea vessel, but she is not worth that money. But I believe it was the Congress against the Province. I was very candid about the matter. I hear they intend to apply to you for her. I think you had better spare her to them. I don't think her the vessel that she was represented. I have her hauled to a wharf, and hands at work to get her ballast out.

I have bought a good deal of pork for the *Defence*, and shall have the brig ready for sea as soon as I can, if you don't spare her to Congress. Mr. *Chase* told me to-night that Congress must have her. I have put her under the care of Captain *Forsyth* to put in order, a very good man.

From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

To the hon'ble Council of Safety, at *Annapolis*.

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JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 28th, 1776.

SIRS: I wrote by *Stephen Steward*, acquainting you that I had bought the fine brig, but I think her a dear bargain.

I have got a well-recommended Captain for her; and Captain *Forsyth* has been this two days under his care. If you keep her from Congress, who, I understand, wants her, you may send up four thousand pounds, by *Wm. Crockket*, who is a safe hand, to pay for ship and cargo; twenty-five hundred and fifty for the brig, and the fitting and cargo will cost the other part of the four thousand pounds. Please

write me about it. Mr. *Crocket* can tell you more of the Captain than I know of him. He recommended him to me.

Excuse haste. From your humble servant,

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

The Council of Safety, at *Annapolis*.

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THOMAS JOHNSON, JUN., TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Frederick-Town, Saturday, 28th December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Colonel *Beatty* tells me *Peter Mumed*, who was Captain, *Adam Crush*, who was First Lieutenant, and *Adams*, who was Second Lieutenant, of a company in his battalion, and went to the Flying-Camp, refuse to hold their commissions in his battalion. *Crush* is in the regular service; *Maure*, he says, desires to be so; and *Adams* says he will not act at any time hereafter. All agree not to desire any body who has retreated from the camp to go again.

*Nicholas White*, Colonel *Beatty* tells me, the company are desirous he should be a Captain, and that he thinks him a proper man. I should therefore be glad you'd send him a commission. We have a very deep snow. Upwards of three hundred of Colonel *Beatty's* battalion begin their march to-morrow. I wish they were better provided. I am very desirous of hearing from your Board; and am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

TH. JOHNSON, Jun.

The hon'ble Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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COLONEL MURDOCK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Montgomery County, December 28th, 1776.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS: In consequence of a letter I received lately from Brigadier-General *Johnson*, directing me to call together the battalion of Militia under my command, to take an account of their arms, &c., to prepare them for an immediate march, and to hold themselves in readiness for further orders, I have to acquaint you that all this has been done agreeable to the said instruction. I have also, in Committee of this County, seen two requisitions of Congress to the same purport, directed to the Committee of *Frederick* County. Whereupon this Committee has recommended it to the Militia to put themselves in readiness to march to reinforce General *Washington*, and have requested the Colonels to call them together for that purpose; all this has likewise been done; and I have now to inform you that not more than eighty-eight men of this battalion are willing to march, in which number is included the greatest part of the officers belonging to the different companies.

From the disposition of many of the people, I am urged to request you will inform me of the destination of these troops, of the time they are to continue in actual service, and whether your orders in particular are not immediately necessary towards forwarding this expedition, which, when received, shall be punctually complied with, by, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JOHN MURDOCK.

The hon'ble the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO THE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

Baltimore, December 28th, 1776—five o'clock, a. m.

GENTLEMEN: The necessity of having proper magazines established in places of security, has induced the Congress to order three to be erected: one in *Virginia*, one in *Pennsylvania*, and one in *Brookfield*, in *Massachusetts-Bay*, with an elaboratory adjacent to each. The foregoing resolve respecting the magazine and elaboratory to be fixed at *Brookfield*, I am directed to transmit to you, and to request that you will be pleased to take such measures as you judge necessary for the immediate execution of it. I beg leave to refer you to the resolve; and am, with every sentiment of esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

Hon'l Council of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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JAMES WILSON TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Baltimore, 28th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: The Committee of Congress at *Philadelphia* are directed, by a late resolution of Congress, to contract for erecting a magazine at *Carlisle*. I shall be at that place in a short time, and will give every assistance in my power to those whom you employ.

You are much wanted in Congress, though I know you are of essential service at *Philadelphia*.

I am, dear sir, yours sincerely, JAMES WILSON.

The Hon'ble *Robert Morris*, Esq.

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COMMITTEE FOR TRANSACTING CONTINENTAL BUSINESS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 31 December.]

Philadelphia, December 28th, 1776.

SIR: Your Committee have opened their office, and given publick notice of their daily attendance to transact such Continental business as may be proper and necessary in this place. We wrote General *Washington* of our appointment, and proposed that he should forward his despatches to Congress through our hands, unless when they might be of such a nature as he would not choose any person should see them before Congress. He approves this plan, as it will ease his correspondence with us, and at the same time we shall receive information that will be necessary for our government in many affairs that will most probably come under our consideration.

You have enclosed herewith the General's account of the action at *Trenton*, with a return of the prisoners, &c. Allow us to congratulate Congress on this success, and to presage that, if our good fortune is well followed up, our affairs will very speedily wear a pleasing countenance. We take the liberty to enclose, also, an extract of a letter from General *Cadwalader* to General *Putnam*, by which it appears that our enemies are panick-struck. We hope our troops will follow them up, and not give them time to recover; and shall write in this strain to General *Washington*, with an assurance that every man shall follow to his assistance that can be prevailed on to move from this State; and we have not a doubt but their spirits will now be up, and what they have before thought dangers will vanish before them like a vision.

You'll observe, sir, that Mr. *Cadwalader* is now a Brigadier-General, made so by our Council of Safety; and you cannot conceive what general satisfaction it gives. He is a gentleman of amiable private character, fine fortune, numerous connexions, has a martial spirit, and has taken infinite pains to qualify himself for command. He is beloved by his troops, and gains their confidence wherever he goes. General *Washington*, in a letter to Congress some time past, recommended their appointing this gentleman a Brigadier-General in the Continental service. His having recommended him for that purpose, and our knowledge of his merits, and a conviction that it would be vastly pleasing to all the Associators of this State, prompts us to recommend to Congress to do it immediately. He now commands the Continental Colonels, and they cannot complain that he is put over their heads. He is now leading on a valuable band of men in your service, and the appointment will give spirit and vigour to their operations. The present success will induce you to make other promotions; and we hope this will not be neglected.

We are sorry to inform you that Captain *Robinson's* information respecting his prize was premature. She is not arrived, nor have we heard further from below, although the *Fly* has been sent down some days to reconnoitre. The *Wasp* is gone to cruise outside the *British* fleet. She took a schooner, with molasses and rum, that had been taken by the *Roebuck*.

We have the honour to remain, sir, your obedient servants.

*John Hancock*, Esq.

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COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 28th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: We have the pleasure to own receipt of your acceptable favour of yesterday, by Colonel *Baylor*, and most sincerely do we rejoice in your Excellency's success at *Trentown*, as we conceive it will have the most important publick consequences, and because we think it will do justice, in some degree, to a character we admire, and which we have long wished to appear in the world with that brilliancy that success always obtains, and which the members

of Congress know you deserve. Permit us to congratulate you on this success, and to suppose it is only the beginning of more important advantages.

You will excuse us for taking up so much of your time as will be necessary to read this letter, which is not intended as an official letter of business, but merely to gratify our present feelings, and to offer you such thoughts as occur on the present state of affairs, without intending you the trouble of any reply, as we know you have too much writing necessarily.

It appears to us that your attack on *Trentown* was totally unexpected, the surprise complete, and the success beyond expectation. Could Generals *Ewing* and *Cadwalader* have executed their parts, no doubt but more good consequences must have followed instantly. However, we apprehend it is not yet too late, as it appears by General *Cadwalader's* letter to General *Putnam*, that the enemy have abandoned all their posts from *Bordentown* downwards, and fled with precipitation towards *South-Amboy*. It's probable they are seized with a panick, whilst your forces are flushed with success; and such precious moments should not be lost. We apprehend, if your victory is immediately pursued, and no time allowed the enemy to recover from their surprise, you will have little difficulty in clearing the *Jerseys* of them. It is probable that those troops whose times of inlistment are now expiring will follow their successful General, although they would have left him whilst acting a defensive part. Be that as it may, we have the pleasure to know that considerable bodies of Associators are marching from every part of this State to your assistance. These have been put in motion when our affairs were at the worst; but you have now given a spring to the tardy spirits, and we think their numbers will be greatly augmented; in short, it is our opinion that you may from this time form a reasonable dependence on daily additions to your force. Common fame will double the numbers of those that actually do turn out; and if such reports reach our enemies, it will probably have great effect on their fears, and assist wonderfully in causing them to evacuate their lately-acquired territory in *New-Jersey*.

We have received a letter from Colonel *Fleming*, of the Ninth *Virginia* Regiment, which is on its march from the *Eastern Shore*; and we have ordered them a supply of money at the *Head of Elk*, and the necessary clothing to be got in readiness against they come here. We also expect the *Pennsylvania* Regulars that have been lately raised in the back Counties of this State; and we understand Militia and other reinforcements are coming from *Maryland* and *Virginia*. You may depend we will give every assistance in our power to forward these reinforcements to you, and that we shall assist and advise, far as we are able, in every publick department here.

We have considered that part of your Excellency's letter of the 25th instant, to Mr. *Morris*, that relates to the seamen in the two *New-England* battalions, whose times expire with this year; and should any of them obstinately persist in being discharged from your service on New Year's day, we think it advisable to prevail on them to come down here, and assist in getting the frigates out. When they come, we will make the best bargain we can with them; and if nothing else will do, we will engage to send them home in one or two of those ships. If they come on these terms, we think Captain *Read* and his officers should come with them, that we may, if possible, get away the *Washington* as well as the *Delaware*. Congress are very anxious to have these ships out, and will be pleased if this measure is pursued.

We cannot avoid mentioning that we don't think it advisable to exchange your *Hessian* prisoners at this time. We think their capture affords a favourable opportunity of making them acquainted with the situation and circumstances of many of their countrymen, who came here without a farthing of property, and have, by care and industry, acquired plentiful fortunes, which they have enjoyed in perfect peace and tranquillity until these invaders have thought proper to disturb and destroy those possessions. It will be proper to separate the officers from the men, and to canton the latter in the back Counties; which may be done by the Council of Safety, until the Congress are consulted thereon.

Your Excellency will excuse us for troubling you with our sentiments on these matters; and we think it necessary to apologize for doing so, as it's probable the whole has occurred to yourself.

We remain, with perfect regard and esteem, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servants,

ROBT. MORRIS,
GEO. CLYMER,
GEO. WALTON.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO ROBERT MORRIS.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, 28th December, 1776.

SIR: Captain *Francis Nichols*, who succeeded to the command of the late Captain *Hendricks*, who was killed at *Quebeck*, has applied to us for the pay of his company. He was referred to *Mease & Caldwell*, who, we are told, don't think it lies in their department. We should be glad to know where the officers and men of that corps are to be paid, as frequent application is made to this Board for that purpose, and 'tis out of our power to give them satisfaction on this head. Indeed, much of our time is spent in quieting the discontents of the soldiery, who have not their pay regularly, and are in exceeding great distress for want of it. Some general regulation in that department seems absolutely necessary.

By order of Council:

DAVID RITTENHOUSE, *V. President.*

To the Honourable *Robert Morris*, Esq.

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GENERAL MIFFLIN TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bristol, Saturday evening, December 28, eight o'clock.

MY DEAR GENERAL: The enclosed I have this minute received from an express sent by my order to General *Cadwalader*. The General not knowing that I was here, did not write to me; and as I supposed the contents of importance in my movements, I took the liberty to open the letter, for which I must plead only the occasion in excuse.

I came here at four o'clock this afternoon. Five hundred men, sent from *Philadelphia* yesterday, crossed to *Burlington* this morning; this evening I sent over near three hundred more; to-morrow seven or eight hundred shall follow. I will cross in the morning, and will endeavour to form them into regiments and brigade. They consist of many different corps, and want much regulation. If your Excellency has any orders for me, other than to join General *Cadwalader* as soon as possible, please to favour me with such as are necessary, and I will punctually obey them. *Pennsylvania* is at length roused, and coming in great numbers to your Excellency's aid. Mr. *Hall* will return with your orders.

I am informed that we cannot cross at *Bordentown*, nor at any place between that place and this. I have no doubt of effecting it here, having sent from *Philadelphia* in the morning several fine boats, which are now here.

I most heartily congratulate your Excellency on your late capital stroke, and wish most ardently a repetition.

I am, with great affection and attachment, your Excellency's obedient servant,

THOMAS MIFFLIN.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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COLONEL CADWALADER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Bordenton, 28 December, 1776.

SIR: We arrived here about one o'clock, the advance party about ten. I have sent horsemen to reconnoitre; and from every information the enemy left *Allen-Town* about eight o'clock this morning. If I had been happy enough to have crossed at *Dunk's Ferry*, we should have completely destroyed the Army in this quarter. I am informed that the *Hessians* went off in the utmost confusion. I am sorry some of the troops have marched up to *Kirkbridge* as it is impossible to get , the commanding officer at *Bristol*, to . I have about eighteen hundred men, and Colonel *Penrose* informs me that he is advancing with about five hundred men.

We shall pursue with my troops to-morrow before day. About five hundred go this evening to *Crosswix*. The enemy are much encumbered with baggage and cattle. I hope to fall on their rear.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, Head-Quarters.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL M'DOUGALL.

Head-Quarters, Newtown, 28th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have yours of the 22d, and am sorry that affairs bore so bad an aspect in your quarter at that time; but I hope that the late success at *Trenton*, on the 26th, and the consequences of it, will change the face of matters not only there, but every where else. I crossed over to *Jersey* the evening of the 25th, about nine miles above *Trenton*, with upwards of two thousand men, and attacked three regiments of *Hessians*, consisting of fifteen hundred men, about eight o'clock next morning. Our men pushed on with such rapidity that they soon carried four pieces of cannon out of six, surrounded the enemy, and obliged thirty officers and eight hundred and eighty-six privates to lay down their arms, without firing a shot. Our loss was only two officers and two or three privates wounded. The enemy had between twenty and thirty killed. We should have made the whole of them prisoners, could General *Ewing* have passed the *Delaware* at *Trenton*, and got in their rear; but the ice prevented him. I am informed that Count *Donop*, with the remainder of the Army below *Trenton*, decamped immediately upon this news, and is on his march towards *South-Amboy*. Generals *Mifflin*, *Ewing*, and *Cadwalader*, have already passed over to *Jersey*, with a capital force, and I shall follow with the Continental regiments as soon as they have recovered from their late fatigue, which was indeed very great. I hope you, sir, General *Maxwell*, (to whom I have wrote,) Colonel *Vose*, Colonel *Ford*, and every gentleman who is well affected, will exert yourselves in encouraging the Militia, and assuring them that nothing is wanting but for them to lend a hand, and driving the enemy from the whole Province of *Jersey*. Pray watch the motions of the enemy, and if they incline to retreat or advance, harass their rear and flanks; but at all events endeavour to collect a body of men to be ready to join me, or act otherwise, as occasion shall require.

Your son was mentioned among the first of our prisoners that I demanded in exchange; but General *Howe* (or Mr. *Loring* in his absence) sent out others than those I demanded. I have remonstrated to him upon this head, and have assured him that I will send in no more prisoners till he sends out the paroles of the officers taken in *Canada*.

I am yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *McDougall*.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL MAXWELL.

Head-Quarters, December 28th, 1776.

Sir: As I am about to enter the *Jerseys* with a considerable force immediately, for the purpose of attempting a recovery of that country from the enemy, and as a diversion on your quarter may greatly facilitate this event by distracting and dividing their troops, I must request you will collect all the force in your power together, and annoy and distress them by every means which prudence can suggest. It will be exceedingly proper for you to use every argument to inspirit and encourage the Militia, as also to prevail on the troops commanded by Colonel *Vose* to continue longer in service. You may assure the Militia that every effort shall be made to rescue their country from the hands of the enemy, and that with their concurrence I hope and expect to effect it. It may be urged to the Eastern troops with great truth, that if a successful opposition is not made to the enemy in the *Jerseys*, their country will not remain long free from the ravages of war.

I have the pleasure to inform you of the success of an enterprise which took effect the 26th instant, at *Trenton*. On the night of the preceding day, I crossed the *Delaware*, with a detachment of the Army, under my command, amounting to about twenty-four hundred. The difficulties arising in the passage of the river prevented my arriving at the town as soon as I expected, by which means the attack did not commence till eight o'clock; when our troops pressed forward with so much ardour and spirit, as never to suffer them to form completely. About seven hundred of the enemy ran away in the beginning of the action; the rest, amounting to one thousand, including thirty officers, after making a feeble opposition, laid down their arms and surrendered themselves prisoners of war. We have taken about one thousand stand of arms, four standards, and six pieces of brass artillery, with some other stores. I have issued some orders to-day for the encouragement of the troops whose terms are near expiring, which I shall be glad you will immediately communicate to them in your orders.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Brigadier-General *Maxwell*.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL HEATH.

Head-Quarters, 28th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: Since I had the pleasure of informing you yesterday of our success at *Trenton*, I have received advice that Count *Donnop*, with the remainder of the enemy's Army, immediately upon the news, decamped, and was on his retreat towards *South-Amboy*. On hearing this, Colonel *Cadwalader* and General *Ewing* passed the river, with the troops under their command, and General *Mifflin* will follow this day, with a considerable body of Militia from *Pennsylvania*, from whence large reinforcements are coming in. I purpose to go over myself, with the whole of the Continental troops, as soon as they are refreshed and recovered of their late fatigue. These added together, will make our force very respectable. I have wrote to General *McDougall* and General *Maxwell*, who are at *Morristown*, and have desired them to collect as large a body of Militia as they possibly can, and whether the enemy advance or retreat, harass them on flank and rear. If they cannot be brought to that, to keep them imbodied till they are joined by our regular troops. Things being in this situation, I think a fair opportunity is offered of driving the enemy entirely from, or at least to the extremity of the Province of *Jersey*. I would therefore have you advance as rapidly as the season will admit, with the Eastern Militia, by the way of *Hackensack*, and proceed downwards till you hear from me. I don't think there is the least danger of the enemy's making any move towards the Highlands at this season of the year; that they cannot do it by water is most certain.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Heath*.

LORD STIRLING TO GOVERNOUR LIVINGSTON.

New-Town, December 28th, 1776.

My dear Sir: I dare say you have heard of our little expedition to *Trentown* on the night of the 25th; the result was, that we made a most complete surprise on them, and have taken and killed at least one thousand two hundred of the best *Hessian* troops, with their artillery and stores. The effect is amazing; the enemy have deserted *Borden-Town*, *Black Horse*, *Burlington*, *Mount-Holly*, and are fled to *South-Amboy*. We are now in possession of all those places, and the spirit of that part of the country is roused; every part of *New-Jersey* will take spirit if proper measures be adopted. It will in *New-Jersey* now greatly depend on your Legislature exerting themselves. The Speaker of your Assembly has summoned its members to be at the *Four Lanes*, about four miles from hence, on *Thursday* next. It will be of infinite use that you and some of your Council could be there at the same time, in order to have an immediate meeting of your Legislature. I hope we shall soon be in full possession of *New-Jersey*; but there is an absolute necessity of a new arrangement of the officers of your quota of the troops for the Continental service. As things now stand, no man of spirit will serve, nor will any one exert themselves in the recruiting service until the appointments of officers is altered; if this is not immediately done the force of *New-Jersey* is lost. Come, for God's sake, and see these matters regulated; let merit in service, and not dirty connexions, take place. Excuse all this freedom: I write this at the request of General *Washington*, with a very lame hand, but I hope it will be well enough to give them another drubbing soon. I had the honour to make two regiments of them surrender prisoners of war, and to treat them in such a style as will make the rest of them more willing to surrender than to fight.

Several regiments of the Continental troops are now in *Morris* County, and some in *Bergen* County. If your Militia would now exert themselves in small scouting parties, and fall on their detached cantonments, or their line of march in retreat, they would be completely knocked up. Now is

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the time to exert every nerve; and if we do, General *Howe's* Army will be ruined; they will have no recruits in the spring, and the next campaign will be our own. God bless you: be active, and make the State of *New-Jersey* what it ought to be.

Most affectionately yours, STIRLING.

JOSHUA LORING (ENGLISH COMMISSARY) TO NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

New-York, December 28th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Majors *Campbell*, *Dunbar*, and *Hughes*, Captain *Robertson*, and Doctor *Gill*, being taken prisoners in *Canada*, and now duly exchanged agreeable to General *Washington's* desire, I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to apply to you for a safe pass, and your assistance to them in returning to *Canada*, as they belong to that district. They will wait here for your answer, which request may be as soon as possible, either by a flag of truce to our out-posts at *King's Bridge*, or any other, the most expeditious, way.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient and most humble servant, JOS'A LORING, *Commissary for Prisoners.*

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 28th December, 1776.

MY LORD: Lieutenant-Colonel *White*, who has served a volunteer in this Army for a part of the campaign, and to whom I have given the care of my despatches by this conveyance, has mentioned to me a plan he had the honour of proposing to the Secretary at War, a short time before he left *England*, for drafting forty or fifty volunteers from each regiment of Dragoons in *England*, with officers in proportion, to form a battalion to serve on foot in *America*. As this scheme would add to the Army an exceeding serviceable corps, and well officered, I would humbly submit the propriety of it to your Lordship's consideration, and if approved, hope your Lordship will lay it before the King. I do not dwell upon the particulars of this proposal, as Lieutenant-Colonel *White* will have the honour of giving your Lordship all the information that may be required, further than to recommend him for the command.

I have the honour to be, your Lordship's faithful and most obedient servant, WILL. HOWE.

PHILIP SKENE TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

New-York, the 28th of December, 1776.

SIR: I hear two servants of mine are confined at *Litchfield*, in your Province, Mr. *Sanger* the one, Mr. *Ludlow* the other. As their duty, and bread, led them, as servants, to be careful of my property under them, am induced to write, that upon inquiry they may be returned to their trust, agreeable to the protection given to my estate by Congress. The inhabitants on *Skenesborough* are my tenants under rent; from them Committees are formed; Mr. *Langdon* as my clerk, to receive my rents when they offered it. No doubt they would wish to remove him and me, so circumstanced, as well as Mr. *Ludlow*, my steward; but their principle is no reason that our good constitution should be destroyed, and the faithful servant should be imprisoned, where men of better reason govern. Lord *Howe* has set all the people taken in his department at liberty, who were not taken in arms, and means so to do; and I am happy to find the General will not take any subject for his principles, not being in arms. It would be *felo de se* to the very constitution he means to protect; and I hope your Honour will upon inquiry discharge my servants, and let them about their business, as they never did nor will take arms. As to myself I shall sail for *Europe* in a few days, and hope to be early in the spring at *Crown-Point*, &c., should not peace take place before that time. The prisoners from the southard are all arrived and exchanged. It now rests with you, sir, to forward those in your Province to exchange, and make no doubt but you will sympathize, so far as in you lies, to relieve the distressed captives.

I have the honour to be, your Honour's most obedient, humble servant, PHILIP SKENE.

P. S. I inquired for Mr. *Lee*, a friend of Mr. *Wadsworth*, but cannot find him. Please to let him know this.

*Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., Governour of *Connecticut.*

ALEXANDER WALLACE TO GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

New-York, 28th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I got safe home here on the 25th *July*, and found all my family in good health except my son *Hugh*, who is very bad, and little hopes of his recovery. Mrs. *Hugh Wallace* is pretty well in health, but very unhappy about her husband being kept so long from her; and what adds to her distress is the very heavy loss she has met with about ten days ago, in losing all her plate. She sent it to *Richard Yates*, last summer, at *Aquacknack*, to be kept there, as a place of safety, but upon his leaving that place, he had the box which contained the plate put on board a brig commanded by Captain *Roche*, bound to this place. About five miles below *Hackensack*, the brig was seized by a party of your Army, and all the goods taken out. The plate cost upwards of fifteen hundred pounds, this currency. She thinks the gentlemen belonging to the Convention, when they know it belongs to her, will order it to be sent her immediately, as it would be very hard indeed to send her husband away to *Connecticut*, and allow her property to be plundered. I must request the favour of you to get this affair settled as soon as possible. Enclosed is an inventory of the plate. It was all in one box. My papers, &c., are in much better order than I expected, but my brother and I shall suffer greatly by being sent away from our property. I have sent your letter to your mother, who is very well, as are all your old friends. I shall go and see your mother in a few days. General *Robinson* assures me all the women and children, who have a mind to go to their husbands or friends, have liberty to go by this flag or any other way they may think proper. I am sorry Major *Fish* has not liberty to come on shore, or that Mr. *Scott's* request is not granted. Be assured I have done all in my power, but have no interest with General *Howe*. He is too busy at present sending despatches to *England*, to be seen. You will please present my compliments to all friends; and be assured I am, with great esteem, your much obliged, humble servant, ALEXANDER WALLACE.

Please deliver the enclosed letters. Give the one for *Hugh Wallace*, to Mr. *Samuel Loudon*, to be sent by post. My brother has lost all his clothes in the *Jerseys*. Mrs. *Wallace* sent them there. Tell Mr. *John Ten Brock* I have not yet seen Mr. *May*, but am told he is here.

*Gouverneur Morris*, Esq., at *Fish Kills.*

*The contents of a chest of Plate belonging to* HUGH WALLACE, *Esq.*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 tea urn, | 1 sugar dish, |
| 1 epergne, | 1 funnel, |
| 1 very large bowl, | 1 fish trowel, |
| 4 candlesticks, | 6 salts, |
| 1 large pudding dish, | 6 salt spoons, |
| 2 small do., | 2 mustard pots with spoons, |
| 2 large salvers, | 6 skewers, |
| 3 small do., | 2 milk pots, |
| 1 large tankard, | 1 tea chest with canisters, |
| 1 coffee pot, | 1 sugar tongs, |
| 1 pitcher, | 4 labels for bottles, |
| 1 cruet stand, | 4 tumblers, |
| 4 long-handle spoons, | 4 rummers, |
| 4 scollop do., | 2 black jacks, |
| 1 dozen table spoons, | 1 large soup ladle, |
| 1 dozen dessert spoons, | 1 marrow spoon. |

GENERAL HEATH TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peek's Kill, December 28, 1776.

DEAR GENERAL: I have just received the honour of yours of the 21st instant, and am much distressed to hear of the disagreeable situation that your Excellency is like soon to be in.

None of the Eastern Militia have as yet arrived that I know of, except those mentioned in my letter of yesterday. When they come in I shall endeavour strictly to observe your Excellency's directions.

It is truly surprising that whilst the *New-England* Militia are marching hundreds of miles in a severe season, and leaving a large body of the enemy near the centre of their country, and none but Militia to oppose their attempts to

ravage, those who are in immediate danger of destruction should need rousing from a stupid lethargy to save themselves; and it will be more so if they should not be roused.

*Philadelphia* is undoubtedly an object of great importance, but I think cannot be more so than these passes, of which, if the enemy should avail themselves, all communication between the Eastern and Southern States will be entirely cut off; and I cannot but think this to be a principal object with the enemy.

If I may be allowed to express my own opinion, I think the service cannot, under present circumstances, be better promoted than by posting a respectable body of troops in *West-Chester* County, and another in the *Jerseys*, extending from *Tappan* to *Morris-Town*. This will produce a diversion on the side of the enemy, and at the same time secure our own communication; whilst in the other case I think it will be in danger of being cut off. Your Excellency's superiour wisdom will, however, best determine what should be done.

By a person the day before yesterday from *New-York*, we have a confirmation that General *Howe* is returned to that place, and that barracks are taking up with the greatest expedition, and that a brigade of *Hessians* have moved up to *King's Bridge*.

If the Eastern Militia should arrive, agreeable to your Excellency's expectations, I shall without loss of time move forward with them to join your Excellency; being determined, while I continue in the Army, instantly to yield a cheerful obedience to your Excellency's commands.

The Committee from the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, when they left this place, committed to my care the commissions, beating orders, &c., for their officers, desiring that I would issue them, agreeable to the directions given to them; and that I would transmit to them a list of the staff for the regiments in the Southern department belonging to that State, for their confirmation and appointment. My excursion into the *Jerseys* immediately afterwards put it out of my power to pay attention to it. The present scattered state of the field officers of the several regiments still continues it out of my power to answer their expectations.

The recruiting service is an object of the highest importance, for upon the speedy raising and disciplining a new Army is suspended the fate of *America* and of unborn millions. It is vain to trust to a Militia. Many of those belonging to this State, who have been lately called out under General *Clinton*, have returned home in three or four days' time.

As I think the enemy are now going into winter quarters, or will in a few days, I solicit your Excellency for leave to ride to *New-England* for a short time, as I am confident that the publick service may be promoted thereby; and as there are but few Continental troops now in the field, and a great number of General Officers present, and at the same time the Militia which are coming from *Massachusetts-Bay* fully officered, and commanded by a gentleman of whose "judgment and abilities" your Excellency has expressed "a very high opinion," I think I cannot better serve the publick cause than by paying a particular attention to the forming of the new regiments of that State, of which not only myself, but also the officers, are very desirous. The number of regiments which are to be raised by *Massachusetts-Bay*, I think affords me ground for a better plea than can be made by any other officer. I ask not for, neither do I desire any particular station, and it is my highest ambition to obey your Excellency's orders; but shall I be thought immodest if I express a desire to command the troops raised by the State to which I belong? This they are anxious of; this I most ardently solicit. To your Excellency's wise determination I submit it.

This moment the express from *Providence* calls in, on his way to your Excellency, with the agreeable news of the arrival of the *Alfred's* prize, on which I most heartily congratulate your Excellency. I have also just received a letter from Brigadier-General *Warner*, informing that one regiment of the *Massachusetts* Militia are on their march from *Danbury* to this place, and others soon expected there. General *Lincoln* is still behind; he was some time since at *Providence*, but now on his march. General *Pomroy* is coming Colonel of a regiment from the County of *Hampshire*.

I shall invariably pursue your Excellency's orders, but request your indulgence of my desire so far as it is consistent with the publick good, for which I am determined to sacrifice every consideration.

I have the honour to be, with great respect and esteem, your Excellency's most humble servant,

W. Heath.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

P. S. I am just informed that the enemy are making a large number of sleds in *New-York*. I am also informed by a person from that place, that a number of men are employed by *Billy Bayard* to intercept our intelligence if possible. It therefore behooves our post-riders to be very careful.

W. H.

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GENERAL ARNOLD TO GENERAL HEATH.

Fish Kill, December 28th, 1776.

Dear General: This minute I arrived here from Head-Quarters, on my way to join our Army at or near *Providence*. I have received express orders from General *Washington* to forward on the Militia from *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut* as fast as possible to Head-Quarters, as his Excellency has very little dependence on the Militia of *Pennsylvania*, *Jerseys*, or on the troops he now has, their times of inlistment being so near at an end. He apprehends it will be very difficult to retain them any considerable time.

I have the pleasure to hear this minute that a large number of the Militia are arrived at *Peak's Kills*. I make no doubt you will forward them on as fast as possible. General *Washington* will be glad to know as early as possible what number there are, and when he may expect they will join him.

I am, with esteem, dear General, your obedient, humble servant,

B. Arnold.

Major-General *Heath*.

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JONATHAN POLLARD TO WILLIAM DUER.

Head-Quarters, Peekskill, December 28th, 1776.

Sir: I yesterday, by order of General *Heath*, wrote to the honourable President of your Convention, wherein I mentioned the names of the prisoners desired to be sent to *Gloucester* County, and also that the four last had not passed examination.

The General further desires that they may be examined as soon as may be, as he thinks they will appear innocent.

I now send them on to you, under a guard of a Sergeant and ten men.

I am, sir, with respect, your humble servant,

Jona. Pollard, *A. D. C.*

To *William Duer*, Esq.

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Peeks Kill, 28th December, 1776.

*To the Captain of the Main Guard:*

Sir: Send to the General's quarters, under a proper guard, Sergeant *Gripp*, Sergeant *Hathaway*, Corporal *Seers*, and Corporal *Gray*.

By order of Major-General *Heath*.

Eben. Huntington, *Dept. Adj. Gen'l.*

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NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read January 14th: Referred to the Board of War.]

In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, Fishkill, December 28th, 1776.

Sir: I am directed by the Convention to make a second application to Congress upon the subject of clothing and blankets for our troops. It is needless to repeat that the distresses of this State incapacitated us from procuring the necessary supplies of these articles; and any person who considers that we are entirely secluded from the sea, that we have no kind of commerce, and that in the Eastern States these articles have been taken for the use of the troops as they might send, will readily perceive that unless Congress will make an order in our favour for as much as will be necessary for the men raised within this State, they must go utterly naked; and how far this is consistent with the good of the service and the safety of *America*, it will not be difficult to determine. It is highly distressing to us to be besieged by ragged wretches, asking wherewithal to hide

them from the inclemencies of the season; and this distress will be infinitely increased if, after repeated endeavours to warm them with hope, we shall be at last reduced to the necessity of telling them that although there are materials enough in *America* for their comfortable accommodation, we have not sufficient interest to procure any, and that therefore they must even freeze as patiently as they can. This is no exaggeration. The people of this State believe, and we hope with justice, that the captures and importations lately made on account of Congress are amply sufficient for all their troops. If we now had a sufficiency of clothes and blankets, our proportion of troops could take the field very soon complete. If these things cannot be procured they must disband in a short time. For these reasons we have written to Congress, confiding in their wisdom to make a proper provision for this service in such manner as they shall think best.

The Convention, sir, further direct me to assure Congress that it is with much reluctance they are obliged to step out of their own line and animadvert upon matters within the department of others; but the dictates of humanity oblige them to mention, that there are numbers of sick in this place dying for want of the commonest attentions. Without blankets, medicines, and the proper care of physicians, they are reduced to the lowest ebb of human wretchedness; and what astonishes us still more—what, indeed, hardly any evidence would make a man of sense believe, is, that between two and three hundred soldiers are now here returned unfit for duty, because there is not sulphur to cure them of the itch. We must, therefore, submit it to Congress whether it would not be proper to have some arrangements made for a hospital, in such manner as at least to leave men who are sick a possibility of recovering.

I am further directed, sir, to inform you that the Convention view with the most anxious solicitude the several fruitless attempts made to prevent the enemy penetrating the interiour parts of this State through *Hudson's* river. The successful exertions we have lately made in favour of *New-Jersey* will convince every candid mind that our emotions arise from the importance of this object to the freedom of *America*, more than from the immediate danger to which our own territory is exposed. For however this State may have been censured for a listless inattention to the great cause in which we are engaged, and however severe the trial of her virtue during the campaign, we still dare to sacrifice the little which is left us. But when we consider that the loss of what country still remains to us would give a fatal stab to the freedom of our sister States, we then feel the deepest concern at beholding this great river open to the incursions of the enemy's fleets. Those fortifications which have been erected were constructed without skill, and yet remain incomplete; what is still worse, they are in a great measure unprovided of cannon. On this side the Highlands, the navigation may, we believe, be effectually obstructed, and such works erected as not only to cover those obstructions, but to endanger any vessel which should attempt to remove them; while, upon a supposition that one or two of the enemy's ships should force a passage, the frigates now in our river, if properly equipped, would be able to cope with them. But how are these objects to be effected without engineers, sailors, or cannon? We must, therefore, entreat Congress to pay a particular attention to the welfare of *America* in this important instance.

The Convention, sir, are also much concerned to find that the laying up proper magazines of provisions and forage hath as yet been utterly neglected; and I am sorry to add, that in the next campaign, unless great attention be paid to these things, the enemy will be in the full career of victory before our Army can take the field. Whether the appointing a Commissary of Forage would not in some sort remedy this inconvenience, by relieving the Quartermaster from a burthen he cannot possibly undergo consistent with the due attention to the business of this department, must be submitted to your better judgment; and at the same time, we would suggest that as it is of some advantage to General Officers to be acquainted with the country in which they are to march and fight, it would not be quite useless to have a proper department for sketching out these rivers, roads, defiles, &c., which may soon be the scenes of important transactions. But should these hints be thought of so much consequence as to obtain a part in your deliberations, we must take the liberty of cautioning Congress against the hasty appointment of persons inadequate to the duties of their offices and unacquainted with the resources of the country; and we are sorry to apologize for this freedom of observing that such appointments have in some instances already been almost fatal to the service; not to mention the indecency (much too frequent among some of the officers) of applying not only to the Convention, but even to the County Committees, for instructions and assistance in the very line of their duty.

As two of the Delegates from this State, Mr. *Livingston* and Colonel *Floyd*, have left *Philadelphia*, and the Convention did not know whether Mr. *Lewis* was certainly there, I am directed, sir, to enclose you a copy of an Address of this Convention to their constituents. The Convention intended to have it translated into *German*, and three hundred copies sent hither for the use of such of their inhabitants as speak that language. If Mr. *Lewis* is now at *Philadelphia* he will take care to complete this business; and if not, we must entreat that Congress will be pleased to direct it at the expense of this State, for which we shall be much obliged, as it may, in the opinion of this Convention, tend in some small degree to rouse the people from that lethargick situation which must in the end prove fatal to *American* freedom. We only lament that the Congress themselves have not paid some small attention to this object, since the wisdom of their councils and their own dignity must have given infinite weight to sentiments of such general importance.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant.

By order: AB'M TEN BROECK, *President.*

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Continental Congress.

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January 1st, 1777.

SIR: Since writing the above letter, the Convention are informed that Congress have given orders to the Commissary and Quartermaster-General to lay up magazines of forage, to the perfecting of which business the Convention will give every assistance in their power.

We congratulate you, sir, and the Congress upon the success of your arms at *Trenton*, and wish the New Year may be attended with frequent instances of the same happy complection.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

AB'M TEN BROECK, *President.*

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq.

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REPORT ON SALTPETRE IN NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

A. M., December 28th, 1776.

Mr. *David Gelston*, one of the Committee formerly appointed on the 14th day of *October* to have the Saltpetre manufactured in *Suffolk* County, and thence removed to *Connecticut*, transported to this State, delivered in their Report; which was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

Your Committee appointed to transport to this place the Saltpetre manufactured upon *Long-Island*, and transported to *Connecticut*, do report:

That whereas Mr. *Gelston* has collected from sundry persons five hundred and eighty-five pounds fourteen ounces, part of which he has paid for to the amount of £128 5*s.*, and that there is in the hands of other persons a quantity of Saltpetre manufactured upon *Long-Island*, to the amount of six or seven hundred pounds, or thereabouts, making in the whole about twelve hundred pounds, which will amount, at 6*s.*, to £360: And whereas Mr. *Gelston* has received £ on account,

Therefore *Resolved*, That this Convention advance to Mr. *Gelston* the sum of £300, to enable him to pay for the same, and transport it to this place as soon as may be with conveniency.

And whereas the persons who have manufactured the Saltpetre purchased by Mr. *Gelston* have suffered the loss of their works by the enemy's taking possession of *Long-Island*: And whereas the Convention of this State did, on the fifteenth day of *October* last, agree to give 8*s.* 6*d.* per pound for all such Saltpetre as should be made in this State out of materials collected within the same, from the said 15th day of *October* last until the 1st day of *January*, 1778:

Therefore *Resolved*, That Mr. *Gelston* be authorized to

give the further sum of 2*s.* 6*d.* per pound for the Saltpetre above-mentioned, as an indemnification for the loss of such works as aforesaid; and that he be allowed a further sum of £150 to enable him to pay the same; and that he account to this or a future Legislature for the moneys by him so received.

DAVID GELSTON.

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GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Middletown, December 28th, 1776.

SIR: The General Assembly of this State, at their last session, in *November* last, ordered four battalions to be raised in this State, to march and be stationed as part of the Continental Army, and to serve until the 15th of *March*, while our quota of said Army is filling up. Considerable progress is made therein; but fearing there would not a sufficient number of them arrive in season, and before the term of our troops in the service should expire, and hearing of the situation of our affairs and the efforts of General *Howe* to penetrate to the capital of *Pennsylvania*, the said General Assembly, now sitting here, zealously disposed to promote the common cause of *America*, and lend all the aid in their power, having issued out pressing recommendations to all denominations of men in the western parts of this State immediately to exert themselves and cheerfully engage as volunteers, and march with all possible speed for the assistance of General *Washington's* Army, for the term of two months, and not longer without their own free consent,—in consequence of which, several companies (I have not yet ascertained how many) of able, substantial freeholders, many of them not belonging to the Militia, have engaged with a generous ardour to serve as above. They were allowed to have chosen their own officers. In some instances which I have heard of already, field officers at home have accepted the command of companies, (a laudable condescension and zeal.) I thought it, therefore, my duty, and justice to their spirit and patriotism, to inform you of their character and the circumstances of their undertaking, and to request you to consider them in a favourable light, to support and afford them all the necessaries of tents, camp utensils, and every proper convenience in your power. It is not possible for us to supply them with those articles, as we are extremely exhausted. The disposition and spirit of the inhabitants of this State is unaltered, but we are weakened by the constant demand of men and every kind of clothing, &c. Our whole Militia have had their turns of duty, and have suffered greatly by hardships and sickness, and many deaths of valuable and substantial officers and men, and a larger number now at *Providence* and on our sea-coasts, so that they cannot but feel a good deal of discouragement; but I hope will soon recruit their health and spirits. From your knowledge of human nature, sense of the importance of our common cause, and your own honour and humanity, I have not the least doubt of your treating these volunteers, and all under your command, with all the favour, generosity, and goodness, in your power.

I am, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient and very humble servant.

To his Excellency General *Washington*, and the Commanders on any posts of the Continental Army.

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JONATHAN WARNER TO GENERAL HEATH.

Danbury, December 28th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Agreeable to request, I have ordered one regiment to march this morning for *Peekskill*. I should have sent them forward sooner, but it was not in my power to procure provisions sufficient for the march. It is very unhappy for us that there was nobody appointed in this place to supply these troops. I applied to Mr. *John McLain*, who has done all in his power to help us to bread, and is willing to undertake to supply the whole of the *Bay* recruits now on their march, provided he be properly deputized and appointed by authority for that purpose; and I fear that we shall be unable properly to supply the men, except that should be the case. I shall do all in my power to forward the troops as fast as they come up. I forwarded the express to General *Lincoln*, but have had no return.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

JONA. WARNER.

N. B. Mr. *McLain* is one of the Selectmen and Committee for this town, and is a very suitable person, in my opinion, to be appointed a Deputy Commissary, and I think it highly necessary that he should be immediately deputized for that purpose.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO JOHN LANGDON.

On board the Warren, between Providence and Newport, December 28th, 1776.

SIR: Captain *Whipple*, late of the *Columbus*, his officers and men, understand you have sold and collected the money for the prize ship *Royal Exchange*; and as the service of the States will not permit the officers and people to go to the different States to collect their prize money, they have sent Mr. *Joseph Hardy*, clerk of the *Columbus*, to bring it on board to be distributed. I think it will be for the general good that you pay him the captors' part, first deducting your commissions; and his receipt will be your discharge for said part.

I am, with great regard, sir, your most humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To *John Langdon*, Esq., Continental Agent for the State of *New-Hampshire*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO JOHN BRADFORD.

On board the Warren, between Providence and Newport, December 28th, 1776.

SIR: I received your favour of the 24th instant. Am glad that care is taken to unload the *Mellish*, which, by a letter received from Mr. *Jarvis*, I believe is done. I am extremely obliged to you for the favour done me by supplying my son with thirty pounds, which was sufficient for him; but am at a loss how you should think my prize money was connected with the company's, as the Congress have settled my part at one-twentieth of the captors' part. I have applied to Captain *Whipple* in respect to sending you a list of the men concerned, but as the greatest part of the officers and men are now on duty on board the several vessels in this harbour, the general interest of the country will not permit their applying in person to the several agents for their money, so that if it can't be distributed to them on board, they must go without it; to remedy which, Captain *Whipple*, his officers and people, have sent Mr. *Hardy*, clerk of the *Columbus*, to bring the money on board, which I hope will be agreeable, you first taking out your commissions and the money you advanced my son, and Mr. *Hardy's* receipt will be your discharge. Captain *Whipple* would not have taken this step if there was any other way to satisfy his officers and people. Shall be greatly obliged to you if you will take care of my part of the other prizes within your jurisdiction until you receive my orders to send it me.

I am, with esteem, sir, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

P. S. Enclosed you have a copy of the resolve of Congress in respect to my share of the prize money.

To *John Bradford*, Esq., Continental Agent at *Boston*.

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COMMODORE HOPKINS TO LEONARD JARVIS.

On board the Warren, between Providence and Newport, December 28th, 1776.

SIR: I received your favour of the 24th instant, and am glad to hear the goods are secured out of reach of the enemy, as they are much wanted by our Army. I was not knowing to Mr. *Russel's* coming to assist you, but believe it was done by the Governour and Council, with the advice of some of the principal men of your State. I desired Mr. *Tillinghast* to send Mr. *Jenckes* to assist in procuring the carts, which I did by the advice of General *Lincoln*, and can assure you it was done with a view of the general good, and not with any design of intruding on your department, as I could not tell whether you might arrive at home soon enough for that purpose, and on seeing a letter from you to Mr. *Tillinghast* was surprised you should take it amiss.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

ESEK HOPKINS.

To Mr. *Leonard Jarvis*, Deputy Agent for the State of *Massachusetts*.

BENJAMIN HARRISON TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, December 29, 1776.

SIR: It is the wish of the Committee of Secret Correspondence to avoid as much as possible doing injury to the State of *Maryland*, for which reason they return you many thanks for your obliging compliance with their request as to the brig; but seeing the great prejudice their taking of her would be to the State, most willingly give her up, provided the Council shall favour them with a small armed schooner now in this port, which they hope will answer their purpose. The price will be left to your honourable Board, which it is expected will be what she cost the State. Your immediate answer will much oblige your most humble servant.

To the President of the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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BENJAMIN RUMSEY TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Joppa, 29th December, 1776.

I do hereby certify, that I am and have been for a number of years acquainted with Captain *Bennett Mathew*; that during a great part of that time he followed the sea, and commanded a ship, of which he was, as I understand, half owner; that I have always heard that he had served a regular apprenticeship to the sea, and followed it till a few years ago, when he retired to a paternal estate. He has always bore the character of an expert and able seaman, and on shore an honest man; and if the Council of Safety will give him the command of a galley, I am convinced he will acquit himself with such spirit, skill, and honour, as not to discredit or bring disgrace on those who appointed him, and that he will do his country all the service in his power.

BENJAMIN RUMSEY.

To the honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO BENJAMIN HARRISON.

Philadelphia, December 29th, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I received, yesterday, yours of the 25th, by express, with the sundry enclosures, with which I shall do the needful; but I think you should send copies by some of the outward-bound vessels from *Virginia* and *Maryland*. There is a new ship of Mr. *Archibald Buchanan's* near ready to sail for *France*, from *Baltimore*, and I fancy your son must have either the *Aurora*, *Gratz Birg*, or the snow about sailing; and I don't yet hear of any *British* cruisers at the Capes of *Virginia*. If any do appear, pray inform me of it. I must send you an order to receive from the Secret Committee about twenty-seven hundred pounds, and send it down to *Ben*, by the first opportunity. I have received the money here from Mr. *Hare*, and used it for the Secret Committee, who must repay it; and *Ben* is to lay it out in tobacco, concerning which I wrote him two posts ago. I shall make additions to the letter to our Commissioners, suited to our present circumstances, and send you copies in due time.

I detained this express until this morning, hoping to give you some news from General *Cadwalader;* but no accounts are yet come in. I wrote to General *Washington*, and said every thing I could say with decency to encourage a pursuit of our enemies with his whole force. Our Militia are daily coming in, and I really hope to see him strong enough to drive the invaders out of *New-Jersey*, and then Congress may come back here. I believe it would have an excellent effect, were they to return immediately. Our friends would be inspirited, and our external and internal foes would form favourable judgments of our support and strength from it. A few days more will determine whether it will be proper or not, and soon as I can I will write a publick letter on that subject. Your invitation to join you is very civil; but you know I have always been satisfied with *Philadelphia* and the *Hills*, and I have, throughout this alarm, been determined not to quit until fairly drove off. At the same time, I have been constantly prepared, my things packed up, horses and carriage ready at any moment, and constant means of intelligence, had they approached.

I beg my compliments to all friends; and tell *Ben. Levy* I expect he will be a very great politician, now the great council have removed his quarters.

We had a merry Christmas at *Smith's*, in spite of the times. The absence of my family sits grievously hard on me, as never parted with them before; but my time is too much employed to dwell much upon any subject; and I am now pleasing myself with the thoughts of bringing them back. I dine at the *Hills* to-day; and have done so every *Sunday*. Thus you see I continue my old practice of mixing business and pleasure, and ever found them useful to each other.

I am, with great affection, your friend and servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To the Honourable *Benjamin Harrison*, Esq., Member of Congress.

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DELINQUENT PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATORS.

*A List of the Names of those Associators who had not entered into the service under the command of his Excellency General* WASHINGTON, *the 28th day of this instant December, and then either refused or neglected to give in their names and march to* PHILADELPHIA, *agreeable to his Excellency's orders.*

*Delinquents in Captain* JOHN JAMISON'S *Company*, WARWICK *Township.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hugh Mearns, between 50 and 60 years of age, | Francis Beard, | Thos. Craven, (N. B. Craven hath an apprentice out, and he himself sometimes out of his reason.) |
| Jonathan Martin, | Patrick Craighead, | |
| Joseph Redman, | Wm. Doyl, | |
| Robt. Mearns, | Adam Kerr, | |
| Moses Crawford, | Jno. Shannon, | James Crawford, |
| Alexander Harvey, | Gilbert Rodman, | Andrew McMicken, |
| Sam'l Flack, | John Grier, | Benjamin Griffith, |
| Aaron Lovet, | Wm. Shannon, | John Decorsey, |
| Mathew McMinn, | Wm. Whittenham, | Charles McMicken, family sick, |
| Gaun. Megrady, says he will join the battalion in a few days, | Jacob Pricker, | James Snodgrass, |
| | Miles Marting, | David Gray, |
| | Edward Taylor, | John Harvey, |
| Samuel Poge, | Hugh Huston, | Francis Fargus, |
| John McMinn, | Andrew Shannon, | Alex'r French, |
| John Hunter, | John Marting, | Robert Harbertson, |
| John Roberts, | Jonathan Roberts, | Thomas McMasters, |
| James Scott, | David Johnston, | Charles Jones. |
| Thomas Huston, | Jos. Flack, | |
| | Jno. Lough, | |

*Captain* THOMAS WIER'S *Company of Delinquents*, WARRINGTON *Township.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wm. Long, | Wm. Mealey, | Robt. Walker, |
| John Richey, | Archibald Parker, | John Davis, |
| Thomas Richey, | James Whitesides, | David Siveston, |
| Wm. Richey, | Robt. Millar, | Thos. Taylor, |
| James Barkley, | John Benty, | James Kelley, |
| John Robinson, | Sam'l Roberts, | Dan'l Craig, |
| Edward Liddle, | And. Hall, very poor and old, | Wm. Dillerline. |
| David Richey, | | |

*Delinquents in Captain* WILLIAM MCCALLA'S *Company*, PLUMSTEAD.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wm. McCalla, Captain, sick, | James McMullen, | John Worreld, |
| Jacob Castrop, | James Ferris, | Conrad Bean, |
| Robt. Gibson, | Henry Gaddis, | Wm. Deleware, |
| David Nesbit, | Sam'l Walter, | Samuel Brittain, |
| John Forgeman, | John Sens, | James Sample, |
| Ezekiel Rogers, | Wm. Harkins, | Valentine Marsheller, |
| Benjamin Hall, Committee-man, &c., | Francis Titus, | Ambrose Smith, |
| | Joseph Dyer, | Mathew Smith, |
| Wm. Kennedy, | John Dunlap, Jun., | Adam Shafer, |
| Wm. Silist, | Adam Bean, | Sam'l Hannen, *Buckingham*, |
| James Down, | Thos. Tustin, | |
| John McCalla, | Alex'r Alexander, | John Smith, *New-Britains*, |
| John Stiner, | George Burns, | |
| John McMullen, | Barnard Cupler, | Ambress Potton, *Buckingham.* |
| Joseph Hart, | John Gibson, | |
| Robt. Thorn, | David Forgeman, | James Bredein, |
| Rich'd Crean, | Joseph Thomas, sick, | Joseph Shaffer, |
| Philip Rinkle, | George Stinhurt, | James Buckman, |
| John McDonel, | Dan'l Thomas, | Jessey Edwards, |
| Jonathan Hinsman, | John Boil, | John Fox, |
| John Rogers, | John Casner, | John Reve, |
| Wm. Smith, | Alexander McFarland, | John McCalla, |
| George Gaddis, | Robt. McClay, | John Harkins, |
| | James Henry, | Joseph Tavens. |

Six of Captain *McCalla's* Company, whose names are not down here, are marched for *Philadelphia*, agreeable to his Excellency's orders; and I am well informed that many of those whose names are here set down will follow in a day or two.

*Delinquents in Captain* ROBERT SAMPLE'S *Company*, BUCKINGHAM.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| George Kelly, | John Slack, | *Wrightstown.* |
| Adam Barr, | Henry Stirk, | Wm. Thompson, |
| John Thomas, | John Conrad, | Joseph Sacket, |
| James Stirk, | Isaac Osmond, | Wm. Bennet, |
| Robt. McKorstery, | John Flack, | James Barron, |
| John Sample, Committee-man, | Sam'l Simpson, | James Gilkinson, |
| | Wm. Robinson, | James Shaw, |
| Wm. Flack, | Morris Walch, | Michael Keyser, |
| Thos. Smith, | Jacob Carter, | Sam'l McDaniel, |
| Wm. McKinstry, | Benj. James, | Thos. Gain, |
| Thos. Barr, | Wm. Kindel, *Warwick*, | James Megrady, |
| Adam Middleton, | Serick Roberts, *Solebury.* | Nathan McKinstry, |
| Thomas Drenen, | | Jacob Shepherd, |
| Wm. Simpson Smith, | | Edward McDaniel, |
| | | John Leonard Martin. |

*Delinquents in Captain* Lott's *Company, Solebury and other adjacent Townships, not particularly known.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Henry Lott, Captain, | James Ingham, | Joseph Johson, |
| John Bogert, } Innholders. | John Neafus, | Leonard Wright, |
| John Vanhorn, | Wm. Green, | David Hering, |
| John Winter, | Derick Tinbrook, | Joseph Vanhorn, |
| Robt. Herring, | Roger Hartley, | John Mafer, |
| John Meyrs, | Serick Roberts, | Dennis Austin, |
| John Shephard, | John Sebring, | John Mourton, |
| Barnard Vanhorn, | Fulker Sebring, | Thomas Taylor, |
| Peter Dewit, | Thomas Seabring, | John Sebring, Jun., |
| Benj'n Hartley, | John Howell, | John McKen, |
| | Thos. Orpin, | Josiah Winter. |

The preceding return is the best I am capable to make of the respective companies before-mentioned; and not one man gave in his name to me, or consented to march to *Philadelphia*, but those before-mentioned.

I am not enabled to make returns of delinquents in Captain *Roberts's* and Captain *McKonkey's* companies.

Joseph Hart, *Colonel.*

December the 29th, 1776.

For his Excellency General *Washington.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS.

New-Town, December 29th, 1776.

Dear Sir: The enclosed letter to Congress will show you my intention of passing the river again, and the plans I have in view. After you have perused it, I beg your care of it, and that it may be enclosed and transmitted 'em by the earliest opportunity.

I am, dear sir, with sentiments of great regard, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. I shall be particularly obliged to your care of the two other letters enclosed. That for Mrs. *Washington*, you will have put in the post office.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 3d January, 1777.]

New-Town, December 29, 1776.

Sir: I am just setting out to attempt a second passage over the *Delaware*, with the troops that were with me on the morning of the 26th. I am determined to effect it if possible; but know that it will be attended with much fatigue and difficulty on account of the ice, which will neither allow us to cross on foot, or give us an easy passage with boats. General *Cadwalader* crossed from *Bristol* on the 27th, and by his letter of yesterday was at *Bordentown*, with about eighteen hundred men. In addition to these, General *Mifflin* sent over five hundred from *Philadelphia* on *Friday*, three hundred yesterday evening from *Burlington*, and will follow to-day with seven or eight hundred more. I have taken every precaution in my power for subsisting of the troops, and shall, without loss of time, and as soon as circumstances will admit of, pursue the enemy in their retreat, try to beat up more of their quarters, and, in a word, in every instance adopt such measures as the exigency of our affairs requires and our situation will justify. Had it not been for the unhappy failure of Generals *Ewing* and *Cadwalader* in their attempts to pass on the night of the 25th, and if the several concerted attacks could have been made, I have no doubt but that our views would have succeeded to our warmest expectations. What was done occasioned the enemy to leave their several posts on the *Delaware* with great precipitation. The peculiar distresses to which the troops who were with me were reduced by the severities of cold, rain, snow, and storm, the charge of the prisoners they had taken, and another reason that might be mentioned, and the little prospect of receiving succours on account of the season and situation of the river, would not authorize a further pursuit at that time. Since transmitting the list of prisoners, a few more have been discovered and taken in *Trenton*; among 'em a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Deputy Adjutant-General; the whole amounting to about one thousand.

I have been honoured with your letter of the 23d, and its several enclosures, to which I shall pay due attention. A flag goes in this morning with a letter to General *Howe*, and another to General *Lee*. For the latter, *Robert Morris*, Esq., has transmitted a bill of exchange, drawn by two *British* officers, for £116 9*s.* 3*d.*, on Major *Small*, for money furnished them in *South-Carolina*, which I trust will be paid. This supply is exclusive of the sum you have resolved to be sent him, and which Mr. *Morris* will procure in time.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

Go. Washington.

P. S. I am under great apprehensions about obtaining proper supplies of provision for the troops. I fear it will be extremely difficult, if not impracticable, as the enemy, from every account, has taken and collected every thing they could find.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, &c.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL HOWE.

Head-Quarters, Bucks County, December 29th, 1776.

Sir: I take the liberty of enclosing you a letter for General *Lee*, which I must beg the favour of you to have forwarded as early as possible, as it contains a draft upon Major *Small* for a sum of money, of which I fear the General will be in want.

A division of prisoners of the Seventh Regiment, with Captain *Newmarsh*, crossed the river at *Easton*, and went in without Mr. *Moylan's* knowledge. From the irregularity of the officer who conducted them, who did not make me a return of their names and rank, I am ignorant of either. I shall therefore be much obliged if you will order Mr. *Loring* to furnish me with a proper list of them, that I may make a demand of the like number in exchange.

I am, sir, &c.,

Go. Washington.

To Lieutenant-General *Howe.*

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL LEE.

Newtown, 29th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: I have the pleasure of enclosing you a letter from your friend *Robert Morris*, Esq., with a draft on Major *Small* for £116 9*s.* 3*d.* sterling.

It will afford me the highest satisfaction to receive a line from you, informing me of the state of your health and your situation, in both of which I hope you are as happy as a person under your circumstances can possibly be.

Such further supplies as you may have occasion for, shall be from time to time remitted to you.

I am, dear sir, yours, &c., Go. Washington.

To Major-General *Lee*, Prisoner.

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GENERAL MAXWELL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morristown, 29 December, 1776.

Sir: I arrived here the 24th, past eleven o'clock at night, found things not in so good a state as I could wish. General *McDougall* commanded, and as he seemed to be well acquainted with the state of the troops, and where the different necessaries was most likely to be found to support them, I was not anxious to take much of the command upon me for some days, but assisted all I could. He says I must take it all to-morrow. I endeavoured to rouse out the Militia to the westward, but I met a good many of them going home, some whose month was out, some not. They promised to be out again in eight or ten days. I hope they will keep their words. Before I came here they had begun the recruiting under Colonel *Ford*, to the 1st of *April*, and seemed to go on rapidly, I suppose many of the men with a design to take the two bounties; but that we must put up with. The Captains have let most of their men go a-recruiting, by which means there is scarcely any of the Militia here but those out on the different passes. I have ordered them all in the 1st of *January*. Colonel *Ford* makes no doubt of making up a full regiment out of them, with a few others, for three years or during the war, shortly after he has the regiment formed, if your Excellency will give him assurance that he shall have the command of them when so engaged. I think it is the most likely place to raise the regiment you spoke of; and from the small acquaintance I have had with Colonel *Ford*, he appears very zealous for the service, and I believe will command them with a good deal of reputation.

General *McDougall* has been trying with the *New-England* troops, before and since I came, to stay; first for one month, and then for a fortnight. I have done and said what I could. The latter proposal, the majority, or, as

they say, mostly all have agreed to, but have not been able to get a definitive answer from them yet.

You see the condition I am in at present, and not very likely to get provisions and forage for the few I have. I am determined to suspend the Quartermaster till your pleasure is known, for he does nothing. He is a son of General *Williamson*, who has resigned.

There has been troops of Horse in these parts before. General *McDougall* has been trying to assemble them. Some of them are absolutely necessary—the General thinks forty. There is such a chain of garrisons round us, like a half moon, that I think the above will not be too many. There was some engaged part of this summer. They were promised twelve shillings per day, and find every thing themselves. They have the same promise now, till your Excellency's pleasure is known; and then they are to put up with the pay and allowance of the Army. If the Quartermaster and Commissary-Generals will send me the prices and forage with the Army, I will insist on having them articles at the same rate here. Let me know if you want a large quantity of either laid in here. There are some few *Highlanders* and *Hessians* taken daily: What shall I do with them? A great many Tories, amongst whom is *Benjamin Morgan*, Esq., from *Boundbrook*, for administering the oath of allegiance to the country people: What shall I do with them?

Captain *Kenedy* is here on his parole; a very unfit place for him, as it is impossible to prevent intelligence passing to the enemy. I find lead is very scarce here. There are two pieces of artillery here, but neither officers nor men to work them, nor matches. I wish to have some sent. The commanding officers of the *New-England* troops told me to-night, they made no doubt of their men declaring to stay to-morrow.

I congratulate your Excellency heartily on your late success; it raises the drooping spirits of the people, and will much forward the recruiting.

I am your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

Wm. Maxwell.

His Excellency General *Washington*, Commander-in-Chief of the *American* Forces.

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GENERAL SIR WILLIAM HOWE TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, December 29, 1776.

On the 25th instant, in the evening, a party of the enemy attacked an out-guard from the post of *Trenton*, where Colonel *Rall* commanded with three battalions of *Hessians*, fifty Chasseurs, and twenty Light-Dragoons, having with them six field-pieces, which party was beaten back.

On the succeeding morning, at six o'clock, the Rebels appeared in force with cannon, evidently intending to attack the post. Colonel *Rall*, having received intelligence of their design, had the troops under arms, and detached his own regiment to support an advanced picket: this picket being forced, and falling back upon the regiment, threw it into some disorder, which occasioned them to retire upon the other battalions; no advantage being taken of this, they recovered themselves and the whole formed in front of the village.

The Rebels, without advancing, cannonaded them in this situation, and Colonel *Rall* moved forward to attack them, with the regiments of *Lossberg* and *Rall;* in which attack Colonel *Rall* was wounded, and the regiments were made prisoners. The Rebels then advanced to the regiment of *Knyphausen*, and also made that corps prisoners.

Some few officers, and about two hundred men of the brigade, with the Chasseurs and a party of Dragoons, retreated to Colonel *Donop's* corps at *Burdenton*, six miles distant. Several officers were wounded, and about forty men killed and wounded.

This misfortune seems to have proceeded from Colonel *Rall's* quitting his post, and advancing to the attack, instead of defending the village.

The Rebels recrossed the river *Delaware* immediately, with the prisoners and cannon they had taken.

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HUGH HUGHES TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Peekskill, 29th December, 1776.

Sir: I have endeavoured to comply with your Excellency's instructions relative to the department, as far as time and circumstances would permit.

The tents, to the amount of about eight hundred, good and bad, have been forwarded to *Fishkill*, as well as the entrenching tools, pots, and camp-kettles, unless it be those received within three or four days. I have ordered an exact return to be made from the *Fishkill*, which, with the like of what is here, shall be forwarded as soon as possible. It was thought most advisable to detain those delivered in last, on account of the expected Militia. The tents are in very bad plight, the most of them; to remedy which, I have sent for a tentmaker to *New-Haven*, and ordered up all the old sails I could collect here, with others taken by General *Heath* at *Hackensack*.

As to the tools, I am at a loss, till I receive further instructions, how to get them repaired; the artificers' times being expired, and no orders relative to them being come to hand, makes it difficult how to act; especially as I have no cash to discharge their abstracts, having paid the last yesterday. I borrowed three thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, in hopes that it would enable me to answer the most pressing demands; but that also is expended. I have written six letters, at different times, to General *Mifflin*, on this subject, but am apprehensive some of them have miscarried, or perhaps his absence from Head-Quarters may have prevented an answer, as I received none till yesterday, and no mention of the cash in that. This is such a necessary article, at present especially, that I hope your Excellency has ordered some provision to be made for the department at this post before this arrives; as I find, by Colonel *Biddle's* letter, that the last but one of mine got safe to Head-Quarters, in which I had repeated my apprehensions of being out of cash before any could arrive.

As Colonel *Biddle* was directed to advise me of your Excellency's order concerning the clothing, I beg leave to refer your Excellency to a letter on that subject, which goes by the same conveyance as this, to him.

I have employed several hands to repair the different kinds of boats belonging to the Army, and purpose, if plank and boards can be had, to have more of every sort built, unless countermanded.

It appears to me that the inlisting of teamsters and wagoners, independent of the Army, and that for a year at least, would be productive of advantage to the service. As long as they know that they can go to their regiments when they choose, they are regardless of their teams; whereas, if they are entirely attached to them, there will be a great inducement to keep them in order, as well as the carriages. As the service has, and does now suffer, for want of some further regulation of this sort, I could not be silent on an affair which so nearly affects the Army. My reason for mentioning the affair is, that it cannot be done, I conceive, without your Excellency's approbation.

The late conduct of the artificers seems to make it necessary that they should undergo a reform of men or measures. *Bacon's* abstract, which has just come in, amounts to a thousand pounds, lawful, and it is thought by all that they have not earned three hundred of it. Neither is that the only evil; but when every thing is at stake, they can't be prevailed on to drive a nail or set a shoe. I don't care who has the management, if the work is but done, sir.

Any further instructions that may be necessary, I shall gladly endeavour to execute with fidelity.

I am, with regard and respect, your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

Hugh Hughes.

His Excellency General *Washington*.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, December 29th, 1776.

Sir: As I have not been honoured with a line from Congress on the subject of the preparations necessary for the next campaign in the northern quarter, although I transmitted my opinion on the subject at the beginning of *November*, I conclude the enemy's manœuvres in *Jersey* have so entirely engrossed their attention, that they have not been able to attend to what I suggested. I have therefore resolved, without waiting any longer for their directions, as the winter is slipping away, to carry into execution whatever I deem essential to the service, and which does not admit of further delay; of which, amongst other things, that of procuring a sufficiency of cannon for the defence of *Ticonderoga*, &c.,

is a capital article. I should, therefore, be glad to know what cannon you can furnish me with, and where I may send for them, as I wish that an article so extremely difficult to move in the spring of the year should be carried to the places for which they are designed whilst we are favoured with good sledding. A very considerable quantity of shot is also wanted; and as Mr. *Livingston's* furnace is out of blast, I cannot procure them there. Can these be got at *Salisbury*, and when? Besides the cannon for the forts, a number will be wanted for five or six stout galleys, which I propose to build in *Lake George*, to prevent the enemy's penetrating by that lake, if they should be able to dislodge us from the *Ticonderoga* side of *Lake Champlain*, and draw their boats by land into *Lake George*, which it would be possible for them to do, although we keep possession of *Mount Independence*. By the way of *Skeensborough*, I am morally sure they will not be able to penetrate, as I hope in the course of the winter so effectually to obstruct the lake between *Ticonderoga* and the *Mount*, as that no kind of vessel will be able to pass, unless they first make themselves masters of *Mount Independence*, which I think will be impossible if we can procure men, cannon, and ammunition. A stock of provisions I shall take care to lay in this winter.

Colonel *Simmons*, with part of a regiment from the *Massachusetts-Bay*, is on his way from hence to *Ticonderoga*. I shall be extremely happy to see a succession of troops coming on, for I very much fear that the garrison will not be detained after the term of their inlistment expires.

I shall want two companies of carpenters to construct the vessels intended for *Lake George*. Captain *Lester* and Captain *Winslow* gave good satisfaction last campaign, and I wish them to be employed in that business. Permit me to beg the favour of you to inquire of them if they will each raise a company, so as to leave *Connecticut* about the first day of *April*. As *Fort George* is in an extremely healthy place, they will, in all probability, not suffer so much by sickness as they did at *Skeensborough*.

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have received friendly messages from the *Indians*, who seem determined to observe a strict neutrality.

Please to accept my best respects, and the compliments of the season; and may the Supreme Being continue a succession of them to you and yours, in health and liberty, is the sincere wish of, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

The Hon'ble *Jonathan Trumbull*, Esq., &c., &c.

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PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

Baltimore, December 30th, 1776.

SIR: You will perceive from the whole tenour of the enclosed resolves which I have the honour of transmitting, that Congress have paid every attention to the situation of the Northern Army which the circumstances of it required. On the 25th instant they passed sundry resolves, urging the States of *New-Hampshire*, *Massachusetts-Bay*, and *Connecticut*, to send forward to *Ticonderoga*, with the utmost expedition, a body of four thousand five hundred troops. These resolves I despatched immediately, accompanied with letters, wherein I informed them of the very critical situation of that fortress. As the troops who at present garrison it were resolved not to stay after the 31st day of *December*, the day on which their time expired, every consideration that had a tendency to induce them to comply immediately with the requisition of Congress, I endeavoured to hold up to them in the most striking view. To the same effect, also, I wrote them before Congress removed from *Philadelphia*, in consequence of your representing that you wished Congress would stimulate them to a compliance with your letter on that subject. These measures, I trust, will prove successful, and be attended with the preservation of *Ticonderoga* during the winter. In pursuance of the enclosed resolve, I have wrote to Governour *Trumbull*, desiring him to have twenty eighteen-pounders cast with all possible expedition, and transported to *Ticonderoga*, for which you will please to provide carriages. I have likewise wrote to the Commissary-General to procure provision for five thousand men for eight months, to be sent to *Fort Ann*, and an equal quantity to be lodged in *Albany*, and to be occasionally removed as circumstances may make it necessary. He is also directed to send a sufficient quantity of salt to cure the provisions, and by all means to supply the Northern Army with vegetables and vinegar this winter. The Congress have resolved that the present mode of supplying that Army, by the Commissary-General, under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief, is more advantageous than that by a contractor could possibly be.

As a General Hospital is to be erected on *Mount Independence*, the Congress are desirous that a garden should be enclosed in the neighbourhood of the same, that the Army may be the better supplied with vegetables the ensuing winter. You will therefore be pleased to appoint some suitable person as an overseer, to see this resolve carefully complied with. The many disorders that have crept into the Hospitals render it absolutely necessary that the strictest inquiry should be made into the conduct of the Directors, their officers and dependents, and that the offenders should be punished. You will please to order the commanding officer of every regiment to pay the greatest attention to the health of the men under his command, and to report any misconduct or neglect of the Surgeons to the General, and likewise to Congress.

I shall transmit to the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* the enclosed resolves, by which they are requested to procure such a quantity of oakum and other articles, as you shall think proper to write for.

In consequence of your favour of the 10th instant, which was laid before Congress, the Committee appointed to consider the same are directed to send some persons to Mr. *Livingston*, Governour *Trumbull*, and to the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, to procure the cannon and ordnance stores you mentioned in your letter of that date as being immediately necessary for the Northern department. The Congress have the firmest reliance on your best exertions to carry the enclosed resolves into that effect, and depend much on your assistance in accomplishing their views in that quarter. Should we succeed in our attempts to prevent the incursions of the enemy into the back settlements of the *New-England* and *New-York* States, by a vigorous defence of *Ticonderoga* and the adjacent posts, the happiest consequences to *America* must result from it, and the glory of completing this great work, I trust, will be reserved for you. As your inclination at all times prompts you to undertake whatever has the prospect of advancing the good of your country, so your wisdom and abilities will certainly enable you to execute the task.

General *Gates* arrived in this town the day before yesterday, in a very poor state of health, but is since much recovered.

The enclosed copy of resolves vesting General *Washington* with very large and important powers, the Congress were induced to pass in hopes of retrieving thereby the present unfavourable situation of our affairs. To them I beg leave to refer you; and have the honour to be, with great esteem and respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President*.

General *Schuyler*.

P. S. I most sincerely congratulate you on the success of General *Washington*. The enclosed printed account will give you all the particulars we are possessed of. This may give a different face to our affairs, and be productive of very happy consequences. I have not time to add, only to beg your attention to the several resolves enclosed. You will observe Congress have laid an embargo on the exportation of salted provisions and some other necessaries. Should any thing material occur, you may depend I will give you the earliest notice of it. Wishing you the compliments of the season, I am your very humble servant,

J. H., *Pres't*.

I never heard any thing of my band of musick since I wrote you.

General *Schuyler, Albany*.

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CIRCULAR FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Baltimore, December 30th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Ever attentive to the security of civil liberty, Congress would not have consented to the vesting such powers in the military department as those which the enclosed resolves convey to the Continental Commander-in-

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Chief, if the situation of publick affairs did not require, at this crisis, a decision and vigour which distance and numbers deny to Assemblies far removed from each other, and from the immediate seat of war.

The strength and progress of the enemy, joined to prospects of considerable reinforcements, have rendered it not only necessary that the *American* force should be augmented beyond what Congress had heretofore designed, but that it should be brought into the field with all possible expedition. These considerations induce Congress to request, in the most earnest manner, that the fullest influence of your State may be exerted to aid such levies as the General shall direct in consequence of the powers now given him, and that your quota of battalions formerly fixed may be completed with all the despatch that an ardent desire to secure the publick happiness can dictate.

I have the honour to be, with every sentiment of esteem, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

The resolve prohibiting the exportation of sundry articles, and the other resolves enclosed, I beg leave to refer to your particular attention. I congratulate you on the success of General *Washington* in the *Jerseys*. The particulars you will find in the papers enclosed.

NOTE.—The foregoing letter I sent to all the States, with the resolves referred to, with this variation: that the States of *Virginia*, *Maryland*, *Delaware*, *Pennsylvania*, *New-Jersey*, and *North-Carolina*, are desired to order their new levies to join General *Washington*. The other States are addressed as in the foregoing letter.

To the Convention of *New-York* the following was added: "The enclosed packet I beg the favour you will please to order to be forwarded by a fresh express to General *Schuyler* immediately; and I further request you will give my express the best route to *Boston*, and pray direct him to use all despatch on his journey."

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In Congress, December 27th, 1776.

*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be empowered to use every endeavour, by giving Bounties and otherwise, to prevail upon the Troops whose time of inlistment shall expire at the end of the month, to stay with the Army so long after that period as its situation shall render their stay necessary.

That the New Levies in *Virginia*, *Maryland*, the *Delaware* State, *Pennsylvania*, and *New-Jersey*, be ordered to march by Companies and parts of Companies, as fast as they shall be raised, and join the Army under General *Washington* with the utmost despatch.

That the foregoing Resolution be transmitted by the President to the Executive powers of the States before-mentioned, who are requested to carry it into execution; to appoint Commissaries to precede the Troops, and procure Provisions for them on their march; and that they be empowered to draw Money for this purpose from the nearest Continental Paymaster.

That General *Washington* be empowered to appoint a Commissary of Prisoners, and a Clothier-General for supplying the Army, to fix their salaries, and return their names to Congress.

That General *Washington* be requested to fix upon that system of promotion in the Continental Army which, in his opinion, and that of the General Officers with him, will produce most general satisfaction; that it be suggested to him whether a promotion of Field Officers in the Colonial line, and of Captains and Subalterns in the Regimental line, would not be the most proper.

That the Committee of Congress at *Philadelphia* be desired to contract with proper persons for erecting at *Carlisle*, in *Pennsylvania*, a Magazine sufficient to contain ten thousand stand of Arms and two hundred tons of Gunpowder, and also for erecting an Elaboratory adjacent to such Magazine.

That the Council of *Massachusetts-Bay* be desired to contract with proper persons for erecting in the town of *Brookfield*, in that State, a Magazine sufficient to contain ten thousand stand of Arms and two hundred tons of Gunpowder, and also for erecting an Elaboratory adjacent to such Magazine.

That Congress approve of General *Washington* directing the Quartermaster General to provide Teams for each Regiment, and for other necessary purposes.

That the Committee of Secret Correspondence be desired to direct the Commissioners at the Court of *France* to procure, if possible, from that Court an hundred thousand stand of Small-Arms.

That the Second and Seventh *Virginia* Regiments, with all the convalescents from the other corps, left in that State and now fit for duty, be ordered to march and join the Army under General *Washington* with the utmost despatch, leaving the arms that they have at present with the Governour and Council of that State, as they will be provided with others at the *Head of Elk*.

That three of the Regiments upon the New Establishment in *North-Carolina* be ordered to march immediately to join General *Washington*. That the State of *Virginia* be empowered to call into service, at the Continental expense, three Regiments of Militia or Minute-Men, if such a measure shall be by that State judged necessary.

The unjust but determined purpose of the *British* Court to enslave these free States, obvious through every delusive insinuation to the contrary, having placed things in such a situation that the very existence of civil liberty now depends on the right execution of military powers, and the vigorous decisive conduct of these being impossible to distant, numerous, and deliberative bodies, this Congress having maturely considered the present crisis, and having perfect reliance on the wisdom, vigour, and uprightness of General *Washington*, do hereby resolve that General *Washington* shall be, and he is hereby, vested with full, ample, and complete power, to raise and collect together, in the most speedy and effectual manner, from any or all these *United States*, sixteen Battalions of Infantry, in addition to those already voted by Congress; to appoint Officers for the said Battalions; to raise, officer, and equip three thousand Light-Horse, three Regiments of Artillery, and a Corps of Engineers, and establish their pay; to apply to any of the States for such aid of the Militia as he shall judge necessary; to form such Magazines of Provisions, and in such places, as he shall think proper; to displace and appoint all officers under the rank of Brigadier-General, and to fill up all vacancies in every other department in the *American* Army; to take, wherever he may be, whatever he may want for the use of the Army, if the inhabitants will not sell it, allowing a reasonable price for the same; to arrest and confine persons who refuse to take the Continental Currency, or are otherwise disaffected to the *American* cause, and return to the States of which they are citizens, their names and the nature of their offences, together with the witnesses to prove them.

That the foregoing powers be vested in General *Washington* for and during the term of six months from the date hereof, unless sooner determined by Congress.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to take the most vigorous and speedy measures for punishing all such as shall refuse Continental Currency, and that the General be directed to give all necessary aid to the Council of Safety for carrying their measures on this subject into effectual execution.

By order of Congress:

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

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In Congress, December 30, 1776.

It appearing to Congress that it will be extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to supply the Army of the *United States* with Bacon, Salted Beef and Pork, Soap, Tallow, and Candles, unless the exportation thereof be prohibited:

Therefore *Resolved*, That none of the said articles, except such as may be necessary for the crew, be exported from any of the *United States* after the fifth day of *January* next, until the first day of *November* next, or until Congress shall make further order therein. And it is earnestly recommended to the Executive powers of the several *United States* to see that this Resolution be strictly complied with.

By order of Congress:

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

—

COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE COMMISSIONERS IN FRANCE.

Baltimore, December 30, 1776.

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: You will be pleased to receive herewith copies of our letter of the 21st instant and of its enclosures, which we recommend to your attention. Since that letter was written, General *Washington*, having

been reinforced by the troops lately commanded by General *Lee* and by some corps of Militia, crossed the *Delaware* with twenty-five hundred men, and attacked a body of the enemy posted at *Trenton*, with the success you will see related in the enclosed handbill. We hope this blow will be followed by others that may leave the enemy not so much to boast of as they some days ago expected, and we had reason to apprehend.

Upon mature deliberation of all circumstances, Congress deem the speedy declarations of *France* and *European* assistance so indispensably necessary to secure the independence of these States, that they have authorized you to make such tenders to *France* and *Spain* as they hope will prevent any longer delay of an event that is judged so essential to the well-being of *North-America*.

Your wisdom we know will direct you to make such tenders to *France* and *Spain* as, they hope, will procure the thing desired, on terms as much short of the concessions now offered as possible. But no advantages of this kind are proposed at the risk of a delay that may prove dangerous to the end in view.

It must be very obvious to the Court of *France*, that if *Great Britain* should succeed in her design of subjugating these States, their inhabitants, now well trained to arms, might be compelled to become instruments for making conquests of the *French* possessions in the *West-Indies*, which would be a sad contrast to that security and commercial benefit that would result to *France* from the independence of *North-America*.

By some accident, in removing the papers from *Philadelphia* to this place, the Secretary of Congress has mislaid the additional instructions formerly given you, by which you were empowered to negotiate with other Courts besides *France*. We think it necessary to mention this to you, lest the paper should have got into wrong hands, and because we wish to have a copy sent us by the first opportunity.

We observe that Mr. *Deane* sent his despatches for this Committee open to Mr. *Bingham*; but though we have a good opinion of that gentleman, yet we think him rather too young to be made acquainted with the business passing between you and us; and therefore wish this may not be done in cases of much importance.

The next opportunity will bring you the determination of Congress concerning the persons that are to be sent to the Courts of *Vienna*, *Prussia*, *Spain*, and the Grand Duke of *Tuscany*. In the mean time it is hoped, that through the medium of the Ambassadors from those Courts to that of *France*, you may be so fortunate as to procure their friendly mediation for the purposes proposed by Congress.

Our *Andrew Doria*, of fourteen guns, has taken a King's sloop-of-war of twelve guns, after a smart engagement.

In our last we say the enemy made near three thousand prisoners at *Fort Washington*; but the number is fixed at two thousand six hundred and thirty-four.

The *West-Indiamen* taken by our cruisers amount to two hundred and fifty sail.

The scarcity of ships here is so great that we shall find much difficulty in making the extensive remittances to *France* that we ought, in due season; therefore, it will, in our opinion, be an object of great importance to obtain the consent of the Farmers-General to send to *Virginia* and *Maryland* for any quantity of tobacco they may choose, or to the State of *North-Carolina* for any quantity of naval stores which may be wanted for publick use, or to supply the demands of private merchants. The terms, both as to quantity and price, you will endeavour to learn, and let it be known to us with all possible expedition, that you may receive an answer thereon.

The Captain of the armed vessel that carries these despatches, has orders to deliver them himself to you in *Paris*, and his vessel will expect his return in a different port from the one he arrives at. He will take your directions about his return, and receive your letters; but the anxiety prevailing here to know your success, renders it proper that he should return with all possible despatch.

Wishing you health, success, and many happy years, we remain, honourable gentlemen, yours, &c.,

B. Harrison, J. Witherspoon,
R. H. Lee, W. Hooper.

To the Hon'ble *B. Franklin, S. Deane*, and *A. Lee*, Esquires, at *Paris*.

JAMES WILSON TO GENERAL ST. CLAIR.

Baltimore, December 30th, 1776.

My dear Sir: With peculiar pleasure I congratulate you on the victory at *Trenton*. I hope the tide is now turning, and will run high in our favour.

I have wrote to General *Washington*, recommending Colonel *Irvine* to a regiment, and Mr. *Robert Smith* (a young gentleman of great merit, who studied law with me) to a troop of Horse. You will oblige me much by adding your influence to the recommendation, and by letting me know the result of it as soon as possible.

I am, in haste, dear sir, yours sincerely,

James Wilson.

General *St. Clair*.

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WILLIAM LUX TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Baltimore, 30th December, 1776.

Dear Sir: Mr. *Hopkins* waits on your honourable Board agreeable to your own appointment, and I hope will obtain the result of his wishes. He brings a letter from the President of the Congress, and a copy of their resolve in his favour, which, with the service he has seen, will, I hope, convince you that he is entitled to a Majority.

I have sent an account of *Solomon Allen's* for twenty bolts duck for the *Defence*, one hundred and fifty pounds. He has applied for payment to us; but as our accounts were settled, we did not choose to pay it. We did not know the quantity when we rendered our account against the ship. It was entered by us, but left blank for want of the voucher, as he had removed out of town. Pray settle it, and send the money by Mr. *Hopkins*, as he ought to have been paid long since. I wish you many happy New Years; and am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

Wm. Lux.

To the Hon'ble *Dan'l of St. Thos. Jenifer*, President of the Council of Safety.

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PETITION OF HENRY ASHFIELD.

Annapolis, December 30th, 1776.

*The humble Petition of* Henry Ashfield, *Private in Captain* Fulford's *Company, the Second* Maryland *Matrosses, humbly sheweth:*

That your poor petitioner hath been afflicted these several months past with a disorder called the piles, so that I have been rendered incapable of doing any duty ever since I was first taken, and after various and different applications to the Doctor, cannot receive any benefit or ease, but rather seems to grow worse, and has no likelihood of ever growing better without some assistance. Therefore, most honourable gentlemen, hope your Honours will take your poor petitioner's petition into your most serious consideration, and grant him some remedy towards his relief, otherwise his discharge from said company. And compliance with the former or latter, most gracious and considerate gentlemen, your poor distressed petitioner shall ever be in duty bound to pray. So God bless the Congress, and direct the General.

Henry Ashfield.

To the honourable the Council of Safety, now sitting in the City of *Annapolis*, these by submission, present.

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J. HALL TO BENJAMIN HARRISON.

In Council of Safety, Annapolis, December 30th, 1776.

Sir: Considering the State of *Maryland* to be embarked in the same cause with the honourable Congress, we readily and cheerfully agree that you should have the small armed schooner now in your port, which we hope will answer the purpose intended. Nothing more will be asked for her in point of price but what she cost the State. We expect not to gain, nor would you wish, we are persuaded, that the State of *Maryland* should lose any thing by the vessel. We let you have her in the publick cause to oblige Congress. Be pleased to notify this to the commander, and direct him to return a schedule or memorandum of guns and other effects on board. The price we will send hereafter.

Blankets we have none, but we will furnish Mr. *Griffin* with cotton to make them, which may be easily done,—'tis

the shift we are forced to make for our own hospital,—as also enough to make two for your servants, which may be returned in kind when convenient.

We are, sir, your most obedient servants. By order:
J. Hall, *V. P.*

To *Benjamin Harrison*, Esq.

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CAPTAIN HAMMOND (ENGLISH NAVY,) TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Roe Buck, off Lewes-Town, 30th December, 1776.

Sir: The assurance that you have been pleased to give me, "that the officers taken on board *British* merchant ships and carried in to *Philadelphia*, have not been detained as prisoners of war, but permitted to depart as opportunities offered," together with an extract I have at the same time received from the minutes of the Council of Safety at *Philadelphia*, "that an equal number of such prisoners, being subjects of the King, shall be delivered to me, or some other of his Majesty's officers, when the Council shall have it in their power," has induced me to give immediate orders that every prisoner now on board the ship under my command here, shall be set at liberty without delay, being of nothing more ambitious than to prove myself on all occasions desirous of relieving the distressed.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

A. S. Hammond.

To *Robert Morris*, Esq.

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COMMITTEE FOR TRANSACTING CONTINENTAL BUSINESS TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

December 30th, 1776.

Sir: Mr. *Thomas Smith*, the loan officer, returned here this day. It seems he has certificates for no more than sixty thousand dollars, and we have procured more than that sum for him already; wherefore we pray that an express may be immediately despatched with certificates for three or five hundred thousand dollars, as we shall use our utmost endeavours to get the money into his office, and doubt not but pretty good success will attend his endeavours. We have given Mr. Commissary *Carpenter Wharton* an order on Mr. *Mease* for forty thousand dollars, part of the sum you sent him, which arrived on *Saturday* night. Mr. *Wharton* produced the General's orders for establishing magazines of provisions at *Lancaster* and *York-Town*, and we referred him to Congress for the sums necessary for that purpose. We mean only to supply him with what may be wanted to lay in stores between this and *Lancaster*, at this place, and for what may be required in *New-Jersey*, where we hope our Army will finally take up their winter quarters. That State will suffer amazingly by both Armies. It is not what they consume that does the mischief: but the destruction of provisions, first by one side and then by the other, will cause a famine there. *New-Jersey* has always supplied very large quantities of pork; but the want of salt, the consumption and destruction of that article by both Armies, will prevent it this year, and we all know that very large supplies of it will be wanted next summer for our Army. The Lower Counties of *Delaware* State, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, and *North-Carolina*, have hitherto been exempt from the ravages of war. Some of them have had tolerable good supplies of salt, and no doubt they will cure as much meat as they can. We think Congress should immediately employ some prudent, industrious person, in each of these Governments, to buy, or contract immediately for, as much salted provision as possible, and collect it into secure and proper places, ready for use when wanted. Should this be neglected, depend upon it you will repent next summer; and if it is not managed with secrecy and prudence, you will not only pay dear for what you get, but poor individuals that cannot afford it will also suffer.

We think similar measures should be taken in the Eastern States. The Commissary will buy all he can here; and we wish he possessed all the prudence and circumspection that we think requisite for executing that department as it ought to be.

We are told that the *American* prisoners suffer amazingly in *New-York* for want of some proper person to attend them. Congress have allowed Mr. *Franks* to supply the *British* prisoners here, and we think it would be well done to send in to *New-York* an agent for our prisoners, whose business should be to see them well supplied with clothing and provisions, and to attend them constantly to prevent their inlisting in the enemy's service, but, on the contrary, to engage all such whose times expire, to reinlist with us. We are told General *Howe* would admit such an agent, (but he must hear nothing about the inlistments we suppose;) and if a suitable spirited *American* can be found, whose mind will support him through accumulated insults to perform his duty with fidelity, we think a good salary would be well bestowed on him; but if the support of our prisoners and proper regulations in the medical departments are not attended to, you cannot expect a permanent formidable Army, and which, above all things, is now wanted to save *America*.

The enclosed from the General came to hand this day, but we keep it for the post, as the contents do not require your immediate inspection by express. Since then Mr. *Morris* has received another letter from his Excellency, requesting one hundred and fifty pounds, in hard money, for particular purposes in the publick service, and it will be sent up this night. That letter is dated at *Trentown*, this day. He then says, "Some of the troops are yet on the other side of the river, only waiting for provisions." We have urged and will continue to press Mr. Commissary to push forward the supplies with all possible diligence.

General *Cadwalader* had despatched one hundred Riflemen, one hundred Light Infantry, and one hundred smart, active lads, to pursue our retreating enemies, in hopes of overtaking and keeping up their panick. Doctor *Hodge* says they were within five miles of the enemies' rear, when he passed them. Not having seen the Doctor ourselves, we do not know the time. And another person, since come in, reports that the General was within eleven miles with his main body. His troops are fresh, full of spirits, eager for an action, and march briskly. The *Hessians* are encumbered with a deal of plunder and baggage, which obliges them to move slow. No doubt Sir *William Howe*, Knight of the Bath and General, &c., will be very angry at these doings in the *Jerseys*, and probably in his wrath he will come over, armed with vengeance, and threaten destruction; but we expect he must dance to a different tune upon this march than he did on his late passage to *Trentown*, for we have the pleasure to assure you with certainty, that the face of things is totally changed. Our people are full of spirits and turn out freely, so that General *Washington* will find himself daily gathering fresh strength, and we shall not be surprised if *New-Jersey* turns out in like manner.

We are now at the 31st *December*, twelve o'clock, and have just received your Honour's letter of the 27th, enclosing sundry important resolves of Congress, copies whereof we shall despatch to General *Washington* in half an hour. Every part that relates to this Committee shall be carefully attended to, and no time shall be lost in carrying into execution such things as Congress have ordered.

We had yesterday the pleasure to see the *Hessian* prisoners paraded in *Front Street*. They formed a line two deep up and down *Front Street* from *Market* to *Walnut Street*, and most people seemed very angry they should ever think of running away from such a set of vagabonds. We have advised that both the officers and men should be well treated, and kept from conversing with disaffected people as much as possible.

One of our Light-Horse brought down ten prisoners this morning, that were taken near *Princetown*, and appear to have been a reconnoitring party; and a Captain *Smith* writes from *Crosswicks*, that nine *Hessian* officers were taken, and one killed, in that quarter, supposed to be part of those that fled from *Trentown*.

No further account yet from General *Cadwalader* Troops are constantly coming in and marching for the *Jerseys*, so that every thing may be reasonably expected in our favour. Six of the enemy's ships are still in *Delaware Bay*, so stationed that Captain *Biddle* cannot pass them—the *Fly* and *Musqueto* employed in watching them, and the *Wasp* cruising outside of them. We intend to send a person to stay at *Cape May* to give us regular advice of their motions, which we are much in want of.

We are much hurried, but ever remain, sir, your humble servants.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

ROBERT MORRIS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 30th, 1776.

SIR: I have received your favour of yesterday, and will duly forward your despatches to Congress and the other letters by post. I am desired to put the enclosed letters in the way of being sent into *New-York*, and make no doubt your Excellency will readily forward them by the first flag after they reach your hands. I am impatiently waiting for further news from General *Cadwalader;* and, with constant wishes for success, remain, sir, your obedient servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

To his Excellency *Geo. Washington*, Esq., Head-Quarters.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 30th, 1776.

SIR: I have just received your favour of this day, and sent to General *Putnam* to detain the express until I collect the hard money you want, which you may depend shall be sent, in one specie or other, with this letter, and a list thereof shall be enclosed herein. I had long since parted with very considerable sums of hard money to Congress; therefore must collect from others; and, as matters now stand, it is no easy matter. I mean to borrow silver, and promise payment in gold; and will then collect the gold in the best manner I can.

Whilst on this subject, let me inform you that there are upwards of twenty thousand dollars, in silver, at *Ticonderoga*. They have no particular use for it, and I think you might as well send a party to bring it away, and lodge it in a safe place, convenient for any purposes for which it may hereafter be wanted.

I gave Mr. Commissary *Wharton* an order for forty thousand dollars this morning, and pressed him to attend most diligently to your supplies. I will send for him again, know what is done, and add springs to his movements, if I can. I wish he was more silent, prudent, &c.; but I fancy he is active. Whatever I can do, shall be done for the good of the service.

I ever am, dear sir, your Excellency's obedient humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

P. S. Hearing that you are in want of a quarter-cask of wine, I have procured a good one, which Mr. Commissary *Wharton* will send up.

To his Excellency General *Washington*.

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*List of hard Money, in two canvas bundles, for his Excellency General* WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 31, 1776.

410 *Spanish* milled dollars, @ 7*s*. 6*d*.
2 *English* crowns.
72 *French* crowns.
1072 *English* shillings.

Sent per express.

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ROBERT MORRIS TO CONTINENTAL AGENTS.

December 30th, 1776.

SIR: The bearer hereof, *Nicholas Eveleigh*, Esq., is a gentleman of fortune and established character in *South-Carolina*, and I beg leave to introduce him to your acquaintance, and to recommend him to your friendship. He has some commercial views in his journey to *New-England;* and this introduction may possibly be of mutual advantage, which will please me exceedingly.

Our Loan Office is just opened; and by way of setting a good example, and in order to make a beginning, I have given a considerable sum of money, and have persuaded Mr. *Eveleigh* to carry with him Continental Loan Office notes to a large amount, instead of the money, because I think it will answer all his purposes equally, if not better, than the money. At any rate, *Eveleigh* must not be disappointed. If he meets with any difficulty in getting money in exchange for these notes when or where he wants it, I must beg you will assist him, and even, if needful, that you will supply him out of the publick money you have in hand. This is but justice to the credit of the Continent, and it is essential to Mr. *Eveleigh;* therefore I am sure you will not suffer any disappointment to take place.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

ROBT. MORRIS.

Copy of the foregoing Letter
To *Daniel Tillinghast, Rhode-Island;*
*Nathaniel Shaw, New-London;*
*John Bradford, Boston;*
*John Langdon, Portsmouth;*
} Continental Agents.

Similar letters to this were given to Mr. *Rose*, of *South-Carolina*.

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EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, DATED DECEMBER 30, 1776.

The late enterprise of General *Washington* has had a most glorious effect. It animates the friends of liberty amazingly. I firmly believe if he pursues the blow, which I believe he does, he will take the greatest part of the enemy's Army prisoners. It is said when all our forces in *Jersey* join, they will amount to fifteen thousand effective men.

The Continental brig *Lexington*, Captain *Hallock*, of fourteen carriage guns, laden with gunpowder and other warlike stores, from *Cape François*, bound to *Philadelphia*, was lately taken, off the Capes of *Delaware*, by the *Pearl* frigate, Captain , who put a Lieutenant and a small number of hands on board, with orders to carry her immediately to *New-York;* but leaving on board the *Lexington* seventy brave fellows, who were all acquainted with the fate of Captain *Johnson* and his crew, of the *Yankee-Hero*, and what might be expected from *British* humanity, they determined, at all hazards, to regain their liberty. This they effected the same night they were taken, in a manner which reflects the highest honour on their resolution and presence of mind. As soon as they had secured their prisoners, they put the vessel about for the Capes of *Virginia*, (unskilled as they were in navigation,) which they very fortunately fell in with in a few hours after, and on *Wednesday* last arrived safe in this harbour. Captain *Hallock* and his officers were taken on board the *Pearl*, but have since been set on shore, and arrived at *Philadelphia*.

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THOMAS RODNEY TO CÆSAR RODNEY.

Allen's Town, in Jersey, twelve miles from Princeton, twenty do. from Brunswick, Dec. 30th, 1776.

SIR: I wrote you a long letter on the 24th, which I had no opportunity of sending, and left it in my trunk at Mr. *Coxe's*, two miles from *Bristol;* it contains the news to that time, which I cannot repeat here. On the 25th instant, in the evening, we received orders to be at *Shamony Ferry* as soon as possible. We were there, according to orders, in two hours, and met the Riflemen, who were the first from *Bristol;* we were ordered from thence to *Dunk's Ferry*, on the *Delaware*, and the whole Army of about two thousand men followed, as soon as the artillery got up. The three companies of *Philadelphia* Infantry and mine were formed into a body, under the command of Captain *Henry*, (myself second in command,) which were embarked immediately to cover the landing of the other troops. We landed with great difficulty through the ice, and formed on the ferry shore, about two hundred yards from the river. It was as severe a night as ever I saw, and after two battalions were landed the storm increased so much and the river was so full of ice that it was impossible to get the artillery over, for we had to walk one hundred yards on the ice to get on shore. General *Cadwalader*, therefore, ordered the whole to retreat again, and we had to stand at least six hours under arms—first, to cover the landing and till all the rest had retreated again; and by this time, the storm of wind, hail, rain, and snow, with the ice, was so bad, that some of the Infantry could not get back till next day. This design was to have surprised the enemy at *Black Horse* and *Mount-Holley*, at the same time that *Washington* surprised them at *Trenton;* and had we succeeded in getting over, we should have finished all our troubles. *Washington* took nine hundred and ten prisoners, with six pieces of fine artillery, and all their baggage in *Trenton*. The next night I received orders to be in *Bristol* before day: we were there accordingly, and about nine o'clock began to embark one mile above *Bristol*, and about three o'clock in the afternoon got all our troops and artillery over, consisting of about three thousand men,

and began our march to *Burlington*—the Infantry, flanked by the Riflemen, making the advanced guard. We got there about nine o'clock, and took possession of the town, but found the enemy had made precipitate retreat the day before, bad as the weather was, in a great panick. The whole Infantry and Riflemen were then ordered to set out that night and make a forced march to *Bordentown*, (which was about eleven miles,) which they did, and took possession of the town about nine o'clock, with a large quantity of the enemy's stores, which they had not time to carry off. We stayed there till the Army came up; and the General finding the enemy were but a few miles ahead, ordered the Infantry to proceed to a town called *Crosswick's*, four miles from *Bordentown*, and they were followed by one of the *Philadelphia* and one of the *New-England* battalions. We got there about eight o'clock, and at about ten, (after we were all in our quarters,) were informed that the enemy's baggage was about sixteen miles from us, under a guard of three hundred men. Some of the Militia Colonels applied to the Infantry to make a forced march that night and overhaul them. We had then been on duty four nights and days, making forced marches, without six hours' sleep in the whole time; whereupon the Infantry officers of all the companies unanimously declared it was madness to attempt, for that it would knock up all our brave men, not one of whom had yet gave out, but every one will suppose were much fatigued. They then sent off a party who were fresh, but they knocked up before they got up with them, and came back and met us at this town next morning. They surrounded a house where there was six Tories; took three of them; one got off; and one who run and would not stop, was shot dead. They gave him warning, first by calling, and at last shot two bullets over his head, but he still persisted; and the next two shot, one bullet went through his arm and one through his heart. The enemy have fled before us in the greatest panick that ever was known: we heard this moment that they have fled from *Princeton*, and that they were hard pressed by *Washington*. Never were men in higher spirits than our whole Army is; none are sick, and all are determined to extirpate them from the *Jersey*, but I believe the enemy's fears will do it before we get up with them. The *Hessians*, from the General to the common soldier, curse and imprecate the war, and swear they were sent here to be slaughtered; that they never will leave *New-York* again till they sail for *Europe*. *Jersey* will be the most Whiggish Colony on the Continent: the very *Quakers* declare for taking up arms. You cannot imagine the distress of this country. They have stripped every body almost, without distinction—even of all their clothes, and have beat and abused men, women, and children, in the most cruel manner ever heard of. We have taken a number of prisoners in our route, *Hessians* and *British*, to the amount of about twenty. It seems likely, through the blessing of Providence, that we shall retake *Jersey* again without the loss of a man, except one General *Washington* lost at *Trenton*. The enemy seem to be bending their way to *Amboy* with all speed, but I hope we shall come up with the *Princeton* baggage yet, and also get a share of their large stores at *Brunswick*. I hope, if I live, to see the conquest of *Jersey*, and set off home again in two weeks. Some of my men have complained a little, but not to say sick; they are all now well here.

THOMAS RODNEY.

Brigadier-General *Cæsar Rodney*, Esq.

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BENJAMIN RUSH TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Crossides, December 30, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR: There is no toil so dear to a soldier as that which is marked with the footsteps of a flying enemy. Every thing looks well. Our Army increases daily, and our troops are impatient to avenge the injuries done to the State of *New-Jersey*; the Tories fly with the precipitation of guilty fear to General *Howe*. A detachment from our body yesterday took four of them, and killed one; two of the former were officers of *Howe's* new Militia establishment.

We suffer much for the want of intelligence, which can only be procured by money that will pass in both camps. *Howe* owes the superiority and regularity of his intelligence above ours not so much to the voluntary information of the Tories as to the influence of his gold. Pray send two or three thousand pounds, in hard money, immediately to General *Washington*; it will do you more service than twenty new regiments. Let not this matter be debated and postponed in the usual way for two or three weeks: the salvation of *America*, under God, depends upon its being done in an instant.

I beg leave for a moment to call off your attention from the affairs of the publick, to inform you that I have heard, from good authority, that my much-honoured father-in-law, who is now a prisoner with General *Howe*, suffers many indignities and hardships from the enemy, from which not only his rank, but his being a man, ought to exempt him. I wish you would propose to Congress to pass a resolution in his favour, similar to that they have passed in favour of General *Lee*. They owe it to their own honour, as well as to a member of their body. I did not want this intelligence to rouse my resentment against the enemy, but it has increased it; every particle of my blood is electrified with revenge; and if justice cannot be done to him in any other way, I declare I will, in defiance of the authority of the Congress and the power of the Army, drive the first rascally Tory I meet with a hundred miles barefooted through the first deep snow that falls in our country.

Two small brigades of *New-England* troops have consented to serve a month after the time of their inlistments expire; there is reason to believe that all the *New-England* troops in their predicament will follow their example. We have just learned that the enemy are preparing to retreat from *Princeton*. Adieu. General *Washington* must be invested with dictatorial power for a few months, or we are undone. The *vis inertiæ* of the Congress has almost ruined this country.

Yours, BENJAMIN RUSH.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Head-Quarters, Trenton, 30th December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: We have the greatest occasion at present for hard money to pay a certain set of people who are of particular use to us. If you could possibly collect a sum, if it were but one hundred or one hundred and fifty pounds, it would be of great service. Silver would be most convenient.

I am taking every measure to improve our late lucky blow, and hope to be successful. The greatest impediment to our motions is the want of provisions. If it lays in your way to give the Commissary any advice or assistance in that way, I am sure you will do it. Some of the troops are yet on the other side of the river, only waiting for provisions. *Jersey* has been swept so clean that there is no dependence upon any thing there.

I am, dear sir, your most obedient servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

To *Robert Morris*, Esq.

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GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL M'DOUGALL.

Head-Quarters, Trenton, 30th December, 1776.

SIR: I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Continental regiments from the Eastern Governments have, to a man, agreed to stay six weeks beyond their term of inlistment, which was to have expired the last day of this month. For this extraordinary mark of their attachment to their country, I have agreed to give them a bounty of ten dollars per man, besides their pay running on. I hope this noble example will be followed by the four regiments under your command; promise them the same reward, and endeavour to work upon them by every means in your power. Let them know the Militia are pouring in from all quarters, and only want veteran troops to lead them on. Since our success at this place on the 26th, the enemy have evacuated all the country below; they went off in the greatest hurry and confusion. I beg you will collect all the men you possibly can about *Chatham*, and after gaining the proper intelligence, endeavour to strike a stroke upon *Elizabeth-Town* or that neighbourhood; at any rate be ready to coöperate with me. Let me hear what success you have with your troops as soon as possible.

I am, sir, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To the Officer commanding at *Morristown*.

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MAJOR BLAND.

Head-Quarters, Trenton, 30th December, 1776.

SIR: I am informed that you are on your march from *Virginia* to join the Army under my command, and that you have the charge of the prisoners who were ordered up to be exchanged. As this must delay your march very much, and as I do not think it expedient for the prisoners to come on just at this time, I desire you will leave them at the most convenient place, there to remain till further orders from me, and advance with the Horse as quick as you possibly can. If a guard should be wanted to remain with the prisoners, apply for Militia, for I would not have a Horseman left behind. When you arrive at *Philadelphia*, apply to General *Putnam*, who will inform you of the most proper place to cross the *Delaware*.

I am, sir, yours, &c., GO. WASHINGTON.

To Major *Theodorick Bland*, or Officer commanding the *Virginia* Light-Horse.

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GENERAL M'DOUGALL TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Morris-Town, 30th December, 1776.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I sincerely congratulate you on the late success at *Trenton;* it came very seasonably. I have continued here since my last to you of the 22d instant, with the troops under Colonel *Vose*.

The Militia greatly lessening in number since the arrival of those troops, has put it out of my power to do any thing with the enemy, but to act on the defensive; indeed we have scarce force enough to do that, where it is necessary for covering the country. The enemy have not ventured above the mountains; and have been cautious of advancing out of the towns below, except a few stragglers without arms. Some of them have been taken prisoners.

The state of this part of the country is so critical and distressed, that I consider the expiration of the time of Colonel *Vose's* corps much to be dreaded, if they quit the service at that period. I clearly saw it would dispirit the inhabitants, sink the credit of the Continental currency, prevent the raising the Continental troops, and those who are to serve till the first of *April*. To prevent these dreadful events, about seven days since I proposed to the Continental troops, if they would continue a month, (fifteen or twenty days after their time expired,) I would engage to get them a month's pay, as an allowance for their time in going home, over and above what should be due to them at the expiration of the second inlistment, and that this, together with their pay from the first *January* coming, I would endeavour to get for them, which would accommodate them to their respective places of abode; and for this purpose I would despatch one of their officers to Head-Quarters to obtain your approbation and the money; the result of which would be known before their first engagement expired, so that they would be on the utmost certainty.

I was induced to make them this offer, from a full conviction that the month's pay would be amply compensated for to the country. For I had reason to expect, that in the course of the new engagement, some progress might be made in both levies, some assistance procured from the *Bay* Militia, or some event cast up to the southward, which might give a favourable turn to our affairs. Encouraged by these hopes, the troops were collected in the church, the proposal opened up to them, and warmly recommended to them by their Chaplain and Mr. *Caldwell*. There was reason at first to expect the consent of the whole to stay; but as they have delayed an answer so long, I fear not above two-thirds of them will stay, owing to the machinations of some of the officers, who are bent on going, notwithstanding I have used my utmost endeavours to persuade them of the absolute necessity of using their influence with the men to tarry.

The Governour being out of the State, as well many other principal people, and no Legislature in it, threw all their affairs into confusion; and it was some time before I could set the officers in motion to recruit for both levies. There are near three companies inlisted of those who are to serve to 1st of *April*, but very little done in inlisting the Continental troops, owing to the reasons above, the want of the warrants and money to advance the recruits. But as the former of these are come to hand, I am in hopes, when the money comes, some progress will be made, especially if a considerable number of Continental troops stay.

My health is much restored, and as General *Maxwell* is sufficient for this command, and General *Heath* is to be removed from *Peekskill*, I intend to set off to-morrow for that post. General *Maxwell* stands in need of your directions respecting the prisoners (soldiers) taken from the enemy, now in this town. Circumstances are much altered in this State since Captain *Kennedy* was confined in this place. Then the enemy was out of it, and at some distance; now they are near and in it. If he inclines, he can give intelligence to the enemy of every thing that passes. It is therefore my opinion that it will be safest for the publick service to exchange him for some officer of ours, or some respectable citizen, or to remove him from hence. For it is impossible to prevent his communications if he will risk it, though I have no reason to suspect him.

You may rest assured, from undoubted authority, that the utmost pains are taken in *New-York* to keep *European* intelligence from the fleet and army: for two packets past, the boats from them are not suffered to land, or any of the crew even to go on board the Admiral. Nor is any man suffered, who has business on board of them, to speak to any of the crew but in the presence of an officer. Although packet arrived there the 15th instant, yet *Gaine* has not inserted one paragraph of *European* intelligence in his papers since, but the address of the Corporation of *York* to the King, and General *Howe's* being made a Knight of the Bath.

From all these circumstances, it is evident some important events exist at home which it is their interest to keep from us. By a gentleman who left *New-York* 22d instant, and who conversed with the *British* officers, they consider a *French* war as certain; and they are advised of the sailing of a *French* fleet of men-of-war, with transports and troops on board. This I take to be the one arrived at *Martinico*.

Since my last I have collected a more accurate state of the enemy's force: At the *New Bridge*, Second Battalion of the Seventy-First Regiment; at *Newark*, First and Third of that Regiment; at *Elizabeth-Town*, five hundred *Waldeckers;* at *Bonum Town*, about four hundred; and General *Mathews*, at *Brunswick* Landing, with about six hundred; General *Grant*, at *Brunswick*, numbers unknown. Colonel *Wines* is in the neighbourhood of *Pluckhimin*, with about one hundred and fifty men. The *Essex* Militia give some assistance to guard the passes of the mountain below this. I found it impossible to receive the necessary intelligence for the safety of the country without the assistance of horse, the posts are so distant from each other that the state or movements of the enemy cannot be known in time by foot, to give the advice in due season. I was therefore obliged to direct that about forty horse should be mustered, and taken into pay, to be given to the Continental Horse to do duty till your pleasure should be known, which I hope will meet your approbation. General *Maxwell* has directions for mustering them, and ordering them to be properly enrolled.

I wrote the General upon the subject of exchanging my son, a Second Lieutenant, taken in *Canada*. I beg leave to remind you of it.

I have the honour to be, with great truth and regard, your Excellency's very humble servant,

ALEX. MCDOUGALL.

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COLONEL ROBERT ROGERS'S ORDERS TO DANIEL STRANG.

Valentine's Hill, December 30th, 1776.

Whereas his Majesty's service makes it absolutely necessary that recruits should be raised, this is to certify that Mr. *Daniel Strang*, or any other gentleman who may bring in recruits, shall have commissions according to the number he or they shall bring in for the Queen's American Rangers. No more than forty shillings bounty to be given to any man, which is to be applied towards purchasing necessaries—to serve during the present rebellion, and no longer. They will have their proportion of all Rebel lands, and all privileges equal to any of his Majesty's troops. The officers are to be the best judges in what manner they are to get their men in, either by parties, detachments, or otherwise, as may seem most advantageous, which men are to be attested before the first Magistrate within the *British* lines.

ROBERT ROGERS,
*Lt. Col. Commandant of the Queen's Rangers.*

GENERAL HEATH TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Peekskill, December 30, 1776.

SIR: By Colonel *Chester*, this moment arrived from his Excellency General *Washington*, who is at *Newtown*, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that early on the morning of *Thursday* last his Excellency in person, at the head of about three thousand of our troops, crossed the *Delaware* and attacked the enemy at *Trenton*, consisting of about sixteen hundred men; and after a brisk action of thirty-five minutes, entirely routed them. One Colonel, two Lieutenant-Colonels, three Majors, four Captains, eight Lieutenants, twelve Ensigns, one Judge-Advocate, two Surgeons' Mates, ninety-two Sergeants, twenty Drummers, nine Musicians, twenty-five officers' servants, and seven hundred and forty rank and file, were taken prisoners, besides killed and wounded; six pieces of brass cannon, two of which were twelve pounders, twelve drums, four standards, twelve hundred small-arms, six wagons, a number of swords, caps, &c., are trophies of victory. We had not more than four killed and eight wounded. All the prisoners except one were *Hessians*. Our troops behaved with the greatest bravery. This signal victory at this time will be productive of the best consequences. Ardour glows in every face. And I hope we shall soon retrieve all our losses.

I am, with respect and esteem, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

W. HEATH.

P. S. Please to transmit this news to *Providence*, to Governour *Cooke*. I have sent an express to *Boston*.

W. H.

Hon'ble Governour *Trumbull*.

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REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY ON CAPTAIN HAMLEN, DECEMBER 30th, 1776.

The proceedings of a Court of Inquiry, whereof Colonel *Read* is President, which sat this day at *Peeks Kill*, agreeable to General Orders, to inquire into the conduct of Captain *E. Hamlen*, with respect to his transactions while at *Tappan*, with the sick:

Colonel *Read*, President; Captain *Seagrave*, Captain *Allen*, Captain *Ball*, Captain *Soper*, Members.

Captain *Clapp's* Evidence.—Captain *Clapp* says, that some time in *October* last, Colonel *Tupper* and his detachment retreated over *Dobb's Ferry*, with some publick stores. Soon after Captain *Hamlen*, who was taking care of the sick of General *Nixon's* brigade at *Taupon*, applied to the Colonel for some wine, molasses, and rice, that was in his custody, belonging to the publick; a quantity of which stores Captain *Hamlen* received, and gave his receipt in full for the same.

Captain *Harwood's* Evidence.—Some time in *October* last Captain *Hamlen* applied to Colonel *Tupper* for some wine, molasses, and rice, then in his custody, belonging to the publick. Colonel *Tupper* being in doubt as to delivering the articles, said he did not know as he had a right to deliver them, inasmuch as he was no Commissary. Captain *Hamlen* then urged the necessity of the sick; consequently, Colonel *T.* delivered the stores, and took Captain *Hamlen's* receipt. When Captain *Hamlen* applied for these articles, he urged that they were allowed as Hospital stores. Upon Captain *H.* being interrogated how he came to sell the afore-mentioned stores, he answered, "Where shall I be if I don't sell them, as I am obliged to maintain the sick at seven pence half penny per day per man, and have given my receipt for them?" Upon which Colonel *T.* replied, "I don't know I had a right to deliver them, but I did it for the best; and would have you give back the money you have taken, and deliver the stores gratis, agreeable to the direction of the doctors; the sick shall not pay for the stores. If any body has to pay for them, I will do it. I will settle with the Commissary for them." Insisted upon having the articles, alleging they were Hospital stores, and they were not to be had any where else.

Lieutenant *Sears's* Evidence.—Testifies the same as Captain *Harwood*; and farther says, that Captain *Hamlen* asked for some rum that was in Colonel *Tupper's* custody, and said that it was wanted for the nurses, and was allowed accordingly in the General Hospital. Colonel *Tupper* answered, the nurses ought to have an allowance of rum, but he could not spare that then present, because it was private property.

Captain *Hamlen*, to save the trouble of evidence, grants he sold wine at twelve shillings per gallon, molasses at eight shillings per gallon, *York* currency, and rice at three pence per pound, lawful money; and farther grants that he ordered the kidneys and all the tallow to be taken from the beef, and tried up, and made into candles for the use of the sick in the Hospital, and, after supplying them, sold the rest to the inhabitants.

*Joseph Whiting's* Evidence.—Says that the best pieces were taken from the beef, and the poorest delivered to the soldiers; and that he has seen the inhabitants carry away some of the best pieces of beef; but says he never made any complaint to any of the commanding officers of sick that the beef was poor, or that they were not well provided for; but says there was some uneasiness among the soldiers.

*John Lincoln's* Evidence.—The same as *Whiting*; and that he once saw the inhabitants, after the beef was cut up, ask the price, which was different according to the goodness, and then they took such pieces as they liked. I never complained at any time to Captain *Hamlen* that I was unjustly dealt by, but did to the person that tended me. I have often heard the soldiers complain that they thought they did not have the beef as it would hold out for goodness.

*Joshua King's* Evidence.—Testify the same as *Lincoln*. I have bought rum by the half pint of Captain *Hamlen's* son, in his apartment. I asked one *Hooper*, a soldier that was there eight or ten days, what duty he did. He said he was making candles.

*James Bonney's* Evidence.—That *Josiah Jones*, a soldier, was employed in making soap and candles above a fortnight, at Captain *H.'s*.

*George Frazier's* Evidence.—Says he bought rum and cider of Captain *Hamlen's* son, at Captain *Hamlen's* apartment.

*Robert Fuller's* Evidence.—That he drew a piece of neck beef that was hurt, and smelt bad. I returned the beef to the officers. They ordered me to the steward, and I had it exchanged for three pounds less. The steward said I was very difficult, and those that made the least difficulty fared the best; and that was the reason I never complained afterwards.

Sergeant *Lincoln's* Evidence.—That the best pieces were taken from the beef, and sold, and the poorest sold to the soldiers at three pence, *York* currency, per pound, and to the inhabitants at six pence, five pence, and four pence, according to the goodness.

Captain *Allen* sworn, but knew nothing of the matter but hearsay.

Ensign *Cotton's* Evidence.—Captain *Hamlen* accounts for the ration money at seven and a half pence per day per man, to me weekly, for all the soldiers under my care; and I delivered a return of what provision was necessary daily to the tenders of the sick, and have often seen them supplied accordingly. I never heard any complaint from any man at all under my care, except in the case of the beef which I ordered to be exchanged. The sick were daily supplied with meat, bread, rice, molasses, potatoes, candles, meal, soap, salt, and vinegar, when to be had; also milk, at the rate of one pint per man per day, till it grew scarce; then they were supplied with the other articles to the same amount, and this was done for seven and a half pence per man per day. One soldier was employed as a butcher, while he was well, constantly.

Ensign *Remmington's* Evidence.—I had the care of the sick of Colonel *Varnum's* regiment under the direction of Captain *Hamlen*. I received of Captain *Hamlen* seven and a half pence per man per day, and with that I supplied them with the articles in the afore-mentioned evidence. I have often seen the provision, and never thought the men were wronged. Thought they were well provided for; never heard a word of complaint among the men, notwithstanding I often told them to let me know it if they were wronged, and I would see them righted. I had positive orders from Colonel *Varnum*, if Captain *Hamlen*, had need of butchers, to detain one or more men for that purpose.

Mr. *Samson* (the steward's) Evidence.—I had the care of all the stores for the sick under Captain *H.* I daily

dot them, according to the returns made by the officers of each ward. I took what care I could to proportion the bad pieces of beef with the good. I believe there was but a trifle of odds between the pieces delivered to the soldiers and others, but think that the people where the officers boarded generally had the best pieces of beef. I have heard the men say they could not use all their allowance—they had more than they wanted; in particular, *R. Fuller*, one of the evidences, has himself brought back allowance and thrown it into the store, and said they could not eat it before it would spoil. They had more provision than they wanted.

Doctor *Tenny's* Evidence.—Immediately after the sick were put into quarters, I, with another Surgeon, went through the various wards and prescribed the diet of each particular patient, according to the diet table of General Hospital, which we gave to the officers of those departments, together with the diet table itself. By these they regulated their daily provision returns. I altered these tables as often as the case required. I often asked the sick whether they had a plenty of provisions? They always told me they had, except a few whose appetites required more than I thought proper to allow them. I never heard any complaint of a deficiency of good provision except once, which I found happened through mistake. As to the wine, I, with the other Surgeons, conceived that Colonel *Tupper* had no right to deliver it to the sick as Hospital stores. Fearing there would be a difficulty, and unwilling to be brought into difficulty, declined giving orders for the wine, till application was made to General *Greene*, who ordered it to be sold. As to the best pieces, I have heard the people where I lived complain that they had not so good beef as they ought to have. On the whole, I fully believe that the sick under Captain *Hamlen's* care could not have been better provided for, for seven and a half pence per day per man, than they were.

Sergeant *Hammond's* Evidence.—I had the care of the publick stores, consisting of beef, bread, &c., left by Colonel *Wharton* in Captain *Hamlen's* custody. I was entrusted with the delivery of the same. Finally, when I was about to leave the stores, I had about four hundred barrels of hard bread left of the said stores, I wanted to get rid of, and knowing there was troops under Colonel *Tyler*, did not know but they might want. I offered it as publick stores, if Colonel *Tyler* would give his receipt for it, but he did not want; and farther, that Captain *Hamlen* never gave me any orders, directly or indirectly, to dispose of any publick stores, only by receipt, according to the Commissary order. I was sick in the Hospital under Captain *Hamlen's* care. I was always as well provided for as I could expect. I had more allowance than I could use, nor did I ever hear any complaint among the soldiers on this head.

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### DECISION OF A COURT OF INQUIRY.

A Court of Inquiry, whereof Colonel *Read* is President, which sat this day at *Peeks Kill*, agreeable to general orders, to inquire into the conduct of Captain *Eleazer Hamlen*, while taking care of sick at *Tappan;* the Court, after hearing the evidences, and maturely deliberating upon and weighing the same, are unanimously of opinion that the conduct of Captain *Hamlen*, with respect to the sick under his care and the disposition of the publick stores entrusted with him, has been agreeable to his orders, as well as to the rules of justice, prudence, and good economy; that the complaints against his conduct that have come before us, are by no means supported; and consequently, that his character must, in our humble opinion, stand as fair in the eye of the world as ever.

Peeks Kill, December 28th, 1776.

JOSEPH READ, *President,*
For and in behalf of said Court.

Approved per W. HEATH, *M. General.*

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### SENTENCE OF GENERAL COURT MARTIAL.

December 30th, 1776.

The proceedings of a General Court Martial held at *Peeks Kill*, on the 17th day of *December*, 1776, by order of Brigadier-General *James Clinton*, for the trial of all such persons as should be brought before said Court; of which said Court Colonel *Thomas* was President.

Members:

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|---|---|
| Lieut. Colonel *Hall*, | Lieutenant *Dire*, |
| Captain *Roll*, | Lieutenant *Seton*, |
| Captain *Platt*, | Lieutenant *Sherwood*, |
| Captain *Stuard*, | Ensign *Read*, |
| Captain *Allen*, | Ensign *Henshaw*, |
| Lieutenant *Yates*, | Captain *Dodge*. |
| Lieutenant *Sumway*, | |

The Members being assembled, the President made choice of Captain *Dodge* to act as Judge Advocate.

The Members and President being sworn, proceeded to the trial of *David Keerts*.

The Court examining the crime alleged, are of opinion, that the prisoner's crime doth not come under their cognizance, and that the prisoner be discharged as soon as may be.

*Joseph Fosey*, *Alexander Richeu*, *Jacob Hasmo*, and *Joseph Newman*, being arraigned before the said Court, for inlisting more than once in the service of the *United States of America*, and taking money for the same; and being asked whether guilty or not, each plead Guilty of said charge. Whereupon the Court adjudge the prisoners guilty of a breach of third article of war, section the sixth, and order that each of them receive thirty-nine lashes on the naked back, and repay the money they have received of those officers who inlisted them after they were inlisted the first time, and that they be discharged from their confinement.

The within are the proceedings of the within-mentioned Court-Martial.

THOMAS THOMAS,
*President of said Court, &c.*

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### GENERAL JAMES CLINTON TO COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Fort Montgomery, December 30, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Captain *De Witt* informs me he is in want of a Lieutenant in his company, and that he would be glad to have *Jierck De Witt* appointed as such; he applies to me to recommend him. I know him well; he has served this season in my brother's brigade, but had no commission, though, in my opinion, he would make a good officer, if you see fit to appoint him.

JAMES CLINTON, *Brig. Gen'l.*

To the Gentlemen of the Committee of Arrangement for the State of *New-York*.

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### RESOLUTION OF NEW-YORK CONVENTION.

In Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, Fishkill, December 30th, 1776.

*Resolved*, That General *George Clinton*, General *Scott*, Mr. *Duer*, and the other Members of the Committee for carrying on a Secret Expedition in the County of *Westchester*, be, and hereby are, authorized to make drafts on the Treasury of this State for any sums, in the whole not exceeding six hundred Pounds, for the purpose of executing the powers with which they are vested; and that the said Committee account for the expenditure of the same.

By order.

A true copy from the Minutes.

Attest: JOHN MCKESSON, *Sec'y.*

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### NEW-YORK CONVENTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

SIR: I am directed by the Convention to make a further application to Congress on the subject of clothing our levies. The situation of this State is such that it is impossible for us to get the several articles necessary for this purpose. And after we had procured at *Philadelphia* a very considerable quantity, it was taken by the Committee of Safety in that city, and applied for the use of their own soldiery. It gave the Convention great pleasure to learn, about a month ago, that our sister Colony of *Massachusetts-Bay* had been able to procure materials for clothing their quota of troops, and that pleasure hath been greatly increased by our information of the capture of clothing for twelve thousand men by a Continental ship-of-war, and of the arrival of a vessel from *France*, with a large assortment of clothing on account of Congress. As there is not any one State in *America* which has suffered so severely as *New-York* in the present war,

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as there is not one whose commercial resources have been so entirely cut off, we submit it to Congress whether she ought not to have a particular attention in the distribution of those articles which belong to the *United States*, and which by no care or industry can be procured on her separate account. In a word, sir, I am directed by the Convention to assure Congress that they are of opinion our regiments will be speedily filled if we can get any thing to cover them, and that without clothes they cannot possibly get troops.

General *Morris*, who is directed to repair to Congress, is charged with this letter, and instructed to urge for their answer, on which the safety of this State and the success of the common cause greatly depend.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient and very humble servant.

By order.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, President of the General Congress.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[Read 14 January: Referred to J. Adams, Harrison, R. H. Lee, Whipple, Hayward.]

Albany, December 30th, 1776.

SIR: That I have not been honoured with the commands of Congress, on the various matters mentioned in my former letters, and in a paper which I delivered to Messrs. *Stockton* and *Clymer* on the 11th ultimo, is most probably to be imputed to the necessity it has been under of giving the closest attention to the manœuvres of the enemy in *Jersey*. This consideration, and that of the winter's being considerably advanced, has induced me to proceed in making such preparations for the next campaign as I deem essentially necessary, without waiting the determination of Congress, trusting that Congress will readily pardon every *faux pas* I may commit from erring in judgment.

On the 3d instant I addressed myself to General *Ward* on the subject of cannon and military stores. From the copy of his letter, which is enclosed, Congress will perceive that I am not likely to receive any aid from the *Massachusetts-Bay*. I have, however, since the receipt of his letter, which was received on the 29th instant, written by express to the Honourable *Thomas Cushing*, entreating that the Legislature of that State would reconsider the matter, and furnish what cannon, &c., they can, and urged the necessity of their being sent whilst the earth is covered with snow, as a great expense in the transportation will be saved by these articles being carried to *Ticonderoga* in winter. I have made similar applications to Governour *Trumbull* and the President of *New-Hampshire*, and I propose in a few days to visit the Convention of this State on the same subject; for, indeed, unless a sufficient number of cannon and ammunition can be procured, we must inevitably lose *Tyonderoga;* and what the consequences of such a disaster would be, are too evident to dwell upon.

I have caused ten blacksmiths' shops to be erected in this city, and engaged workmen to be employed in making intrenching tools, axes, nails, &c., and hope, with the assistance of the smiths in the vicinity, to get a sufficient stock of those necessary articles, provided I can any how procure a quantity of steel, for which I have applied to the *Massachusetts-Bay*. But lest none should be sent me from thence, I must again entreat Congress to order three tons from *Pennsylvania* or *Jersey*, with all the despatch possible.

I have ordered all the provisions that can be procured, to be sent to *Fort George*, *Cheshire's*, and *Ticonderoga*. I fear a deficiency of salted meat, of which a sufficient stock should be laid in, as it would be risking too much to depend upon the precarious supply of fresh beef, at a time when the fortresses may be invested by the enemy.

Forage is laying in for the cattle, which it will be necessary to employ in the spring, both at *Tyonderoga* and on the communication to it.

Directions are given for repairing the batteaus in *Lake Champlain* and *Lake George*, and for building one hundred and fifty adapted to the navigation of *Hudson's* and the *Mohawk's* rivers and *Wood Creek*. Should the enemy be able to force us from *Ticonderoga*, it will be possible for them, although we keep possession of *Mount Independence*, to get into *Lake George*, by drawing their batteaus over land from below *Tyonderoga;* for although the task would be arduous, yet it is feasible, and ought to be guarded against. I therefore propose to build five or six flat-bottomed vessels, of considerable force, on *Lake George*, and shall begin to prepare the necessary articles in the beginning of *February*, unless Congress should please to direct otherwise; and about the same time I propose to begin the necessary work of obstructing the navigation of *Lake Champlain*, between *Tyonderoga* and *Mount Independence*, which I hope to execute so effectually as not to leave a possibility for any kind of craft to pass, whilst we keep possession of the latter place, and which I think we can do against any force whatever, provided we have a sufficient garrison, properly supplied with cannon, ammunition and provisions.

A considerable quantity of cordage and oakum is wanted. If it cannot be supplied in this State, I shall send to the Eastern ones; and so, indeed, I must for many articles that will be wanted. I wish, therefore, a resolution of Congress directing every State to comply with my applications in whatever they can.

The *Indians* have sent me a friendly message, and I have great hopes that they will abide by the neutrality they have promised to observe. A report prevails that the enemy have requested the *Mohawks* to remove into the country beyond our settlements; but I have reason to believe that it is void of foundation. I soon expect a visit from a considerable number of chiefs and warriours. They are in great distress for blankets. Unfortunately we have none here. I have applied for some to the *Massachusetts-Bay* and *New-Hampshire*, and may probably receive some from thence.

The Legislature of the *Massachusetts-Bay* have ordered one fourth of the Militia of the County of *Berkshire*, and one eighth of that of *Hampshire*, to *Tyonderoga*, to continue three months in service. Part of one regiment is marched from the former. What the whole number will be from both, I cannot make a guess at. No troops are yet arrived here from *Connecticut;* nor can I learn that any are got to *Tyonderoga* from *Hampshire*. Neither was any part of Colonel *Warner's* there on the 26th; and Colonel *Wayne* advises me that he has no hopes of any troops remaining after the term of their inlistment expires, unless it be the *Pennsylvanians*, who, he believes, will not quit the post until regularly relieved. For three weeks, or perhaps a month to come, we have little to fear from our enemy, but as after that *Lake Champlain* will be passable, it is probable they will make an attempt, as I am well informed that they have two regiments at *St. John's*, three at *Isle-aux-Noix*, and a small body as an advanced post on *Isle-la-Motte;* and I conjecture that they would hardly keep so many troops at those places, if they did not meditate a winter's expedition. It is therefore of importance that the garrison should be strengthened, and have therefore repeated my former application for assistance to the Eastern States.

Those of *Van Schaick's* and *Gansevoort's* regiments that are raised, are under orders to march to *Fort Edward*, *Fort George*, *Cheshire's*, and *Skenesborough*; but I fear the garrisons of those places will have left them before the relief gets there, which is detained through want of blankets, which I am trying to collect from the inhabitants in this City and County.

The non-commissioned officers and privates of Colonel *Nicholson's* regiment are all engaged in other corps, to serve during the war or for three years, and the officers mentioned in the enclosed list are unprovided for. I beg the direction of Congress with respect to them.

Colonel *Livingston* has given me a list of some officers, copy of which I enclose for the approbation of Congress. Perhaps some of *Nicholson's* officers might be provided for in *Livingston's*.

Most of the men in Colonel *Elmore's* regiment would reengage for the war. Some have already done it; but I have inhibited the recruiting officers of other corps to inlist any more of the men, as they are still to serve to the middle of *April*, and Congress may perhaps order that regiment to be kept up, that there may not be so many officers unprovided for. I wish to know the pleasure of Congress on the subject the soonest possible.

We are greatly at a loss for iron rods to make nails out of. If I knew where to procure them, I should not trouble Congress.

If any cannon are to come from *Pennsylvania*, as I believe there must, for I have very little prospect of getting a

supply elsewhere, I wish them to be sent whilst the snow continues on the ground. The Paymaster-General informs me that he has very little cash left. A speedy supply will be necessary, as such a variety of articles are to be purchased, and so much transportation to be paid for.

The Regimental Paymasters will stand in need of very explicit instructions for the rule of their conduct. I take the liberty again to mention the necessity of sending them very soon, lest the accounts of the new Army should get involved in that variety of confusion which has attended the old. If they do not arrive soon, I shall take the liberty to do it for those in this department.

Much as I wish to do myself the honour to pay my respects to Congress, yet so much is to be done here, and no other General Officer in the department, that it would not be prudent for me to quit it at this conjuncture.

Colonel *Pellesier* was so bent on going to Congress, and importuned me so much on the occasion, that I consented, on his promise to return before the expiration of *January*. I hope he will not be permitted to tarry beyond that time.

I perceive by the printed proceedings of Congress, that several resolutions have passed which immediately respected this department, but which I have never received. If they have been sent, I wish you to advise me by whom. They are those mentioned in the enclosed abstract.

*January* 1st, 1777.—Last evening I was informed that amongst the letters lately intercepted by the enemy, was one from Colonel *Trumbull*, the Commissary-General, in which it is insinuated that I had secreted his brother Colonel *John Trumbull's* commission, as Deputy Adjutant-General. If it be true that he has asserted such a thing, I shall expect from Congress that justice which is due to me. The commission was never sent, at least never received by me; and if it had been, is there the least probability that I should secrete it, after having recommended Colonel *John Trumbull* to the office, as an active, discreet, and sensible officer? That gentleman and his brother, the Paymaster-General, both know, and I dare say will do me the justice to avow, that I wished to have him employed in a department equally honourable and much more important, and that I would have recommended him to Congress if he had chose it.

I have ordered the Director of the Hospital to lay in a sufficient quantity of medicines and necessary stores for the Hospital. He will find it extremely difficult to procure them; I therefore wish, if possible, that some may be sent from *Philadelphia*.

Be pleased to accept the compliments of this season, and may every succeeding one bring with it an increase of happiness to *America* is my first wish.

As I do not choose to risk this letter by the common expresses, I have thought it necessary to send an officer, and Captain *Bloomfield*, a very deserving one of Colonel *Dayton's* regiment, is the bearer of this.

I am, sir, with great respect and esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Hon'ble *John Hancock*.

—

Boston, 14th December, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 3d instant I have received. In answer to which would acquaint you that the cannon here, which belong to the Continent, were lent to this State by the Congress; and the Council of this State, to whom I showed your letter, have determined that none of those cannon can be spared. All the nails that were in the stores here have been forwarded to the Quartermaster-General. The intrenching tools I shall forward to *Albany* as soon as an opportunity offers. Those will amount to three or four loads.

A large fleet of the enemy's ships have arrived at *Rhode-Island*, but what number of troops are on board we cannot at present learn.

I am, sir, with esteem, your obedient, humble servant,

ARTEMAS WARD

—

*Copy of a Letter from* JOS. TRUMBULL *to* WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

Transmitted to Congress by General Schuyler.

Camp, near North-Castle, 18th November, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I returned to camp last *Saturday* week, when I found the Army like a clan of wandering *Arabs* in these confounded mountains of woods, and every thing in hurry and confusion. In *Connecticut*, the Assembly now sitting; *Seymour* and *Hillhouse* governing the Lower House, and running every thing mad and distracted. The recommendation of officers not attended to, but the old mode of appointing by Counties adopted, and the worst, instead of the best, officers appointed. The good will not now accept offices which their inferiours in every respect have refused, so that I foresee the greatest difficulty in raising a new Army; and nothing under Heaven can save us but the enemy's going to the Southern Colonies, which may give us an opportunity to rectify our mistakes and put matters on the footing they ought to be.

I received a letter from Brother *Jack*, dated the 4th of *November*, in which he says he has not received his commission, and resents it highly, as he ought to do. It is scandalous treatment. I apprehend *Schuyler* has kept it. Mr. *Hancock* wrote me immediately on the appointment, that he had or would send it immediately. I suppose he did it. It was as much as an officer of spirit could bear to have it lie so long as it did before Congress, but worse now; and he is determined to resent it. I wish you to inform me as soon as possible whether Mr. *H.* sent it forward, to whom, and when, that his resentment may be properly placed. Such a conduct will ruin the Army and the cause—gentlemen are not to be treated in such manner.

I hear *Jos. Read* has sent his resignation some time ago; in the name of common sense, why is it not accepted? That man's want of abilities in his office has introduced the greatest disorders and want of discipline into this Army; it ought to originate from that office. Then he has done more to raise and keep up a jealousy between the *New-England* and other troops than all the men in the Army beside. Indeed, his stinking pride, as General *George Clinton* expresses it, has gone so far that I expect every day to hear he is called to account by some officer or other; indeed, he is universally hated and despised; and it is high time he was displaced. General *Gates* is expected down soon. Could not he be induced to take the office again? And if General *Schuyler* must command at the northward, let General *Greene* go there in *Gates's* place. I find there has been some motion to Augustine Brother *Jonathan* and the Paymaster at the southward's wages. I wish to know how it has succeeded. I have sent a petition to Congress to have my allowance settled. It is backed by General *Washington*. I wish to have it tried at once. I mean to be determined by the event.

It is said *Mount Washington* has surrendered. We don't yet learn particulars. I am glad a Southern officer commanded. The story is not told to his advantage here; be it as it may, we should not have heard the last of it from *Reed* and some others of his stamp, if a *New-England* man had commanded.

I shall execute the Congress orders as to provisions for another year, and for salt; but I meet much difficulty from the privateers, who bid prices of all kinds of provisions on me; and I fancy will sink to the Continent in that way more than the value of all the prizes they get, though they are many and great. The chests at *Boston*, *Albany*, and here, run low. I wish they may soon be replenished, as you know I cannot go on one foot without cash, especially when the privateers' men are flush of that article.

What account have you from *France*, or about their aid, &c., which may be communicated? I can't learn any thing that I can depend on about those matters.

All friends are well at home. Colonel *Dyer* is added to the number of Congressmen, in a manner peculiarly agreeable to him, but not so to some others.

I am, dear sir, your affectionate brother,

JOS. TRUMBULL.

I have not received a line from you since I left camp.

To Colonel *William Williams*.

The above is a true copy, taken from *Hugh Gaine's New-York* Gazette, dated *December* 9th, 1776; No. 1311.

By me,

ROBERT YATES.

—

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO THOMAS CUSHING.

Albany, December 30, 1776.

SIR: Last evening I was favoured with your letter of the 16th instant. Colonel *Simmons*, with part of a regiment

from the County of *Berkshire*, marched from hence on *Thursday* last. I wish those from the County of *Hampshire* had been immediately ordered by the nearest route to *Tyonderoga*, instead of coming this way, as it would have much shortened the march.

Yesterday I was advised by letters from the commanding officer at *Tyonderoga*, that the troops now there will not remain a day longer than they are engaged for, except the *Pennsylvania* battalions, whom he believes will not quit their posts until regularly relieved. I cannot ascertain to what number a fourth part of the *Berkshire* and an eighth of the *Hampshire* Militia will amount to. I hope it will be something considerable, as we ought not by any means to have less than two thousand five hundred effectives at *Tyonderoga*, lest the enemy should make an attempt this winter and carry that important place. I have information that two of their regiments are at *St. John's*, three at *Isle-au-Noix*, an advance party at *Isle-la-Motte*, and the remainder of their troops in different quarters in *Canada*. Should the enemy leave us unmolested this winter, I shall hope that they will not be able to penetrate from the northward in spring or summer, provided troops, cannon, and ammunition, are furnished me.

By a letter from the Honourable General *Ward*, of the 16th instant, which I also received last night, I find that I am to expect no cannon from your State. There are none in this, nor can I procure any from *Pennsylvania* or *Jersey*. I am not yet advised what *Connecticut* can afford me; but I am confident it will be greatly short of our wants. I wish, therefore, the Legislature of your State would consider the matter and supply me with all the cannon you possibly can. I must also entreat, that as much powder, lead, and cartridge paper, may be sent as can be collected in your State; and as those articles are much easier and cheaper moved in winter than they can be at any other time, I shall hope that they may be forwarded without delay. The cannon, if any are furnished, might be carried directly to *Tyonderoga*, where the A. D. Q. M. General will pay the expense of transportation; the powder, lead, and cartridge paper, to this place.

The enclosed to the *New-Hampshire* State contains a like application. Permit me to beg the favour of you to forward it by express.

I am, sir, with great esteem, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Hon. *Thos. Cushing*, Esq., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the *Massachusetts-Bay*.

P. S. The *Indians* appear to continue friendly to us, and I have reason to believe they will adhere to the promises of neutrality which they have made. I soon expect a visit from them. They are in great want of clothing, blankets especially. If four or five hundred can be procured, I wish them to be sent the very soonest possible. I have been disappointed in procuring two tons of steel from *New-Jersey*, and it is an article so essentially necessary that it cannot be dispensed with. Pray be so good as to send me that quantity, or rather three tons, if it is to be had.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

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GENERAL SCHUYLER TO MESHECH WEARE.

Albany, December 30, 1776.

SIR: I did myself the honour to address you in a letter of the 3d instant, entreating that troops might be sent from your State to relieve the garrison at *Ticonderoga*. Although I have not had the pleasure to hear from you on the subject, I shall yet hope that some are already marched. I did not dwell on the importance *Tyconderoga* is of to every one of the Northern States. Should it unfortunately fall into the enemy's hands, the consequences would be dreadful, if not altogether fatal to the liberties of our country.

The situation of affairs in *Jersey* and *Pennsylvania* leave me very little hope to receive a supply of military stores from thence. This State has none. All that *Connecticut* can spare will be greatly short of our wants. I have no encouragement from the *Massachusetts-Bay*, and I must therefore most earnestly entreat for a supply from your State. The number of cannon wanted is very great; powder, lead, cannon, shot, cartridge-paper, and every necessary for the artillery, is greatly deficient. I wish therefore to be furnished with all of every kind that can possibly be collected. And as the conveyance in winter of these articles to *Ticonderoga* is so much cheaper and easier than at any other season, I wish them to be sent immediately.

The enemy have two regiments at *St. John's*, three at *Isle-au-Noix*, and an advance party at *Isle-la-Mothe*. From this, and a variety of other circumstances, I have reason to apprehend that they meditate an attack, if they find our garrison weak.

I have received a friendly message from the *Indians*. They seem determined to adhere to their treaties with us. I expect in a few weeks to be visited by a considerable party of them, when I shall be under the necessity of making them a present. Blankets they always expect, and unfortunately I have not one to give them. Let me entreat you, if any are to be had in your State, to send me four or five hundred the soonest possible. I shall order immediate payment for them.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

The Hon'ble President of the State of *New-Hampshire*.

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J. TRUMBULL, JUN., TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Albany, 30th December, 1776.

HONOURED SIR: I have nothing of importance since I wrote you last per Mr. *Babcock*, unless it be some *Indian* intelligence from Mr. *Kirkland*, who tells me that they hear from *Niagara*, that the commander of that fort is lately dead; that *Butler*, on intelligence that the *Virginians* are building a fort on the *Ohio*, above *Fort Pitt*, had sent off a number of *Indians* there to make discoveries. He tells me also, that he is informed that Captain *Tice* and *Joseph Brant* (an *Indian* who was taken to *England* last year by *Johnson*) had lately passed from *Hudson* river across the country to *Susquehannah*, on their way to *Niagara*; that intelligence had gone from them to the *Mohawks*, ordering to quit the country and come to *Niagara* as soon as possible; that they had important despatches from General *Howe* to all the *Indians*, &c. Mr. *Kirkland* had sent off runners to know the certainty of this news.

Some *Massachusetts* Militia are now coming on to take post at the northward, till recruits can be sent up. I hope soon to be in *Connecticut*. Interim, I am your dutiful son,

J. TRUMBULL, Jun.

Governour *Trumbull*.

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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

At a meeting of the Governour and Council of Safety of *Connecticut, Middletown, December* 30th, 1776—

Present: His Honour the Governour, his Honour the Deputy Governour, *Jabez Huntington, William Williams, William Hillhouse, Thomas Seymour*, Esquires.

*Voted*, To draw on the Pay-Table for £3,500, in favour of Captain *John Deshon*, to dispose of in the service of this State, and render his account.—(Order delivered *Peter Christophers, December* 31st, 1776.)

*December* 31*st*, 1776.—The Council of Safety ordered the Clerk to draw on the Treasurer for twenty pounds of Gunpowder, in favour of Doct. *John Dickinson*, for the use of proving muskets.—(An order was drawn *December* 31st, 1776, and delivered Doct. *John Dickinson*.)

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CAPTAIN DELAPLACE TO GOVERNOUR TRUMBULL.

Hartford, December 30th, 1776.

As I cannot obtain permission to wait on you, must convey to your Honour, and the honourable Assembly now convened at *Middletown*, this my request in writing, that leave may be granted me to go to *New-York*, in order to effect an exchange with some of your officers, now prisoners of war in that city. As this indulgence has been allowed Lieutenant *McDermott*, flatter myself with the same liberty. I must further add, that I was the first prisoner brought here, and can safely say, with a good conscience, that I have treated laws and people with the greatest respect.

Am, sir, your most obedient servant,

WM. DELAPLACE.

Governour *Trumbull*.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.
State of Massachusetts-Bay, Boston, December 30, 1776.

Sir: Though the progress made by the enemy's troops be alarming, yet as they have advanced into the country so far from their shipping, and must be greatly encumbered with their baggage, provisions, &c., which it will require a great number of men to guard, the people of *New-York*, the *Jerseys*, and *Pennsylvania*, have a very favourable opportunity of exerting themselves. It would be a great happiness if they could collect and join General *Washington* in sufficient numbers to enable him to attack and repulse the enemy, or at least to stop their progress and cut off their retreat, till a sufficient body of the new Army could relieve them. If the several *United States* are speedy in furnishing their respective quotas of the eighty-eight battalions required by Congress, there may be a body of troops in a short time collected sufficient for that purpose. The misfortunes we have experienced should not prevent, but animate our endeavours to effect this necessary measure; and with regard to the inhabitants of this State, we hope they will operate upon them in no other way, and we have no reason to think that this will not be the case. In consequence of General *Washington's* letter of the 6th of *November*, requesting us to send four thousand Militia, to serve till *March*, we ordered such a part of our effective men to be drafted as we supposed would make a body of six thousand, which were all intended to be sent to join General *Washington*, and were ordered by General *Lincoln*, the commanding officer, to rendezvous at *Danbury*, in *Connecticut:* but since that, about nine hundred of them, from the two western Counties, have been ordered to march to *Ticonderoga*, by way of *Albany*, pursuant to a letter from General *Schuyler*, dated *December* 3d, earnestly requesting a body of men to succeed those whose time of service was nearly expiring; and about three thousand of them, besides several regiments of Militia and a company of the Train, were ordered to march by way of *Providence*, at the urgent and repeated request of Governour *Cooke*, occasioned by a large body of the enemy landing and taking possession of *New-Port* and the whole Island, which will probably cause some further detention of them there; the rest had orders to march directly to the place of rendezvous. The frequent removes of the Southern Army has occasioned us to be uninformed what number of men belonging to this State have inlisted into the new Army; but we are taking the necessary measures for completing our quota of it; for which purpose it was found necessary to make an addition of twenty pounds to the Continental bounty, in lieu of the additional wages that were intended, said bounty to be given to each effective man inlisting to serve three years, or during the war, and payable in two equal notes, issued by our Treasurer, on interest, at six per cent., payable in four years from their dates. Since this was done, we received your letter and resolve of the 15th of *November*, but it was then too late to make any alteration; and to retract or lessen it would have prevented inlistments. This has been not the effect of choice, but necessity, and it gives us great regret that such a necessity existed.

With respect to the Continental bounty of twenty dollars to each man, the resolves of Congress of the 16th *September* mention that it should be paid by the Paymaster of the department within which the men should inlist. We have applied to the Paymaster here, Mr. *Eben'r Hancock*, who says he has neither orders nor money for that purpose, nor has General *Ward* any orders concerning it. We earnestly beg that money may immediately be sent to pay that bounty which we have ordered our Treasurer to advance to the Mustermasters, to be paid to such men as inlist and pass muster. The large sum advanced by this State for the Continent, per account already exhibited, we should be glad it might be agreeable to your honourable body to order to be reimbursed, having great occasion therefor, to answer purposes of general concernment to the *United States*.

Agreeable to your desire, and repeated requests from General *Washington* and General *Lee* to procure clothing for the Army, our Committees appointed for the purpose have procured what quantity they could, part of which they have sent forward, and the remainder has been and will be delivered to Mr. *Abra'm Livingston*, pursuant to a letter from your Secret Committee, to whom the account of it, agreeable to their request, will be sent. We think it would be needful it should be well escorted in its carriage through the States of *New-York* and the *Jerseys;* and Mr. *Livingston*, if he finds it necessary, will be authorized to apply for an escort to General *Lincoln*, who will have orders to furnish one. Perhaps you may think proper to order further escorts, in case of accidents.

We think it of great importance that the means of a quick and frequent communication between the several States and the Army, and each other, should be kept up; and it was hoped that the new regulation of the post-riders would have furnished them; but that regulation has had a contrary effect, and has produced great irregularity in the arrival of the mails. It would give great and general satisfaction if it could be made effectually to answer the end for which it was intended.

Many of the inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia*, perhaps most of them, are well-affected to the cause of the *United States*. A deputation from the town of *Maugwille*, up *St. John's* river, applied to us for protection some months past. The deputies, one of which was Captain *Jona. Eddy*, propose an expedition against *Fort Cumberland*, called by the *French Beau Sejour*, where he said the enemy had barracks sufficient for several thousand men, which, in case of failure in their attempt on *New-York*, &c., it was supposed they intended should answer for winter quarters for part of their Army. In case the fort could not be taken, he said they could at least destroy the barracks, and desired some assistance for that purpose; on which a quantity of ammunition and provisions were granted to them; the consequence of which has been, that they have invested the fort, with about three hundred men, including *Acadians*, taken a sloop near the fort, just arrived with provisions, &c., for the garrison, said to be worth £5,000, and have also taken prisoners about fifty of the enemy, among which are Captain *Bacon*, an Engineer, Captain *Walker*, Doctor *Collins*, and Parson *Eggleston*, all of whom, with about thirty of the *St. John* prisoners, together with the sloop, have arrived in this State. Captain *Eddy* sent us a letter by Mr. *Josiah Throop*, dated *Cumberland*, 12th *November*, informing of these particulars, and entreating for themselves, and for the inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia*, that they may be assisted with troops, military stores, &c., in order that they may be able to promote the general cause, and add another Colony to the *United States*. He refers for further intelligence to Mr. *Throop*, who, by his memorial to this Court, has accordingly given somewhat further, and in the said memorial prays that sundry things may be granted. Some of them we have thought proper to grant, viz: that coasting vessels, under certain restrictions, (not yet settled,) be permitted to clear out for *Passamaquoddy*, the river *St. John's*, and *Cumberland*, in *Nova-Scotia*, and that certificates from those places may secure such vessels on their way back from *American* cruisers; that a Colonel's commission be sent to *Jonathan Eddy*, to command the forces raised, or which may be raised, for the defence of the eastern frontiers of this State and the adjacent places, and the annoyance of the enemies of the *United States;* that a Captain's commission be given to *Josiah Throop*, under Colonel *Eddy*, and a Lieutenant's commission, under Captain *Throop*, to Mr. *Chalmer*, the said officers not to be entitled to pay until further orders; and that two hundred pounds gunpowder, six hundred pounds leaden ball, and five hundred flints, be delivered to Mr. *Throop*, he to be accountable to this Court for the same when called upon. The other articles prayed for, particularly that their Army now in *Cumberland* may be considered as part of the Continental Army, and taken into Continental pay, we thought were proper to be laid before Congress for their determination.

Upon the whole, it gives us great pleasure that there is such a spirit in the inhabitants of *Nova-Scotia* in favour of the *American* cause; and we submit it to the serious consideration of Congress, whether they ought not to be assisted, and whether it be not likely that such assistance, if speedily and sufficiently given, will in several ways operate to the benefit of the *United States*, and it may eventually add another to them. A copy of the several papers relative to this business are herewith sent by Captain *Throop*, who is a very intelligent man, and will be able to give you a further account of things.

We lately appointed a Committee to consider, in conjunction with Committees from the neighbouring States, of means for preventing the depreciation of the currency. Their

commission has been since enlarged, and they are now sitting at *Providence*, in consequence of an application from the Assembly of *Rhode-Island*, made since the descent of the enemy upon that State. A copy of the two resolves relating to this matter is enclosed, for the information of Congress.

To the Hon. *John Hancock*, Esq., President of Congress.

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FRANCIS SHAW TO JOHN AVERY.

30 December, 1776.

DEAR SIR: I have now the pleasure of informing you of a grand victory gained by General *Washington* at *Trenton*, on the 26th instant. His Excellency, with about three thousand men, crossed the *Delaware* on Christmas evening, and through a very heavy storm of rain, snow, and hail, marched, and began his attack about eight o'clock in the morning of the 26th, and after a battle of thirty-five minutes routed the whole and took nine hundred and nineteen prisoners, exclusive of killed and wounded. I was at Head-Quarters, saw the prisoners, and have the account directly from the General. If you have not this before you receive this, I must beg you would draw it off in a proper manner, as I am but this instant arrived, and the express just setting off.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

FRANCIS SHAW.

To Mr. *John Avery*, Jun.

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MEETING OF TOWNS OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

At a meeting of the Committees of Safety, &c., of the Towns of *Hutchinson*, *Hardwick*, *New-Braintree*, and *Oakham*, in the County of *Worcester*, *December* 30, 1776. Upon complaint that sundry persons in said town of *Hutchinson* had occasioned a town meeting to be called there, to consider of Lord *Howe*'s declaration for restoring peace in the Colonies, &c., to the great grief and astonishment of the inhabitants in general:

Upon examination, it clearly appearing to the several Committees aforesaid, that *John Caldwell*, Esq., and Captain *John Black*, of *Hutchinson* aforesaid, were the principal movers in that affair, and that by their bold, daring, and audacious speeches, in publick town meeting, endeavouring to support it; all which, upon their examination, they justified and declared they were not ashamed of; said Committees think themselves bound in duty, according to their appointment, and the requirements of the General Court, to give the publick notice of at least some part of their declarations, viz: the said *John Caldwell* said we had as bad great men at helm as there were at *England*; that the Committee of Congress, in their situation, could not properly treat with Lord *Howe*, and supposed he was empowered to settle with us upon honourable terms, which terms were, as yet, secreted from the people at large; that if *Great Britain* should leave us to ourselves, we could not maintain independence; that he had rather be under the power of *Britain* than under the power of *France* or *Spain*, or any Papal power, strongly intimating we must be governed by one or the other, and that it was the expectation of the people. Said he never voted for independence, and was not going to fight for it. Did say he never had altered his mind from the first; if the King's Commissioners could be applied to, and we could not have redress, he was for abiding by the cause.

The said *John Black* said, the *American* Congress were guilty of palpable falsehood, and he could prove it; that they were guilty of perjury and deceit, that they called Heaven to witness in their declaration of war, read to the Army on *Prospect Hill*, that they did not aim at independence, when it was evident to him it was their aim and view from the beginning of the dispute. That our merchants and head men had been to blame all along, and he appeared to justify the conduct of King and Parliament as supporting their dignity. Said two-thirds of the people on the Continent were against. He told the assembly in town meeting, "You expect to maintain independence, but you will not one of you have it. You will see in six months you will be conquered; you will not treat with Lord *Howe*, who would grant honourable terms." He insisted obstinately against the advice of the people of his own town, and the several Committees present; that we had never heard his proposals of reconciliation, which he was willing and desirous to make. It appeared that he gave several of his own town's people notice that there was one more declaration coming out soon from the *Howes*, with a limited time of pardon, which was the last offer we should ever have, and this some time before it was published. He owned, upon examination, that he was informed of it near two months before the publication; said he sacredly promised his informer to save his character and secrete his name, and positively refused the Committee to give his informer's name, or even to tell so much as what part of the world he belonged to.

Upon the whole, the several Committees aforesaid are unanimously and clearly of opinion, that the said *Caldwell* and *Black* justify each other in many of their assertions, and have, with design and artifice, done all in their power to violate the Resolve and Declaration of Independence of the most honourable Congress, and to prevent the means of our common defence, and ought to be held up to publick view to deter others from such evil examples. And we trust they will, by authority, be disabled from holding any publick office.

We trust the very extraordinary conduct of these persons, when the publick consider how the petitioners of the number of seven after all their pains taken, got but two to vote with them out of betwixt one and two hundred voters, will appear to the honour of the town where the meeting was; and spirit the publick to follow their noble resolution in the important and just cause we are engaged in.

Per order. JAMES WOODS, *Chairman*.

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ARTHUR LEE TO THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

Paris, 31st December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I had the honour of receiving your favour of the 23d of *October*, announcing to me my appointment as one of the Commissioners from the Congress of the *United States of America*.

I cannot express how much I am obliged to that most respectable body for giving me an opportunity of showing how much I prefer the service of my country and her present cause, to every other pursuit and situation in life.

I had the happiness of joining Dr. *Franklin* and Mr. *Deane* the day after the arrival of the former at this place. We have employed every moment in preparing the way for fulfilling the purpose of our mission. It is impossible to say yet in what degree we shall be able to accomplish our instructions and our wishes. The politicks of *Europe* are in a state of trembling hesitation. It is in consequence of this that I find the promises which were made me by the *French* agent in *London*, and which I stated to you by Mr. *Storey* and others, have not been entirely fulfilled. The changing the mode of conveying what they promised was settled with Mr. *Deane*, whom Mons. *Hortalez* found here upon his return, and with whom all the arrangements were afterwards made. I hope you will have received some of the supplies long before this reaches you. Infinitely short as they are of what was promised in quantity, quality, and time, I trust they will be of very material service in the operations of the next campaign. It is that, to use the words of our arch enemy, to which we must look, and no exertions in preparing for it can be too great, because the events of it must be very decisive.

I have the honour to be, &c., ARTHUR LEE.

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SOUTH-CAROLINA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

In the Council of Safety, Charles-Town, South-Carolina, 31 December, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: The bearer, Captain *Robert Cochran*, being sent by us to procure seamen in your Colony for the defence of this, we take the liberty of requesting that you will afford him every assistance in your power which he may want in this business. From your zeal in the common cause of *America*, we doubt not that he will meet with your support and countenance. Be assured that we shall think ourselves happy in rendering any service to our brethren in the *Massachusetts-Bay*, and testify upon every occasion the esteem and regard which we have for your honourable Board.

By order of the Council of Safety.

HENRY LAURENS, *President*.

The Hon'ble the President and Members of the Council of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

PAY AND RATIONS OF THE STAFF AND ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

| | Dollars pr. Calendar month. | Rations. |
|---|---|---|
| Commander-in-Chief (including table) | 500 | - |
| Major-General | 166 | 15 |
| Ditto (when acting in a separate department, including table) | 332 | - |
| Brigadier-General | 125 | 12 |
| Adjutant-General | 125 | - |
| Deputy Adjutant-General | 50 | - |
| Commissary | 150 | - |
| Deputy Commissary-General | 60 | 6 |
| Quartermaster-General | 80 | 6 |
| Deputy Quartermaster-General | 40 | 6 |
| Assistant Quartermaster-General | $26\frac{2}{3}$ | - |
| Commissary-General of Musters | 40 | 6 |
| Deputy Mustermaster-General | 40 | 6 |
| Paymaster-General | 100 | 6 |
| Deputy Paymaster-General | 50 | 6 |
| Assistant to ditto | $26\frac{2}{3}$ | - |
| Chief Engineer | 60 | - |
| Assistant Engineer | 30 | - |
| Aid-de-Camps of Commander-in-Chief | 40 | - |
| Ditto of Major-Generals | 33 | - |
| Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief | 66 | - |
| Assistant Clerk to ditto | 40 | - |
| Secretary of Major-Generals in sep. dep'ts | 40 | - |
| Commissary of Artillery | 30 | - |
| Judge-Advocate | 50 | 6 |
| *In Hospital.* | | |
| Director-General and Chief Physician, or Director and Chief Physician | $4 pr day. | - |
| Surgeon | $1\frac{2}{3}$ do. | - |
| Apothecary | $1\frac{2}{3}$ do. | - |
| Mate | 1 do. | - |
| Clerk | $\frac{2}{3}$ do. | - |
| Storekeepers | 4 pr mon. | - |
| Nurse | 1 pr week | - |
| *Battalion or Regiment.* | | |
| Colonel | 75 | 6 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel | 60 | 5 |
| Major | 50 | 4 |
| Captain | 40 | 3 |
| Lieutenant | 27 | 2 |
| Ensign | 20 | 2 |
| Adjutant | 40 | 3 |
| Quartermaster | $27\frac{1}{2}$ | 2 |
| Surgeon | $33\frac{1}{3}$ | 3 |
| Mate | 18 | 2 |
| Chaplain | $33\frac{1}{3}$ | 3 |
| Paymaster | $26\frac{2}{3}$ | 3 |
| Sergeant-Major | 9 | - |
| Quartermaster-Sergeant | 9 | - |
| Drum-Major | 9 | - |
| Fife-Major | 9 | - |
| Sergeant | 8 | - |
| Corporal | $7\frac{1}{3}$ | - |
| Drum | $7\frac{1}{3}$ | - |
| Fife | $7\frac{1}{3}$ | - |
| Private | $6\frac{2}{3}$ | - |
| *In Commissary's Department.* | | |
| Issuing Storekeeper to two Brigades | 50 | 4 |
| Issuing Storekeeper to one Brigade | 40 | 4 |
| Chief Clerk, 56-72 per day | - | 3 |
| Clerks in Store and at Scales, 40-72 | - | 2 |
| Labourers and Coopers, 32-72 | - | 1 |

*Artillery and Engineers.*

*December* 27, 1776.—General *Washington* is empowered to raise three regiments of Artillery and a Corps of Engineers, and establish their pay.

*Horse.*

*December* 27, 1776.—General *Washington* is empowered to raise, officer, and equip, three thousand Horse, and establish their pay.

The above is agreeable to the resolves of Congress.

War Office, 31st December, 1776.

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COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL.

Baltimore, December 31, 1776.

Sir: We, a Committee of Congress authorized and directed to employ some suitable person to make application to your honourable Board for certain ordnance and other stores which have been represented by General *Schuyler* as immediately necessary for the use of the Northern Army—we accordingly send forward Colonel *Stuart*, who will lay before the Board a list of such stores as are wanted, which we hope may be procured on just and equitable terms, and transported with all possible despatch to General *Schuyler*.

We need not urge the great importance of having our Army in that quarter well supplied with every necessary article, there being not the least room to doubt of General *Carleton's* intention as early as possible to push his forces into the Eastern States, or of his success in such attempt unless seasonably prevented. It is, therefore, our most earnest request, that you would afford Colonel *Stuart* your advice, assistance, and influence, in the prosecution of this business, and furnish him with such moneys as he may have need of for the purpose, in which case your draft on the President of the Congress will be duly honoured.

We have the honour to be, with very great esteem, your most obedient, humble servants,

Samuel Adams, Benja. Harrison,
Rich'd Henry Lee, Thos. Heyward, Jun.
Wm. Whipple,

The Hon. the President of the Council of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

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THOMAS NELSON, JUN., TO GENERAL GATES.

Baltimore, December 31, 1776.

Sir: Being one of a Committee appointed by Congress to prepare a plan for establishing a Board of War and Ordnance, and not having a thorough knowledge of the duties of these Boards, I have taken the liberty to request the favour of you, when your health will permit, to furnish me with such a plan as you shall think best adapted to answer the designs of Congress. My not having the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you will, I hope, be a sufficient apology for my addressing you by letter.

I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

Thos. Nelson, Jun.

To Major-General *Gates*.

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WILLIAM ELLERY TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

Baltimore, December 31st, 1776.

Sir: I received your letter of the 30th of *November*, and laid it before Congress, and took particular notice of the very weak condition of our State. Congress are sensible of its situation; but as they have by a late resolve, which the President will by this express transmit to you, with a circular letter in which the reasons for their doings are contained, delegated to and invested General *Washington* with the whole military power for a limited time, application will probably be made to him in every instance which respects the military department. With regard to the other parts of your letter, which were ordered to be laid before Congress, as they required no particular observation, none were made upon them either by Congress or me.

I was extremely glad to receive so much particular information into the affairs of our State, and hope you will continue to make me acquainted with such doings of the General Assembly, from time to time, as may be thought proper to be communicated. I should be glad to know whether we have any Powder Mills in the State? Whether they are going, and supplied with saltpetre to keep them in motion? At present, indeed, if any should have been erected in the State of *Rhode-Island*, they may be stopped by the enemy having entered our State; but I hope so large a force will soon be (if it should not be already) collected as to give security to the town of *Providence*, and prevent them from making any incursions into our State, to confine them to *Rhode-Island*, if not expel them from thence, in which cases all mechanical business and manufactures may proceed.

In my last, of the 24th of this instant, notwithstanding the gloomy appearance of our publick affairs, I still expressed hopes that General *Washington* might be reinforced by the division under General *Sullivan*, and the Militia from the State of *Pennsylvania*, and thus reinforced be enabled to meet and drive the enemy from the *Jersey*. General *Sullivan* with his division, and some of the troops from *Ticonderoga*, whose time of inlistment had expired, under General *Gates*, have joined General *Washington*, and also some of the *Pennsylvania* Militia. This, and the glorious success of an enterprise well-planned by our General, and as well executed on the morning of the 26th, have elevated my hopes, and give good reason to expect that our cruel foes may be drove from *Jersey*. The President, I suppose, will send you an account of that enterprise; but least he should omit it, and as we have been for some time unsuccessful, and this noble

exploit may exhilarate the spirits of my countrymen under their present situation, I can't forbear enclosing you a handbill of the particulars, with some additions on the reverse made from General *Washington's* letter of the 27th. I heartily congratulate you on this noble, this unexpected event—an event which, though by no means decisive, yet by the spirit it will give to the troops in actual service, to the Militia in the neighbouring States, to our Army, and to all the *United States*, is of the greatest importance. I hope and don't doubt but that it will have a fine effect upon the troops which may be collected to support our State, and urge them on to some such enterprise, if they should have an opportunity to execute it. Among other things that fell into our hands by the victory at *Trenton*, were four standards, one of which is now in the room where the Congress is held, and directly before me. It is an *Hessian* silken standard. The battalions which were surprised and subdued were the regiments of *Landspatch*, *Kniphausen*, and *Rohl*. I would describe it, if I were acquainted with heraldry, and if it were of importance enough to engage your attention. In the centre of a green field of about four by five feet, is a decorated gilded circle, which encloses a lion rampant, with a dagger in his right paw, and this motto in the upper part of it, "*Nescit Pericula.*" The crest is a crown with a globe and cross upon it. In the corners are gilded decorated circles, with crowns and globes and crosses on their tops, and in their middle *F. L.* in cyphers. A broad blaze extends from the corners to the piece in the centre, and three small blazes are placed in the field: one in the middle of the side next the staff, one in the opposite side, and one in the midst of the lower side or bottom. How well the motto suits the conduct of the troops where it was once waved I shall leave, and you, sir, with this sincere wish, that the troops in our State may acquire like trophies, and that this successful, happy enterprise, may prove an omen of future decisive victory over our barbarous foes.

I continue to be, with the greatest esteem and consideration, your Honour's most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM ELLERY.

P. S. Enclosed you have a newspaper which contains the first number of Crisis: an animated useful performance, and which ought, in my opinion, be reprinted every where in *America*.

The express not going out so soon as was expected, gives me an opportunity to send you a printed copy of General *Washington's* letter, and the return of the prisoners, &c. What I have called a standard, may be only one of the colours mentioned in the return. There is a report that a body of our troops, under General *Heath*, had taken possession of *Hackensack* and *Fort Lee*, and captured one hundred and thirty prisoners, a number of Tories, &c., &c. I wish it may prove true. There indeed appears to be good ground to credit it. I was just now told by a gentleman who had conversed with the Aid-de-Camp who brought General *Washington's* letter, that his Excellency's horse was wounded under him, and that we had taken more prisoners than were mentioned in the return, and more arms.

W. E.

Hon'ble *Nicholas Cooke*, Esq.

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MEMORIAL OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ANTILL.

[Read December 31, 1776: Referred to the Board of War.]

*To the Honourable Continental Congress:*

*The Memorial of* EDWARD ANTILL, *Lieutenant-Colonel to the Regiment commanded by* MOSES HAZEN, *Esq., humbly showeth:*

That after the resolve of the honourable Congress of the 23d of *October* last, relative to the said regiment being recruited to its full complement upon its original establishment, the said *Moses Hazen* divided the duty between him and your memorialist, and left instructions to fill up eight companies in the Southern district, comprehending the States of *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, *Delaware*, *Maryland*, and *Virginia*. That your memorialist has since received further instructions from the said Colonel *Hazen* to issue recruiting orders to four or five companies more, and upon the whole had issued orders to ten Captains, all of whom have been strongly recommended, either by one or more of the honourable Members of Congress, or a General Officer under whom they had respectively served with reputation; that your memorialist has particularly recommended it to his several Captains in the different parts of the country in which they recruit, to look out for and conditionally bespeak such articles as would be proper and necessary for the clothing of their companies; that he has received information from them that many articles can be procured at a moderate rate. Your memorialist begs leave further to observe, that the companies from *Virginia*, *Maryland*, and the *Delaware* States, will pass through *Christiana-Bridge* town, where he humbly proposes they may be mustered by Colonel *Samuel Patterson*, who must be authorized for that purpose, and be further permitted to deliver to the respective companies such arms, accoutrements, and other military stores as they may have occasion for, in order to complete them for service. Your memorialist further observes, that a Paymaster has been recommended, who has offered two sufficient sureties for the faithful performance of his trust; your memorialist therefore prays the honourable Congress would point out the mode in which the security is to be given, and the sum for which the same is to be taken; and that they will further permit your memorialist to procure the clothing and necessaries for that part of the said regiment under his care, and be authorized to draw bills for the same upon such persons as the honourable Congress shall be pleased to appoint; and further indulge your memorialist in immediately receiving out of some of the Continental stores at , *Wilmington*, or *New-Port*, some few pieces of strong linen for the making and fitting trowsers, leggins, &c., for the men.

All which, if granted your memorialist, he humbly conceives will be for the benefit of the service, and speedy fitting the said regiment for duty.

And your memorialist shall ever pray.

EDW'D ANTILL, *Lt. Colonel.*

December 30th, 1776.

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PETITION OF ABRAHAM WINENT.

Baltimore, December 31st, 1776.

*To the honourable the Continental Congress:*

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to inform you that I was taken out of my bed in the night, from my house in *Staten-Island*, on the 19th *November*, and have been kept close prisoner at different places ever since, and am utterly ignorant what is or can be alleged against me for the cause of it, as from the situation of the place where I lived, it was entirely impossible for the inhabitants to take an active part on any side, being disarmed, and allowed to remain neuter by General *Washington*, and also by General *Howe* afterwards. I beg leave to inform your Honours, that I have suffered greatly in health, and in several other respects, since I was confined, being brought from my family, and not permitted to take with me a supply of common necessaries, or any clothes; I would therefore humbly beg leave to be heard, either before your Honours or any person whom you may appoint, and that your Honours would be pleased to discharge me from this close confinement, and allow me to return to my family and home; which is the earnest petition of, and will greatly oblige, honourable gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

ABRAHAM WINENT.

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PETITION OF PEIRCE HACKETT, AND OTHERS.

*To the honourable the gentlemen of the Continental Congress:*

*The humble Petition of the underneath persons most humbly sheweth:*

That your Honours' petitioners are indented servants to one *John Hart*, of *Baltimore* town, and each of your Honours' petitioners not having above one year and a half to serve, are willing to fight and serve under the honourable Congress in defence of the *United States of America*. Your Honours' petitioners being servants, are willing to allow our master to receive the bounty money for each of us, together with a reasonable part of our monthly pay, to the amount of the value of our time. The master of your Honours' petitioners has at sundry times beat, abused, and used ill your petitioners, for offering their service to fight for the country; we therefore, your Honours' most dutiful petitioners and servants, most humbly crave that you, the gen-

tlemen of the honourable Congress, will take our distressed situation into your wise consideration, so far as to gain us liberty to join in some company, as our hearts are free to fight in the cause of liberty; for life, without liberty, is worse than death.

Gentlemen of the honourable the Continental Congress, we remain your Honours' most dutiful, most faithful, and humble servants till death,

Peirce Hackett,
John Casey,
James Ryan,
Marma Duke Will'm McDonnell.

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PETITION OF WILLIAM CLOWSE.

*To the honourable Congress of the* United States:

*The Petition of* William Clowse *most humbly sheweth:*

That your petitioner is greatly distressed in his family, his wife having for these four months and upwards been lunatick, and having acted in the most violent manner, almost to madness; that your petitioner hath been obliged to employ sundry people constantly to attend her, she seldom having any intervals; that his said wife hath a son by a former husband, who hath turned the age appointed by Convention; that as all the Militia are departing hence, whereby your petitioner can have no person to assist him in the mad fits of his said wife, except her said son is allowed to stay behind, and no hospital for such being nigher than *Philadelphia*, your petitioner most humbly prays the said son of his said wife may be excused from going with the Militia at this time, as he hath no other to help and assist, and when his said wife is in fits, may set fire to his house, or murder deponent and small children; and your petitioner will pray, &c.,

William Clowse.

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PETITION OF JOHN CASEY.

*To the honourable and worthy* John Hancock:

The humble petition of *John Casey*, who has been unhappily trapanned to inlist in Captain *Team's* company, when very much in liquor, and am but a poor, unhealthy man, having a wife and small children; therefore, honoured sir, I hope you will consider the unhappy state of my poor, distressed family, whereas they had no other dependence more than what I earned by the loom, as I am unfit for any other business.

Worthy sir, it is plainly to be seen that I am no impostor; and if your Honour should think me fit for service, I am very willing, if there is any provision made for my poor family. Kind sir, I am willing to return the clothes and bounty, and will agree to serve any person that pays the same, and allow him half my earnings, and the other part for my family, until all is paid. Worthy sir, I hope you will consider my distress, and for your tender mercy I shall be on duty bound to pray.

John Casey.

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Baltimore, December 31, 1776.

On *Saturday* last arrived in town, from *Philadelphia*, the Hon. *Horatio Gates*, Esq., Major-General in the Continental Army, accompanied by Colonel *Donald Campbell* and Lieutenant-Colonel *Stuart*.

To the melancholy picture already exhibited of the brutal behaviour of the *Britons*, (who vainly boast of being "ever preeminent in mercy,") aided by *Hessian* and *Waldeck* mercenaries, in *New-York* and *New-Jersey*, it gives us pain to add, that they have not only outraged the feelings of humanity to many people who were so unhappy as to fall into their hands, particularly the fair sex, but have degraded themselves beyond the power of language to express, by wantonly destroying the curious water-works at *New-York*, an elegant publick library at *Trenton*, and the grand orrery made by the celebrated *Rittenhouse*, which was placed in the College at *Princeton*, a piece of mechanism which the most untutored savage, staying the hand of violence, would have beheld with wonder, reverence, and delight! Thus are our cruel enemies warring against liberty, virtue, and the arts and sciences. "How are the mighty fallen!"

One of the *Hessian* standards, taken in General *Washington's* late glorious enterprise at *Trenton*, was brought to town by the brave and worthy Colonel *Baylor*, and presented to the honourable President of the Congress.

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CAPTAIN COOK TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Philadelphia, December 31st, 1776.

Honoured Gentlemen: I wrote you on *Tuesday* last, and since that time the greatest part of the people I brought here is inlisted in the land service, for the sake of the twenty dollars bounty, and gone to the camp. Those who were sailors have entered in merchantmen, wages being extravagantly high. Since our arrival here, have been helping to fit out the *Delaware* two days past. Mr. *Morris* desired we should repair on board one of the row-galleys, and follow that part of the Army that's gone into the *Jerseys*. We made the attempt, but the ice prevented us from proceeding, upon which we were obliged to return. I have used every persuasive argument in my power to keep them together, but they complain of the want of clothes, and of their time being expired. I have not over twelve men with officers that is now willing to go to camp. I informed Mr. *Morris*, a few days ago, of my people's entering and going off, as there was no immediate call at *Philadelphia*. I wanted permission to return to the ship, with what men I had left. He did not approve of it, but signified what did not return to advertise. I shall, at my return, give you a list of those who are gone, and those who return with me.

I confess, had I known we were to have had a winter's campaign, I would have provided clothes for them. All that I expected was, to have done what was in my power for the present occasion, and to have returned to the ship in a short time. Agreeable to your instructions, I wait the pleasure of the Congress or Marine Board to return, or your orders for that purpose.

Yesterday there was nine hundred and fifty *Hessians* come to this town, prisoners, exclusive of commissioned officers; and it is reported, since these being taken, there is about three hundred men, with a *Hessian* Brigadier-General, made prisoners.

I am, honoured gentlemen, your humble servant,

Geo. Cook.

The honourable the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, at *Annapolis*.

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COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, December 31st, 1776.

Sir: We have the honour to enclose herein sundry resolves of Congress just received from *Baltimore* by express. We have barely time to read them over, and finding them so important we would not delay the express one moment. We find by these resolves your Excellency's hands will be strengthened with very ample powers, and a new reformation of the Army seems to have its origin therein. Happy it is for this country that the General of their forces can safely be entrusted with the most unlimited power, and neither personal security, liberty, or property, be in the least degree endangered thereby. We shall lose no time in executing the matters assigned us by these resolves; and are most truly, your Excellency's obedient servants,

Robt. Morris,
Geo. Clymer,
Geo. Walton.

His Excellency *George Washington*, Esq., General and Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c.

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COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS FOR TRANSACTING CONTINENTAL BUSINESS TO THOMAS NELSON.

Philadelphia, December 31, 1776.

Sir: You will find here an account of Mr. *Robert Jewell*, keeper of the Continental State Prison in this city, balance due him £252 6*s.* 4½*d.*; also his account for the salary of himself and assistants, £229 10*s.* We thought it best these accounts should go through the usual forms, and you'll be good enough to lay them before the Treasury Board, who will either pass them as they stand, or with such alterations as they may judge proper. Mr. *Jewell* is an honest, worthy man, indefatigable in a diligent execution of his duty.

We also enclose you an account of *John Biddle*, for sup-

*

porting prisoners at *Reading*, for settlement whereof the Council of Safety referred him to us; and as we have no rule to go by, he agreed to wait your returns on this head.

When these accounts are passed, if sent back to us, we will pay the parties agreeable to such directions as you may give; in the mean time we have advanced Mr. *Jewell* one thousand dollars in part of his demand; and remain, sir, your obedient, humble servants.

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CARPENTER WHARTON TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Philadelphia, December 31st, 1776.

SIR: I transmit you enclosed a copy of the instructions I have received from his Excellency General *Washington* for the laying in large magazines of provision in this State, at such places as per the enclosed orders; and as a very considerable sum of money is wanted for that immediate purpose, I request you will please to order the Treasurer to pay on my account to Mr. *Joseph Pennell*, Assistant Commissary, seventy thousand dollars, for the sole purpose of procuring necessary provisions to form the magazines.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

CARPENTER WHARTON.

The Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq.

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*To Mr. Commissary* WHARTON:

SIR: Lay in provision for twenty thousand men, at the following places and in the following quantities: At *York*, four months; at *Lancaster*, two ditto; at *Mill-Town*, ten days.

Besides the provisions at these places, which are to be considered as magazines, you should have some deposited on the roads leading from *Lancaster* to *Winchester*, in *Virginia*, and from the head of the Bay to *Alexandria*, in the same State, for the accommodation of the troops in their march from the Southern Colonies.

You shall also so far look round you as to know that there are in the vicinity of *Philadelphia*, and in the city itself, provision enough to serve ten thousand men at least six weeks; but there will be no occasion as yet for large purchases or large deposites in this quarter.

Given at Head-Quarters, *Bucks* County, this 21st *December*, 1776.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COMMITTEE AT LANCASTER.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 31, 1776.

SIR: The *Hessian* prisoners taken by General *Washington* on the morning of the 26th instant are ordered to *Lancaster*. They are to march from *Philadelphia* on the 2d of *January*. They seem perfectly ignorant of the nature of our present contest, and greatly dissatisfied with the service. General *Washington* has warmly recommended to have them well informed of the reasons of the war, and good principles infused into them, and we think it a matter of the greatest consequence. It will be very necessary to prevent our weak and over-zealous friends insulting or putting them in mind of their past behaviour. It is our interest to improve the present opportunity to make them our friends, and sow the seeds of dissension between them and the *British* troops. The *Germans*, by treating them as brethren and friends, may do the most essential service to our cause.

The Council are of opinion, that it might be proper to appoint persons of discretion for these purposes, to visit them occasionally, and that, for some time at least, no other persons should be allowed intercourse with them. A caution to the inhabitants how to conduct themselves on their arrival may not be improper. Little need be said to you on this subject: your own good sense will point out the most proper measures. The Council thought it necessary to give you this early information, that the barracks may be put into a condition to receive them immediately on their arrival.

By order of the Council.

I have the honour to be, with great respect, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *Pres't.*

P. S. This moment were brought into Council the colours belonging to the *Hessian* regiments, eight in number.

On *Monday* last seven of the Light-Horse belonging to this city performed an action truly gallant and worthy of freemen. They were sent to reconnoitre, and, if possible, to take a prisoner for intelligence. At a small distance from *Princeton* they fell in with ten of the enemy's Light-Horsemen and a Commissary, who were out on a party to wagons; seven of whom they took with their Commissary, and brought them safe to General *Washington* at *Trenton*. They are now on their way to this city.

To *William Atlee*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Inspection, &c., at *Lancaster*.

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO COMMITTEE AT LANCASTER.

In Council of Safety, Philadelphia, December 31, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your friendly and humane exertions to provide wagons to remove the inhabitants of this city and their effects, agreeable to the request of this Council, deserves our most grateful acknowledgments, and we are impressed with a due sense thereof. But as our arms, by the blessing of God, have been attended with an unexpected success, and opens a more happy prospect to the friends of *America*, which makes it unnecessary to remove any more stores or effects at this time but what can be removed by the wagons which will unavoidably leave, therefore we shall have no present occasion for any more from your County. You will please to return our thanks to those wagoners who are upon their way down, dismiss them from our service, and pay them what you think reasonable for the time they had been from home. Money shall be sent you for that purpose. We shall depend upon your justice and economy in this matter.

With the compliments of the season, and congratulations for the late victory, we conclude.

Your most humble servants.

By order of the Council:

THOS. WHARTON, Jun., *Pres't.*

To *William Atlee*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Inspection of *Lancaster*.

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Philadelphia, Tuesday, December 31, 1776.

By the last advices from the *Jerseys*, we learn the enemy are every where flying before our Army, who frequently take small parties of them. Since the affair at *Trenton*, it is said, we have taken four hundred, amongst whom are several officers.

Yesterday morning upwards of nine hundred *Hessians*, who were taken at *Trenton*, were brought to this city. The wretched condition of these unhappy men, most of whom, if not all, were dragged from their wives and families by a despotick and avaricious Prince, must sensibly affect every generous mind with the dreadful effects of arbitrary power.

Last *Monday* seven of the Light-Horse belonging to this city took nine Light-Horsemen from the enemy, near *Prince-Town*, without firing a gun.

Last *Thursday* afternoon Colonel *Rohl* died at *Trenton*, of the wounds he received that morning.

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BENJAMIN RUSH TO RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Near Bristol, December 21, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Wherever I go I bear in my mind the small share of the weight of our dear country's happiness which the State of *Pennsylvania* hath committed to my care. I wish sometimes to throw my mite into the councils of the Congress, but as this is impossible for the present, I beg leave to suggest such things as have occurred to me, in my passage through *Philadelphia* to this place, and submit it to your good sense to make any use of them you may think proper. I need not inform you of the general disposition of the people, in and near *Philadelphia*, to refuse Continental money, upon the late prospect of General *Howe's* getting possession of the city. General *Putnam* threatening to confine such people as refused it, and declaring the debt for which the money was offered to be void, produced only a temporary remedy against the evil. People who had goods refused to sell them, and men who had money out at interest either refused to give up bonds, or kept out of the way when Continental money was offered for them. The Legislatures of *America* look up to Congress for a remedy equal

to the danger of the disease. Suppose you recommend to every State to make a law, not only to forfeit the debt for which our money is offered, but to fine the person who refuses it severely: this will be more effectual than imprisonment, which, from becoming so common from Tory practices, has now lost its infamy. The punishment in this case strikes directly at that principle in human nature, which is the source of the contempt into which our money has fallen—I mean avarice, and a want of publick spirit. Pray don't let this matter be neglected; our salvation hangs upon it. I tremble every time I think of the danger of the further progress of the refusal of our money.

Connected with the above subject is the state of the Loan Office; if possible, let the resolutions for the last emission of five millions of dollars be cancelled. I hope that it will be the last resolution of that kind that will appear on our journals. If it is not, the whole Continent must complain of our injustice, in allowing only four per cent. for the money now deposited in the Loan Office, unless we can give positive assurance that we shall pay it in hard money.

I have learnt from many people, and among others from two *New-England* officers, that the four Eastern States will find great difficulty in raising their quota of men, owing to that excessive rage for privateering, which now prevails among them. Many of the Continental troops now in our service pant for the expiration of their inlistments, in order that they may partake of the spoils of the *West-Indies*. At a moderate computation, there are now not less than ten thousand men belonging to *New-England*, on board privateers. *New-England* and the Continent cannot spare them. They have a right at this juncture to their services and to their blood. We must have an Army; the fate of *America* must be decided by an Army. It must consist of seventy or eighty thousand men, and they must all be fit for the field before the first day of *May* next. Since the captivity of General *Lee*, a distrust has crept in among the troops, of the abilities of some of our General Officers high in command. They expect nothing now from Heaven-taught and book-taught Generals. I hope in our next promotions we shall disregard seniority. *Stevens* must be made a Major-General; he has genius as well as knowledge. *Mercer* must not be neglected; he has the confidence of the troops.

Yours, BENJAMIN RUSH.

*Richard Henry Lee*, Esq., Member of Congress.

P. S. Congress must take up the affairs of our money wholly. It is a national concern; Legislatures are too distant, too languid, and, in many States, too incompletely formed for that purpose.

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### COLONEL CADWALADER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Crosswix, 31st December, 1776.

SIR: A very intelligent young gentleman is returned just now from *Prince-Town*. He left this yesterday morning, and got in about twelve or one o'clock. He would have returned last night, but General *Lesley*, who commands, and Colonel *Abercrombie*, would not suffer him to go off. He made his escape this morning early, and informs that, from the best information he could get, there were about five thousand men, consisting of *Hessians* and *British* troops—about the same number of each. I have made a rough draft of the road from this place, the situation of the cannon and works begun, and those intended, this morning. He thinks there are not so many as they report. He conversed with some of the officers, and lodged last night with them (*Americans.*) They inquired what were our numbers; he mentioned about sixteen thousand, from the best accounts. They did not believe we had more than five or six thousand; that many were forced into the service, and that they were deserting in great numbers every day. No sentries on the back or east side of the town. They parade every morning an hour before day, and some nights lie on their arms. An attack has been expected for several nights past. The men much fatigued, and, till last night, in want of provisions, when a very considerable number of wagons arrived with provisions from *Brunswick*. All their baggage sent to *Brunswick*, where there are but few men. This confirms the account I sent you last night. About fifty Light-Horse at *Prince-Town*, one half quartered at *Scudder's* Mill, the other on the west of the town. He inquired if any troops were on the road. They say there are none on this side *Brunswick*. Some *Hessians* arrived yesterday ('tis said from *Brunswick*.) I suppose they were those landed at *South-Amboy*, as I cannot hear any thing of them in this neighbourhood.

A party of our Light-Horse brought in this morning to *Cranberry*, about thirty cattle, left by the *Hessians*, in general poor.

I received your letter last night by express. Our spy was near the party of Chasseurs when they were taken, and says an Assistant Quartermaster-General or Commissary was with them. The enemy had heard it. Major *Griffin* is just setting off with a party of two hundred from *Cumberland*.

I am, sir, with great respect, your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN CADWALADER.

Major *Nicholas*, of Marines, informs me that Colonel *Elisha Lawrence* (late Sheriff of *Monmouth*) is now collecting men at *Monmouth* Court-House. He has got together about seventy men. He has put twenty men into prison for refusing to bear arms. The person who brings the intelligence flew. Major *Nicholas* is desirous of going after *Lawrence's* party. I think it is not an object at this time, and have refused the application till I have your orders.

Yours, &c., &c., J. C.

His Excellency General *Washington*, Head-Quarters.

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### GENERAL WASHINGTON TO ROBERT MORRIS.

Trenton, December 31st, 1776.

SIR: Our affairs are at present in a most delicate, though I hope a fortunate situation. But the great and radical evil, which pervades our whole system, and, like an axe at the tree of our safety, interest, and liberty, here again shows its baleful influence. To-morrow the Continental troops are all at liberty. I wish to push our success to keep up the panick, and in order to get their assistance, have promised them a bounty of ten dollars, if they will continue for one month. But here again a new difficulty presents itself: We have not money to pay the bounty, and we have exhausted our credit by such frequent promises, that it has not the weight we could wish. If it be possible, sir, to give us assistance, do it. Borrow money where it can be done. We are doing it upon our private credit. Every man of interest, every lover of his country, must strain his credit upon such an occasion. No time, my dear sir, is to be lost.

I am, most obediently and sincerely, dear sir, your very humble servant,

GO. WASHINGTON.

The bearer will escort the money.

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### GOVERNOUR TRYON TO LORD GEORGE GERMAIN.

New-York, 31st December, 1776.

MY LORD: Last *Sunday* evening Mr. *Wallace* and Mr. *Jauncey*, two of his Majesty's Council of this Province, with several other inhabitants thereof, came to town from *Connecticut*, having been discharged by Governour *Trumbull* from their confinement upon the express obligation of not taking up arms against *America*, and to return to their captivity if required. By these gentlemen I understand the temper of the warmest patriots in *Connecticut* is much softened, and that they wish for peace; they also tell me, from the intelligence they had opportunities to collect, they are positive a majority of the inhabitants of *Connecticut* river are firm friends to Government. This report I can give the more credit to, from the number of *Connecticut* men that inlist in the Provincial corps now raising.

The Rebels carrying off the *Hessian* brigade under Colonel *Rall*, at *Trenton*, has given me more real chagrin than any other circumstance this war. The moment was critical, and I believe the Rebel chiefs were conscious if some stroke was not struck that would give life to their sinking cause, they should not raise another Army. Unlucky as was this loss, I have received great comfort by the assurances General *Heister* and General *Kniphausen* have given me, (who are most sincerely and deeply mortified at the event,) that the Rebels will not, with all their arts, be able to seduce the *Hessian* prisoners from their allegiance to their Prince and

duty to his Majesty. I trust this tarnish to the campaign, will in due season be wiped away by some brilliant enterprise of the King's forces, who entertain the keenest sense of the insult.

I am, with all possible respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient, and very humble servant,

WM. TRYON.

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GENERAL HEATH TO MAJOR SMITH.

Peek's Kill, December 31st, 1776.

SIR: I have just received information that a number of persons are going to join the enemy this or to-morrow night, and that they are to rendezvous near the house of one *Joseph Bright*. I desire the exertion of your utmost endeavours to seize them. Captain *Sacket*, the bearer of this, will aid and assist you. You will post parties where it is most likely for them to pass, which most probably will be in the by-roads.

I am, sir, your humble servant, W. HEATH.

Major *Smith*.

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SENTENCE OF COURT-MARTIAL.

December 31st, 1776.

At a General Court-Martial, by order of Major-General *Heath*, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before them, Colonel *Wyllys*, President.

Members.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant-Colonel *Hall*, | Captain *Shipman*, |
| Major *Billings*, | Captain *Scott*, |
| Captain *Mills*, | Captain *Oliver*, |
| Captain *Venton*, | Captain *Steward*, |
| Captain *Bartlett*, | Captain *Stotenborough*, |
| Captain *Siller*, | Captain *Prouty*. |
| Captain *Speakman*, | |

Captain *Jedediah Hide*, Judge-Advocate.

The above Court met according to adjournment, and adjourned to *December* 31st, at nine o'clock in the morning.

The Court being met according to adjournment,

*John Young*, of Captain *Vanttenburg's* company, Colonel *Graham's* regiment, brought before the Court, and charged with calling Captain *Barlow* "A dam'd Yankee," and challenging him to fight. Pleads Not guilty.

The Court are of opinion he be dismissed for want of evidence.

*John Eames*, of Captain *Persivall's* company, Colonel *Huntington's* regiment, brought before the Court for attempting to steal a horse. Pleads Not guilty.

The Court are of opinion he be released for want of evidence.

SAM'L WYLLYS, *President*.

Approved per W. HEATH, *M. General*.

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COLONEL WILLETT TO COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Fishkill, December 31, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: As the appointment of Ensigns in our battalion is not completed, I beg leave to recommend *Christopher Hutton*, a young man late of the city of *New-York*, who served during the last campaign in Colonel *Malcomb's* battalion, a Sergeant in Captain *Brasher's* company, with great credit, as I have been informed by sundry officers of said battalion. At a time when there are so large a number looking out for appointments, I should not mention any person, was I not very well acquainted with this young man, and did I not personally know him to be of great merit for a youth of his opportunities, and that he has such virtue as is too seldom to be found in our days. His military talents, I have reason to believe from good accounts, are such as promises him to be an ornament to the Army.

I am, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

MARINUS WILLETT.

To the Committee of Arrangements.

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RESOLVES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF NEW-YORK.

In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, December 31st, 1776. }

Your Committee appointed to examine Captain *Ford*, Sergeant *Hathway*, Sergeant *Trip*, and Corporals *Sears* and *Gray*, belonging to Captain *Ford's* company of artificers, who were sent by order of General *Heath* to the Convention, on accusation of plundering the house of *Talman Pugsley* of sundry effects, report, that they have examined the said prisoners and divers witnesses, and find that Captain *Phineas Ford* plundered the house of *Talman Pougsley*, (and by order of the said Captain *Ford*:) that the plunder was afterwards divided by his order, of which he received his share and sent it to *Stamford*, in *Connecticut*, as appears by the notes of the examinations of the witnesses hereunto annexed; that the said Captain *Ford* has been guilty of the several facts alleged against him; but that the said two Sergeants and Corporals, having acted in some measure by order of their Captain, be discharged.

*Ordered*, That Sergeant *Hathway*, Sergeant *Tripp*, Corporal *Sears*, and Corporal *Gray*, of Captain *Ford's* company, be discharged from the custody of the guard.

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In Committee of Safety for the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, January 1st, 1777. }

*Ordered*, That Captain *Stewart*, of Colonel *Dubois's* regiment, send a Corporal with a small guard to convey Captain *Phineas Ford* to *Poughkeepsie* Gaol, and safely deliver him to the Keeper of said Gaol.

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By the Committee of Safety of the State of New-York, }
Fishkill, January the 1st, 1777. }

*To the Keeper of the Common Gaol of* DUTCHESS *County*:

Whereas it appears to the Committee of Safety, that Captain *Phineas Ford* is charged on oath with having feloniously plundered the goods and chattels of *Talmon Pougsley*, *John Martin*, and sundry other subjects of this State, in the County of *Westchester*, you are therefore hereby commanded to receive into your custody the body of the said *Phineas Ford*, and him safely keep in the Gaol aforesaid until he shall be thence delivered by due course of law.

By order of the Committee of Safety:

ABM. TEN BROECK, *President*.

Extract from the Minutes.

JOHN MCKESSON, *Secretary*.

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H. GLEN TO MAJOR FONDA.

Schenectady, 31st December, 1776.

SIR: I have express orders from General *Schuyler* to send the bearer, who goes express, for a return of what provisions there is at your post, and the number of men there is victualled. You will not detain him, but furnish him with a return as soon as possible.

I am, sir, your humble servant, H. GLEN.

To Messrs. Major *Fonda*, *Degraff*, and *John Post*, at *Fort Dayton*.

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MEMORIAL FROM DANIEL TUCKER.

*To his Excellency Major-General* PHILIP SCHUYLER, *Esq., commanding the Troops of the* UNITED STATES, *Northern Department, &c., &c., &c.:*

Your Excellency's memorialist begs leave to lay before you his grievances. My former services you are not unacquainted with. I being an inhabitant of *Canada*, living at *St. John's*, on the lands of *Jno. Christie*, when your Army came into *Canada*, was not only a very great sufferer in having my hay fields and household furniture destroyed, but was made prisoner by Major *Preston*, of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of *British* troops, and kept in confinement in the fort of *St. John's* eight weeks, till the happy surrender to General *Montgomery*. His former knowledge of me induced him to appoint me Assistant Quartermaster-General for the department of *Montreal*. The unfortunate necessity of retreating out of *Canada*, was ordered to proceed with the Army, obliged to leave all I was possessed of and retreat with my family to *Ticonderoga*, where General *Gates* had all his Staff Officers. Was then ordered to settle my accounts with the Commissioners for that purpose; have ever since waited impatiently to be called upon for service, but seeing no appearance of it my friends advised me to make this application. Must, therefore, beg your Excellency to provide for me, either staff or military, which will be acknowledged by your most obedient and very humble servant,

DAN'L TUCKER.

MAJOR MALMEDY TO GOVERNOUR COOKE.

31st December, 1776.

Sir: You have done me the honour to give me the inspection in the distribution of the artillery. Permit me to propose my observations. I think it may be necessary that all the cannon be collected in a proper place, that's called a park of artillery: there the number may be known; the commanding officer may inspect them, their proof, and their carriages, and may discover at one view every thing that may be wanting, as they contain many necessaries. My advice is, that you desire the commanding officers of the artillery from *Boston* and *Rhode-Island* immediately this day seek some proper place near the back parts of this town, where a road may be open, or is made easy for the transporting the cannon. There should be there a house to place the guard. I should ask the liberty of those gentlemen to view the ground when it is chosen. There may be transported there, if you please, the pieces of artillery, and there on the wharves that belong to the shipping. Each proprietor may have his cannon marked. The commanding officer will give him a receipt for them. There they may be found whenever they are wanted. It is indispensably necessary, to prevent what may occasion confusion in the most pressing moments, and avoid the loss of those pieces. I presume the same precaution has been used respecting the sails of the shipping. You are sensible, sir, how valuable and scarce sail duck is in *America*.

I am, with respect, your most humble and most obedient servant,

Malmedy.

Translated from the original. J. Clarke.

PASS FOR FELIX POWEL.

Guy Carleton, *Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's Province of* Quebeck, *&c., &c., &c., General and Commander-in-Chief of his Majesty's Forces in said Province and the frontiers thereof, &c., &c., &c.*

To all concerned:

Permit the bearer hereof, *Felix Powel*, to pass from hence to *Onion River*, to his place of abode, and there to remain; it being intended that all persons remaining as peaceable subjects, in their proper places of residence, should be suffered to continue there without molestation or hindrance, they behaving as becometh.

Given under my hand, at *Crown-Point*, this 31st day of *December*, 1776.

Guy Carleton.

By his Excellency's command: E. Foy.

NAMES OF THE MEN THAT WERE AGAINST COMING AWAY FROM ONION RIVER IN THE TIME OF THE RETREAT.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Isaac Rude, | W. Cox, | Jona. Clawson, |
| Joseph Jerreway, | George Olds, | Aaron Miller, |
| Rodrick Messenger, | Zachariah Eddy, | Parrish Colbun, |
| John Roberts, | John Whalen, | Joseph Jarway, |
| Capt. Jona. Fassett, | Ira Rude, | Levis Miller, |
| Lieut. Thos. Lee, | Eldad Anders, | Sam'l Chamberlin, |
| Lieut. Abra. Salsbury, | Abner Mede, | Rich'd Barnum, |
| Sergt. John Mott, | Richard Barnam, | Andrew Potter, |
| Sergt. Isaac Martin, | Samuel Chamberlain, | Sam'l Carre, |
| Sergt. Nathan Pratt, | Britton Simonds, | Stephen Remington, |
| Co. Nath'l Blancker, | John May, | Thomas Bently, |
| Co. Nath'l Brown, Jr., | Zebulon Moses, | Dr. Nathan Foot, |
| Co. Jos. Barker, | Benj. Whipple, | Daniel Foot, |
| Dr. Reuben Kameston, | John Smith, | Israel Amis, |
| Elijah Branch, | Benja. Johnson, | Jehiel Griger, |
| Thomas Tupper, | Joshua Pratt, | James Bently, |
| Benj. Anders, | Benedict Alford, | Joseph Brown, |
| Britton Simmons, | Waight Right, | Roddrwick Meshinger, |
| Eseck Mosher, | Sam'l Beach, | Isaac Rude, |
| Jabe Clusted, | Jesse Keller, | Jesse Weldon, |
| John Byington, | John Bishop, | Timothy Bishop, |
| Edward Owen, | Silas Rude, | Jonah Moses. |
| Hopkins Rowley, | | |

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO RHODE-ISLAND COMMITTEE.

Boston, December 31, 1776.

Gentlemen: From the present situation of our affairs to the southward we are left entirely at a loss what will be the object of, or whether the reinforcements lately sent from this State will meet with any general directions for their operations. Things are so circumstanced that we can't suppose they can either join General *Washington* or receive any orders from him; and our intelligence is so imperfect that we are not able to learn whether there are any Continental Generals left on this side *New-York* to command them. Under these circumstances, we have thought proper to forward to General *Lincoln* a letter, copy of which is here enclosed, with discretionary orders, grounded on intelligence we think we may rely on. You will perceive by the letter the substance of the intelligence received, and that which we suppose the design of the expedition to *Rhode-Island* was only a feint to keep back the reinforcements from these States. We conceive it possible to turn the tables upon them in our turn, and by attacking *New-York* or its environs, oblige them at least to recall some part of their forces for its defence. You will please to communicate this plan to the gentlemen assembled with you from the other States, that if it be approved of, they may adopt it with regard to their Militia. Whether a sufficient number of the *British* troops have returned from *Rhode-Island* to *New-York*, or any other circumstance has taken place to render this attempt either impracticable or too hazardous, you may be better able to judge than we are, but certainly no exertions should be wanting to retrieve the shattered situation of our affairs, and wipe off the disgrace of suffering twelve thousand troops to traverse the whole extent of one of the *United States* without interruption.

To the Hon'ble *Thos. Cushing*, *Tristram Dalton*, and *Azor Orne*, Esqs., Committee at *Providence*.

MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY TO GENERAL LINCOLN.

Boston, December 31st, 1776.

Sir: As the troops belonging to this State under your command are on their way to rendezvous at *Danbury*, in *Connecticut*, you will, perhaps, be at a loss how to direct your further motion; and as we have lately been informed that *New-York* is at present in a very defenceless state, by reason of such a large body of the *British* Army proceeding to the *Delaware*, and it has been suggested to us that an advantageous attack might be made on that city, whereby many of our suffering fellow-countrymen might be liberated from a wretched captivity, at least an attempt of that sort might make diversion in the rapid progress of General *Howe's* Army to *Philadelphia*, you will, sir, think it proper to turn your mind on this subject, and coöperate with Generals *Spencer* and *Worcester*, who are probably on this side the *North River*, in a matter of that importance; and as we have the greatest assurance of your disposition to exert yourself in the defence of your country, shall leave it to your good discernment to conduct as the exigency of the case may require.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL TO GENERAL LINCOLN.

Boston, December 31, 1776.

Sir: The Secret Committee of Congress, by their letter of the , having desired that the clothing purchased by this State for the Continental Army might be delivered to Mr. *Abra. Livingston*, if Mr. *Livingston* should think it necessary that it should be escorted through the States of *New-York* and the *Jerseys*, to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy, you will please to furnish a sufficient escort for that purpose.

In the name and by order of the honourable the Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

John Avery, *Dp'y Sec'y*.

General *Lincoln*.

Boston, December 31, 1776.

Sir: Enclosed is a copy of the Council's letter to General *Lincoln*, which will inform you what they have ordered relative to an escort for the clothing intended for the Continental Army. If you judge an escort necessary, you will apply to him for one.

By order of the honourable the Council of *Massachusetts* State. From your most humble servant,

John Avery, *Dp'y Sec'y*.

Mr. *Abra. Livingston*.

P. S. *Dec.* 31, 1776.—Since the foregoing, Mr. *Throop* has received a letter from *Machias*, giving an account that a body of the enemy had relieved *Fort Cumberland*, dispersed those that had besieged it, and had burnt and destroyed the houses and property of the neighbouring inhabitants; the further particulars of which you will be informed of by a copy of the said letter enclosed.

PETITION OF PATIENCE CAPEN.

*To the honourable the Council and honourable House of Representatives of the State of* MASSACHUSETTS-BAY, *in General Court assembled:*

*The Petition of* PATIENCE CAPEN, *of* BOSTON, *humbly shews:*

That her husband, *Hopestill Capen*, being charged as inimical to his country, on the sixth day of *August* last, was convened before the Court of Inquiry, and by them committed close prisoner in the common gaol in *Boston*, where he still remains. That although your petitioner's said husband signed certain obnoxious papers, in which he declares he acted from the principles of his religion and the dictates of conscience, by "submitting to the powers that be," yet he never had in his heart the least intention of taking up arms against his country, but, on the contrary, exerted himself, and was actually the means of securing and saving the property and interest to a very considerable value of several of the inhabitants of *Boston*, who removed out of town, and left their interest and property exposed to the ravage and plunder of our enemies. That by means of the long confinement of her said husband in the gaol, she and her children have suffered great distress.

Your humble petitioner would therefore implore your Honours so far to compassionate the melancholy and distressed situation and circumstances of her said husband, herself, and children, as to order him to be released from his confinement, that so your petitioner and her children may have the comfort and benefit of his assisting in obtaining a support for them.

And as in duty bound, she will pray, &c.,

PATIENCE CAPEN.

In Council, October 22, 1776.

Read and sent down: JOHN AVERY, *Dp'y Sec'y.*

In the House of Representatives, November 25, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the within Petition be granted, and that he, the said *Hopestill Capen*, be liberated from the gaol in the town of *Boston*, said *Hopestill* recognizing before some Justice of the Peace for the County of *Suffolk*, with one or more sureties, in the sum of one hundred pounds, for his personal appearance before the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the County of *Suffolk* at their next session, to answer such matters and things as may be exhibited against him in behalf of this State, and in the mean time to be of good behaviour towards all the good people of this State.

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We, the subscribers, inhabitants of *Boston*, do hereby certify, that Mr. *Hopestill Capen* is well known to us, and we have esteemed him to be an honest and peaceable citizen; some of us in particular, have experienced his kind and faithful services in securing and saving our interest and property when we were out of the town; and we all join with the petitioner that he may be released from gaol and restored to his family.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jona. Williams, | Elizer Callender, | Edward Payne, |
| John Bradford, | Jacob Williams, | Josiah Oakes, |
| John Read, | Philip Freeman, | Ezek. Price, |
| Wm. Turner, | Andrew Symmes, | William Gooch, |
| John Sweetser, Jr., | Edward Kneeland, | John Rogers, |
| Jno. Andrews, | Joseph Loring, | Duncan Ingraham, |
| Charles Miller, | Ebenezer Dorr, | Th. Blodget, |
| Peter Dalton, | John Hinckley, | John Coburn, |
| John Head, | Joseph Hall, | Martin Ricker, |
| Nat. Barber, | John Kneeland, Jr., | Job Prince, |
| Moses Grant, | Thos. Handasyd Peck, | Jas. Carter, |
| John Welsh, | Joseph Coolidge, | Nicho. Lobdell, |
| Joseph Bradford, | William Davis, | Steph. Hall, |
| Joseph How, | Daniel Boyer, | Samuel Downe, |
| John Scollay, | John Soley, | John Griffith, |
| Henry Bromfield, | Jer. Stimson, | William Miller, |
| Timo. Newell, | Benj. Louder, | William Hawes, |
| Samuel Whitwell, | Ephraim May, | John Ingersoll, |
| Edward Gyles, | Samuel Ruggles, | William Bordman, |
| Chas. Williams, | Andrew Oliver, | David Spear, |
| G. B. Gedney, | Steph. Whiting, | Peter Boyer, |
| John Lucas, | Jona. Mountfort, | William Leate, |
| Benj. Barnard, | John Coolidge, | Joseph Spear, |
| H. S. Webb, | William Dawes, | Paul Spear, |
| Thos. Fleet, | Samuel Dashwood, | Simon Elliot, |
| Job Wheelright, | Robert Ruggles, | Step. Bruce, |
| Edward Blanchard, | Cornelius Thayer, | Wm. Foster, |
| Gustavus Fellows, | Isaac Smith, | Joshua Fico, |
| Will. Powell, | Isaac Pierce, | Poole Spear, |
| Samuel Paine, | Tho. Boylston, | Henry Bass. |

The following was written with an expectation that I should have the liberty to lay the same before the Court of Inquiry, before whom I was impeached as an enemy to my country, and cast into prison in *Boston*, 6th *August*, 1776; but it has been said by some I was not rightly understood, and if opportunity be given me to open my simple meaning to the Court, and I am restored to my just right of liberty, cause of complaint will end; and if not, this will serve to inform all whom it may concern, the principles I acted upon; and if I am to be confined in prison for that I cannot in conscience do, it will be happy for me if I am indeed taught to suffer with patience.

*To the Court of Inquiry.*

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT: Upon a deliberate review of what passed in my examination before the Court, I am greatly surprised that after the sober reasons I thought I had given the Court, in answer to the accusation brought against me, of aiding and abetting those called enemies to the Colonies, that I was so hastily ordered to close jail; and though I earnestly requested that I might be admitted to bail, it was utterly refused, though I could easily have got reputable inhabitants, men of property, who were not accused of being enemies to the Colonies, but hearty friends, that would have been bound in any sum for my peaceable behaviour during the time the Court should order; but lest the Court might have misunderstood me in my answers to them, I therefore think it most proper to commit my answers in writing, in hopes the Court will take the same into consideration, and liberate me from my present situation, which would be a very unhappy one if I was not conscious to myself that my present commitment arises, not from my having been guilty of the breaches of any law of my Maker or my country. And I am assured from the highest authority, Where there is no law there is no transgression; even from that Authority who spake all things into being, and who alone can give true peace to any conscience. And as this is a matter of conscience only with me, by which nothing but God's revealed word in the Scriptures are any sure guide, and as I understand them, I am bound in conscience to conduct. However, some do say the voice of the People is the voice of God; in this I must dissent from them, let it offend who it will, because we are assured in the Scriptures, that the voice of great multitudes, with their boldest assertions, have in the end proved to be altogether false, and no other than the delusions of the grand Apostate, the God of this world; while the sayings of those who were few in number, and were looked on by the great and wise men of this world to be foolish, poor, ignorant, base, and some of them were called petulant fellows—a set that was every where spoken against, turning the world upside down, &c.; but in the end was found to be, that they were taught by the God of Heaven, who speaketh in the Scriptures, of whom it is testified in 40th chapter *Isaiah*, 15th, and onward: Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance. All nations are before Him as nothing, and they are counted to Him less than nothing and vanity. It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the Heavens, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers, &c. And for this reason I am warranted to hear the God who speaketh in Scriptures, before the voice of the people, however foolish I may appear to the great and wise men of this enlightened age of the world; being assured that by the Scriptures I shall be judged on the other side of the grave, and by them I am commanded not to fear them that can kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do; but to fear Him who is able to cast both soul and body into hell. Yea, I say unto you, fear Him, is the command of the God who speaks in the Scriptures. But as to the charge of my being an enemy to my country, no accusation can be more unjust; for I think every person acquainted with me can testify to the strong attachment and love I have to my country, and should choose to live in it if I could without being persecuted for that which in my conscience I cannot do. But as to the base, unkind, diabolical interpretations of some, that I only wait to see which will be the strongest side, and then join that, the simplicity of the Scriptures, which my conscience is bound to attend to, forbids my acting in any such crafty, deceitful way. For I do not think, if I was to take up arms against the King, whom I twice solemnly swore to be faithful to, (I mean when I took commissions in the Militia under former Governours.) and thereby perjure myself, and after that be taken by the King's Army, that I should have

more to fear, if so much, as I now have to fear, in dissenting from some of my countrymen. But I soberly testify that I am not seeking to carry any thing in favour of my own opinion, or any thing or party whatever; but that I fear what will take place on the other side of the grave. But if I am left to my own natural choice, I shall fully join in any thing to shun the cross, which ever was and ever will be connected with the simple attention to the Scriptures, without hearing to the private interpretations of the best skilled in making themselves popular by their interpretations, even those that come the nearest to the grand Deceiver of mankind, in their bold assertions that God hath not said it.

But had I not been checked by the command of God in the Scriptures to the disciples of Christ, Be subject to the higher powers, for there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God, and he that resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God and shall receive to himself judgment, &c., (and many other passages of Scripture similar to this are binding on my conscience,) I should have been one of the foremost in opposing the measures of the *British* Parliament. But I do not mean by this to bring an accusation against my own countrymen, nor have I a stone to cast at any one; neither do I say that my countrymen are obliged, nor could be by any human power or authority, to take the same view of such passages of Scripture, as my conscience obliges me to; neither do I think myself in any ways bound in conscience to become an informer against my country, nor any individuals in it, but to act a contrary part, and to be subject to all the laws that are made that are not contrary to the laws of my Maker. And it never was known that any of those that was really governed by the plain, simple Scriptures, that they were bad members of society. They are no busybodies in other men's matters, nor will they be stirring up the people, nor be dangerous persons to go at large. And no States have any just reason to fear any hurt from those few, poor, foolish, low-spirited mortals, for they are so foolish as never to expect any thing great will be their lot in this world, whatever revolutions may take place; but they are assured, whatever may be the lot of others by revolutions, they are to be the undermost of all, and to be counted the filth and offscouring of all things in this world; and their only hope is to be at the time when the grand revolution will take place, when He who was crucified in weakness, who has testified that He will come again in the clouds of Heaven, and every eye shall see Him, &c.

But concerning the present state of matters; whenever it shall appear to my conscience that a change of Government has taken place, and is so established that the power is of God, I shall know myself to be as tenaciously bound to adhere to God's law, respecting being subject to that power, and to do what I can for its support with cheerfulness; and how near such a change is I cannot tell, or if it will ever be, time alone will bring forth. But if the Court wants to know if I will sign such a declaration for them as signed for the King, I answer, I will with cheerfulness, when it shall appear to my conscience that the power is of God. In this I mean to give my simple meaning without evasion; and so I did before, not expecting the frown of the Court for dealing in the simplicity of my conscience, and by that cast into prison. But by some it is said that I chose to go to prison, which is utterly false; but this I say: it is much better to be in prison, if enlargement is not to be obtained on no other conditions than making shipwreck of a good conscience. But I hope the Court will see that no good can come in the end from putting me in prison, and thereby keep me from supporting myself and family, and the discharging my just debts, which, in my view, is wicked and unreasonable; and all that know the true state of this matter, will give a true verdict, however I may be dealt with, for I know I am in the power of the Court. But the Scriptures countenance me in speaking with plainness; but surely a prison never made any one that was taught to fear the God who speaketh in the Scriptures, to depart from that which he could not with a good conscience; but, like the true gold, lose nothing by being tried in the fire. But I have the greatest reason to fear that in the end I shall prove reprobate silver; but I know not on what principle of equity any court under Heaven can keep me in prison. But if my understanding the Scriptures in a different view from any of my countrymen, make any of my countrymen enemies to me, I am forbidden by the Scriptures to be an enemy to any one of them, but am commanded to pray for them that hate, despitefully use, and persecute me, and pray for my country, and seek its peace and good, which I am bound in conscience to do.

I am, with due submission, gentlemen, your humble servant,

HOPESTILL CAPEN.

Boston Gaol, August 29, 1776.

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Boston Prison, 30th December, 1776.

SIR: It is now one hundred and forty-seven days since you, with *John Hill*, *Joseph Gardner*, and *Samuel Pemberton*, Esqrs., accused and judged me unfit to go at large, for no other cause whatever than my plainly and simply pleading conscience in obeying the plain Scripture commands; and for that only, you, with the other three of my accusers, committed me to close prison in a felon's room, there to be kept until delivered by a due course of law. Can any one with truth say this is not unjust, and against the law of the God of Heaven, who speaketh in the Scriptures? Is there any law that forbids any man's obeying the plain commands of the great Lawgiver, who is the Maker and Judge of all men? If any such law there be, them that made it, and all that obey it, and attempt to execute it on any man against his conscience, will act wisely the whole of the second Psalm, of which I mention the third and fourth verses only: "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision," &c. Pray what do you mean by a due course of law? Do you mean that I shall be tortured, by being kept in prison, until that I will, contrary to a plain Scripture command, and the verdict of my conscience, knowingly break the commands of my Maker? If I have the fear of God before my eyes, I shall not dare to do it; neither to do any thing that will import that I have done wrong in obeying the Scriptures. If I should do any such thing for the sake of obtaining my present enlargement, and say that what you have done is right, and if all the inhabitants of the Globe was to join with me, they would not make it right. Prov. xi., 21: "Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished;" and I have far more to fear from Him who hath "power to cast both soul and body" into the prison of hell, than I have to fear from your power.

But I shall be very glad of my just liberty; and I beg that you will not persecute me any longer for that I cannot in conscience do. Can you, on a cool reflection, take any pleasure in such tyranny, while you profess to be the supporters of liberty? What liberty is dear as the liberty of conscience? And I again beg of you to release me from such cruel oppression.

I am, with due respect, HOPESTILL CAPEN.

P. S. Surely injustice continued will not atone for past wrongs; and I most heartily entreat you not to keep me away any longer from my just and lawful liberty.

Mr. *Jos. Greenleaf.*

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Boston, December 31, 1776.

SIR: I think it my duty to lay before the honourable House three papers, one directed to the High Sheriff, one to the Keeper of the Gaol, Mr. *Otis*, and the other to myself; all of them signed by *Hopestill Capen*. I must beg the protection of the Court from the insults of Mr. *Capen*, who stands committed for signing an association to join the enemies of his country whenever called upon, and other crimes. Mr. *Capen* insults the State, by denying their jurisdiction. He disowns me as a Magistrate, because appointed by the present Administration, while he owns the jurisdiction of the other members of the Court of Inquiry, because appointed by the King's Governour, and (as he apprehends) derive their authority from thence.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

J. GREENLEAF.

To the Hon. *James Warren*, Esq., Speaker of the honourable House of Representatives, *Massachusetts* State.

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HENRY STEVENSON TO HUGH ORR.

Taunton, December 31, 1776.

SIR: As there was no pig-iron to be purchased at *Philadelphia*, I was advised by the honourable Delegates to proceed as far as *Baltimore*, and had a letter of credit from them to Messrs. *Samuel* and *Rob't Purviance*. I purchased

two hundred tons from *Charles Ridgely*, Esq.'s, works, which pig-iron is the most approved of any in that State, at ten pounds per ton, *Maryland* currency, and drew an order on the honourable Delegates for the amount, leaving the pig-iron in the care of Messrs. *Purviances*, to be shipped, as opportunity offered, to any of the ports in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* or the State of *Rhode-Island*, giving the preference to such vessels as might be bound to *Newport*, *Providence*, or *Dartmouth*; the quantity to be shipped on board any one vessel not to exceed twenty-five or thirty tons, consigned to you, on the proper account and risk of this State, to whom I desired they would direct their letters, and forward to you by the *Boston* post. I doubt whether they will be able to ship any, there being no vessel intending for *New-England* at that time; and it was the opinion of *E. Gerry*, Esq., that it would be best to send armed vessels from this State to receive it.

Your humble servant, HENRY STEVENSON.

Flour from 14*s.* to 15*s.*, *Maryland* currency; Loaf Sugar 5*s.*; Bar Iron £45.

To *Hugh Orr*, Esq., *Bridgewater*.

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WILLIAM PYNCHON, JUN., TO RICHARD DEVENS.

SIR: Pursuant to a letter received from *Sam'l Phillips Savage*, Esq., wherein was enclosed the orders of the General Court to me, to transmit two hundred barrels of flour to you, which orders I am endeavouring to comply with; and by Mr. *Asa Whitemore* I send to you five barrels, which I have agreed with him to transport to you for nine pounds per ton; which sum I hope you, upon receipt of the same, will pay to him, as I have not a sufficiency of money belonging to the Province in my hands to defray the same. Shall endeavour, as fast as possible, to complete the number which the Board of War have ordered to be remitted to you.

I am, sir, with respect, your most obedient, humble servant,

WM. PYNCHON, Jun.

N. B. The casks are branded with *T. Edw'ds* & *Stockbridge*, and No. 27. 16. 182:: 164: 144.

To *Richard Devens*, Esq., *Boston*.

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LORD HOWE'S RETURN OF THE CAPTURES OF AMERICAN VESSELS.

Eagle, off New-York, March 31, 1777.

*List of Vessels seized as prizes, and of recaptures made, by the* AMERICAN *Squadron, between the* 10*th of* MARCH *and the* 31*st of* DECEMBER, 1776, *according to the Returns received by the Vice Admiral the Viscount* HOWE.

PRIZES

Taken by the *Orpheus: Ranger*, *David Wran*, master, from *Nantucket*, fishing, in ballast. A sloop from the *West-Indies*, driven on shore and burnt. *Betsy*, *Thomas Willy*, master, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, laden with flour, driven on shore and blown up.

, from the *West-Indies*, with ammunition, merchandise, &c. *Fidelity*, *William Willis*, master, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour. *Polly*, *Philip Lacy*, master, belonging to the Congress, from *Philadelphia* to *France*, with oil, flour, and spermaceti candles. *Peggy*, *Thomas Patten*, master, belonging to the Congress, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour. *Martin*, *James Neal*, master, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour. *Sarah and Elizabeth*, *John Connor*, master, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour. *Fancy*, *Joseph Titcomb*, master, from *Philadelphia* to *New-England*, with flour. *Delaware*, *James McKnight*, master, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour. *Endeavour*, *A. Bartlett*, master, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour. *Mary Ann*, *Guil. de Grave*, master, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour. *Despatch*, *Peter Parker*, master, belonging to the Congress, from *Philadelphia* to *France*, with flour.

By the *Orpheus* and *Daphne: Two Brothers*, *James Gilbert*, master, *Mayne & Co.*, owners, from *Philadelphia* to *St. Eustatia*, with bread, flour, and spermaceti candles. *Colonel Parry*, *William Gamble*, master, *Leaming & Co.*, owners, from *Philadelphia* to *South-Carolina*, with flour, &c. *Fanny*, *Don. McKay*, master, *William Bell*, owner, from *St. Eustatia* to *Philadelphia*, with osnaburgs, linen, rum, molasses, &c. *Schylkill*, *Benjamin Camby*, master, *Harbutson & Co.*, owners, from *Philadelphia* to *Cape Nicola Mole*, with flour and bread. *Greenwich Packet*, *James Glascow*, master, *James Young*, owner, from *Philadelphia* to *Wingaw*, *Carolina*, with rum, flour, and porter. *Nancy*, *James Kinney*, master, *David Bevin*, owner, from *Martinico* to *Philadelphia*, with bale and case goods, medicines, and claret. *Samuel*, *John Hutchins*, master, *Skinner & Co.*, owners, from *Bourdeaux* to *New-York*, with saltpetre, sulphur, salt, canvas, and coarse linen. *St. Patrick*, *Frederick Lyhne*, master, *Joseph Carsun*, owner, from *St. Eustatia* to *Philadelphia*, with dry goods; the cargo taken out. *Royal Scob*, *Eber Merrick*, master, *S. C. Merrick*, owner, from *Cape Nicola Mole* to *Rhode-Island*, with molasses. *Thomas*, *Robert Standley*, master, *T. Stevens*, owner, from *Beverly* to *Baltimore*, with sugar and rum. *Resource*, *Raymond Lason*, master, *Videau & Co.*, owners, from *Philadelphia* to *Port au Prince*, with flour and lumber.

By the *Orpheus* and *King's Fisher: Adrian*, from *Philadelphia* to *France*, with tobacco, flour, bread, and staves.

By the *Perseus: Viper*, *B. Wornwell*, master, *Martin & Co.*, owners, from *Boston*, on a cruise; fitted as a privateer. *Betsey*, *Alexander Wilson*, master, *John Pain*, owner, from *Boston* to *Bourdeaux*, with dye-wood, pot-ash, &c. *Roby*, *William Howland*, master, *J. Howland & Co.*, owners, from *Dartmouth*, *New-England*, to *Surinam*, with fish, horses, spermaceti candles, and staves. *Adventure*, *Job Prince*, master, *Prince & Co.*, owners, from *Boston* to *Hispaniola*, with fish, staves, spermaceti candles, and pine plank. *Hawke*, *S. Williams*, master, *Russel & Co.*, owners, from *Hispaniola* to *Rhode-Island*. *Harlequin*, *Nathaniel Phillips*, master, *Jer. Ingram*, owner, from *Hispaniola* to *Rhode-Island*, both with molasses, had been taken by the *William and Mary* transport. *Seahorse*, *Thomas Coffin*, master, *Marshall & Co.*, owners, from *Turk's-Island* to *Martha's Vineyard*, with salt.

By the *Solebay: Hope*, from *Egg Harbour* to *Surinam*, with flour, tar, pitch, and lumber. *Nancy*, from *North-Carolina* to *St. Eustatia*. *Peggy*, from ditto to ditto; both with tobacco, tar, turpentine, and lumber.

By the *Cerberus*, and ships stationed with her off *Block-Island: Lyon*, *M. Barlow*, belonging to the Congress, bound from *Cape François* to *Dartmouth*, with powder, arms, salt, and molasses. *Polly*, *Robert Crosby*, master, *Franklin*, owner, from *New-York* to *Damarara*, with flour and lumber. *Leviathan*, *B. Woodcock*, master, *B. Woodcock*, owner, from *Milford* to *St. Croix*, with lumber. *Betsey*, *J. Arthur*, master, *Shaw*, owner, from *New-London* to *Cape François*, with flour, fish, &c. *Annabella*, *William Cook*, master, *William Cook*, owner, from *Amboy* to *St. Croix*, with flour, fish, and lumber. *Elizabeth*, *Joseph Lippet*, master, *John Brown*, owner, from *St. Eustatia* to *Providence*, with powder, arms, and linen. *Hawke*, *John Clarkson*, master, from *Newberry* to *Surinam*, with flour, beef, pork, and fish. *William*, *John Tucker*, master, from *St. Eustatia* to *Salem*, with wine, rum, and linen. *Catherine*; the people took the boat and left her. *Mercury*, *George Bunker*, master, from the coast of *Brazil* to *Nantucket*, with oil. *Mermaid*, *Jos. Coffin*, master, from ditto to ditto, with oil, put on board the *Mercury*. *Betsey and Polly*, *Hilton*, master, *Hilton*, owner, from *New-York* to *Sandy-Hook*, with provisions for Governour *Tryon*. Run on shore a ship from the *West-Indies*, prize to the *Andrew Doria*, privateer. *Felicité*, *Gouace*, master, from *Rhode-Island* to *Cape François*, with fish, flour, and spermaceti candles. *Success*, *E. Hathaway*, master, *J. Otis*, owner, from *Cape François* to *Dartmouth*, with molasses. *Joseph*, *Elias Coffin*, master, from *Cape François* to *Nantucket*, with molasses. *Batchelor*, *Shaw*, owner, (the people took the boat and left the vessel off *Montock Point*,) with molasses. *Success*, *J. Coffin*, master, *Jackson & Co.*, owners, from *Cape Nicola* to *Newberry*, with molasses. *Betsey Vassal*, *E. Bacon*, master, *Solomon Davis*, owner, from *Cape François* to *Barnstable*, with molasses.

By the *Unicorn: Katy*, *Edward Dillingham*, master, *N. Green*, owner, from *Rhode-Island* to *Curaçoa*, with flour, tobacco, and spermaceti candles. *Dolphin*, *John Campbel*, master, *J. Campbel*, owner, from *Falmouth* to *Hispaniola*, with fish and lumber. *Lively*, *John Parsons*, master, *Jack-*

*son & Co.*, owners, from *Philadelphia* to *Newberry*, with flour and iron.

By the *Camilla: Independence, John Gill*, master, from *Boston*, on a cruise, armed with six carriage-guns and eight swivels. *Admiral Montague, John Hay*, master, from *Hispaniola* to *Rhode-Island*, with molasses and coffee. *Chance, Thomas Bell*, master, to *Georgia*, with flour and rum. *Polly, William Thomson*, master, to *Surinam*, in ballast.

By the *Raven: Friendship, William Townshend*, master, *M. Kelsall*, owner, from *Georgia* to foreign *West-India* Islands, with rice. *Hope, Jean Louis*, master, *Moncreau*, owner, from *Philadelphia* to *Charles-Town*, with flour and lumber.

By the *Roebuck*, and ships under Captain *Hammond's* orders: *Maria, Stockholm*, master, *Dennis*, owner, from *St. Eustatia* to *Egg Harbour*, with bale goods and powder. *Grace,* , from *Philadelphia* to *Baltimore*, in ballast. A small sloop, nobody on board, in ballast, destroyed. A pilot-boat, ditto, lost. *Polly, William Bowen*, master, *William Bowen*, owner, from *Philadelphia* to *North-Carolina*, with nine pound shot, iron, and groceries. A small sloop, in ballast. *Dove, T. Atkins*, master, *M. Dence*, owner, from *Plymouth*, in *New-England*, to *Philadelphia*, in ballast, destroyed off *Cape Hinlopen*. *Dolphin, T. Burgess*, master, *J. Simpson*, owner, from *Dartmouth*, in *New-England*, to *Philadelphia*, in ballast, destroyed off *Cape Hinlopen*. *Betsey, C. Wey*, master, *W. Shepherd*, owner, from *Chinkateague* to *Philadelphia*, with oats and tobacco, destroyed off *Cape Hinlopen*. *Sally, Seymour Hood*, master, *E. Batchelor*, owner, from *Ocracock, North-Carolina*, to *Philadelphia*, with tar and turpentine, destroyed off *Cape Hinlopen*. *Chance, Thomas Rose*, master, Messrs. *Curson*, of *Philadelphia*, owners, from *Philadelphia* to *Cork*, with flaxseed and staves. *Dove*, nobody on board her. Sloop cut out of *Egg Harbour*, in ballast. *Cazia,* , from *Cape Francois* to *Philadelphia*, with molasses and coffee. *Dolphin, William Knox*, master, *Pringle*, owner, from *Philadelphia* to *St. Eustatia*, with hams and bread. *Ranger*, nobody on board her, from *St. Eustatia* to *Philadelphia*, with bale goods and arms. *Little John, J. Darrel*, master, *Davenport & Co.*, owners, from *Bermuda* to *Philadelphia*, with salt and limes. *Dolphin, T. Woodhouse*, master, *Henry Cowper*, owner, from *Philadelphia* to *St. Croix*, with flour, bread, and staves. *Susannah, P. Rimington*, master, *P. Rimington*, owner, from *Rhode-Island* to *South-Carolina*, with cider and chocolate.

By the *Liverpool: St. Barbara, D. R. Gomales*, master, belonging to the *Spanish* Assiento, from the *Havannah* to *Dominica*, with twenty-five hundred dollars.

By the *Fowey: Sally, Ar. Crawford*, master, *Z. Allen*, owner, from *Providence* to *Hispaniola*, with lumber and flour. *Polly, W. Gardner*, master, *N. Shaw*, Jun., owner, from *Saltatude* to *Philadelphia*, with salt.

By the *Otter:* A schooner, nobody on board her. A sloop, ditto. *Jenny*, ditto, and run on shore. *Philadelphia* packet, nobody on board her, from the river *Elke* to *Baltimore*, with different goods. *Vulcan, S. French*, master, *R. Ewers*, owner, from the river *Elke* to *Patuxent*, with stone and iron. *Nancy, J. Robinson*, master, *E. Carr*, owner, from the Eastern Shore to the river *Elke*, with tobacco and feathers. *Nancy, L. Gollcheugh*, master, *J. Taylor*, owner, from *Neabscoe* to *Baltimore*, with *Indian* corn.

By the *Roebuck: Pigeon, Smith*, master, *Simpson*, owner, from *Philadelphia* to *Charles-Town*, with bread and flour. *Success, J. Burrows*, master, *Mercer & Co.*, owners, from *Hispaniola* to *Philadelphia*, with molasses and rum.

By the *Perseus: Connection, Benjamin Jones*, master, *S. White*, owner, from *Boston* to *Baltimore*, with fourteen casks of sugar. *Le Joli Cœur, B. Eryan*, master, from *St. Domingo* to *Marseilles*, with rum, sugar, and coffee.

By the *Camilla: Le Fonbonne, W. De Gallet*, master, *W. Gallet*, owner, from *Cape Francois* to *Miquelon*, with wine, molasses, &c.

By the *Falcon:* Sloop, nobody found on board, with oil.

By the *Roebuck: Two Friends, J. Vickery*, master, *Mead & Co.*, owners, from *Cape Francois* to *Philadelphia*, with powder, arms, molasses, &c. *Adventure, W. Pile*, master, *Townsend & Co.*, owners, from *St. Croix to Philadelphia*, with salt and dry goods; removed the cargo on board. *Delight, William Church*, master, *Cartwright & Co.*, owners, from *Boston* to *Philadelphia*, with sugar, wine, and rum. *New-York, J. Walker*, master, *T. Pennington*, owner, from *Curacoa* to *New-York*, with salt.

By the *Pearl: Lexington, W. Hallock*, master, belonging to the Congress, from *Cape Francois* to *Philadelphia*, with powder and dry goods. *Read, J. Bennett*, master, *J. Bennett & Co.*, owners, from *St. Eustatia* to *Wilmington*, with salt and dry goods. *Betsey, J. Hayman*, master, *J. Hayman & Co.*, owners, from *St. Martin's* to *Baltimore*, with salt. Schooner, no person found on board, with sugar, &c.

By the *Falcon: Kitty, S. Nicols*, master, *D. Beveridge*, owner, from *Cape Francois* to *Philadelphia*, with molasses, rum, and dry goods.

By the *Galatea: Dolphin, John Parker*, master, from *Philadelphia* to *Bermuda*, with flour and *Indian* corn. *William, Joseph Bunker*, master, from *Bourdeaux to Rhode-Island*, with gunpowder and small arms. *Sword Fish, S. Kingsley*, master, from *Cape Nicola* to *Halifax*, with rum and molasses. *Hearts of Oak, F. Howell*, master, from *Cape Francois* to *Philadelphia*, with rum, linen, turpentine, and dry goods.

By the *Nautilus: New-York* packet, *E. Pringle*, master, *E. Pringle*, owner, from *Philadelphia* to *St. Croix*, with flour.

By the *Lively: Mary, J. Morgan*, master, *J. Wilson*, owner, from *Bourdeaux* to *Philadelphia*, with small arms, wine, oil, &c.

By the *Merlin: Joseph, B. Hewes*, master, *Smith & Co.*, owners, from *Cadiz* to *North-Carolina*, with wine, salt, and *Jesuit's* bark.

By the *Scorpion: Morning Star, James Club*, master, *Lisle & Co.*, owners, from *Philadelphia* to the *West-Indies*, with flour, bread, and onions.

By the *Viper: May Flower, S. Crosman*, master, *S. Crosman*, owner, from *Piscataqua*, on a fishing voyage. *Dover, A. Fumald*, master, *A. Fumald*, owner, from *Piscataqua*, on a fishing voyage, with fish. *Endeavour, J. Batson*, master, *J. Batson*, owner, from *Piscataqua*, on a fishing voyage, with fish. *Two Brothers, J. Bowden*, master, *J. Bowden*, owner, from *Piscataqua*, on a fishing voyage, with fish. ; no person found on board, with fire-wood. Ditto, with empty casks. *Polly*, on a fishing voyage, with fish. *Louisa, J. Colston*, master, *St. New*, owner, from *Macchias* to *Tortola*, with lumber, shingles, &c. *Unity, J. Lord*, master, *Jones*, owner, from *Macchias* to *Newberry*, with lumber, shingles, &c. *Nancy, R. Adams*, belonging to the Congress, from *Macchias* to *Newberry*, with lumber, shingles, &c.

By the *Milford: Tryon.* Sloop. *Retrieve. William. George. Globe.*

By the *Juno: Joseph.*

By the *Liverpool: Victory.*

By the *Hope: General Gates. Hope.*

By the *Lizard: Putnam.*

By the *Albany: Providence.*

By the *Province* armed schooner: *Friendship.*

By the *Liverpool: Sally, John Williams*, master, *J. & A. Stuart*, owners, from *Hamburgh* to *New York*, with linens, canvass, &c.

By the *Phœnix, Roebuck*, and *Tartar*, in the *North River: Independence, Crane*, armed for war.

RECAPTURES.

By the *Orpheus* and *Daphne: Britannia, B. T. Hughes*, master, *B. T. Hughes*, owner, from *Jamaica* to *Liverpool*, ballast and one ton of ivory.

By the *Perseus: Layton, Johnson*, master, a transport. A transport, part of the *Flora's* convoy, retaken; the soldiers had been taken out at *New-York*, taken again. *Peggy, William Cook*, master, *Morfield & Son*, owners, from *Virginia* to *St. Augustine*, with rum, molasses, and linen.

By the *Cerberus*, and ships stationed with her off *Block-Island: Agnes, William Mather*, master, *John Mather*, owner, from *Antigua* to *London*, with sugar. *Jenny, Wil-*

*liam McNeilly*, master, from *Barbadoes* to *Belfast*, with rum. *Carron, J. Montgomery*, master, from the *Bay of Honduras* to *Cork*, with mahogany and logwood.

By the *Unicorn: Thomas and William, James Smith*, master, *John Watkinson*, owner, from *New-York* to *Cork*, a a transport, in ballast. *Hetty, Charles Ross*, master, *C. Ross & Co.*, owners, from *Gaspee* to *Barbadoes*, with fish and oil.

By the *Camilla: George, James Cordray*, master, to *Maryland*, ballast and some old guns.

By the *Otter:* , Mr. *Nusom*, owner, from *Barbadoes* to the fleet at *Virginia*, with three hundred and twenty puncheons of rum.

By the *Galatea: Favourite*, *Davis*, master, from *Antigua* to *Liverpool*, with sugar. *Alice*, despatch, *N. Sergent*, master, from the *Grenades* to *Cork*, in ballast.

By the *Milford: John. Diana. Halifax. Lively. Venus. Carolina.*

By the *Juno: Dinah.*

By the *Liverpool: Esther, Bee.*

By the *Hope: Betsey, Lord Stanley.*

By the *Lizard: Hope.*

Total number of captures, 140. Recaptures, 26.

HOWE.

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AN AUTHENTICK LIST OF SHIPS AND VESSELS TAKEN BY AMERICAN PRIVATEERS.

| *Ships' Names and Masters.* | *From and To.* | *Tons.* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anne, Duncan | Dominica to London | 230 | retaken. |
| Annabella, Walker | Glasgow to America | — | transports. |
| Anne, Dennison | Do. to do. | — | transports. |
| Agnes, Mather | Antigua to Liverpool | 100 | retaken. |
| Anna Maria, Pringle | Barbadoes | 240 | |
| Anne, Rea | Cork to Straits | 120 | released. |
| Anna, Dutfield | Leeward Islands | — | |
| Anne, Bowes | Jamaica to Lancaster | — | |
| Alexander, Leice | Isle Madam to market | — | |
| Adventure | Do. to do. | — | burnt. |
| Alexander. | | | |
| Alfred, Callendam | Jamaica to London | 300 | |
| Aurora, McGregor | St. Vincent's to Glasgow | — | |
| Anna, Heiley | | — | transport; retaken. |
| Argo, Cochran | Jamaica to London | 150 | |
| Alicia, Haggat | Dominica to Liverpool | 100 | retaken. |
| Active, Fox | Liverpool to Halifax | 100 | |
| Alexander, sloop. | | | |
| Argo, Tate | London | 350 | transport. |
| Amy, Burton | Newfoundland to market | 150 | |
| Anne, Wise | St. Vincent's to Liverpool | 100 | |
| Blue Mountain Valley, Dempster | London | 270 | transport. |
| Bee, Davis | Leeward Isles to Lancaster | 100 | |
| Black River, Corrie | Dominica to Bristol | 220 | |
| Blaze Castle, Smith | Barbadoes to do. | 240 | |
| Betsey, Ray | London to Lisbon | 100 | |
| Batchelor, Barclay | Grenades to London | — | |
| Bella, Smith | Halifax to Liverpool | — | retaken. |
| Betsey, Webber | At Newfoundland | — | |
| Betsey, Damphia. | | | |
| Baltimore, Gardiner. | | | |
| Beaver, Phillips. | | | |
| Britannia, Miller. | | | |
| Britannia, Baker | Nova Scotia | — | |
| Betsey, Foster | Do. | — | |
| Bee | N'foundland to Weymouth | — | retaken. |
| Betsey, Simonet | Isle Madam to market | — | |
| Betsey, Jarrold | London to Halifax | 180 | retaken. |
| Brownhall, Austin | Halifax to London | 350 | released. |
| Betsey, Withycomb | Newfoundland to market | 80 | do. |
| Betsey, Archdeacon | Honduras to London | 250 | |
| Betsey, Dalmast | London | — | transport. |
| Betsey, Clarke | Gaspee to Jamaica | — | |
| Betsey, Ramsay | Barbadoes to Glasgow | — | |
| Betty, Warren | Newfoundland to market | — | |
| Bella, Jones | Halifax to Jamaica | — | |
| Betty | Empty | — | transport; retaken. |
| Betsey, Brice | Jamaica to Londonderry | — | |
| Betsey, Stevenson | Empty | — | do. |
| Betty, Stutton | New-York to Rhode-Island | — | |
| Betty, Campbell | Bordeaux to Londonderry | — | |
| Bacchus, Forsyth | Of Liverpool, from Africa to America | — | |
| Crawford, McLean | Glasgow to Boston | 180 | with troops. |
| Creichton, Ross | Antigua to Boston | 280 | |
| Caledonia, McInlay | St. Kitt's to Glasgow | 120 | |
| Catharine, Oram | At Newfoundland | 80 | |
| Caroline Packet, Fowle | Antigua to London | 140 | |
| Charming Sally, Steele | Leeward Isles to Bristol | 200 | |
| Clarendon, Dennison | Jamaica to Glasgow | 120 | |
| Carolina, Rutherford | Marseilles to Hamburg | 180 | |
| Christian, Lee | Seized when landed | — | |
| Camden, Richardson | Antigua to London | 300 | |
| Capel, Curling | Jamaica to London | 200 | |
| Charming Anne, Jones | Nova Scotia | — | |
| Catherine and Anne | Seville to Weymouth | — | released. |
| Carron, Montgomery | Honduras to Glasgow | — | |
| Carolina, Dennis | Jamaica to London | — | |
| Content, Taylor | London | 300 | transport. |

| *Ships' Names and Masters.* | *From and To.* | *Tons.* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cæsar, Currie | London to Jamaica | — | Cut out of port at Jamaica and carried to America. |
| Diana, Mayberry | St. Vincent's to Cork | 70 | retaken. |
| Devonshire, Fisher | Antigua to Ireland | 90 | do. |
| Dove, Cunningham | St. Eustatia to Amsterdam | 150 | |
| Duke of Leinster, Catrow | Antigua to Dublin | 120 | released. |
| Defiance, Sybert | Isle Madam to market | — | do. |
| Dolphin, Charlton. | | | |
| Deboriah, Rendrick. | | | |
| Dragon, Knowlton. | | | |
| Diligence | - - - | — | armed sch'r. |
| Dolphin, Dennison | - - - | — | do. |
| Diana, Brown | London | — | transport; retaken. |
| Dorothy, Pennell | Newfoundland to market | 80 | |
| Errol, Bartlett | Grenades to London | 300 | |
| Eagle, Baines | Barbadoes to London | 200 | |
| Elizabeth, Moulpied | St. Croix to Guernsey | 140 | |
| Esther, Harvey | Jamaica to London | 300 | |
| Elliot, Squires | Oporto to London | 120 | retaken. |
| Elizabeth, Batson | Oporto to Bristol | 100 | |
| Elizabeth, Hope | London to Leeward Islands | 200 | |
| Elizabeth, Ludlow | Jamaica | — | |
| Endeavour, Thatchell. | | | |
| Eagle. | | | |
| Earl Percy, Atkins | Dominica to New-York | — | |
| Endeavour, Dyer | Bermudas to Halifax | 120 | |
| Elizabeth, Rayson | Cape Fear to Antigua | — | |
| Elizabeth, Thorp | London to Leeward Isles | — | |
| Friends, Bowie | - - - | — | transport. |
| Fanny, Blyth | Barbadoes to Halifax | — | |
| Francis, Williamson | Leeward Isles to London | 70 | released. |
| Friendship, Mackay | Grenades to London | 250 | |
| Freedom, Wallis | Do. to do. | 170 | released. |
| Friendship, Nafiell | At Newfoundland | — | |
| Friendship, Jones | Grenades to London | 180 | |
| Flora, Whitehorne | Newfoundland to market | 90 | |
| Friendship, Shotton | Quebeck to Barcelona | 110 | |
| Fancy, Tokley | At Virginia | — | |
| Frederick, Costall. | | | |
| Frederick, Reynolds. | | | |
| Friendship, Broomston | - - - | — | transport. |
| Fanny, Lightborn | Antigua to London | — | |
| Favourite, Davis | Antigua to Liverpool | 180 | released. |
| Friendship, St. Hill | London to New-York | 170 | |
| Friendship, Barnes | Newfoundland to Antigua | — | |
| Friends, Holmes | London to West-Indies | — | |
| Friends, Chives. | | | |
| George, Boog | Glasgow to America | 230 | with troops. |
| Georgia Diana, Regan | Grenades to London | 140 | |
| Good Intent, Daun | Newcastle to Gibraltar | — | |
| Georgiana, Kentish | Jamaica to London | 200 | released. |
| George, Gray | - - - | 200 | transport. |
| George, Brookway | Newfoundland to market | 190 | |
| General Wolfe, Wilson | Jamaica to Dublin | — | |
| Generous Friends, Hill | - - - | 200 | transport. |
| Good Intent, Davis | At Newfoundland | — | |
| George, Cod | Bordeaux to Cork | — | |
| George, Glasby | St. Kitt's to London | 100 | retaken. |
| Glasgow, Cabot | Isle Madam to Jersey | 70 | |
| Garland, Preston | London | — | transport. |
| Generous Friends, Dunican | Shetland to Cadiz | 420 | |
| Harriot, Cooke | - - - | 240 | |
| Henry and Esther, Ellis | - - - | 250 | transports. |
| Hope, Leemsdale | - - - | 350 | |
| Harlequin, Goodwin | St. Kitt's to London | 160 | |
| Hester, Crombie | Do. to do. | 200 | retaken. |
| Henrietta, Hayman | Barbadoes to Corke | — | |
| Hope, Quince | St. Vincent's to London | 200 | retaken. |
| Happy Return, Hall | Whitehaven | 180 | transport. |
| Hawke | Dingle to Lisbon | 50 | |
| Hannah, Lane | Londonderry to St. Croix | — | released. |
| Hiram, Traster | Jamaica to London | — | |
| Hero, Hanford | Jamaica to Quebeck | 220 | |
| Hayfield, Clarke | - - - | 220 | transport. |
| Hero, Perkins. | | | |
| Halifax, McGregor | Cork | — | |
| Henry and Esther. | | | |
| Henry and Anne, Farron | London | 350 | transport. |
| Hannibal, Fitzpatrick | Jamaica to Turk's Island | — | |
| Hannah, Beverely | Newfoundland to Lisbon | — | |
| Hannah, Davis | Dominica to Newfoundland | — | |
| Hetty, Ross | Chaleur to West-Indies | 130 | retaken. |
| Hibernia, Jeffreson | Dublin to Lisbon | 100 | |
| Jenny, Forster | London | 450 | transport. |
| James, Littledale | Whitehaven | 200 | do. |
| Industry, Furze | Grenades to Boston | 150 | |
| Jane, Foulton | Cork to Boston | 130 | |
| Isabella, Kirk | Antigua to Ireland | — | |
| Juno, Marson | Dominica to Bristol | 250 | |
| John | St. Croix to Guernsey | 70 | |
| Jane, Roome | Jamaica to Bristol | 220 | |
| Isaac, Gregg | Tortola to Liverpool | 350 | |
| James, Higgins | Antigua to Lancaster | 250 | |
| Jenny, Cummins | At Newfoundland | 120 | |
| Jenny, Wood | Whitehaven | 240 | transport. |
| Irwin, Smith | Jamaica to London | 300 | retaken. |
| Isabella, Grierdley | Borrowstowness to Minorca | — | |
| John, Hunter | London | 230 | transport; retaken. |
| Jenny, McNeil | Barbadoes to Belfast | 120 | do. |
| John, McRay | Grenada to Dublin | — | |
| Julius Cæsar | London to Halifax | 350 | |
| John, Wallace | Grenada to London | 120 | |
| James, Baker. | | | |
| Industry, Farran. | | | |
| Juno | Glasgow | — | transport |
| John, Barrow | London to Antigua | — | |
| John, Glover | At Newfoundland | — | |

| *Ships' Names and Masters.* | *From and To.* | *Tons.* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Inverness, McGillory | - - - | 250 | Burnt at Georg. |
| John, Allison | Chaleur to Alicant | 200 | |
| John, Dunbar | Jamaica to London | — | |
| John, Watkins | Liverpool to Halifax | — | |
| Kitty and Nancy, Pinnock | Nova Scotia | — | |
| King George, Williams | Jamaica to Bristol | — | |
| Kingston Packet. | | | |
| Lady Juliana, Stevenson | Jamaica to London | 250 | |
| Lancashire, Jones | Jamaica to Liverpool | 100 | |
| Lively, Carter | Chester to Leghorn | 160 | retaken. |
| Lord Howe, Parke | Glasgow | — | transport. |
| Lord Stanley, Strickland | Leghorn to Dublin | 150 | retaken. |
| Leghorn, McDaniel | Jamaica to Liverpool | 300 | |
| Lowther, Cowman | Jamaica to London | 180 | |
| Lion, Harvey | Newfoundland to market | 130 | |
| Lord Lifford, Jones | Montserrat to Corke | 120 | |
| Live Oak, Duncan | Honduras to London | 120 | |
| Lady Jane, Taylor | Grenades to Quebec | — | |
| Lovely Nelly, Sheridan. | | | |
| Lord Howe, Coffin | At Newfoundland | — | |
| Lively, Horner. | | | |
| Lively, Martindale | At Newfoundland | — | |
| Layton, Johnson | A discharged transport | — | retaken. |
| Live Oak, Wallace | Jamaica to London | 260 | |
| La Soy Planter, Smith | New-York to Corke | 250 | retaken. |
| Laurence, Leyborne | Barbadoes to N'foundland | 100 | |
| Lydia, Deane | Jamaica to Liverpool | — | |
| Liberty, Phillips | Newfoundland to W. Indies | — | retaken. |
| Laurel, Whitney | Liverpool to Newfoundland | — | |
| Mary and James, Moor | London to Salem | 110 | |
| Mary, Morville | Tortola to Liverpool | 150 | |
| Maria, Hall | St. Vincent to London | 200 | |
| Minehead, Whesborn | At Newfoundland | 70 | retaken. |
| Molly, Randall | Do. | — | do. |
| Mary and Elizabeth, Bruce | Barbadoes to Halifax | — | |
| Mars, Hammond | Tortola to Liverpool | — | |
| Montagu | Newfoundland to market | 60 | |
| Molly, Fox | Do. | 60 | released. |
| Marshall, Loughty | Barbadoes to London | 230 | |
| Millham, Johnson | - - - | — | transport. |
| Maria, Nicholls. | | | |
| Molly, Buchannan. | | | |
| Mary, Matthews. | | | |
| Mary and | Newfoundland to Spain | — | |
| Mellish, Johnston | London to Quebec | — | transport; clothing. |
| Molly, Lusk | Glasgow to America | — | retaken. |
| Minerva, Morris | Antigua to Head-Quarters | — | |
| Margaret, Biddlecomb | St. Ubes to Ireland | 160 | |
| Norfolk, Grindle | Whitehaven | 160 | transport. |
| Neptune, Paterson | Antigua to Corke | — | |
| Nevis, Coffin | Nevis to London | 200 | retaken. |
| Nelly, Robinson | Whitehaven | 200 | |
| Nancy, Hunter | London | 160 | |
| Nelly frigate, Bradstreet | Honduras to London | 300 | |
| Nancy, Kays | Antigua to London | 260 | |
| Nathaniel and Elizabeth, Hare | Jamaica to London | 150 | |
| Nancy, Cowan | - - - | 220 | transport. |
| Nancy, Croker | Barbadoes | 140 | |
| Nabby, Vasser | Nova Scotia | — | |
| Nanny and Mary, Le Geyt | Newfoundland to market | — | released. |
| Neptune, Baron | Do. to do. | 130 | |
| Nancy, Churchill | Do. to do. | — | |
| Nelly, Fletcher | - - - | 200 | burnt at Georgia. |
| Oxford, Stewart | Glasgow | 200 | |
| Polly, Lear | Antigua to London | 200 | |
| Peary, Clealand | Tobago to London | 300 | |
| Polly, Efford | Newfoundland | 60 | |
| Princess Royal, Duthie | Jamaica to London | 300 | retaken. |
| Portland, Bramble | Grenada to Lancaster | 100 | do. |
| Peggy, Dunlop | St. Croix to Dublin | — | released. |
| Prince George, Emms | Bristol to Boston | 180 | |
| Peggy, Kennedy | Halifax to New-York | — | |
| Perkins, Jenkins | Augustine to Bristol | 100 | |
| Peregrine, Russel | Newfoundland to a market | 130 | |
| Providence, Bentinck | Corke to Lisbon | 90 | |
| Placentia, Eldred | Newfoundland to a market | 120 | |
| Peggy, Bradford. | | | |
| Polly, Basset. | | | |
| Prosperity, Beale. | | | |
| Peggy, Warren | Newfoundland to a market | 60 | released. |
| Polly, Reilley | Augustine to London | — | |
| Phœnix, Durell | Quebec to Grenada | — | |
| Prosperity, Freeman | Nova Scotia | — | |
| Paisley, Mountain. | | | |
| Pope's Head, Murphy | Antigua to Newfoundland | — | |

| *Ships' Names and Masters.* | *From and To.* | *Tons.* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Peggy, Mackay | Jamaica to Glasgow | — | |
| Polly and Nancy, Rontisbear | Pool to Cadiz | 90 | |
| Patroclus, Gill | Dominica to Halifax | — | |
| Providence Success, Fletcher | Gottenburgh to St. Eustatia. | 90 | |
| Queen of England, Arnaud, | - - - | 250 | transport. |
| Rover, Hunter | Barbadoes | — | |
| Reynolds, Rusten | Jamaica to London | 300 | |
| Reward, Baillie | Tortola to London | 350 | |
| Royal Exchange, Bowden, | Grenada to London | 260 | |
| Rachael, Henry | Do. do. | 350 | retaken. |
| Royal George, Doyle | Waterford to Halifax | 130 | |
| Roebuck, White. | | | |
| Riopongo, Roberts | Jamaica to Liverpool | — | |
| Royal George, Young | London to Venice | — | |
| Sukey, Engar | Liverpool to Boston | 250 | |
| Susannah, Fraser | London to Boston | — | |
| St. James, Willson | Jamaica to Bristol | 300 | burnt. |
| Stakesby, Watts | - - - | — | transport. |
| St. Peter | St. Vincent's to Liverpool | — | |
| Star and Garter, Himson | St. Kitt's to London | 140 | |
| Sarah and Anne, Pottsbury | Exeter to Gibraltar | 80 | |
| Sally, Bishop | London | 130 | transport. |
| Susannah, Crawford | Oporto to London | 160 | |
| Spiers, Lomort | Honduras to Glasgow | 180 | retaken. |
| St. John. | | | |
| Suffolk, Delmore | Jamaica to London | 300 | retaken. |
| Samuel and Charles, Pentarvan | Barbadoes to Virginia | — | do. |
| Success, Ballien | Isle Madam to market | — | do. |
| Sarah and Elizabeth, Foot, | Jamaica to London | 350 | |
| Speedy, Evans | At Newfoundland | 90 | |
| St. James, Edwards | Jamaica to London | 300 | |
| Samuel and Mary, Bennet | Seville to London | 70 | released. |
| Swallow, Griffiths | Tobago to Bristol | 70 | |
| St. Lucia, Childs | Jamaica to Bristol | 350 | |
| Success, Ball | Do. to do. | 300 | |
| St. George, Bridgood | - - - | 220 | |
| Spermaceti, Pear. | | | |
| Sally, Valply | Newfoundland to market | — | |
| Severn, Pribble. | | | |
| Sally, Noble | Nova Scotia | — | |
| Sally | - - - | — | armed sch'r. |
| Sarah, Rigg | Jamaica to Liverpool | 100 | |
| Sam, Richardson | Barbadoes to Liverpool | — | |
| Sally, Clift | Nevis to London | — | |
| Sally, Snowball | Antigua to London | — | |
| Swallows, Moffat. | | | |
| Sally, Jackson | Jamaica to Liverpool | — | |
| Sarah Adel. Louisa, Andersen | Dutch transport from New-York | — | |
| Swallow Packet, Norman. | Falmouth to Lisbon | — | with the mail. |
| Two Sisters, Robins | Corke to Boston | 70 | |
| True Blue, Stable | Jamaica to Lancaster | 160 | |
| Trite, Lanning | St. Croix to Cork | 120 | retaken. |
| Three Brothers, Smith | Dominica to Halifax | — | |
| True Briton, Babb | Newfoundland to a market | 100 | |
| Triton, Pockey | Do. | 120 | |
| Theis, Meig | Jamaica to London | 200 | retaken. |
| Three Friends, Walker | Antigua to Halifax | 120 | |
| Trio, Blake | Halifax to St. Kitts | — | |
| Triton, Martindale | Barbadoes to Whitehaven | 140 | |
| Thomas, Bell | London to Quebec | 160 | |
| Three Friends, Russel | St. Eustatia to Cork | 100 | |
| Totness, Waring | Virginia | — | burnt. |
| Triton, Brinton | Newfoundland to a market | — | |
| Thistle, Roberts | Pensacola to Leeward Isles, | — | |
| Tartar, Russell | New-York to Cork | 200 | retaken. |
| Thomas and William, Smith | Do. do. | 200 | do. |
| Thomas, Collison | Liverpool to Montserrat | — | |
| Three Friends, Holmes | Liverpool to Jamaica | 280 | with money. |
| Venus, Collins | Honduras to Jersey | 300 | |
| Venus, Stanfield | Liverpool to Antigua | 150 | retaken. |
| Vine, Pratchell | Bourdeaux to Hull | 160 | |
| Union, Wilson | St. Kitt's to Liverpool | 100 | released. |
| Union, McCarthy | Jamaica to Bristol | 180 | |
| Union, Chevalier | Canso to Jersey | — | released. |
| William, Mercer | Georgia to London | — | |
| William, Pine | St. Michaels to Boston | 130 | |
| William and Mary, Carey | Grenades to Cork | 90 | |
| William, Bonn | Jamaica to Liverpool | 300 | |
| Westmoreland | Jamaica to London | 300 | |
| Watson, Bryson | Jamaica to Liverpool | 120 | retaken. |
| White Oak, Dean. | | | |
| Woodcock, Richardson | Quebec to London | 260 | |
| Zachariah Bailey, Hodge | Jamaica to London | 350 | |

342 taken; 44 retaken; 18 released; 5 burnt.

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PROCEEDINGS OF NAVY BOARD OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

Navy Board, Friday, 1st November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *Thomas Corbett*, *Geo. Abbott Hall*, *Roger Smith*, Esqs.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

Agreed that application be made to the President for eight hundred bushels of Salt, to be delivered to the Commissioners of the Navy for salting Provisions for the use of the Navy.

Agreed that the First Commissioner write to *James Black*, *Stone & Russell*, *Paul Pritchard*, and *Clement Lempriere*, to know on what terms they will undertake to build the Row-Galleys, by what time they will have them finished, and what quantity of iron will be requisite for each Galley.

Adjourned to-morrow evening, six o'clock.

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Navy Board, Saturday, 2 November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *Geo. Abbott Hall*, *Thomas Corbett*, *Roger Smith*, Esqs.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

A Letter was wrote to *Clement Lempriere*, Esq.:

"South-Carolina, November 1, 1776.

"Sir: The Commissioners of the Navy having been informed that you have engaged with his Excellency the President to build a row-galley for this State, they desire that you will as soon as possible acquaint them by letter on what terms you are to build the said galley, the particular dimension, when she is to be finished, and what quantity of iron will be wanted to complete her.

"I am, sir, your most humble servant,

"Edward Blake, *First Commissioner*."

Copies of the above Letter were sent to *Paul Pritchard*, *James Black*, and *Stone & Russel*.

Received the following Order from the President:

"The Commissioners for buying Salt for the publick to dispose of eight hundred bushels thereof to the Commissioners of the Navy.

"J. Rutledge.

"2 November, 1776."

A Letter was received from his Excellency the President:

"Gentlemen: I desire that you will be pleased to ship a thousand pounds sterling worth of indigo on board the *Defence*, and order Captain *Pickering* to proceed to *Cape François*, there to dispose of, and with the proceeds to procure for our service as many good seamen as the vessel can bring, arms, sail-duck, and such other articles as you think useful for the State; and if Mr. *Provaux*, whom he may probably meet there, has obtained any heavy cannon for us, to bring two pieces of it if he can conveniently. You will also order him to sweep to the southward both going and coming, wind permitting.

"Be pleased to have the verbal contracts which I made with *Lempriere*, *Black & Pritchard*, for building row-galleys, reduced into writing, and executed, and lay in spars, yards, oakum, iron, and such other articles as you think necessary for the vessels belonging to this State and for those row-galleys.

"I am, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

"J. Rutledge.

"Charles-Town, October 31, 1776.

"The Commissioners of the Navy."

The following Letter, containing Orders for Captain *Pickering*, was reported to the Board by Mr. *Hall*. The same being read, was agreed to:

"Navy Board, Charlestown, 2 November, 1776.

"*Captain* Thomas Pickering:

"Your commission as Captain of the brigantine-of-war *Defence* will be delivered to you with this, together with commissions and warrants for your Lieutenants and other officers, which you will have read to your ship's company, that they may know who to obey in their different stations; then deliver them to each officer respectively, before you proceed to sea.

"You will also receive from the Clerk of this Board the following papers of rules and discipline and good government to be observed on board the vessels of war belonging to State of *South-Carolina*, which you will cause to be frequently read to your ship's company: Instructions for the Captain or Commander of any of the vessels belonging to the State; instructions for the Lieutenants; instructions for the Master; instructions for the Purser; instructions for the Carpenter; directions for the Gunner and Armourer; directions for the Boatswain and Sailmaker: which you will deliver to the different officers, after making your clerk enter them in a book for that purpose.

"The *Defence* having her guns, ammunition, stores, and provisions on board, and being every way equipped for a cruise, you are hereby directed to embrace the first favourable opportunity of proceeding to sea; and after you are over the bar, steer along the coast until you arrive off *St. Augustine*, keeping a good look-out for a sloop commanded by one *Osborne*, which has been fitted out from thence, and is said to be cruising upon this coast, which you are to use every possible means to take. After you have been off *St. Augustine*, you are to proceed to *Cape François*, in *Hispaniola*, where there is the greatest reason to think that you may procure seamen, which is in the most particular manner recommended to you, and that you use every endeavour to ship as many as your vessel can conveniently bring; for which purpose there is put on board the *Defence* sixteen casks of indigo, amounting to £7,032 10*s.*, currency, which, upon your arrival, you will put into the hands of Mr. *Duraseau*, or the most capital merchant there, to sell for cash, that you may be enabled to pay the bounty to the seamen you may ship, and purchase such provisions and necessaries as you may want; after which you are to procure a quantity of stores necessary for the Navy; that is, such as cannot be procured here, for instance, canvas, twine, quadrants, paint, oil, compasses, sand-glasses, slops for seamen, six and four pound shot and grape shot. The remainder of the money to be invested in good muskets with bayonets, which you are carefully to examine, as some, which are not proof, have been sent out to the *French West-Indies*. You will bring with you proper accounts of the sale of indigo and vouchers for the moneys laid out. If you should meet Mr. *Provaux* at *Cape François*, and he has purchased any heavy cannon for the use of this State, you are to take two of them in the *Defence's* hold, and shot for them, if it can be done without any detriment or disadvantage to the vessel.

"In case of your death the command is to devolve to your First Lieutenant, and should he fall, the Second Lieutenant succeeds, and so in rotation.

"You have liberty to cruise for three months from the time of your sailing, during which you are to sink, burn, take, or destroy, any ship or vessel belonging to the King of *Great Britain*, or the subjects of *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, the *British West-India* Islands, *East* and *West-Florida*, *Halifax*, *Quebec*, or *Newfoundland*; observing, that any prizes which you may take, a careful good officer is to be put on board as prize-master, together with a sufficient number of men to navigate them to *Charlestown*, or any convenient inlet in the State of *South-Carolina*, where all your prizes are to be sent. Should it happen you are fortunate enough to take a prize or prizes early in your cruise, near the Islands, it is recommended to you to send her forward, and go into any *French* or *Dutch* port that may be most convenient, and supply your vessel with more men, continuing your cruise till the time limited, unless you think it necessary to convoy any prize you may take to the coast, in which case it is left to your own discretion, so that you don't exceed the limit of your cruise, allowing for usual passage from your cruising ground, which is left to yourself to choose, and to return by the way of *St. Augustine*, and scour the coast from thence to this port. You are to treat any prisoners you may take with the greatest humanity and tenderness, and upon no consideration suffer the honour of the *American* arms to be stained by any act of cruelty or inhumanity. If any seamen that you take are inclined to enter into the service, give them the bounty, and allow them the same wages as your other men receive from the time they sign the attestation.

"You are to take every opportunity that may offer to advise the Commissioners of the Navy where you are, and of every transaction that may happen worth communicating to them. Your letters are to be directed to *Edward Blake*, Esq., First Commissioner of the Navy Board, *Charlestown*, *South-Carolina*."

Adjourned to meet *Monday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Monday, 4th November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *George Smith*, *Josiah Smith*, *Geo. Abbott Hall*, *Thomas Corbett*, Esqs.

Read the Minutes of the last Board.

The Board agreed to take from Mr. *Robert Gibbes* fifty barrels of Beef, well cured, at £14 per barrel, and to be delivered in good tight barrels, in *Charlestown*, allowing him one bushel of salt for each barrel.

The following Letter was wrote to Captain *Pickering*:

"Navy Board, Charlestown, South-Carolina, 4 November, 1776.

"*Captain* Thomas Pickering:

"The Commissioners of the Navy having received intelligence that a ship and sloop, belonging to the subjects of *Great Britain*, are loading at *St. Mary's* river, which is guarded by two small vessels from *St. Augustine*, you are without delay to proceed off the port of *Sunbury*, in *Georgia*, where, if no pilot-boat should be off, and the weather will permit, send your boat on shore with an officer to the Committee

there, to get a pilot acquainted with *St. Mary's* river, and immediately proceed to the said river, where you will endeavour to take or destroy the cruisers, and bring off the vessels loading, provided they belong to the subjects of *Great Britain, Ireland*, &c.; in doing which it is apprehended you will meet with no difficulty."

The following Letter was wrote to the Committee of *Sunbury*:

"*To the Committee of* SUNBURY:

"GENTLEMEN: Having received intelligence that two vessels are loading at *St. Mary's*, covered by two small armed vessels, the Commissioners of the Navy have given directions to Captain *Pickering*, of the vessel of war *Defence*, to call off your port and require your assistance to obtain a pilot for *St. Mary's* river, which they will be glad that you will procure for him, as speedily as possible, and render him any other service which he may require; after which he has direction to proceed to *St. Mary's* river, in quest of the cruisers and vessels loading.

"By order of the Navy Board.

"EDWARD BLAKE, *First Commissioner*."

*Ordered*, That the Pilot-Boat *Hibernia* be this day discharged from the publick service.

Adjourned to to-morrow evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Tuesday, 5 November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, First Commissioner, *George Smith, Josiah Smith, George Abbot Hall, Thomas Corbett*, Esq'rs.

Read the Minutes of the last meeting.

It having appeared to the Board that the present publick Boat-Keeper, *Alexander Horn*, has not done the duty required of him, in having the Boats repaired and removed to the place appointed for them within the flood-gate, he is ordered to attend the Board at their next meeting, to answer for his neglect.

*Ordered*, That the First Commissioner do draw the three following Orders on the Commissioners of the Treasury, for sixteen casks of Indico, shipped on board the Brigantine of War *Defence*, viz.:

32. No. 3. One Order, in favour of *Thomas Corbett*, for amount of four casks of Indico, - - - £1,790 17 6
32. No. 4. One do., in favour of *Edward* and *John Blake*, for amount of five casks of Indico, - - - - - - - - - - £2,438 17 6
32. No. 5. One do., in favour of *William Parker*, for amount of seven casks of Indico, - - - - - - - - - - £2,802 15 0

£7,032 10 0

Adjourned to next *Thursday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Thursday, 7th November, 1776.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *Thomas Corbett, George Abbott Hall, Josiah Smith*, Esq'rs.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

*Alexander Horn* having attended the Board, was reprimanded, and engaged that all the publick Boats under his care should be in good order in ten days.

*Resolved*, That the Guns and Stores be removed from on board the Pilot-Boat the *Hibernia*, and that Captain *Edward Darrell* do cause the same to be removed.

The following Letter was received from Mr. *Thomas Wade*, directed to *Edward Blake, Charlestown*:

"Georgetown, 29 October, 1776.

"SIR: As by the advertisements signed by your name, I understand you are one of the Commissioners to contract for pork and beef for the publick and Navy of the Province, and as I have for sale a quantity of that article, should gladly supply you with any quantity of pork, under four or five hundred barrels; but if you engage to do it, you must supply me with half a bushel of salt to secure each barrel; and any engagement that may be made by the bearer, Mr. *John Packrow*, of *Georgetown*, I will abide by and comply with; and your letter of the price you and he may agree on will oblige your humble servant,

"THOMAS WADE."

The following Letter was received from his Excellency the President:

"November 7, 1776.

"GENTLEMEN: I have received intelligence that two armed vessels from *St. Augustine* infest the southern part of *Georgia*, and will probably come on this coast. A detachment from the Second Regiment is therefore ordered on board of the brigantine *Comet*. You will be pleased to give Captain *Allen* orders to proceed with them in her, with the utmost despatch, on a cruise for a fortnight, scouring the coast from this port to *St. Augustine*; and in so doing, acting in conjunction with the *Defence*, if they should meet.

"Your most obedient servant, "J. RUTLEDGE.

"The Commissioners of the Navy of *South-Carolina*."

The following Instructions were sent to Captain *Allen*:

"Navy Board, Charlestown, 7 November, 1776.

"*Captain* EDWARD ALLEN:

"The *Comet*, brigantine of war, whereof you are commissioned as Captain, being now ready for sea, you will receive a commission for your Second Lieutenant, and warrants for the other officers, which are to be read to your ship's company, that each officer may be properly obeyed. You will also receive rules of discipline and good government to be observed in the Navy of this State; instructions for the Captain, Lieutenants, the Master, the Purser, and the Carpenter; also directions for the Gunner and Armourer, Boatswain and Sailmaker; which you are to have entered in a book for that purpose, and then delivered to each officer respectively.

"You are to embrace the very first opportunity to proceed to sea; and as your vessel is not completely manned, a detachment of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, two Corporals, and twenty-eight privates, of the Second Regiment, are under orders to go on board your vessel, who you are to send boats for early to-morrow morning; and by all means during your cruise, keep up the strictest harmony, both by yourself, officers and men, with the officers and men of the land service, that the general good may not suffer by private animosity or quarrels, and they are to be allowed in every respect the same rations as your seamen receive.

"Immediately as you get over the bar, proceed with the greatest despatch to the southward, and endeavour to fall in near , where, if the weather will permit, and no boat should be off, send your own boat on shore to inquire for Captain *Pickering*, of the *Defence*, who you will by all means endeavour to join, and show him the orders now given to you, which are, that, under his command, you are to act in conjunction, and endeavour to fall in with, and take or destroy two small armed vessels belonging to the King or subjects of *Great Britain*, which are said to be cruising on the southward part of the coast; also any merchantmen that you may fall in with belonging to *Great Britain, Ireland*, the *British West Indies, East* and *West Florida, Halifax, Quebec*, or *Newfoundland*. Your cruise is to be continued for a fortnight or three weeks, between *St. Augustine* and this port, during which should you be fortunate enough to take any prizes, you are to man and send them on to this port or any convenient inlet in this State; and to use your prisoners with the greatest humanity and tenderness, that no reflection may be cast on the honour of the *American* arms through your means.

"If any opportunity should offer, advise the Commissioners of the Navy any transactions worth communicating, directed to *Edward Blake*, Esq., First Commissioner of the Navy.

"Upon your return you are to send your boat on shore at *Sullivan's Island*, that the officer there may examine whether you have the small-pox or any infectious distemper on board, in which case your vessel must perform quarantine.

"By order of the Board.

"EDWARD BLAKE, *First Commissioner*."

In consequence of Captain *Thomas Wade's* Letter, Mr. *John Packrow* agreed to supply the Board with Pork at £18 per barrel, which was refused.

Adjourned to next *Monday* evening, six o'clock.

Navy Board, Monday, 11 November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake,* Esquire, First Commissioner, *George Abbot Hall, George Smith, Josiah Smith,* Esqs.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

Received a Note from Mr. *Charles Burkmeyer* to contract for thirty barrels of Beef, at £16 per barrel. Rejected.

Agreed to furnish Mr. *William Hest* with two hundred bushels of Salt, to enable him to procure Hemp from the back country for the use of the Navy.

Received a Letter from Captain *Thomas Pickering:*

"Off Sunbury, Thursday noon.

"SIR: We left *Charlestown* Bar yesterday, about ten o'clock, and having a fine breeze, stood along shore all night, and this morning fell in with a sloop. After giving chase all day, we came up with her about two o'clock. She proved to be a *French* sloop, from the Cape, bound for *Charlestown,* Mr. *Aberdie* Master. He is the gentleman who delivers you this. I received several articles from him before we parted. As he complained of being a stranger to the place and people, I have taken the liberty to give him these few lines to you. Any services you can render him will infinitely oblige me. The wind at present is small, and off the land. Am much afraid we shall be puzzled to make *Sunbury;* however, shall do my endeavours to discharge the trust reposed in me. The people upon deck call out 'A sail!' and as we are preparing to give chase, I must conclude.

"I remain, sir, your obedient, humble servant,

"THOMAS PICKERING.

"Mr. *Blake.*"

Adjourned to next *Thursday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Thursday, 14th November, 1776.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake,* Esquire, First Commissioner, *Thomas Corbett, Josiah Smith, Geo. Abbott Hall,* Esqs.

Read the Minutes of the last meeting.

Received a Letter from *Zechariah Nettles,* offering to contract for one hundred and sixty barrels of Pork, at £15 per barrel; which was agreed to.

A Letter was also received from *Jacob Willaman,* offering to supply two hundred barrels Beef, and the same quantity of Pork. Rejected.

The Pilot-Boat *Hibernia,* being out of repair, and at the request of the proprietors, discharged the service.

The Board are of opinion that there is an absolute necessity for two Pilot-Boats to attend the Bar, as they find that one Boat is not adequate to the service, being frequently obliged to be cleaned:

Therefore *Resolved,* That application be made to the President, acquainting him of the necessity of having two Boats constantly to attend the Bar and Harbour of *Charlestown,* and that he will be pleased to give directions for the purchasing, building, or hiring another Boat for that purpose.

*Agreed,* That the First Commissioner do wait on the President, to inform him of the above Resolution.

*Agreed,* To draw on the Treasurer for the following sums. In favour of—

28. No. 6. *Alexander Baldridge,* for 5 barrels Flour, at £8, - - - - - - - - - - - - £108 6 4
28. No. 7. *Aaron McWhorter* and *Jno. Sturgeon,* 8 barrels Flour, at £8, - - 137 10 4
28. No. 8. *Philip Hart,* 20 barrels Flour, at £10, - - - - - - 168 8 0
*Philip Hart,* 12 barrels Flour, at £8 10s., - - - - - 220 13 2
28. No. 9. *Chas. Morgan* and *E. Sawyer,* 153 yards Oznaburg, at 20s., - - - 153 0 0
28. No. 10. *Fred'k David Cruger,* 16¼ gal. Linseed Oil, at 90s., - - - - - - - 74 5 0
28. No. 11. *John Dorsuis,* 3,366 lbs. Bar Iron, at £12 10s., - - - - - - - - 420 15 0
32. No. 12. *Alex'r Elsinore,* paid his wife part of wages, - - - - - - - - - 40 0 0
32. No. 13. *Woodward Flowers,* 579 lbs. Indico, at 25s., - - - - - - - - - £723 15 0
2. No. 14. *Peter Prow,* for mending the *Comet's* sails, - - - - - - - - - 78 0 0
£2,424 12 10

Adjourned to next *Monday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Monday, 18 November, 1776.

Adjourned to *Thursday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Thursday, 21 November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake,* Esquire, First Commissioner, *Roger Smith, Geo. Abbot Hall, Josiah Smith, Thomas Corbett,* Esqrs.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

Agreed in future to have all Letters received by this Board only numbered and entered in the Journal, from whom and for what person received, and filed to be referred to.

The First Commissioner informed the Board that he had waited on the President concerning the purchase of another Pilot-Boat, who gave for answer, the Commissioners of the Navy might do what they thought necessary in this matter, and they should be justified in so doing.

*Resolved,* That Captain *Ammonette* be offered eight hundred Continental Dollars for his Boat.

*Agreed,* To draw on the Treasury for the following sums, in favour of—

28. No. 15. *Thomas Richey,* for 8 barrels Flour, 1816, at £5 10s, - - - - - - - - - - - £99 17 7
28. No. 16. *Geo. Haker,* 2 bbls. Flour, 492, at £5 10s., - - - - - - - - - - 27 1 2
28. No. 16. *Geo. Haker,* for 5 kegs Butter, 441, at 5s., - - - - - - - - - - 110 5 0
£237 3 9

Mr. *James Black* attended the Board, and agreed to build a Row-Galley at the same price as Captain *Lempriere* agreed to build for.

Adjourned to to-morrow evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Friday, 22d November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake,* Esquire, First Commissioner, *Josiah Smith, Geo. Abbott Hall, Thomas Corbett,* Esq's.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

Mr. *Hall* reported that he had, agreeable to the Resolution of the Board last night, purchased from Captain *Ammonette* his Pilot-Boat called the *Glory of America,* for the sum of £1,300 currency, together with her Stores, &c., as per Inventory No. 15.

Adjourned to next *Monday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Monday, 25 November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake,* Esq., First Commissioner, *Geo. Abbott Hall, Thomas Corbett, Josiah Smith,* Esquires.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

Mr. *Alexander Horn* having represented to this Board that the multiplicity of business he is engaged in prevents his paying due attention to the publick Boats committed to his care; he therefore requests the Board will accept his resignation.

The Board accordingly accepted the resignation of Mr. *Horn.*

*Resolved,* That Mr. *McCully Righton* be appointed publick Boat-keeper.

The following Letter was wrote to Mr. *Alexander Horn:*

"SIR: You are desired by the Commissioners of the Navy to deliver to Mr. *McCully Righton* all the boats belonging to the publick of *South-Carolina* in your charge, together with the oars, rudders, &c., and as soon as possible bring in your account to the Commissioners.

"EDWARD BLAKE.

"November 25, 1776."

The following Letter was wrote to Mr. *McCully Righton:*

"Sir: The Commissioners of the Navy have appointed you Boat-keeper, in the room of Mr. *Alexander Horn*, and desire that you will have all the publick boats put in good repair, and provided with good oars, rudders, and tillers, as soon as possible. Also, to have the flood-gate cleared of stones, &c., and all the boats removed and kept within the flood-gate.

"Edward Blake, *First Commissioner.*

"November 25, 1776."

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Righton* be allowed thirty shillings per day as Boat-keeper.

The following Letter was wrote to *Clement Lempriere*, Esquire:

"Sir: The Board of Commissioners accept your proposal for the building of a row-galley, viz: to pay you three pounds ten shillings sterling per ton; the measurement to be the length multiplied by the breadth and half breadth; and request you finish the same with all possible despatch.

"I am, &c.,

"Edward Blake, *First Comm'r.*"

Adjourned to next *Thursday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Thursday, 28 November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *George Smith, Josiah Smith, Thomas Savage*, Esqs.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

Agreed that the following Order be sent to Mr. *Righton:*

"You are desired by the Commissioners to endeavour to engage eight good negro boatmen, on the best terms, to be constantly employed under your direction, and report to the Board on *Saturday* evening.

"Edward Blake, *First Comm'r.*

"November 28, 1776."

Adjourned to next *Saturday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Saturday, 30 November, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Josiah Smith*, Esq., Chairman, *Thomas Corbett, Geo. Abbott Hall, Roger Smith*, Esqs.

Read the Minutes of the last meeting.

No. 1. A Letter was received from Captain *Edward Allen*, commander of the Brigantine *Comet*, dated *St. Catharine's, November* 15, 1776.

Adjourned to next *Thursday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Thursday, December 5, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Thomas Corbett*, Esq., Chairman, *Roger Smith, Geo. Abbott Hall, Thomas Savage*, Esqs.

Captain *Edward Allen* attended the Board on his arrival with two prizes, viz: a sloop called the *George*, from *Jamaica*, and owned there, and a schooner, called the *Maria*, from *St. Vincent's*, owned in *Liverpool.*

*Ordered*, That the Clerk do wait on his Excellency the President to desire he will give a Pass to the Forts for the little Pilot Boat (*Hawke.*) lately purchased.

Adjourned to next *Saturday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Saturday, 7th December, 1776.

Adjourned to next *Monday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Monday, 9th December, 1776.

Adjourned to to-morrow evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Tuesday, 10th December, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *Thomas Corbett, Thomas Savage, George Smith, Geo. Abbott Hall*, Esqs.

The Clerk reported that he had waited on his Excellency the President, according to order, and his Excellency gave an Order to the Forts *Johnson* and *Moultrie* to pass the said Pilot Boat, (which he named the *Hawk.*) on a proper signal to be agreed on between the Boat and said Forts.

Mr. *Hezekiah Anthony* applied, as having as First Lieutenant of the Brigantine-of-War *Comet*, dated the 10th *August*, 1776, he has not been on the late cruise, and now claims his wages as First Lieutenant, from the 10th of *August*, the time of the date of his commission.

*Resolved*, That the Pilot Boat *Hawk* be sent to *Georgetown*, under the command of Mr. *Stone* or Mr. *Philips*, for such articles as the Board shall order from thence.

*Ordered*, That an Anchor for the Brigantine *Comet*, and a Cable from the Floating Battery, be sent to *Sullivan's Island*, for the use of the works carrying on there by General *Gadsden*, by an application to this Board by him for that purpose.

The Board agreed to draw on the Treasury for the sums following, in favour of Captain *Edward Allen:*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | No. 17. 21 lb. Tallow, at 5*s.* 10*d.*, - - - | £6 | 2 | 6 |
| | 5 Boat Oars, 16 feet each, - - - - - - | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| | 331 lb. Beef, 1*s.* 2*d.*, - - - - - - - - | 19 | 9 | 8 |
| | 1 Anchor, 542, £15, - - - - - - - | 81 | 6 | 0 |
| | | £116 | 4 | 10 |
| 28. | No. 18. *Florian Chs. May*, for 8,000 lb. Iron, at £12 10*s.*, - - - - - - - | 1000 | 0 | 0 |

Adjourned to meet *Thursday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Thursday, 12 December, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Thomas Corbett*, Esquire, Chairman, *Thomas Savage, Josiah Smith, Geo. Abbott Hall*, Esqs.

Read the Minutes of last meeting.

No. 2. A Letter received from Mr. *Anthony Bonneau*, in *Georgetown*, dated the 6th *December*, 1776.

No. 3. A Letter from General *Gadsden*, dated *Fort Moultrie*, the 11th *December*, 1776.

Adjourned to meet *Monday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Monday, 16th December, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *Roger Smith, Thomas Corbett, Thomas Savage, Josiah Smith, George Smith*, Esqs.

No. 4. A Letter received from Captain *Stephen Seymour*, of the Schooner *Rattlesnake*, stationed at *Georgetown*, dated the 12th *December*, 1776.

No. 5. A Letter received from Lieutenant *Wm. Seward*, First Lieutenant of the Brigantine *Defence*, dated *Cape Nicola Mole, November* 30, 1776.

*Agreed*, That the First Commissioner do furnish the Clerk with £2,000, in order to proceed to *George-Town*, to pay off the people belonging to the *Rattlesnake*, stationed there.

*Agreed*, That the First Commissioner do direct Mr. *Hezekiah Anthony* to repair on board the *Comet*, and act as Second Lieutenant on board the said Brigantine; in case of refusal to act in that station, to order him on board the Schooner *Rattlesnake*, to act as First Lieutenant; in case of refusal, to demand his commission, and dismiss him the service.

A Letter wrote to Captain *Edward Allen*:

"*Captain* Edward Allen:

"Sir: The Commissioners of the Navy desire that you will as soon as possible have the brigantine *Comet* ready to proceed on a cruise; and that you will lay before the Board an indent of all such stores as are wanting for the said brigantine, as also a pay bill made out to the 27th instant, that the people may receive their wages to that time.

"I am, sir, your humble servant,

"Edward Blake, *First Commissioner.*

"December 17, 1776."

Adjourned to next *Monday* evening, six o'clock.

—

Navy Board, Monday, 23 December, 1776.

Adjourned to to-morrow evening, six o'clock.

Navy Board, Tuesday, 24th December, 1776.

Adjourned to meet next *Saturday* evening, six o'clock.

Navy Board, Monday, 30th December, 1776.

The Board met according to adjournment.

Present: *Edward Blake*, Esquire, First Commissioner, *Thomas Savage*, *Thomas Corbett*, *Josiah Smith*, *George Smith*, Esq's.

No. 19. The Clerk reported he had paid the armed Schooner *Rattlesnake*, stationed at *George-Town*, to the 20th instant, inclusive, amounting to £1,881 8*s.* 8*d.*

No. 20. The Board agreed to draw on the Treasury, in favour of *Hawkins, Petrie & Co.*, for sundries supplied Captain *Darrell*, £1,751 3*s.* 7*d.*

*Agreed*, That Captain *Edward Allen* should open a Rendezvous, and to advance a month's pay to every man that will inlist in the service of the State for six months.

The First Commissioner is desired to write to Mr. *Elder*, Surgeon of the *Comet*, and request that he will give his attendance on board the said vessel once every day while in harbour.

*Agreed*, That Mr. *Stephen Duvall* do purchase a small Boat from Captain *Francis Morgan*, for the use of the Pilot-Boat *Eagle*, and that the First Commissioner do pay for the same.

*Agreed*, To draw on the Treasury for amount of the *Comet's* pay-bill to the 27th instant, being three months, amount, - - - - - - - - - - - - £2,844 18 0

For the detachment of Soldiers on board said brigantine, - - - - - - - - - - - - 383 12 6

£3,228 10 6

Adjourned to next *Thursday* evening, six o'clock.

## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY NEW-YORK CONVENTION, FOR INQUIRING INTO, DETECTING AND DEFEATING ALL CONSPIRACIES, &c.

Wednesday, 11th December, 1776.

The Committee met at *Connor's* Tavern.

Present: Mr. *De Witt*, *Gou. Morris*, Mr. *Jay*.

Mr. *Duer* being absent, Mr. *Jay* was chosen Chairman of this Committee.

Mr. *Jay* communicated to the Committee a Letter from Colonel *Huntington* to this Committee, informing them that he had sent several Prisoners, whose names and crimes were specified in a paper enclosed; which is as follows:

*Wm.* and *Jon'n Underhill*, confined by General *Sullivan*, for not signing the Association, and swearing allegiance to his *Britannick* Majesty.

*John Beger* and *John Acker*, General *Lee*, on suspicion of corresponding with the enemy.

*Ms. Valentine*, - - - Gen. *Lee*; an active Tory.

*Pebody Stanmore*, - -

*Jacob Jewel*, - - - - Gen. *Lee*; an active Tory.

*Samuel Miller*, *John Prior*, *James McCord*, *Elisha Merrit*, } Gen. *Lee*; } suspected of aiding the enemy.

A Letter was received of the 11th instant, from *Joh's Hardenbergh*, Jr., in favour of *Jos. Montgomery*, one of the Prisoners.

*Petrus Rosen*, the Officer of the Guard, informs the Committee that *Pebody Stanmore* and *John Davis*, two of the Prisoners, are very sick.

*Ordered*, That Doct. *Graham* be requested to examine them, and report their condition to the Committee.

*Gou. Morris* informs the Committee that he had permitted *Ms. Valentine* and *Underhill* to go at large on their parole, to appear every day; and that the others are in the Guard-House, except some who had escaped.

*Charles Haight*, Jr., of *North-Castle*, being examined on oath, saith that he was sent here by the Committee of *Bedford*. That about two months ago he was enticed by *Caleb Fowler*, Jun., to go with him to *Long-Island*, the said *Fowler* telling him that if he staid, he would be taken up. That they went together to *Byram*; that they communicated their design to *Stephen Lyon*, son of *John Lyon*, at that place. That the said *Lyon's* negroes carried them over to *Musqueto Cove*, from whence he again came over to *Mamaroneck*, at the time the enemy were there. That *Fowler* went to the enemy on *Long-Island*. That on their way to *Byram*, they staid a night at *Jonathan Miller's*, in *King Street*, and the next night at *James Brundige's*, who both entertained them, and knew where they were going. That *Stephen Lyon* looked out for a canoe for them. That he saw *Rogers's* Rangers at *Mamaroneck*; that *William Underhill*, Jr., of *Cortlund Manor*, was a Captain among them, and had brought several men with him, as he understood among them; and that *Underhill* told him he was going home. That he also saw among them *Samuel Kip*, of *North-Castle*, who told the examinant that he was a Lieutenant, and was going home also.

CHARLES HAIGHT.

Sworn 11 *December*, 1776. JOHN JAY.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Townsend* forthwith apprehend and bring before this Committee *Stephen Lyon*, *Jona. Miller*, *James Brundige*, *William Underhill*, Jr., and *Samuel Kip*.

Whereas the said *Charles Haight*, Jr., has offered to assist Captain *Townsend* in apprehending the said persons:

*Ordered*, That he be the bearer of a Letter for that purpose to Captain *Townsend*, and return with him to this Committee.

The Rev. Dr. *Graham* reports that he has examined *John Davis* and *Pebody Stanmore*, agreeable to the order of this Court; that the former is ill of a pox, and may with safety remain where he is. That the latter has a fever, and ought to be removed.

*Ordered*, That the Rev. Dr. *Graham* be requested to see *John Davis* removed to the Hospital, and attend them both.

Connor's Tavern, at Fish-Kill, 13 December, 1776.

The Committee met: Present, Mr. *Jay*, Chairman, Mr. *De Witt*, Mr. *Duer*, *Gou. Morris*.

Mr. *Jay* informs the Committee that he last evening released *Anthony Alair*, one of the prisoners, from the custody of the Guard, on his brother *Peter Alair's* becoming surety for his appearance.

Mr. *Duer* communicated to the Committee a Letter from *Egbert Benson*, Esq., of the 11th instant, enclosing Papers containing information against and concerning sundry persons.

Also, a Letter from *Maurice Pleas*, respecting *Charles Vincent*, who had escaped from *Exeter*, of the 9th instant, 1776.

Also, a Letter from Colonel *Ms. Thomas*, of the 11th *December*, enclosing a Letter from General *Wadsworth* to General *Spencer*, relative to a number of Tories he had apprehended by order of General *Lee*.

The Prisoners referred to by General *Wadsworth* are: *Caleb Archer*, *Isaac Lawrence*, *Paul Graham*, *Joshua Odell*, *Samuel Dean*, *Benjamin Booth*, *Elbert Arson*, *Thomas Ellis*, *Amos Le Forgue*, *John Dickson*, *Peter Dobbs*, *Henry Fowler*, *Isaac Tomkins*, *Edward Odell*, *Henry Le Forgue*, *John Shute*, *James Tomkins*, *John McCord*, *Edward Drake*, *John Vermilyea*, *Anthony Alair*, *Isaac Arsen*, *William Paterson*, *Benjamin Vermilyea*.

General *Morris* informs the Committee that *Israel Honeywell* and *John Youngs*, two of the Committee of *West-Chester* County, told him all the above-named persons were notoriously disaffected to the *American* cause, and, in their opinion, ought to be removed to one of the neighbouring States.

Mr. *Duer* also communicated to the Committee a Certificate of *John Baker*, a Sergeant in the Fourth Regiment, certifying certain matters against *Wm. Underhill*; at the foot of which Certificate is another of Colonel *Nixon*, of the character of *Baker*.

A Letter from *Isaac Everit*, Chairman of the Committee

of *Fredericksburgh*, of the 10th *December*, 1776, respecting *Stephen Booth*, sent prisoner to the Committee, was read.

Mr. *Duer* also communicated to the Committee a Letter from *Leonard Gansevoort*, Esq., of 21st *November* last, respecting *Henry Cuyler*, Major *Edmunston*, and Lieutenant *Hugh Frazier*, three half-pay Officers, and disaffected to the *American* cause.

Mr. *Duer* informed the Committee that the Mayor of *Albany*, who had been committed to the custody of Lieutenant *Schoonmaker*, had escaped, and that he had put the Lieutenant under arrest.

Whereas *Henry Cuyler*, Major *Edmunston*, and Lieutenant *Hugh Frazier*, are Officers on half-pay in the service of the King of *Great Britain*; and whereas this Committee are well informed that the said gentlemen are notoriously disaffected to the *American* cause:

*Resolved*, That they be forthwith removed to the town of *Boston*, and remain there at their own expense, on the parole directed for Prisoners of War; and that the Committee of *Albany* be requested to execute this Resolution.

Mr. *Duer* again attending the Committee, and having completed the business for which he left it, Mr. *Jay* resigned the Chair, and Mr. *Duer* was again unanimously appointed Chairman to the Committee.

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P. M.—Present: *William Duer*, Esq., Chairman, General *Morris*.

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Connor's Tavern, Fish-Kill, December 15th, 1776.

Present: *William Duer*, Chairman.

Captain *Silas Purdy* brought in *Humphrey Merril*, *Elisha Purdy*, and *Lodwick Millar*, three Tories from the Precinct of *New-Marlborough*, who had been privy to a treasonable conspiracy, formed by *James Robinson*, *Jacob Russell*, and others, against the liberties of the *United States*.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Purdy* deliver these persons to the Officer of the Guard, who is hereby ordered to keep them in safe custody till further orders from the Committee.

*Henry Brandt* and *John Niles* were discharged on taking the oath of allegiance to the State.

Colonel *Drake* applied for leave to take *Isaac Tomkins*, his wife's brother, to his own home, and promised to return him on *Wednesday* next.

*Ordered*, That the Officer of the Guard deliver *Isaac Tomkins* to Colonel *Drake*.

—

Connor's Tavern, Fish-Kill, December 16, 1776.

Present: Mr. *Duer*, Chairman, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Colonel *De Witt*.

A Letter from *Joshua Draper*, one of the Committee of *Spencer*, in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, in favour of *Ralph Phillips*, one of the persons who was sent by this Committee to that place, was laid before the Convention, and referred to this Committee.

The Rev. Mr. *Rysdorp* appeared before the Convention, and informed them that the said *Ralph Phillips* was a person of good moral character, and very useful to the community. With respect to his political character he does not pretend to determine.

A Letter from *Lawrence Fonda*, Chairman of the Committee of *Claverack*, enclosing several Affidavits against divers disaffected persons, was read, and is in the words following: (*Pro ut.*)

*Ordered*, That the Committee of *Claverack* be requested to remove *George Clapper*, *Frederick Clapper*, *Petrus Clapper*, and *Jacob Anderson*, who are charged with treasonable practices against this State, to the Jail at *Poughkeepsie*; and that they inform the Jail Keeper of said Jail which of the said persons are able to maintain themselves, and that if any of them should be unable, that in such case the Keeper of the said Jail afford them reasonable subsistence at the expense of this Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Keeper of the said Jail receive the above-mentioned persons, and them safely keep till further orders from this Committee, the Convention, or future Legislature of this State.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of *Claverack* District be informed that it is the intention of this Committee to apply to the Convention of this State to enact an ordinance for establishing a general Oath of Allegiance, to be administered to all the subjects of this State; a copy of which will be transmitted to them as soon as possible.

*Ordered*, That the expense of the Express from the Committee of *Claverack*, amounting to , be paid by this Committee, and that the Chairman be requested to advance the same.

A Letter from *Peter Corne*, dated *December* 6th, begging an enlargement of his parole; likewise a Certificate of General *Parsons*. The Letters being read, are in the words following: (*Pro ut.*)

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Peter Corne* be permitted to remain under his former restrictions to his house and farm at *Peek's Kills*, on his parole of honour, so long as General *Parsons* shall lodge at his house; and that General *Parsons* be requested to take his parole in the same manner as the former one.

Mr. *Hansard* informs that there are three girls near this place, who have come lately from *New-York*; the name of one is *Henning*, who has a brother sick in the Barracks; that he has understood that she and her mother either lived with General *Howe* or the *Hessian* General.

—

Connor's Tavern, December 17, 1776.

Present: Mr. *Duer*, Chairman, Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Colonel *Cortlandt*.

The Examination of *Enoch Crosby* was read, and is in the words following, viz:

*Resolved*, That *Walter Dubois*, *Alexander Milliner*, *William Brown*, and *James Harden*, near *Shawgenet*, in *Ulster* County, be forthwith apprehended and brought before this Committee.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Clark* be requested to execute this Resolution, and that the Chairman be requested to desire his attendance on this Committee.

*Resolved*, That *Uriah Townsend*, *Adonai Manuel*, *Jacob Seedsman*, and *James Cohuan*, be discharged on their taking the Oath of Allegiance.

The above-mentioned persons attending, the Chairman, by order of the Committee, gave them permission of either joining the enemy or of taking the Oath of Allegiance. They all declared their determination to fight for their country, and voluntarily took the Oath of Allegiance.

A Letter from the Committee of *Tryon* County, signed *Isaac Paris*, Chairman, dated *November* 28th, 1776, was taken up and considered, and is in the words following:

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Harper*, one of the Members for *Tryon* County, be requested to attend this Committee.

Mr. *Harper* attending, informed the Committee that he was present when the above persons were examined before the Committee of *Tryon* County; that *Hough* and *Ramsay* were particularly dangerous and desperate fellows; and that the whole of them are so notoriously disaffected, that they ought, in his opinion, to be prevented from going at large.

*Resolved*, That *Francis Prince*, *George Ramsey*, *William C. Bownig*, *John Gibson*, *Melon Knight*, and *Henry Hoff*, be forthwith conveyed to *Poughkeepsie*, there to be confined in Jail till further orders from this Committee or future Legislature of this State.

*Resolved*, That *William Gilroberts*, who has been sent to this place by the Committee of *West-Chester*, and who stands charged with Horse stealing, be forthwith sent to *Poughkeepsie*, there to be confined in Jail till further orders from this Committee, the Convention, or future Legislature of this State, unless sooner discharged by due course of law.

The Chairman laid before the Committee a charge against a *Charles Haight*, who had been sent to this place by the Committee of *Bedford*, in *West-Chester* County; which being read, is in the words following:

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December 18, 1776.

Present: *William Duer*, Chairman, General *Morris*, Colonel *De Witt*, Captain *Platt*.

General *Clinton* informs the Committee that a quantity of Butter was deposited at *Fort Montgomery*, which had been taken from a certain *Brian Connor*, who had intended

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to carry it to the enemy, and had been sent a prisoner to *Fort Constitution*, and begged to know what should be done with it.

*Josias Berkely* appeared before the Committee, and informed them that he had left *Long-Island* last *Monday* se'nnight, at the request of Mr. *Baltus Van Kleeck*, of *New-York;* that he had sent him to Mr. *Joshua Carman*, his son-in-law, to inquire after his children; that, by what he could learn, there was only fourteen of the enemy's Light-Horse upon *Long-Island*, and that it was said that Captain *Woolley* had inlisted one hundred men in the service of the enemy; that he had not taken the oath of allegiance; that he was never asked to take it; that he understood several persons in the Island had not taken the oath of allegiance; that the Continental money does not pass amongst them, but only gold, silver, *New-York* bills of the old emission, and the money struck by the Corporation for erecting water-works; that he had come immediately to Mr. *Carman's*, who had carried him to two members of the Committee of *Rumbout* Precinct, who had examined him.

Captain *Platt* says, that *Baltus Van Kleeck*, with whom the examinant lives, is an equivocal character; that all the connections are equivocal; that at an election for a Committee in *Dutchess* County, where the question was, whether there should be a Committee or not, the examinant was of that party which voted against the Committee.

*John Sligell*, late of the city of *New-York*, Tanner and Currier, saith, that his father's family and his own moved from the *Bowery Lane*, near *New-York*, shortly before the enemy landed in the city, to *New-Rochelle;* that after the enemy came to *New-Rochelle* they were turned out of doors by a *Hessian* officer, and again went to *New-York;* that after the enemy left *New-Rochelle* the examinant went there to see for his family; that he found them gone; that he waited a day and a half for an opportunity of sending to *New-York* for his clothes; that his wife came there by water with design of inquiring for him; that they concluded she should return and endeavour to send out his clothes, and come out as soon as possible; that she accordingly went on board *Peter Schenck's* boat, at *New-Rochelle;* that *Schenck* persuaded him to go along, promising to see him safe back; that he went with them, landed near the ship-yards at *New-York*, and went to his father's house, staid there a night, got his clothes, and sailed with the said *Schenck* the next day, and landed at the *City Island*, from whence he came by land to this place, and is going to *Pennsylvania* to see his uncles and aunts; that it was agreed between him and his wife, that she, with her child, should leave *New-York* the first opportunity and come to *New-Rochelle;* that she should send word to her cousin, *John Harbeck*, who lives with a currier here, and that on his return from *Pennsylvania* he should go down to *New-Rochelle* and fetch her, and that *Harbeck* should fetch her in case examinant should not return at the time expected; that women are permitted to go out and into *New-York* without interruption; that he served as a Corporal in Captain *Leonard's* Company, in *Locker's* Regiment, in General *Scott's* Brigade.

JOHN SLIGELL.

*Resolved*, That *John Sligell* be put on his parole not to cross the river without the permission of this Committee, and to appear before this Committee every *Saturday* evening, at five o'clock, till further orders.

A Letter from Colonel *Luddington*, dated *December* 17th, 1776, was read, in which he informs, that a certain *Akins* is come from the enemy's Army, and has brought a number of protections to the neighbours. Likewise a Letter from *Alexander Kidd*, *Mathew Paterson*, *Roswell Wilcox*, *John Young*, giving the same information.

The Letters being read, the Committee came to the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Luddington* and Mr. *Mathew Paterson* be requested and authorized to cause *David Atkins*, and all other persons whom they have good reason to suppose have received protections from the enemy, forthwith to be apprehended, disarmed, and brought before this Committee, and that they diligently search their houses and persons for papers, and that they transmit to this Committee all such as are of a suspicious purport; and further, that a Lieutenant and twenty-five men be sent to the above gentlemen, in order to assist them in carrying this Resolution into execution.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *Brinckerhoff* be requested to detach from his regiment of Militia twenty-four men, of known attachment to the cause of *America*, commanded by an active and intelligent Lieutenant, and that the said officer parade his men at two o'clock to-morrow afternoon, at the house of Colonel *Abraham Brinckerhoff*, there to receive further orders from this Committee.

*Ordered*, That a copy of this Resolution be immediately sent to Colonel *Brinckerhoff*.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman lay before the Convention the above Letters.

*Jeremiah Scribner* delivered the Committee a Letter from the Committee of *Fredericksburg*, transmitting a charge against a certain *Jeremiah Bayley*, whom they had sent under guard.

*Ordered*, That *Jeremiah Scribner* deliver the above-mentioned *Jeremiah Bailey* to the Officer of the Guard, who is directed to keep him in safe custody till further orders.

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Connor's Tavern, Fish-Kill, December 18th, 1776.

Present: Mr. *Duer*, Chairman, General *Morris*, Colonel *De Witt*, Mr. *Zeph. Platt*, Captain *Sacket*.

Mr. *Joseph Hoff*, of the *Nine Partners*, appeared before the Committee, and informed that *Thomas Tobias*, *Richard Peters*, *John Howard*, Dr. *Christian Tobias*, and *Willert Duck*, all of the *Nine Partners*, and very active Tories, had for some time absconded; that *John Howard*, *Richard Peters*, and *Thomas Tobias*, had returned, and that since their return a number of young men who lived in their neighbourhood were missing, and, as they suppose, went off with some of the above persons.

Captain *Caleb Haight* attending, gave the same information, and says, further, that they are eight men belonging to his Company, who had absconded. Their names are *Willbert Duck*, *Silas Duck*, 3d, (son of *Silas Duck*,) *Samuel Horcey*, *John Smith*, *Thomas Tobias*, *Israel Hallock*, *Amos Hallock*, *Isaac Hoff*, in *Charlotte* Precinct; that some of these persons are men of estate, and have considerable forage; that there is near twenty men out of Captain *Smith's* company who have absconded; that *Thomas Tobias* was home on *Monday* last.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Haight*, Mr. *Isaac Hoff*, and Captain *Samuel Smith*, be requested to furnish with a list of such persons who have absconded from the *Nine Partners*, distinguishing such as have property.

The Chairman being appointed on another Committee, which required his indispensable attendance, Mr. *Gansevoort* was unanimously chosen Chairman.

Mr. *Duer* informed the Committee that he had delivered *Abraham Cuyler*, Esq., Mayor of *Albany*, to Lieutenant *Schoonmaker*, of Captain *Belknap's* company, and that he had suffered him to escape; that he had put Lieutenant *Schoonmaker* under an arrest, till the pleasure of this Committee should be known.

*Resolved*, That the Committee approve of Mr. *Duer's* conduct, [and that the Chairman report the conduct of Lieutenant *Schoonmaker* to the Convention of this State.]

A Petition of *Thomas Menzies*, Esq., dated *December* 17, 1776, to the Convention of the State of *New-York*, and by them referred to this Committee, being read and considered, the Committee came to the following Resolution:

*Resolved*, That *Thomas Menzies*, Esq., be permitted to return to his place of residence, and that he give his parole of honour to remain within six miles thereof till the further order of this Committee or the Legislative authority of this State.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *De Witt* prepare a draught of a parole to be signed by Mr. *Menzies*.

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P. M.—Present: Mr. *Gansevoort*, Chairman, Mr. *Platt*, Mr. *Sackett*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Gilbert Southerd* be requested to furnish the Guard in this place with Firewood, and that this Committee will pay him therefor.

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December 20, 1776.

Present: Mr. *Gansevoort*, Chairman, General *Morris*, Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Platt*, Mr. *Sackett*.

Mr. *Duer* informed the Committee that he was lately in *Orange* County; that while he was there, Mr. *Tustun*, the Chairman, took him aside, and told him that Dr. *Gale* was one of the most subtle and dangerous Tories that was in *Orange* County; that he was a relation of his, and that, therefore he would not wish to have it known that this information came from him.

Whereas it appears to this Committee that Lieutenant *Schoonmaker* was induced to be less careful of *Abraham C. Cuyler*, Esq, late Mayor of *Albany*, than he would otherwise have been, by the indulgences heretofore given him by this Committee, and the assurances given him by Mr. *Henry Glen*, Assistant Quartermaster-General, of the honour of the said *Abraham C. Cuyler*, Esq., and an expectation that Mr. *Glen* would keep a watchful eye over him; and it appearing also to the Committee that Lieutenant *Schoonmaker* is a very young man, well-affected to the *American* cause, and not much acquainted with military discipline, and promising to be more vigilant in the execution of his duty for the future:

*Ordered*, That he be reprimanded by the Chairman, discharged, and return to his duty.

Mr. *Menzies* appeared before the Committee, and having subscribed his Parole, was dismissed.

*John Haines* appeared before the Committee, and being examined, says that, &c. (*Pro ut.*)

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P. M.—Present: Mr. *Gansevoort*, Chairman, Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *Jay*, Mr. *Sackett*, Mr. *Platt*.

Colonel *Henry B. Livingston* informed the Committee that he had apprehended, at the request of *John Sloss Hobart*, one of the Members of the Convention of the State of *New-York*, and brought under guard to this place, Mr. *Malcolm Morison* and *David Aitkins*, two persons who had received protections from General *Howe*.

*Ordered*, That *Malcolm Morison* appear before this Committee.

*Resolved*, That *Melancton Smyth* be, and he is hereby, appointed to take the command of the Companies of Rangers, and such other troops as may from time to time be put under his command by this Committee, stationed at this place, with the rank and pay of Major, until further provision be made for him by the Convention of the State of *New-York* or this Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman write to Major *Smith*, and request him forthwith to repair to this place, and transmit him copy of the above Resolution.

Lieutenant *Jacob Lawrence* appeared before the Committee, and produced an Order from Captain *Roos* to bring on *Joseph Pinnie* to the Convention of this State.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Myrick* take the said *Pinnie* into custody.

*Malcolm Morison* appearing, and being examined, saith, that last *Tuesday* week, one *David Akins*, one of his neighbours, gave him a paper, which he put in his pocket, and the next day or that evening read; and that it was a protection from General *Howe*; that he never informed the Committee of his district thereof, being diverted therefrom by private business. That he never asked the said *Aikins* where he got it, or what induced him to give this paper to the said examinant; and that on the said paper's being demanded of him by *Sloss Hobart*, Esq., a Member of the Convention of this State, the night before last, he gave it to him, and that the paper now shown to him is the same; that the evening or the next day after he had received the said paper, he communicated the same to one *Alex. Ridd*, who had formerly been of the District Committee; also to one *John Young*, a Saddler there, but to no other persons whatever. MALCOLM MORRISON.

*Ordered*, That the said *Malcolm Morrison* be committed to the custody of the Guard, and by them confined in irons.

*David Aikins*, of *Fredericksborough* Precinct, Blacksmith, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that on or about the 29th day of *November* last he set out from home, with a pass from Colonel *Luddington*, to go to *Horse-Neck*, to buy rum. That on his arrival there he was disappointed in getting the rum, and from thence he set out for *West-Chester* County, in quest of *Barnes Hatfield*, for whom he was bound in a considerable sum of money; that he went to the *White-Plains*, and not finding him there, he went to *Isaac Williams's*, near *Bronx* river, who had married his cousin; that he lodged there, and was taken out of bed there by a party of *Rogers's* Rangers; that they carried him to a fort near one *Volentine's*, and the next day they sent him to a Major, whose name he has forgot, in the neighbourhood of *Kingsbridge*; that the Major asked him how he would clear himself from the Rebel pass that was found on him; that he said he had come down on a particular errand from Captain *Alexander Grant's* wife to him, and that if the Major would send him to Captain *Grant* or Captain *Alexander Campbell*, who were his old neighbours, he could prove his character. That thereupon the Major sent him under guard to Captain *Campbell's* quarters, at a white house of Mr. *Frederick Van Cortlandt*; that on his arrival there he told Captain *Campbell* that he was a prisoner, and that it was in his power to discharge him; that Captain *Campbell* said he would discharge him if he would carry some papers and errands to certain persons in his neighbourhood, and be secret about it, saying further, that he had a day or two before sent some papers, as this deponent understood, to *Malcolm Morrison*, by one Widow *Henderson*, who he believes used to live at *Horse-Neck*, and he has heard is a relation to the *Hendersons* at *Robinson's* Lower Stores. That he promised to be the bearer of the said errands and papers; and that Captain *Campbell* thereupon gave him two printed papers, which he did not read, and protections, from General *Howe*, for *Malcolm Morrison*, *John Kain*, *Alexander Shedd*, *Mathew Paterson*, *Charles Collins*, and one for himself; that the said Captain *Campbell* entered into free conversation with him, in the course of which he understood from the said Captain *Campbell* that *Malcolm Morrison* had engaged to raise a company of men for the enemy's service, and that he, the said *Campbell*, wished he would be speedy about it. That the said Captain *Campbell* further told him, that when he left *Fredericksburgh*, he delivered his writings to *Alexander Kidd*; and this deponent further saith, that Captain *Campbell* gave him a pass to return home, and said he would be at deponent's house in about six weeks' time; and that as he was going away, he met *Allen Cameron*, who had formerly resided in *Fredericksburgh*, and with whom he had been acquainted; that he entered into conversation with the said *Cameron*, and that *Cameron*, among other things, told him that he had given a bill of sale of his estate to *Malcolm Morison* to save his property. And this deponent further saith, that *Barney Kain*, a brother of *John Kain*, is a Lieutenant to the said *Campbell*, and that this deponent also understood from the said Captain *Campbell* that *Malcolm Morrison*, after he had raised his company, was to be under Governour *Brown*. That this deponent made the best of his way home. That on his arrival there he delivered the protection aforesaid directed to *Malcolm Morrison* to him; that the said *Morrison* read the same and appeared much pleased, and gave this deponent two dollars for his trouble and care in delivering the same. That the *Sunday* after this deponent came home, he saw *John Kain*, and told him he had a protection for him, and asked him if he would receive it; that the said *John Kain* appeared shy about it, and in the evening of the same day called at this deponent's house for it, and the deponent accordingly gave it to him; that the said *Kain* asked this deponent where he got the said protection, and this deponent told him he had got it from Captain *Campbell*. This deponent further saith, that he never delivered the other protections to the persons for whom they was intended as aforesaid, nor has he spoken to either of them about it, except to *Mathew Paterson*, who refused to accept it. That one *Hetty Street*, a sister of , and who lives with the wife of *Leonard Wilmot*, who has lately gone to the enemy from *Fredericksburgh*, told him that *Malcolm Morison* had sent a little girl to their house to show them the protection he had received. And this deponent further saith, that some time after, the said *John Kain* came to his house and told him that *Malcolm Morison* had divulged the affair of the protection, and that the said *John Kain* would fall out with this deponent and vilify him, but that he must not mind that. This deponent also saith, that he gave the said *John Kain* one of the printed papers above-mentioned, and asked him what he should do with the other, and that the said *John Kain*

advised him to burn them both, which he accordingly did. And further this deponent saith not.

DAVID AKIN, Jr.

Sworn in the presence of the Committee by me,
LEONARD GANSEVOORT, *Chairman.*

*Ordered*, That the said *David Akins* be discharged on his taking an oath of allegiance to this State.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Luddinton* be requested to apprehend and bring before this Committee *John Kain*, of *Pawling's* Precinct, who stands charged with having received a protection from General *Howe*.

*Ordered*, That *Charles Collins* be immediately committed to the Guard-House.

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December 21, 1776.

Present: *Leonard Gansevoort*, Chairman, *Zephaniah Platt*, *John Jay*, *William Duer*, Esqrs.

*Ordered*, That *Cushman*, the Blacksmith near Colonel *Brinkerhoff's*, leaving all other business, do forthwith make, and send to this Committee, six pairs of Manacles and Handcuffs.

*Ordered*, That *George Drawyer*, leaving all other business, do forthwith make, and send to this Committee, six pair of Manacles and Handcuffs.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Clark* be forthwith requested to attend this Committee.

A Letter from *John Schenck*, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of *Poughkeepsie* District, was read. (*Pro ut.*)

*Resolved*, That the Committee of *Poughkeepsie* District be requested to send *Joseph Odel* and *Michael Smith* to this Committee, under a guard of two men, at their own expense, for the purpose of taking the oath of allegiance to the State of *New-York*, and being discharged, unless cause should appear for their further detention.

*Ordered*, That copy of the above Resolution be sent to the Committee of *Poughkeepsie* District.

*Ordered*, That *William Duer*, Esq., pay *John Hains* six Dollars, for secret services performed for this Committee.

*Ordered*, That *William Duer*, Esq., pay *Caleb Trip* two Dollars, for riding express to Major *Melancton Smith*.

Whereas this Committee have been credibly informed, and have good reason to believe, that *David Van Schaack* and *Peter Van Schaack*, Esqrs., Messrs. *John Stevenson*, *Cornelius Glen*, of the City and County of *Albany*, have long maintained an equivocal neutrality in the present struggles, and are, in general, supposed unfriendly to the *American* cause, and, from their influence, are enabled to do it essential injury:

*Resolved*, That the Committee of the City and County of *Albany* be requested to summon the said persons to appear before them, to ask them whether they respectively consider themselves as subjects of the State of *New-York* or of the King of *Great Britain*. If they answer that they consider themselves subjects of the State of *New-York*, then to tender to them the oath of allegiance, and on their taking and subscribing the same, to discharge them; but if they should answer that they consider themselves as subjects of the King of *Great Britain*, or refuse to take the oath aforesaid, then to remove them, under the care of some discreet officer, to the town of *Boston*, at their own expense, and there to remain, on their parole of honour, till the further orders of this Committee, or the Convention, or future Legislature of this State; and that copy of their parole be sent to the Selectmen of the said town of *Boston*.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the Oath of Allegiance and the Parole aforesaid be sent to the Committee of the City and County of *Albany*.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman write to the said Committee, and enclose the above.

*Ordered*, That *Dirck Gardinier* and *Matthew Goes*, Jun., be discharged on taking and subscribing the oath of allegiance to this State.

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December 22d, 1776.

Present: *Leonard Gansevoort*, Esq., Chairman, *Zephaniah Platt*, *William Duer*, *John Ten Broeck*.

Captain *Hill* appeared before the Committee, and informed them that he had brought, under guard, to this place, *John Kain*, who was delivered to him by Colonel *Henry Ludinton*; that he had also a person under guard of the name of *Jesse Holmes*, whom he had apprehended on the road for not having a pass.

*Ordered*, That *John Kain* appear before the Committee.

*John Kain* appearing, and being examined, saith, that this day a fortnight ago, he saw *David Akins*, who told him that he had something to communicate to him, and desired him to call at his house; which he did towards evening of the same day. When he arrived at the house, *Akins* delivered him a protection from General *Howe*; that he inquired of the said *Akins* where he had got the said protection; that he answered, it was no matter; that when he returned home he showed the protection to his wife and daughter, who were much dissatisfied at his having a protection, and that his wife had burnt it. He farther says that this protection was never solicited by him, and supposes it was sent him by a brother, who he thinks is with the enemy; and declares he is friendly to the measures *America* is pursuing; that he has never shown the protection to any one else, and confesses that he has been remiss in not showing it to some member of the Committee of *Dutchess* County; and further says that he and *Akins* have been upon very bad terms for a long time.

JOHN KANE.

*Ordered*, That Colonel *Ludinton* appear before the Committee.

Colonel *Henry Ludinton* appearing before the Committee, and being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that on *Saturday* morning, about two o'clock, he received the orders from this Committee for the apprehension of *John Kane*; that he called upon Captain *Hill* and three others, who he took with him, and repaired to the house of the said *John Kain*. When he arrived there, he found *John Kain* in his shop, and immediately informed him that he was under a necessity of making him a prisoner. That *Kain* said he was surprised that he was ordered to be taken, and requested to see the orders which the deponent had for it. The deponent further says, that upon *Kain's* reading the orders, he declared that as God was his judge he had no such protection, and knew nothing about any such thing. The deponent further says, that *Kain* run out very much against *David Akins*; that upon this deponent telling *Akins* to-day that *Kain* had vilified his character so much, *Akins* replied that he was not surprised at it, for that it was agreed upon between him and *Kain*. The deponent further says that *Kain* and *Akins* had some conversation together to-day at his house; and further, that he met the said *David Akins* and *John Kain* on the road together, near the *Long Bridge*, some time the week before last, and that they appeared very busy in conversation; that *Kain* was leading his horse, and *Akins* was afoot; that as soon as he (the deponent) came up, they broke off. And the deponent further says, that among the firm Whigs, the character of *Kain* has been suspicious, and that he is in general reputed an artful, subtle man.

HENRY LUDINTON.

Sworn in the presence of the Committee by me,
LEONARD GANSEVOORT, *Chairman.*

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Mathew Patterson* appear before this Committee.

*Mathew Patterson* appearing before this Committee, and being examined under oath, saith, that on last *Tuesday* se'nnight, *Malcolm Morison*, *Roswell Wilcox*, and *David Akins*, were at his house; that *Morrison* showed him a protection which he had received from the enemy, and asked the examinant what he thought of it; that the examinant answered, that he did not know what to think of it; that, many people passing and repassing in the house, nothing more in particular passed; that in the evening *David Akins* called this examinant out of his house, telling him he had something to communicate to him if he would call at *Akins's* house; that the examinant asked what it was, and told if it was any thing to his benefit he would be glad of it, upon which *Akins* said it was a protection from *Great Britain*; that the examinant answered that he was once known in *Great Britain*, but that he chose to be governed by those who were his representatives; that the protection was never applied for by him, and that it was a matter which he could not see through; that *Akins* replied, if they had not been

applied for they would not have been got. The examinant further says, that told *Akins* that did not choose to have any thing to do with such things; and further said, that there was a man in the room (meaning Colonel *Ludinton*) who, if he knew what *Akins* said, would immediately send him to Congress, but did not think it expedient to mention it to Colonel *Ludinton* then. And this examinant further says, that he was told by *Malcolm Morrison* that *John Kane* and several others had received protections; and likewise that he, on or about *Monday* or *Tuesday* last, saw *John Kane*, and that the said *John Kane* asked him what bluster there was about protections; that the examinant told him he supposed he knew as much about the matter as he did; that on this the said *John Kane* called God to witness that he never had seen any such protection, and that he knew nothing about it; that on this he, the examinant, observed that he was very glad of it. And further this deponent saith not.

MATHEW PATERSON.

Sworn in the presence of the Committee by me,
LEONARD GANSEVOORT, *Chairman.*

*Ordered*, That *John Kain* be committed to the Guard, and be put in irons.

*Ordered*, That *Jesse Holmes* be committed to the Guard-House, in the room with the Guard.

*Ordered*, That *Josiah Bartley* be committed to the custody of the Guard.

Captain *Butler* appeared before the Committee, and informed them that he had brought under guard *Daniel Reeves* to this place.

*Ordered*, That the said *Daniel Reeves* be committed to the custody of the Guard, and confined in irons.

*Ordered*, That *Nathaniel Sackett*, Esq., pay *Cushman* thirty-six shillings, for six pair of Manacles or Handcuffs, made for this Committee.

*Ordered*, That *Nathaniel Sackett*, Esq., pay *George Drawyer* thirty-six shillings, for the like services.

Captain *Silas Purdy* informed the Committee that he had retaken one *David Penbrooke*, who had lately escaped from the Guard-House in this place.

*Ordered*, That he be committed to the custody of the Guard, and be confined in irons.

Captain *Platt* informed the Committee that he has received intelligence that a certain *Jacob Striker*, who is lately come from the enemy, *Peter Harris*, who lately escaped from the Guard-House, *James Gouslin*, who had returned from transportation, were lurking in *Beekman's* Precinct.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Martin Cromwell* be requested forthwith to apprehend the said persons; and that for that purpose he call upon such of the Militia as he thinks necessary.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be forthwith transmitted to Mr. *Martin Cromwell.*

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December 23, 1776.

Present: *Leonard Gansevoort*, Esq., Chairman, *John Jay, Zephaniah Platt, Nathaniel Sacket*, Esqs.

*Mathew Paterson, John Youngs*, and *Roswell Wilcox*, appeared before the Committee, and requested the enlargement of *Malcolm Morrison*, unless the charges against him were such as rendered it inconsistent with the safety of the State.

*Ordered*, That the said gentlemen be informed of the several charges and evidence against the said *Morrison.*

*Resolved*, That the enlargement of the said *Malcolm Morrison* would be highly inexpedient and improper, and would greatly impeach the impartiality of this Committee.

*Roswell Wilcox*, of *Fredericksburgh*, in *Dutchess* County, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith, that on last *Tuesday* week he was at the house of Mr. *Mathew Paterson*, in company with *Malcolm Morrison, John Youngs*, and divers others; that this deponent sat next to the said *Malcolm Morrison*, by the fireside; that the said *Morrison* asked him, in a whisper, whether, if the regular Army was to come into those parts, he shouldn't want a protection; to which the deponent answered, indeed he should; on which the said *Morrison* replied, that he could get one for him; that this reply gave the deponent a good deal of thought; that afterwards, when this deponent was going out of the house in order to go home, the said *Morrison* followed him, saying he wanted to speak to him, and that they went together into *Mat. Paterson's* back room; that the said *Morrison* then pulled a printed paper out of his pocket and read it to the deponent; that the said printed paper was styled a protection, and purported to be an order from the Commander-in-Chief of the enemy's Army to all his officers, soldiers, and others, not to molest or injure the said *Morrison* in his person or property, and that the said paper bore date at *White-Plains* in the month of *November;* that this deponent was much shocked at hearing the said paper read, and asked the said *Morrison* where he had got it; upon which he answered, that he had got, and could get one for this deponent; that this deponent remonstrated to him on the danger of having such protection, observing that they would compel those having them to fight for the enemy, which he would rather die than do; upon which the said *Morrison* said, so would I, adding that the meaning of the said protection was only to save his property from plunder; that this deponent then looked upon the said *Morrison* to be in liquor, and told him he would speak to him about it the next day; that he accordingly saw the said *Morrison* the next day, and told him that the protection he had shown was a bad thing, and of bad consequence, and had given him, the deponent, much uneasiness, and said it would be better for him to reveal it to this Committee; and that the said *Morrison* said, What! have I shown it to you? and proceeded to say he wished he had never seen it, and that he had understood that *Aikens* and *Patterson* had had some difference about the plagued thing; that he did not know what he should do; that this deponent expected to have had some further conversation with him upon the subject, but said *Morrison's* going from home and continuing out so long that he and some of his neighbours communicated it to this Committee. And this deponent further saith, that *David Aikens*, of *Fredericksburgh*, is generally reputed to be very disaffected to the *American* cause, and that he has told this deponent that he had signed the Association because there were so many people travelling that he did not conceive himself safe; and that his moral character is very suspicious and questionable. And further this deponent saith not.

ROSWELL WILCOX.

Sworn in the presence of the Committee by me,
LEONARD GANSEVOORT, *Chairman.*

*Leonard Gansevoort*, Chairman.

*Ordered*, That *Nathaniel Sacket*, Esq., be appointed Treasurer to this Committee and Auditor of all the Accounts offered to this Committee for payment.

Mr. *Duer* informed the Committee that Colonel *Henry Ludinton* had told him that he had discovered that *Jesse Holmes*, who was committed to the Guard-House for travelling without a pass, and not being able to give a good account of himself, is a brother-in-law to *John Miller*, who has inlisted a company in the service of the enemy, and that the said *Jesse Holmes* is a dangerous person.

Mr. *William McNeil* and Mr. *David Lyons* appeared before the Committee, and informed them that they had apprehended, disarmed, and secured, a certain soldier, who was offering a Horse for sale, which, from his account, they had reason to think was stolen—being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God depose and say: (*Pro ut.*)

*Ordered*, That the Prisoner attend the Committee.

The Prisoner appearing, the above Affidavit was read to him; and being examined, he saith, that his name is *Zebediah Heath*; that he is a private soldier in Captain *Thomas Cogshall's* company, in Colonel *Baldwin's* regiment, from the *Massachusetts-Bay*. That he belongs to the town of *Sandown*, in *New-Hampshire*. That the Horse taken from him and mentioned in the Affidavit of Messrs. *McNeil* and *Lyons*, he took as a Continental Horse below the lines, from a man he did not know.

Divers other questions being asked him, and he behaving in an insolent manner, and appearing to be in liquor,

*Ordered*, That he be committed to the Guard-House, and that his further examination be postponed till to-morrow.

The Committee proceeded to take into consideration the Examination of *John Hains*, and thereupon came to the following Resolutions, viz:

*Resolved*, That *Enoch Crosby*, assuming the name of , do forthwith repair to *Mount Ephraim*, and use

his utmost art to discover the designs, places of resort, and route of certain disaffected persons in that quarter, who have formed a design of joining the enemy; and that for that purpose the said *Enoch* be made acquainted with all the information received by this Committee concerning this plot; and that he be furnished with such papers as will enable him to pass there without interruption, and with such others as will enable him to pass as an emissary of the enemy amongst persons disaffected to the *American* cause.

*Resolved*, That *Enoch Crosby* be furnished with a Horse, and the sum of thirty Dollars, in order to enable him to execute the above Resolution.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Nathaniel Sackett* be requested to give such instructions to *Enoch Crosby* as he shall think best calculated to defeat the designs of the persons above mentioned.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer pay *Enoch Crosby* thirty Dollars for secret services.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer pay *Hugh Connor* three Pounds ten Shillings, for a Saddle and Bridle, for the use of this Committee.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be written to *Thaddeus Burr*, Esq., of *Fairfield*, in the State of *Connecticut*, enclosing copy of the Examination of *John Hains*, concealing his name, and requesting him to concert and execute such plan for apprehending and securing the persons therein mentioned.

*Resolved*, That *Nathaniel Sacket*, Esq., be requested to furnish *Enoch Crosby* with such clothing as he may stand in need of.

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December 24, 1776.

Present: *Leonard Gansevoort*, Chairman, *William Duer*, *Nathaniel Sacket*, *John Ten Broeck*, Esqs.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman write a Letter to *John D. Crimshire*, and request him to repair to *Fish-Kill*, for the purpose of bringing up the Minutes of this Committee, and pledge the faith of this Committee to him for the payment of his services.

*Alanson Lewis* appeared before the Committee, and informed them that he had brought under guard to this place, *Joseph Odel* and *Michael Smith*, who were ordered to be brought before this, and one *Jermiah Shafer*, who was sent to this Committee by the Committee of *Poughkeepsie* District.

A Letter from *John Schenck*, of this date, was read.

A Letter from *Luke Babcock*, of the 17th instant, was read.

*Ordered*. That *Joseph Ferington*, *Judas Kronck*, and *Jacob Jewel*, be discharged on taking the Oath of Allegiance.

Mr. *Sackett* informed the Committee that *Enoch Crosby* was gone off on the business proposed last night. That he was to assume the name of *Levi Foster*, and that he promised to be at *Mount Ephraim* by *Thursday* noon.

A Letter from *Lawrence Fonda*, Chairman of the District Committee of *Claverack*, sundry Depositions against *Jacob Anderson*, *Frederick Clopper*, *George Clopper*, and *Jacob Hagedorn*, as also an Account, were read.

*Ordered*, That the Account be referred to Mr. *Sackett*.

A Letter from *Thomas Palmer*, Esq., was read, enclosing two Depositions against *Elijah Townshend*.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman give *William Hogan*, *Isaac Man*, Jun., and *John McKenny*, passes to go to *Albany*.

*Michael Smith*, *Joseph Odel*, *Teunis Kronkheyt*, *Joseph Farrington*, and *Jacob Jewel*, appeared before the Committee, and having taken the Oath of Allegiance, were discharged.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman grant them Passes to return home.

Major *Hezekiah Howel* appeared before the Committee and produced an Order from *Daniel Coleman*, Chairman of the Committee of *Orange* County, directed to *Smith Clark*, Sergeant, to convey under guard *Richard Bull* and *James Corshader* to this place.

*Ordered*, That Major *Howel* cause them to be delivered to the Officer of the Guard; and that *James Corshader* be confined in irons.

The Chairman presented a draft of a Letter to *Thaddeus Burr*, Esq., agreeable to the order of the Committee, which was read and agreed to.

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December 26, 1776.

Present: *Leonard Gansevoort*, Esq., Chairman, *Nathaniel Sacket*, *William Duer*, Esquires.

Mr. *Sacket* laid before the Committee an account of Moneys he had disbursed for the said Committee.

*Ordered*, That he repay himself out of the Moneys he has in hands of the said Committee. The Account amounts to £7 8*s*. 5*d*.

*Edward Drake*, who was brought to this place by Lieutenant *Oakley*, appeared before the Committee, and declaring himself to be friendly to the *American* cause, and nothing being against him before this Committee,

*Ordered*, That he be discharged, and that he appear before the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Committee, on or before the 10th day of *January* next, of *West-Chester* County, in order to enroll himself in the Militia of that County, and take the oath of allegiance to this State, as prescribed by the Resolution of the Committee of Safety of this State, of the 25th instant.

*Ordered*, That the Treasurer pay the following persons the sum affixed to their names:

| | |
|---|---|
| *Theodore Brett*, - - - - - - - - - | £6 10 0 |
| *James Cooper*, - - - - - - - - - | 4 17 0 |
| Captain *Israel Smith*, - - - - - - - | 4 18 6 |
| To do., - - - - - - - - - - | 2 15 0 |
| *John McBride*, - - - - - - - - - | 1 8 0 |

*James Wall*, one of the prisoners, having inlisted himself with Lieutenant *Andrew T. Lawrence*, and having taken the oath of fidelity, was discharged.

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Connor's Tavern, at Fish-Kills, 26 December, 1776.

In the afternoon the Committee met: Present, Mr. *Gansevoort*, Chairman, Mr. *Duer*, Mr. *John Jay*, Mr. *Sacket*, Mr. *Ten Broeck*.

*Ordered*, That Major *Purdy* be brought before this Committee and enlarged on his parole not to depart this town without leave, to appear daily before the Committee, and to confine himself within miles of the Stone Church, in said town.

Captain *Belknap* informs the Committee that in the night of the 19th *December* instant, the following persons had effected their escape from the Guard-House, viz: *John Ferguson*, *Teunis Ferguson*, *John Gibson*, *George Ramsay*, *John Vermilyea*, *Willard Night*, *Henry Hoff*, *William Been*, *Francis Prine*, *Benjamin Vermilyea*, *Peter Harris*, *John Boyea*, *Jona. Underhill*, *Stephen Williams*, *Jas. Tomkins*, *Samuel Dean*.

Mr. *Duer* informs the Committee that *Wm. Miller*, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of *West-Chester* County, informed him that the several Prisoners sent by General *Spencer* to this Committee were apprehended in this manner: That General *Lee*, on the complaint of divers inhabitants of that County, had applied to the County Committee for the names of such persons as they deemed dangerous and proper to secure; that the Committee accordingly gave him such list. That on General *Lee's* marching, he left the list with General *Spencer*, who in pursuance of it, apprehended the persons named in it, and sent them to the Committee.

Mr. *Gansevoort* informs the Committee that he has lately been and still continues much indisposed, and therefore begs leave to decline the Chair.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Jay* be Chairman to this Committee.

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Fish-Kills, Connor's Tavern, December 30, 1776.

The Committee met: Present, *John Jay*, Chairman, *Nath. Sacket*, *Zephaniah Platt*, *John Ten Broeck*, *William Duer*.

Mr. *Gansevoort* informed the Committee that Captain *Belknap* reported to him that *Christopher Patrie*, one of the prisoners in the Guard-House, was dead, and that he had given directions for his decent burial.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do approve thereof.

Mr. *Jay* communicated to the Committee a Letter from

*Ebenezer Cary* and *James V. Derbergh*, of 27th *December*, which was delivered to him by *Martin Cornell*, together with a certain *John Maloyd*, who they had sent to be examined respecting intimations he had given in his cups, of *John Kane's* inlisting men in the enemy's service; and also one *Jacobus Striker*, who had been with the enemy, and had lately come from *Long-Island* to *New-York*, and that he had committed them to the custody of the Guard.

Mr. *Sacket* delivered to the Committee the Examination of *Martin Cornell*, which he had taken respecting *Sam'l Striker* and *John Maloyd*.

An Order of the Committee of Safety referring a Petition and certain Papers of Major *Colden* to this Committee, and directing this Committee to report thereon as soon as possible, was read.

A Petition of *Ch's Cullen* was read; also Petitions from *Caleb Archer*, *John Dickson*, and *Sam'l Wood*.

A Certificate of *John Smith* and several others, of the character of *Nath'l Concklin*, a prisoner in *Woorster* Gaol, and praying his release, was read.

*Peter Noxon*, of *Beekman's* Precinct, in *Dutchess* County, being sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God says, that on or about last *Wednesday* se'nnight, *John Maloyd* came to this deponent's house, in *Beekmun's* Precinct; that he got a little in liquor, and taking a pot of cider to his lips, said, Here is a health to Captain *Kane* and his Company. Upon which this deponent's wife said, What! is *John Kane* raising a company? Upon which the said *Mcloyd* seemed to be a little embarrassed, and said he meant a *Kane* in some other country. That this deponent looks upon the said *John Meloyd* to be disaffected to the *American* cause. And further this deponent saith not.

PETER NOXON.

Sworn in presence of the Committee, by me,

JOHN JAY.

Mr. *Francis Wilsie*, of *Beeckman's* Precinct, informs the Committee that *Philip Vincents* and *Henry Cornell* told him that *Philip Vincent's* mother was up this morning, between one and two o'clock, and saw a company of about fifteen men travelling towards the mountains, and that some of the neighbours in sleighs had pursued them.

Mr. *Sacket* informs the Committee that he had permitted *John Simkins* to go at large, he being very sick, and his father engaging to return him to the Committee on his recovery.

Mr. *Gansevoort* informs the Committee that Colonel *Livingston* had informed him that *Isaac Winn* had escaped from the Guard.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Myrick*, with five men, immediately march and use his utmost diligence to apprehend the persons mentioned in *Francis Wilsie's* information, and that he have power to impress a Sleigh and Horses to transport himself and men to *Don. Wright's*.

*Ordered*, That Captain *Myrick* request the assistance of Colonel *Luddington*, Captain *Clarke*, and Lieutenant *Martin Cornell*, in execution of the above order; and when done, to request of each of them forthwith to repair to this Committee.

Captain *Platt* informs the Committee that *Arch'd Little*, Esq., told him that one *James Carscaden* had been committed to the Guard for travelling with a forged Pass to *James Conway*; which Pass, together with another paper signed by *William Wilkins*, whose name is also to the other, he delivered to the Court.

Captain *Platt* also communicated to the Court an Order of *Nathan Pearce*, Chairman of the Committee of *Pawling's* Precinct, to apprehend and bring here *Thomas Beamus*, for damning the Congress; and which order and prisoner were brought here on *Saturday* last, together with a paper found on him, signed by *Henry O'Hara*, and purporting to be a certificate of his inlistment, &c.

*Arch'd Little*, Esq., a Member of the Convention, being sworn, saith, that on *Tuesday* last he saw Mr. *James Carscadden* at *John Brewster's*, at *Blooming Grove*; that he told this deponent he had come from the Militia of *Ulster* County, and had marched with Captain *Watkins* to *Clarke's Town*; that the circumstances of his family were such that he had obtained leave of his Captain to return; that he denied having ever been summoned to appear before the Committee; that this deponent insisted he had, and that he had made his escape; that he persisted in denying it, saying it was his brother; that deponent asked if he had a pass; he said he had, and showed it to deponent; that the said pass was for *James Conway*, and signed by *William Wilkins*; that deponent observed to him that the pass was for *James Conway*, and not for him; that he replied it was a mistake in the Chairman; that *James Price*, one of the Militia lately marched out, who was returning on furlough, accidentally came in; that the deponent having heard that he was acquainted with *James Carscaden*, called him into the room, and sent *Carscaden* out; that he told this deponent he was well acquainted with him—that they had lived under the same roof; that *Carscaden* had not gone with the Militia under Captain *Watkins*, but that he had been from home a considerable time; that he was of equivocal character, and had been confined in *Goshen* Gaol, from whence he was brought before the County Committee, at *Nathaniel Owen's*, where he escaped from the Guard, and had been from home ever since, till his apprehension; that this deponent then sent *Price* out of the room, and called in *Carscaden* again; that he then confessed all that *Price* had told this deponent; that deponent examined him further about the manner in which he had got the pass aforesaid; that he said it had been given him by a boy in the *English Neighbourhood*, on which deponent observed that he then must have been with the enemy, as they were possessed of that place; that he said he was mistaken; that he got it at *Ramapogh*; that this deponent has been informed by Colonel *Allison* that a Guard, sent by General *George Clinton* to *Clooster Dock*, spied a canoe coming to that place, and took it, and that one other *Carscaden*, he thinks *George*, and one *Waugh*, were on board; that the man who had brought them over said he intended to have returned to fetch over *Richard Bull* and *James Carscaden*; and further this deponent saith not.

ARCH'D LITTLE.

Sworn in Committee, by JOHN JAY.

An Order of Convention was read, putting Captain *V. Gaasbeck's* company of Rangers under the direction of this Committee.

*David Clarke*, a Corporal in Captain *Belknap's* Company, being sworn, saith, that he was yesterday at the Lower Barracks, in which *John Kain* is confined; that *Kain* asked him what prisoners were in the Upper Barracks; the deponent said they had one *Striker* there; that *Kain* asked if they had no others; that deponent said they had another; that *Kain* was very anxious to know who it was; deponent said it was a man that had worked for him, (the said *Kain*,) on which *Kain* said, *Maloyd!* The deponent replied that it was. That *Kain* appeared very solicitous to know whether he had said any thing about him; to which deponent answered that he had not heard *Maloyd* mention his name. And further saith not.

DAVID CLARK.

Sworn in Committee, by JOHN JAY, *Chairman*.

Mr. *Duer* informs the Committee that Captain *John Johnson*, of the Regiment late of Colonel *McDougall*, told him that the wife of *Verdun Ellsworth*, and sister of *Sam'l Gale*, had lately been once or twice to *New-York*, and that she resides at *Goshen*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Sacket* pay one hundred Dollars to Captain *Myrick*, on account.

Mr. *Sacket* reports that there is due to *Gilbert Barns*, for burying *Christopher Patrie*, one of the prisoners, the sum of two Pounds eleven Shillings.

*Ordered*, That the same be paid.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Sacket*, taking with him Captain *Van Gaasbeck's* Company, do forthwith endeavour to apprehend the persons mentioned in *John Hains's* last Examination.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Van Gaasbeck* march his Company to the house and neighbourhood of *James* , obey such orders as he shall receive from *Nathaniel Sacket*, Esq., till the further orders of this Committee.

*Resolved*, That Commissary *Wickoff* do, with the utmost expedition, furnish Captain *Van Gaasbeck* with six days' Provisions, ready dressed, for his Company.

*Resolved*, That *Samuel Gale* and *William Tredwell* be discharged on taking the Oath of Allegiance to this State.

Mr. *Duer* communicated to the Committee a Letter from *Hendrick Wickoff*, the Commissary, informing him that the removal of the Prisoners to the Lower Barracks places them at so great a distance from him, that for this and other reasons he cannot transport their Provisions to them.

*Resolved*, That when Mr. *Wickoff* accepted the office of Commissary, he accepted all the trouble attending the same; and therefore, so long as he chooses to keep the said office, the Committee expect he will perform all the duties of it.

*Resolved*, That *Gilbert Ogden*, one of the prisoners, be enlarged on his parole, to appear daily before the Committee, and to remain within three miles of the Stone Church, in this town, till further order.

Mr. *Sacket* informs the Committee that *Nicholas Brower*, of *Wappen's Creek*, told him that a number of his neighbours had absconded; that they rendezvous at one *John Covert's*, between *Fish-Kill* and *Wappen*, at or near a place called *Ketcham's Town*; that he recommends the sending for one *V. Zichler*, a Miller, at the Bridge over *Wappen's Creek*, who had said that one hundred and fifty men had gone to the enemy; and also a man who lives with *V. Zickler*, whose name he did not know, and also young *Dan. Polhemus*.

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Fish-Kills, Connor's Tavern, 31st December, 1776.

The Committee met. Present: *John Jay*, Chairman, *William Duer*, *Zephaniah Platt*.

A Letter of the 30th instant, from Colonel *Huntington*, was read, informing that by order of General *Heath* he had sent to the Committee six Prisoners, viz: *Henry Fowler*, *Zophar Beeck*, *Henry Laback*, *John Rikeman*, *Aaron Lawrence*, and *Abraham Williams*, being persons unfriendly to the *United States*, particularly *John Rikeman*, who was apprehended for seizing and holding a Continental soldier till the enemy came and took him.

*Ordered*, That the said Prisoners be committed to the Guard, and that *John Rikeman* be put in irons.

Captain *Richard Mence* and Ensign *Joseph Baldwin* appeared before the Committee, and inform that they brought with them five Prisoners, to wit: *Josiah Smith*, *John Brown*, *Richard Lawrence*, *John Grant*, *Jonathan*, a Mulatto, who says he belongs to *Benjamin Lister*, at *Long-Island*.

Messrs. *Richard Menee* and *Joseph Baldwin* being sworn, say, that yesterday morning they were informed by *Philip Vincent* and *Henry Cornell*, that *Philip Vincent's* mother had heard the dog bark in the night, and got up; that she saw fifteen or twenty men travelling towards the mountains; that there being reason to believe that the said persons were going to join the enemy, these deponents and several others of the neighbourhood pursued them; that these deponents went together, and overtook two, as they believe, of the said persons, and apprehended them in the mountains, viz: *William Willson* and another, whose name they have forgot; that they examined them for papers, and took from *James Willson* two papers containing the route they were to go; that *Willson* told him he had got one of the said papers, marked (*Wooden,*) from *Henry Wooden*, at his house; and further, that he was going to *New-York*, to see his brother. That they delivered the said two prisoners to Captain *Myrick*; that *Henry Wodden* confessed to these deponents that he had given *Willson* the said paper, and appeared very uneasy about it, and begged them to destroy it.

Capt. Rich'd Menee,
Joseph Balding.

Sworn in Committee, by

John Jay, *Chairman.*

Captain *Menee* and Ensign *Balding* further inform the Committee, that they have good intelligence of a number of persons who are going to the enemy, that will rendezvous at *Joseph Bright's*, near *Croton* River.

*Resolved*, That they go to General *Heath*, and concert with him a plan for apprehending them; and that a Letter on the subject be written to General *Heath*.

*Ordered*, That *William Besley* and *Cornelius Besley*, against whom nothing appears, and whom there is reason to believe entirely innocent, be discharged.

*Ordered*, That *Daniel Smith* and *Isaac Smith* apprehend, and bring before this Committee, *Henry Wooden*.

*Ordered*, That nineteen Cartridges be given them.

Petition of *Peter Dobbs*, *Amos Le Forge*, *Henry Le Forge*, *Ebenezer Odell*, and *Josha. Odell*.

*Ordered*, That *Thomas Volentine* be permitted to return home, on his parole to return to this Committee in a month, to remove his family.

*Josiah Smith*, one of the Prisoners brought this day by Captain *Mana* and Ensign *Balding*, being examined, saith, that he is the son of *Josiah Smith*, deceased; that he lives in *Charlotte* Precinct, with *Isaac Beagle*; that yesterday noon a mulatto fellow, *Jonathan*, who had worked some time with *James Doughty*, and who is now a prisoner here, came to him, and told him there was a chance to get clear of drafting, and go to the Island, and told him to go to *Thomas Tobias*, and he would see the man there; that this deponent thereupon went to *William Doughty's*, and there saw *Frederick Tobias*, who also told him the same that the negro or mulatto had; and further said that one *Grant* was then at *Thomas Tobias's*, who would take him safe to *Long-Island*, and advised him to go. That then examinant returned home, and told his master, *Isaac Beagle*, what had passed, and that he intended to go to *Long-Island*; that *Isaac Beagle* dissuaded him from going, saying that this examinant would certainly be taken up; that this deponent then went to *Thomas Tobias's*, and saw the said *Grant*, whose Christian name is *John*; that *Frederick Tobias* told the said *Grant* that this examinant would go with him; and that *Grant* told this examinant to go along towards *Poghkeepsie*, and he would overtake examinant, which examinant did; that *Joseph Haight*, of *Nine-Partners*, was to be there, but he was gone before examinant came near to *Poghkeepsie*; that examinant went on the way to *Poghkeepsie* as far as the said *Joseph Haight's*, and from thence to the mountains, where he was apprehended; that the other prisoners with whom he was taken were the only persons that came off with him; that he understood from the mulatto that the said *Joseph Haight* was to be their Captain; and that this examinant intended to have returned home again in a fortnight; that the examinant has understood from the said *Grant* that *Isaac Viel*, of *Beekman's* Precinct, was coming with a company of men down this night, in order to go over to *Long-Island*; and that the horse he rode belongs to *Richard Lawrence*, one of the prisoners.

Josias Smith.

*Ordered*, That sixteen Shillings be paid to *Peter Van Bremen*, for carrying Captain *Myrick* and five men to *Dan. Wright's*, in a sleigh.

Captain *Isaac Concklin* and Lieutenant *Josiah Burton*, of *Charlotte* Precinct, being sworn, severally depose, that *John Grant*, one of the prisoners brought here this day, is generally reputed to be a bad man, and very disaffected to the *American* cause, and that he this day said, in the hearing of these deponents, that he never would be a friend to the *American* cause, or words to that purpose. And further say not.

Isaac Concklin,
Josiah Burton.

Sworn in Committee, by

John Jay.

*Samuel Gale* and *William Tredwell* appearing, took the Oath of Allegiance, and were discharged.

Captain *Myrick* reports, that in pursuance of the order of yesterday, he went to *Daniel Wright's*, where he was informed that so many men had pursued the company of Tories he had been directed to apprehend that he did not proceed; that Lieutenant *Alger* came to *Wright's* while he was there, and delivered to him one *John Reed*, whom he said he had taken at or near *David Akins's*, in the mountains, and who had informed him that a company of Tories were coming down that night; whereupon he joined his men to those of Lieutenant *Alger*, and kept guard at *John Halstead's*; that when they arrived at *Halstead*, they found two men there, *Timothy Pettit* and *Jacob Jackson*; that the latter was by the fireside, and the former on the stoop; that it was then between ten and eleven at night, and their horses were under the shed by the door; that this deponent asked *Jackson* which way he was from; he said, from the northward; he asked him which way he was going; that he hesitated, and then answered that he was going to the northward again; and that then *Pettit* came in, and he

asked him which way he was going; he said, to *Bedford*; that he asked him whether they were both going one way; he replied, Yes. On this he suspected them both, and asked *Jackson* for his pass; that *Jackson* said *Pettit* had it; that on examining their papers, he suspected them to be forged, and therefore brought them both to this Committee. That *Joseph Baldwin* and Captain *Manee* delivered to him two prisoners they had taken, viz: *James Tuttle* and *William Wilson*, whom he hath also brought with him.

Account of Cash disbursed in pursuance of orders contained in the Book of Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee for Inquiring into, Detecting, and Defeating all Conspiracies, &c.

Reference to Orders.

Cash paid *Peter Van Bremen*, 16*s.*; 31st *December*, 1776.

*John Reid*, one of the prisoners mentioned in Captain *Myrick's* Report, this day being examined and sworn, saith, that he is a labourer, sometimes working at one business and sometimes at another, and has no settled place of abode. That last *Friday* was a week, when this deponent was at work at *John De Graaf's*, at *Nine Partners*, and one *William Busbey*, a man about thirty years of age, who he believes has been part of the last summer at *Spencer Town*, came there; that deponent asked what news? He said not much; that deponent then asked him which way he was going; he said to *New-York*, and would be glad of deponent's company; to which deponent answered, No; that he said, *Thomas Tobias* was going. *Thomas Tobias* was to be a Lieutenant, and the Doctor, his brother, a Captain. That deponent then finding the scheme that *Busbey* was on, thought it would be best to come into his measures, that by discovering his designs he might the better defeat them. That deponent then told *Busbey* he would go with him. That they then went together to *John Smith's*, in the *Nine Partners*, aforesaid, when there found *Thomas Tobias*, and several others unknown to this deponent. That there *Busbey* told *Thomas Tobias* that he would go to *Spencer Town* and bring him thirty men well armed; on which *Thomas Tobias* took his shoes off, and gave them, with a bill of 55*s.* 4*d.* to *Busbey*, to go to *Spencer Town* for that purpose. That *Busbey* went off. That last *Sunday*, *Thomas Tobias* told deponent that two of *Busbey's* men had come down with side arms, to *John De Graave's*, and that *Busbey* was not far behind with a number more. That last *Sunday* night, *Thomas Tobias* came to *John Smith's*, aforesaid, and there collected all the men that were going with him, concluding that it would not do for him to stay for *Busbey*, as the men were growing difficult. He further said he had agreed with *Isaac Vail*.

A Letter from Colonel *Pollard*, with a Prisoner, *Anthony Kennedy*, who had a Lieutenant's warrant from Governour *Brown*, and had lately come from , and referred by Convention to this Committee, was read:

*Anthony Kennedy* appearing, was admitted to his parole for three days.

*John Reid* was also enlarged on his parole.

Committee adjourned.

## CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

Friday, November 1, 1776.

*Resolved*, That 3,000 Dollars be paid to *Acklam Bonfield*, or order, and charged to the Account of *J. Trumbull*, Esq., Deputy Paymaster-General in the Northern Department, the same being in full of a draft in his favour by the said *J. Trumbull*, dated at *Albany*, 15th *October*, 1776.

The Board of War brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Commissions be granted to fill up the vacancies in the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth *Virginia* Battalions, agreeable to the list given in to the Board of War, by General *Stephen*.

*Resolved*, That 3,000 Dollars be advanced to the Delegates of *Georgia*, for the use of that State; the said Delegates to be accountable.

A Petition from sundry Ship Joiners, was presented to Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Marine Committee.

*Ordered*, That the Board of War direct four Companies of the *Virginia* Battalion on the Eastern Shore, to march, under the command of a Field Officer, to *Dover*, in *Delaware* Government, and there remain till farther orders.

Congress took into consideration the Report of the Committee on the ways and means of supplying the Treasury; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That a sum of Money be raised by way of Lottery, for defraying the expenses of the next campaign, the Lottery to be drawn in *Philadelphia:*

*Ordered*, That the Committee who brought in the Report, be directed to prepare the plan of a Lottery, fix the number of Managers, and the security by them to be given, and report to Congress.

*Resolved*, That the farther consideration of the Report be postponed till to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That the Board of Treasury be directed to lay before Congress, once every week, an account of what part of the last emission of Money remains unexpended.

*Ordered*, That the Board of War be directed to supply the Delegates of *Georgia*, for the use of that State, with a quantity of Military Stores, first informing Congress of the quantity applied for.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Saturday, November 2, 1776.

Congress resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on the ways and means of supplying the Treasury; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Board of Treasury be directed to prepare all the necessary materials, and to have ready for a new emission Five Millions of Dollars, to be issued when the Congress shall direct:

That 500,000 Dollars be speedily issued in small bills of two-thirds, one-third, one-sixth, and one-ninth of a Dollar.

A Petition from *John Bates* was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee who contracted with him.

*Resolved*, That a further sum of 3,000 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *Moses Hazen*, for the purpose of recruiting his Regiment; he to be accountable.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To *Isaac Dennis*, and to be paid to *Francis Lewis*, Esq., for dieting 80 Men, and Oats, &c., for Horses of Captain *Thomas Price's* Company, in *New-York* Government, 13 67½-90th Dollars:

To *Bartholomew Van Heer*, for his pay as Brigade-Major, from 20th *June* to 20th *October*, being four months, at 33 Dollars per month, 132 Dollars.

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

The Committee to whom Governour *Livingston's* Letter was referred, brought in a Report, which was read:

*Ordered*, To lie on the table.

*Resolved*, That Congress will, on *Monday* next, consider the application for employing Mons. *Roche de Fermoy* in the Continental service.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Monday*.

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Monday, November 4, 1776.

The Honourable *Matthew Thornton*, Esq., a Delegate from *New-Hampshire*, attended, and produced his Credentials, which were read as follows:

"State of New-Hampshire,
"In the House of Representatives, Sept. 12, 1776."

"*Voted*, That the Honourable *Matthew Thornton*, Esq., be, and hereby is, appointed a Delegate to represent this

*

State at the Continental Congress, for one year next ensuing. Sent up for concurrence. P. White, *Speaker.*

"In Council, *Eodem Die.*

"Read and concured: E. Thompson, *Secretary.*

"A copy, examined by E. Thompson, *Secretary.*"

Two Letters, of the 25th *October* and 1st *November*, from *R. H. Harrison*, General *Washington's* Secretary, one from *R. Stockton* and *G. Clymer*, of the 26th *October;* one from General *Schuyler*, dated at *Saratoga*, 23d *October*, were laid before Congress, and read:

*Ordered*, That they be referred to the Board of War.

A Letter of the 19th *October*, from *G. Mason*, Chairman of the Committee of *Fairfax* County, in *Virginia*, enclosing a Resolution of the Council of *Virginia*, was read and referred to the Board of War.

Whereas it is manifest, that unless effectual measures are immediately taking for reinlisting the Army, the safety of the States may be greatly endangered:

*Resolved*, That the President be desired to write to the Commander-in-Chief and inform him that if, upon receipt of this resolution, Commissioners from the respective States, for the purpose of appointing Officers, shall not have arrived, he is then, after consulting and advising with such of his Generals as he can conveniently call together, immediately to grant warrants to such of the Officers from the respective States, who have not Commissioners present authorized as aforesaid, as he shall think deserving of Commissions:

That the Officers so to be appointed proceed with the utmost expedition, to recruit their Regiments to their full complement:

That Commissions be sent to General *Washington* as soon as possible, to be given to such Officers as he shall appoint by warrants, in consequence of the foregoing Resolution:

That the Commander-in-Chief be desired to take such steps as he shall think most proper for continuing the Militia now in camp.

That, for this purpose, he write to such of the States as now have Militia in the Government of *New-York*, requesting their assistance in this business; and that he be farther desired to apply to the neighbouring States for such additional aid as he may require.

That a Letter to the same import be written to General *Schuyler.*

The Committee, to whom the Letter from *Thomas Cushing* was referred, brought in a Report, which was read.

It being represented that some of the Marines in the Barracks are sick:

*Resolved*, That Dr. *Rush* be desired to take them under his care, and see that they be properly provided for.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Hooper* be added to the Committee to whom Mr. *Buche's* Letter was referred, and that the said Committee be directed to meet on that business this evening at this place.

*Resolved*, That the Wagonmaster-General be directed to take charge of the Horses belonging to the Continent, and prepare them for service, as soon as possible.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Tuesday, November 5, 1776.

*Benjamin Harrison*, Esq., a Delegate from *Virginia*, attended and produced the Credentials of his appointment, which were read as follows:

"Virginia, Set: In the House of Delegates, Thursday, October 10, 1776.

"The House, according to the order of the day, proceeded by ballot to the appointment of a Delegate to represent this State in General Congress, in the room of *Thomas Jefferson*, Esq.; and the Members having prepared tickets for the person to be appointed, and put the same into a box, a Committee was appointed to examine the same, who reported that they had met a Committee from the Senate in the conference room, and had, jointly with them, examined the ballot boxes, and that the numbers appeared as follows: For *Benjamin Harrison*, Esq., 69—*Meriwether Smith*, Esq., 5.

"*Resolved, therefore*, That the said *Benjamin Harrison* be appointed a Delegate to represent this State in General Congress.

"*Resolved, unanimously*, That the thanks of this House are justly due to the said *Benjamin Harrison*, for the diligence, ability, and integrity, with which he executed the important trust reposed in him as one of the Delegates from this country in the General Congress.

"A copy: John Tazewell,

"*Clerk of the House of Delegates.*"

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Harrison* be added to the Board of War, and that he be continued in all those Standing Committees of which he was a member when he left Congress.

A Letter, of the 31st *October*, from *R. H. Harrison*, was read.

The Board of Treasury brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That all Accounts for services done, or articles supplied the Northern Army, be presented to the Commissioners for settling Accounts, and so much thereof as is approved by them, and confirmed by the General, be paid by his Warrants on the Paymaster, after the Commissioners have certified thereon, that the Accounts and Vouchers are returned to them by the persons receiving such Warrants.

That all Warrants of the General on the Paymaster for services to be performed, or articles to be supplied, be sent by the Paymaster to the office, and entered in the books of the Commissioners; after which, the said Commissioners shall, as soon as they shall judge expedient, call to account the persons receiving such advances; and having settled the said Accounts, they shall be filed in their office.

That where any balance appears to be due to the *United States*, from persons whose Accounts are adjusted as aforesaid, they shall be received by the Commissioners, and delivered to the Paymaster, whose receipts therefor shall be transmitted to the Treasury.

That the Commissioners be empowered to administer oaths or affirmations to persons examined by them in the execution of their office.

That the Generals' and Paymasters' Accounts be sent to the Treasury Office by the Commissioners, together with the Pay-Rolls and Accounts discharged by the same, upon their adjusting the Accounts of the Northern Army to the end of the present campaign.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners appointed to settle the Accounts of the Army near *New-York*, be directed to govern their conduct agreeable to the foregoing Resolutions.

*Resolved*, That the following Instructions be given to the Commissioners of the Northern Army:

1. That, in adjusting the accounts of persons whose particular circumstances may have rendered them unable to procure vouchers, or that, on the retreat of the Army, have lost the same, the Commissioners endeavour to obtain the best information from the General Officers, or other persons in that Department, and use a discretionary power in administering oaths or affirmations for this purpose.

2. That there not having been a Mustermaster in the Northern Army during the last and present campaign, the Commissioners are particularly to attend to the pay-rolls that shall be produced as vouchers by the Paymaster, and should any frauds appear, to report them to the General, that the same may be thoroughly investigated.

3. That in other instances, the Commissioners do not interfere with the muster or pay-rolls, unless, in particular cases, it shall be judged expedient by the General and themselves.

4. That the Commissioners do not concern themselves in disputes about back-rations or allowances for vegetables said to be due to some officers and soldiers, but leave them with the Commissary, whose business it is to regulate such disputes.

5. That where any person has done the duty of a Deputy or Assistant Commissary, by desire of a General Officer, or the Commissary or Deputy Commissary Generals, he be allowed for his services, although he has not received a commission for that purpose.

6. That demands for defending the frontiers of any of the States, if on account of troops not raised by order of Congress, be not considered by the Commissioners.

7. That the Commissioners certify to the General the

accounts to be paid in specie, that if the military chest is supplied, the General may issue his warrants accordingly.

8. That the Commissioners send to the State of *New-Jersey*, and to the States eastward thereof, for their accounts against the Northern Army, if such accounts are not forwarded agreeable to a circular letter from the Treasury Board to the said States.

*Resolved*, That the President write to Governour *Livingston*, and request him to send two Companies of Militia to guard the Salt-Works near *Tom's* River, and one Company to be stationed at or near *Shrewsbury*, to intercept and put a stop to the intelligence said to be carried on between the Tories and Lord *Howe's* Fleet; that the Companies consist of fifty men each.

A Petition from *Joseph Traverses* was presented to Congress and read; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That an order for 100 Dollars be drawn on the Treasurer in favour of the said *Joseph Traverses*, to be accounted for by him on the settlement and payment of his Account.

The Committee to whom the Letter from *Richard Bache*, Comptroller of the Post Office, was referred, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That for obtaining early and frequent intelligence from the Camps at *White-Plains* and *Ticonderoga*, or such other places as the Armies now, or lately there, may march, or have marched to, and forwarding despatches to the commanding officers with the like expedition, the Postmaster-General do immediately employ so many more Riders, between *Philadelphia* and Head-Quarters of these Armies, as he shall judge will most effectually perform that very important, and, at this time more especially, necessary service; and that he endeavour, to the utmost of his power, to procure sober, diligent, and trusty persons to undertake it; and guard, in the best manner he is able, against robberies of the mails, or losses of their contents otherwise.

That all Ferry Keepers be enjoined, as much as they are able, to expedite the passage of Post Riders and other persons charged with letters, despatches, or messages, from and to Congress; and that it be recommended to the several Legislatures of the *United States*, to enforce the observance of this Resolution.

That Expresses and Special Messengers, employed in the publick service, taking and carrying private Letters or Packets, ought not to receive the wages they would otherwise be entitled to.

That the Deputy Postmaster at Head-Quarters be allowed four Rations every day, out of the publick stores there, for the subsistence of himself, his riders, and servant.

Congress took into consideration the case of the Chevalier *Roche de Fermoy:* Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Chevalier *Matthias Alexis Roche de Fermoy*, be appointed a Brigadier-General in the Army of the *United States*.

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition and Accounts of *Benjamin Eyre*, brought in a Report, which was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of Treasury.

A Petition from *Jeremiah Cady* was presented to Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Commissioners appointed to audit and settle the Accounts of the Northern Army, and who are directed to report specially thereon.

Certain Resolutions of the Convention of the State of *New-York* were laid before Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That they be referred to a Committee of Three:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Hopkinson*, Mr. *Whipple*, and Mr. *Hart*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Wednesday, November 6, 1776.

A Letter of the 3d, from *R. H. Harrison*, enclosing one of the 2d, from Brigadier-General *Parsons;* one of the 30th *October*, from General *Schuyler* at *Saratoga*, enclosing a copy of Instructions to Officers appointed to recruit for the service of the *United States of America;* one of the 31st *October*, from *Jonathan Trumbull*, Deputy Paymaster-General; and one of the same date, from Governour *Trumbull*, enclosing a Resolve of the General Assembly of *Connecticut*, appointing *John Lawrence*, Esq., of *Hartford*, Commissioner to superintend the Loan Office in that State, were read:

*Ordered*, That the Letter from General *Schuyler*, and that from Mr. *Harrison*, with the Letter enclosed, be referred to the Board of War:

That the Letter from Governour *Trumbull*, and that from *J. Trumbull*, Paymaster, to the Board of Treasury, also the Letter of the 29th of *August*, from General *Schuyler*, which was received and read on the 6th *September*, together with the Memorial from Colonel *Brown*, and the Officers' Certificates enclosed therein, be referred to the Board of Treasury.

The Committee of Treasury brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Report of a Court of Inquiry appointed by General *Schuyler*, and held at *Albany*, the 5th of *October*, in consequence of a Resolution of Congress of the 30th of *July* last, confirming General *Montgomery's* promise to give to the troops concerned in taking the vessels on the *Sorel*, all the publick stores, except ammunition and provisions on board thereof, be referred to the Commissioners for adjusting the Accounts of the Northern Army; that they be directed to make strict inquiry into the matter, and inform themselves, by the evidence of persons who served at that time as Quartermaster and Commissary of Stores in the said Army, and of others, what part, or whether any of the stores mentioned in the report, were taken for the publick service; that they allow to the officers and men which they shall find entitled thereto, the amount of so many of the stores as shall appear to have been taken for the Army as aforesaid, and have not been paid for, after deducting therefrom such reasonable expenses as have accrued to any of the captors in obtaining an adjustment of the prize-money, and ordering the amount of such articles of the prize-goods as the said captors have received, and were not given them as bounties, to be deducted from their respective proportions; that the Paymaster be directed, upon receiving General *Schuyler's* warrant for payment of the same, to proportion it amongst such officers and men as the General and Commissioners shall direct, agreeable to the pay allowed by the establishment at that time, without any regard to rations.

The Marine Committee brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That three persons, well skilled in maritime affairs, be immediately appointed to execute the business of the Navy, under the direction of the Marine Committee.

The remainder of the Report, at the request of a Colony, was postponed till to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That Commissions be delivered to the Captains and Subalterns of the Sixth *Virginia* Battalion, and that the dates be filled up by Brigadier-General *Stephens*.

*Resolved*, That 4,000 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *Lawson*, of the Fourth *Virginia* Battalion, for the payment of the said Battalion, he to be accountable, and that the money be paid into the hands of *Thomas Gaskins*.

Two Bills were presented to Congress; one drawn by General *Lee*, for 64 Dollars, dated *Petersburg*, 28th *September*, 1776; the other of the same, by *Jacob Morris*, Aide-de-Camp to General *Lee*, for 150 Dollars, both in favour of *John Bannister*, and drawn upon *William Palfrey*, Esq., Paymaster-General at *Philadelphia:*

*Ordered*, That they be paid, and charged to the Account of General *Lee*.

*Resolved*, That *Willie Jones*, Esq., of *Halifax*, *Robert Smith*, Esq., of *Edenton*, and *Alexander Telfer*, Esq., of *Halifax*, or any two of them, be appointed to audit and settle the Continental Accounts in *Virginia*.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To *Benjamin Wallace*, and to be paid to *Charles Risk*, for victualling forty-five men of the Flying-Camp, 4 45-90th Dollars:

To *Francis Hopkinson*, Esq., for his and *James Wilson*, Esq., expenses, &c., at *Bristol*, to make inquiry respecting despatches sent from Head-Quarters and lost by the express, 25 60-90th Dollars:

To *Sebastian Miller*, for the hire of a Wagon with money from *Philadelphia* to *Boston*, 65 30-90th Dollars:

To *John Gibson*, Esq., Auditor-General, for half a year's salary due the 9th of *October* last, at the rate of 1,066 60-90th Dollars per annum, 533 30-90th Dollars:

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

The Ship *Lady Catharine*, *George Ord*, master, which was sent out last winter, being returned,

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be empowered and directed to settle the accounts of the voyage, and report in what manner the Cargo imported is to be disposed of.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Thursday, November 7, 1776.

A Petition from *John Connolly* was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee appointed to examine into the state of Prisoners in the publick Gaol of *Philadelphia*.

Whereas, the late Major-General *Ward*, since his resignation of his trust, has continued in command, in the Eastern Department, at the request of the Commander-in-Chief, and still continues therein at the request of Congress: It is, therefore,

*Ordered*, That he receive the pay of a Major-General commanding in a separate department, from the 26th day of *April* last, being the time of his resignation, and until a suitable person shall be appointed to take the command in his stead, or it shall be otherwise ordered by Congress.

*Resolved*, That *Richard Bache* be appointed Postmaster-General in the room of Dr. *Franklin*, who is absent.

An Appeal having been lodged with the Secretary against the sentence passed in the Court of Admiralty, for the Port of *Philadelphia*, in the State of *Pennsylvania*, on the libel "*John Barry, qui tam*, &c., vs. the Sloop *Betsey*, &c.,"

*Ordered*, That it be referred to a Committee of Five, and that the said Committee be empowered to hear and determine upon the said appeal:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Wythe*, Mr. *Paine*, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Hooper*, and Mr. *Rutledge*.

*Resolved*, That the Resolution passed the 14th *October* last, that the allowance to Officers of 1 1-3 Dollar for inlisting soldiers be not extended or given on the reinlistment of the soldiers in camp, be repealed, and the same henceforth allowed.

The Board of War brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, 1. That 266 2-3 Dollars be advanced to Captain *Francis Holland*, and 133 1-3 Dollars to Captain *Robert Harris*, both of the *Maryland* Flying-Camp, they to be respectively accountable to the Council of Safety of that State for the said sums, which are to be for the use of, and charged to the account of, their respective Companies:

2. That 1,110 3-4 Dollars be advanced to Captain *Alexander Lawson Smith*, of the late Colonel *Stevenson's* Rifle Regiment, to pay the Subsistence money of, and to enable him to advance a month's pay to, the said Company:

3. That Commissions be sent to General *Schuyler*, for Colonel *Elmore's* Regiment, to be filled up according to the ranks and times of service of the officers of the said Regiment; the General making such arrangements therein as he shall think just and proper:

4. That Commissions be also sent to General *Schuyler*, to be filled up with the names of the Officers yet unprovided for, who have served in *Canada*, according to their ranks and merits, to complete Colonel *Livingston's* Regiment:

5. That General *Schuyler*, agreeable to his request, have permission to repair to Congress, as soon as he shall be of opinion the service will admit of his absence from his department:

6. That General *Schuyler* be informed that Congress have repeatedly applied to *Maryland* on the subject of the *Nantikoke Indians*, without having received an answer; that application shall again be made, and information given him of the result:

7. That General *Schuyler* be allowed to give such Clothing to the *Indians* as he shall think can be spared for that purpose:

8. That the Deputy Mustermaster-General, in the Northern Department, have the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army of the *United States:*

9. That General *Washington* be requested to take proper steps for trying all Deserters from his Army, and punishing, in the most exemplary manner the Articles of War will admit, all such officers and soldiers who shall be base enough disgracefully to leave the service of their country at this time of trial and danger.

*Resolved*, That each of the persons to be appointed to execute the business of the Navy, under the direction of the Marine Committee, be allowed the salary of 1,500 Dollars per annum.

A Letter from Colonel *Miles* to *William Wister*, was laid before Congress and read; wherein he intimates that an exchange may be accomplished of him for Mr. *Foxcroft*, and perhaps of Colonel *Atlee*, or Lieutenant-Colonel *Piper*, for Mr. *Dashwood*.

*Ordered*, That the Letter be transmitted to General *Washington*, and that he be desired to do therein what he shall think proper.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Friday, November 8, 1776.

A Letter, of the 4th, from *R. Dallam*, Deputy Paymaster-General, was read; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That 5,000 Dollars be paid to *Gustavus Risberg*, A. Q. M. General, and charged to the account of *Richard Dallam*, agreeable to the request of the said *R. Dallam;* and that the Letter be referred to the Board of Treasury.

*Resolved*, That Doctor *Witherspoon* have leave to take with him to *Princeton*, *Archibald Gardiner*, *James Henderson*, *Peter Jack*, and *Hugh Ross*, four of the prisoners lately sent to *Philadelphia*, and there to keep them till the further orders of Congress.

The Committee appointed to devise means for preventing the evils to be apprehended from the internal enemies of the *United States*, and hindering them from carrying on correspondence with the foreign enemies to the said States, brought in a Report, which was read:

*Ordered*, That the consideration thereof be postponed to *Monday* next.

A Petition from *Paul Christman*, Ensign in Captain *William Keyser's* Company, from *Maryland*, in the *German* Battalion, was read, praying for leave to resign his commission:

*Resolved*, That leave be granted.

The Committee of Treasury reported,

That there ought to be advanced to Colonel *Valentine Crawford*, one of the executors of the late Colonel *Hugh Stevenson*, on account of his estate, 100 Dollars:

That there is due to the following *Canadian* Prisoners, and to be paid to Captain *Chartier de Lotbinier*, 253 30-90th Dollars, viz:

To Captain *Lotbinier*, for his allowance, from the 2d of *November*, 1775, to the 31st of *October*, 1776, being 52 weeks, at 2 Dollars, 104 Dollars; of which he received from General *Schuyler*, 14 60-90th Dollars; remainder to be paid to him, 89 30-90th Dollars:

To Mons. *Tonancour*, for his allowance, from the 2d *November*, 1775, to the 31st *October*, 1776, 52 weeks, at 2 Dollars, 104 Dollars:

To Mons. *Dochambault*, for his allowance, from the 31st of *August* to the 8th of *November*, being 10 weeks, at 2 Dollars, 20 Dollars:

To Mons. *Fleurimont*, for his allowance, from the 31st of *August* to the 8th of *November*, 10 weeks, at 2 Dollars, 20 Dollars:

To Mons. *St. Ours*, for his allowance, from the 31st of *August* to the 8th of *November*, 10 weeks, at 2 Dollars, 20 Dollars:

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of Three be appointed to consider and report under what restrictions the Sutlers, who supply the Army, should be laid, and that the motions made by Mr. *Gerry*, and seconded, be referred to this Committee:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Gerry*, Mr. *Wythe*, and Mr. *Wolcott*.

A Petition from *James Budden* and *T. Lawrence* was read, requesting leave to export Provisions to *Turk's Island*, in order to bring from thence a load of Salt:

*Resolved*, That leave be granted.

The Board of War brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration; Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That *Mynheer N. D. Ottendorf* be appointed a Brevet Captain in the service of the *United States*.

*Resolved*, That *Tuesday* next be assigned for taking into consideration the trade of these States.

*Resolved*, That the sum of 2,666 2-3 Dollars be advanced to the Committee appointed to contract for casting Cannon; they to be accountable.

A Letter from *Tench Coxe*, at *Trenton*, to *John Tabor Kempe*, Esq., of *New-York*, was laid before Congress, and leave requested to forward the same in order to obtain the release of Mrs. *Lewis*, who is detained a prisoner by the enemy on *Long-Island:*

*Resolved*, That this matter be referred to the Board of War:

That the Delegates of *New-Jersey* be directed to cause strict inquiry to be made through what channel Mr. *Kempe* conveyed the intelligence mentioned in the foregoing Letter.

*Resolved*, That 120 Dollars be advanced to Captain *George Gibson*, of the First *Virginia* Battalion, he to account with the Paymaster-General on the settlement of his Accounts.

A Letter from *James Sullivan* was read, and referred to the Board of War.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Saturday, November 9, 1776.

*Resolved*, That two months' Pay, being 250 Dollars, be advanced to Brigadier-General *Roche de Fermoy*, he to be accountable.

*Ordered*, That he repair to the Northern Army, at *Ticonderoga*, and put himself under the command of General *Schuyler*.

A Letter of the 3d, from *Timothy Danielson*, Chairman of a Committee of the General Assembly of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, appointed to officer and inlist seven Battalions out of the officers and soldiers in the Continental Army near *White-Plains*, with sundry Papers enclosed, was read:

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to a Committee of Three:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Rutledge*, and Mr. *Wythe*.

*Resolved*, That two months' Pay be advanced to Captain *Ottendorf*, and that he be ordered to repair to Head-Quarters, near the *White-Plains*, and put himself under the command of General *Washington*.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To *Robert Towers*, Commissary, for sundry articles purchased by him by direction of the Board of War, and to be charged to the account of the said Board, 526 74-90th Dollars:

That 3,280 Dollars be advanced to Captain *Casdorp*, to pay the arrearages due to his company of Carpenters sent to *Ticonderoga*, for which he is to account:

That 50,000 Dollars be sent to *Richard Dallam*, Deputy Paymaster-General for the Flying-Camp; he to be accountable:

*Ordered*, That the said sums be paid.

The Committee appointed to consider and report under what restrictions the Sutlers, who supply the Army, ought to be laid, brought in a Report,* which was read; and, after some debate thereon,

**Report of the Committee relative to the Sutlers. Brought in and read,* November 10, 1776.

*Resolved*, That a Sutler be appointed for the Army at *New-York*, whose business it shall be to provide at the cheapest rate for the soldiers, full supplies of such necessary articles as the General shall direct.

That for this purpose he be supplied with Money by the General's warrant on the Paymaster, and provide such a number of Assistants and Deputies as the General shall direct; each of whom to be approved by the General, and allowed the pay and rations of a

That to the cost, transportation, and other expenses of the articles which he shall purchase, be added ten per cent.

That from his general store, he shall order supplies to be delivered to his Deputies, who shall be stationed in such different parts of the Army as may be most convenient for supplying the troops.

That he keep constantly posted at his stores, and also recorded, the prices to be given by the soldiers for the goods supplied by the Deputy Sutlers, to which the soldiers may recur for preventing impositions.

That he keep an account of the articles delivered to his Deputies, and direct them once a week to make return of such as have been sold; together with the money arising from the sale; and also of the articles remaining on hand, as often as the Sutler shall judge it necessary.

That Rum or other Spirits shall not be supplied to any non-commission officer or soldier without permit from the commanding officer of his respective company.

That the Deputy Sutlers shall once a month present a list of debts due to them from the soldiers to the Paymasters of their respective regiments, who shall make the proper stoppages and discharge the same.

That the Sutler invest the money which from time to time be shall receive from the Deputies, in new supplies for the Army.

That should any of his Deputies be detected in taking for goods a higher price than he shall have affixed thereto, or neglect to adjust their accounts as before directed, the same be by him forthwith removed.

That he make monthly payment to his Deputies of the salaries allowed them by Congress, and be himself allowed the pay and rations of a

That he adjust his accounts at the end of the campaign with the Commissioner of Accounts, or oftener if they shall judge it necessary, and charge therein the salary granted as aforesaid.

That on a final settlement of his accounts he return to the Paymaster the sums supplied him from the military chest, and deliver to such person as the General shall appoint, the balance arising by profits on the sale of goods, to be distributed amongst the widows of such non-commission officers and soldiers as may have lost their lives in the Army during the ensuing campaign.

That he take an oath to the faithful discharge of his duty.

*Resolved*, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed to *Monday*.

Congress having received intelligence that a free and open communication and correspondence is kept up with the enemy on *Staten-Island* and *New-York*, from *Elizabethtown*, *Newark*, and the parts adjacent, to the great detriment of the *American* cause:

It is therefore recommended to the Governour, Council, and Assembly of the State of *New-Jersey*, to take the most speedy and effectual measures to stop all communication between that State and the enemy's quarters, that shall not be directed by proper authority.

A Memorial from *Lawrence Bowden*, late Master of the ship *Royal Exchange*, taken by the ship-of-war *Columbus*, was presented to Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Marine Committee.

*Resolved*, That Congress will, on *Tuesday* next, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the means of supporting the credit of the Continental Currency.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Monday*.

—

Monday, November 11, 1776.

A Letter, of the 6th, from General *Washington*; one, of the 8th, from Brigadier-General *Mercer*; and one from *Richard Bache*, Esq., were read.

*Ordered*, That the two former be referred to the Board of War, and the latter to the Board of Treasury.

*Resolved*, That Colonel *James Livingston* have leave to recruit his Regiment in any of the *United States*.

A Petition from *Charles Noel Romand*, Sieur *de Lisle*, Captain in a Corps of Artillery in the service of *France*, was read.

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be empowered and directed immediately to confer with the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, or a Committee by them appointed, on the best ways and means of defending the City of *Philadelphia*, in case it should be attacked.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of the Treasury, or either of them, be empowered to administer Oaths to persons whom they shall examine or employ in executing the Resolutions of Congress.

The Committee to whom the Letter from *Timothy Danielson*, and the Papers enclosed therein, were referred, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration; and, after debate,

*Resolved*, That the further consideration thereof be postponed.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Tuesday, November 12, 1776.

A Letter, of the 10th, from General *Mifflin;* one, of the same date, from *Richard Dallam;* and one, of the 9th, from Dr. *Shippen,* were read.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To *George Stultz*, for Iron-work, and repairing a Continental light-wagon, 12 60-90th Dollars:

To *John Tyler*, for Bayonet-Scabbards, and repairing Arms for the *German* Battalion, 82 30-90th Dollars:

To Mons. *Lotbinier*, a *Canadian* Chaplain, for his pay and rations, from 10th of *October* to 10th of *November*, 41 30-90th Dollars:

To Doctor *Beaumont*, a prisoner of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment, for his allowance from 21st *July* to 3d *November*, inclusive, being 15 weeks, at 2 Dollars a week, 30 Dollars:

To *William M'Leod*, a prisoner, of the Fifty-Ninth Regiment, for his allowance from 21st *July* to 3d *November*, inclusive, being 15 weeks, at two dollars a week, 30 Dollars:

That there is to be paid to *Daniel du Chemin*, for the allowance due to Monsieurs *Hertel*, *Giasson*, and *la Magdalaine*, *Canadian* prisoners, from the 1st *August* to 6th *November*, inclusive, being 14 weeks, at 2 Dollars a week, 28 Dollars each, 84 Dollars.

That there should be paid to *Joel Zane*, for the allowance due to Lieutenant *Heimar*, of the Seventh Regiment, from 20th *July* to 1st *November*, inclusive, being 15 weeks, at 2 Dollars a week, 30 Dollars; and to Captain *Swan*, of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment, from 21st *June* to 1st *November*, being 19 weeks, at 2 Dollars, 38 Dollars; the whole 68 Dollars:

To *James Budden*, for himself, and others of the Light-Horse, their expenses as an escort with money to *New-York*, 82 Dollars, and for his expenses with General *Prescot* from *Reading* to *Philadelphia*, 24 42-90th Dollars; both sums making 106 42-90th Dollars:

To *William Woodhouse*, for Wafers for the use of Congress, 1 12-90th Dollar:

To *Thomas Smith*, for Paper for the use of the Commissioners for the *New-York* Department, 15 78-90th Dollars.

That there should be paid to Doctor *Rush* 625 Dollars for five months' advance pay to Brigadier-General *Thompson*, who is to be accountable.

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

The Committee of Treasury, to whom that part of the Petition and Memorial of *John Brown*, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Elmore*, praying that his extraordinary services in *Canada*, last year, may be considered, was referred, brought in a Report,* which was read:

*Ordered*, To lie on the table.

* *Report on so much of Lieutenant-Colonel* JOHN BROWN'S *Petition and Memorial as prays that his extraordinary services in* CANADA *last year may be considered.*

[Read in Congress, *November* 12, 1776: Ordered to lie on the table.]

The Committee to whom that part of the Petition and Memorial of *John Brown*, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Elmore*, praying that his extraordinary services in *Canada* last year may be considered, was referred, have examined the matter thereof, and report, That, according to the narrative of Colonel *Brown*, contained in his letter to Major-General *Schuyler*, he performed many valuable services in *Canada;* that he was instrumental in procuring useful intelligence of the number and strength of the *British* forces and armed vessels there, and of the inclinations and designs of the inhabitants and savages; that he cut off the communication between *St. John's* and the circumjacent country, surprised *La Prairei*, took *Chamble*, captivated prisoners, and seized stores and other things, and that during the whole campaign he was almost continually in some active employment by night as well as by day, suffering much fatigue and hardship, and frequently exposed to dangers. That these allegations are in some measure supported partly by letters to Congress from the late Brigadier-General *Montgomery*, dated the 19th and 24th of *September*, 6th and 20th of *October*, 3d of *November*, and 5th of *December*, 1775, with the articles of capitulation at *Chamble*, when it was surrendered, and partly by a certificate signed by Colonels *James Livingston* and *Timothy Bedel*, Major *Robert Cochran* and Captains *Gershom Motte* and *William Satterlee*. That on the eighth day of *November*, 1775, the Congress in their instructions to the gentlemen appointed to repair to *Ticonderoga*, authorized them, among other things, to "assure Major *Brown* and Major *Livingston* that Congress had a just sense of their important services, and would take the first proper opportunity to reward them."

But it appears to the Committee, that if Colonel *Brown* be rewarded by promotion in military rank, which is supposed to have been designed by that assurance, his eyesight is so impaired by the cold weather last winter, that he will not be able to perform the duty of his office, unless it be in some stationary post. It is therefore, upon the whole matter, submitted to Congress to determine whether any further provision ought to be made for him, or in what other manner, he having been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel from that of Major.

A Letter to *Willing & Morris*, from *Samuel Smith*, Master of the *Hancock & Adams*, (who, on his passage to *Philadelphia*, was taken by the *Gamecock* privateer, of *Rhode-Island*, commanded by *Timothy Pierce*, and carried into *Bedford*, in *Massachusetts-Bay*,) dated *Bedford* Port, *November* 1, was laid before Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Secret Committee, and that they report the cargo on board the *Hancock & Adams*, and how it ought to be disposed of.

The Board of War, to whom a request from the State of *Virginia* was referred, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the demands of the Continent for Cannon are at present of so pressing a nature that none can be spared for the particular use of any State; but, as soon as a sufficient quantity of Ordnance is supplied to the *United States*, the request of the State of *Virginia*, to be permitted to purchase Cannon at *Hughes's* Works, shall be complied with.

That Monsieur *Romand de Lisle* be appointed a Major of Artillery in the service of the *United States*, and sent to General *Washington*, to be employed as he shall think proper.

A Petition from *James M'Connaughy* was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

A Memorial from *Azariah Dunham* was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

A Letter of the 9th, from General *Washington*, enclosing one of the 31st of *October* from General *Gates*, at *Ticonderoga*, was read.

Congress resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Letter of *Timothy Danielson:* Whereupon,

*Resolved*, As the opinion of Congress, That if the Soldiers to be raised by the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, be inlisted on the terms offered to them, which are more advantageous than what are offered to other Soldiers serving in the same Army, it would much retard, if not totally impede, the inlistment of the latter, and produce discontent and murmur, unless Congress should equally increase the pay of these, which, it is the opinion of Congress, would universally be reprobated as an immoderate expense, and complained of as a grievous burden by those who must bear it; and, therefore, that the Committee from the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be desired not to inlist their men on the additional pay offered by the Assembly of that State.

Upon reconsidering the Resolution of the 16th of *September* last, for raising eighty-eight Battalions to serve during the present war with *Great Britain*, Congress being of opinion, that the readiness of the inhabitants of these States to enter into the service for limited times, in defence of their invaluable privileges, on all former occasions, gives good ground to hope the same zeal for the publick good will appear in future, when necessity calls for their assistance, and, lest the uncertain length of time which forces raised during the continuance of the present war may be compelled to serve, may prevent men from inlisting who would otherwise readily manifest their attachment to the common cause, by engaging for a limited time: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That all Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers who do not incline to engage their service during the continuance of the present war, and shall inlist to serve three years, unless sooner discharged by Congress, shall be entitled to, and receive all such bounty and pay as are allowed to those who inlist during the continuance of the present war, except the 100 acres of land; which land is to be granted to those only who inlist without such limitation of time. And each recruiting officer is required to provide two distinct inlisting rolls, one for such to sign as inlist during the continuance of the war, and the other for such as inlist for three years, if their service shall be so long required.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Wednesday, November 13, 1776.

A Letter of the 12th of *October*, from *Joseph Trumbull*, Commissary-General, was read: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That 40,000 Dollars be advanced to *Thomas*

*Lowry*, and charged to the account of *Joseph Trumbull*, agreeable to his request.

The Marine Committee having recommended Colonel *John Nixon* and *John Wharton* as fit persons to execute the business of the Navy, under the direction of the Marine Committee,

*Resolved*, That they be accepted.

A Letter of the 10th of *November* from *M. Tilghman*, President of the Convention of *Maryland*, enclosing sundry Resolutions of that body, relative to the raising their quota of the New Levies, was laid before Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That Mr. President furnish the Commissioners of the said State, sent therefrom to raise their Levies, with the Resolution of yesterday, admitting the New Levies to inlist for three years only, and, at the same time, inform them, that if the inhabitants of that State will inlist to serve during the continuance of the present war, they already have the faith of the *United States of America* pledged for the land to be granted to such Soldiers.

The Committee of Treasury reported that there is due,

To Mons. *la Marque*, a *Canadian* Prisoner, for his allowance from the 31st of *August* to the 8th of *November*, inclusive, being 10 weeks, at 2 Dollars a week, 20 Dollars, to be paid to Mons. *de la Magdalaine:*

To Captain *Thomas Gamble*, a Prisoner of the Forty-Seventh Regiment, for his allowance from the 10th of *August* to the 2d of *November*, inclusive, being 12 weeks, at two Dollars per week, 24 Dollars, and to be paid to *James Biddle*, Esq.:

To *Michael Leightner*, and to be paid to *George Aston*, for victualling Troops on their march 15 5-90th Dollars:

To *John Nourse*, for ferriage of himself, and of General *Lee* and his Servants, Horses, &c., over *Hoe's* Ferry, 4 60-90th Dollars, to be paid to Colonel *B. Harrison:*

To Doctor *Samuel Wilson*, for board, attendance, and medicine to sick Soldiers of the Sixth *Virginia* Regiment, 33 60-90th Dollars:

To *Wollore Meng*, for 12 Scabbards delivered to Captain *Ralph Falconer*, of the Fifth *Virginia* Battalion, 4 72-90th Dollars:

That there should be paid to *Thomas Armer*, on account of *Elizabeth Robinson*, for so much short paid on settlement of her account, the 14th of *October* last, for board, &c., of sick Soldiers belonging to Captain *Grier's* Company, 10 Dollars:

That there should be paid to the *Pennsylvania* Hospital, for the support and clothing of *John Hughes*, a wounded Soldier, 36 54-90th Dollars:

That there should be paid to *Adam Eccle*, 8 78-90th Dollars, being so much paid by him to Sergeant *John Byers*, of Captain *Hubley's* Company, in Colonel *Shee's* Battalion, to enable him to support his party, being a guard to Powder from *Philadelphia* to *North-Carolina:*

That there is due to *William O'Hara*, a Soldier in the late Captain *William Hendrick's* Company, taken at *Quebeck*, and now returned, for his pay from 1st *January* to 10th *November*, 1776, being 10 months and 10 days, at 6 2-3 Dollars a month, 68 80-90th Dollars:

To *Henry Taylor*, a Soldier in Captain *Smith's* Rifle Company, taken at *Quebeck*, and now returned, for his pay from 1st *June* to 10th *November*, being 5 months and 10 days, at 6 2-3 Dollars, 35 50-90th Dollars:

To Dr. *William Sarringhause*, for medicine and attendance to the sick of Captain *Woelpper's* Company, in the *German* Battalion, 24 1-90th Dollars:

To *Benjamin Eyre*, Ship-wright, for his pay and rations, employed in constructing Row-Galleys at *New-York*, Horse-hire, and travelling expenses to *Albany*, to engage Boards, &c., for the Army, 427 77-90th Dollars:

That 60,000 Dollars be sent to *Richard Dallam*, Esq., Deputy Paymaster-General of the Flying-Camp, for the use of the Army:

That there is due to *Daniel Naef*, for the ferriage of *Virginia* Troops, their Baggage, Wagons, and Horses, over *Susquehanna*, 61 72-90th Dollars:

To *Andrew M'Nair*, for his attendance on Congress 146 days, cleaning house, &c., to the 1st *November*, 118 81-90th Dollars:

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

The Board of Treasury brought in a further Report respecting the Certificates to be given to the lenders of the Five Millions of Dollars, voted to be borrowed, which was read.

The Board of War brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That 2,000 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *Hausegger*, for the use of the *German* Battalion; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That the remainder of the Report be postponed till to-morrow.

The Secret Committee, to whom the Letter from Captain *Smith* was referred, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be directed to write Letters to Governour *Cooke*, to the Continental Agent in *Rhode-Island*, and such other persons as they shall think proper, to make strict inquiry into the conduct of Captain *Timothy Pierce*, respecting the capture or seizure of the Ship *Hancock & Adams*, employed in the Continental service, and cause him to be prosecuted for the penalty of the bond given, when he received his commission, if it shall appear on the inquiry, that in justice to the Continent, such prosecution should be commenced; and the said Committee are authorized to do what may be necessary for supporting the prosecution.

The remainder of the Report postponed.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to morrow.

—

Thursday, November 14, 1776.

A Letter of the 4th, from *R. H. Harrison*, and one, of the 17th *October*, from *James Bowdoin*, Esq., were read:

*Ordered*, That they be referred to the Board of War.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of two be appointed to confer with the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, and inquire what quantity of Salt they have now on hand, or expect shortly, and what proportion can be spared for the publick service:

The Members chosen, Mr. *S. Adams* and Mr. *Whipple*.

Information being given to Congress, that part of the enemy's Fleet was seen coming out of the *Hook*, and steering its course to the southward:

*Resolved*, That copies of the Letter, giving the information, be sent by express to General *Washington*, and to Governour *Livingston*, of *New-Jersey*, and also to the Southern States.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War confer immediately with the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, and coöperate with them in devising ways and means for calling forth the strength of that and the neighbouring States, for the defence of this city, against any attempts which the enemy may make to obtain possession of it; and that, for this purpose, the Board of War be invested with the full powers of Congress, to promote most effectually this important purpose:

That the Marine Committee also be directed to make such disposition of the Naval force, now in the river *Delaware*, or the neighbourhood thereof, as will best conduce to defeat the designs of the enemy.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Friday, November 15, 1776.

A Letter of the 11th, from General *Washington*, at *Peek's-Kill;* one of the 5th, from General *Gates*, at *Ticonderoga*, informing of General *Carleton's* retreat from *Crown-Point;* one of the 8th, from General *Schuyler*, at *Albany;* one of the 12th, from General *Greene;* one, without date, from General *Lewis;* one from *Robert Ogden*, of the 11th; and one from *R. Dallam* to *R. Peters*, were laid before Congress, and read:

*Ordered*, That the Letter from General *Lewis* be referred to the Marine Committee.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to supply *E. Blain*, Esq., with 230 bushels of Salt, for the publick service: That the said Council of Safety be, and they are hereby requested, to supply Messrs. *Lowry*, *Wharton*, *Ogden*, and *Dunham*, Assistants to the Commissary-General, or any one of them, with one half of

such quantities of Salt, as are, or may be, in their hands, for the use of the Continent.

Two Memorials, one from *Eleazer Oswald*, and the other from *Samuel Lockwood*, were read:

*Ordered*, That they be referred to the Board of War.

Mons. *Romand de Lisle*, who, on the 12th, was appointed a Major of Artillery, thinking that appointment inadequate to his merit and abilities, and requesting to be sent to General *Washington*, that he may have an opportunity of giving a specimen of his abilities:

*Resolved*, That he have leave to go to General *Washington*.

*Ordered*, That the Marine Committee apply to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, for 1500 24lb., 1800 18lb., Cannon-shot, and 500 Bar-shot, which shall be replaced by Congress; and that the said Committee send the Shot and six tons of Powder to *South-Carolina*, for the defence of that State and *North-Carolina*:

That a copy of the intelligence contained in General *Greene's* Letter of the 12th, be sent by express, with all possible expedition, to the Southern States.

The Secret Committee having reported, that the cargo belonging to the Continent, imported in the *Hancock & Adams*, consisted of the following articles, viz: 72 chests of Arms, 311 barrels of Gunpowder, 338 pigs of Lead, 9 casks of Gun-Flints, 1 case of Pins, 133 barrels Tin-Plates, 5 cases of Iron-Wire, 70 casks of Saltpetre, and 10 bales of Merchandise:

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee direct the entire cargo of the *Hancock & Adams* to be landed at *Bedford*, and deposited in places of safety, under the care of the Committee of that place, until ordered from thence:

That the Muskets, Powder, Lead, and Gun-Flints, be delivered by the Committee of *Bedford*, to the order of the Board of War, who are to inform the General of these stores, and direct the whole, or any part that may be wanted for the use of the Army, to be delivered to him; with an injunction not to put the Muskets into the hands of any but those soldiers who inlist under the late resolves and regulations of Congress:

That every part of the merchandise on board the said Ship, that is now wanted for the use of the Army, be applied to that use, and that the Secret Committee inform General *Mifflin*, the Quartermaster-General, thereof, and enclose him an order for the immediate delivery of all such parts as he shall desire:

That the remainder of the Cargo be subject to the directions of the Secret Committee, who are empowered to order it from thence, either by sea or land, to any other part or parts of these States, where the articles may be wanted for the publick service.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To the Trustees for the Poor of *Frederick* County, *Maryland*, for board and attendance of sick Soldiers of the *Maryland* Troops in Continental service, 58 30-90th Dollars, to be paid to *Nicholas Hower*:

To Dr. *Nicholas Way*, for medicine, attendance, lodging, nursing, &c., of sick Soldiers of the Fifth and Sixth *Virginia* Regiments, 467 36-90th Dollars.

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

Congress took into consideration the Report of the Marine Committee, to whom that part of the Report of the Marine Committee relative to the pay and rank of the Marine was recommitted: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That a Bounty of 20 Dollars be paid to the Commanders, Officers, and Men, of such Continental Ships or Vessels of War, as shall make prize of any *British* Ships or Vessels of War, for every Cannon mounted on board each Prize, at the time of such capture, and 8 Dollars per head for every man then on board and belonging to such Prize:

That the rank of the Naval Officers be to the rank of Officers in the Land service, as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Admiral, | - - - - | as a General. |
| Vice-Admiral, | - - - - | " Lieutenant-General. |
| Rear-Admiral, | - - - - | " Major-General. |
| Commodore, | - - - - | " Brigadier-General. |
| Captain of a Ship of 40 guns and upwards, | - - - - - | " Colonel. |
| Captain of a Ship of 20 to 40 guns, | | " Lieutenant-Colonel. |
| Captain of a Ship of 10 to 20 guns, as a Major. | | |
| Lieutenant in the Navy, | - - | " Captain. |

That the Pay of all Officers and Men in the *American* Navy, from the date of the new commissions, under the free and independent States of *America*, be as follows:

| *Ships of 20 guns and upwards.* | *Per calendar month.* | *Of 10 to 20 guns.* |
|---|---|---|
| Captain | 60 Dolls. | 48 Dolls. |
| Lieutenant | 30 | 24 |
| Master | 30 | 24 |
| Master's Mate | 15 | 15 |
| Boatswain | 15 | 13 |
| Boatswain's Mate | 9 1/2 | 9 |
| Gunner | 15 | 13 |
| Gunner's Mate | 9 1/2 | 9 |
| Surgeon | 25 | 21 2/3 |
| Surgeon's Mate | 15 | 13 1/3 |
| Carpenter | 15 | 13 |
| Carpenter's Mate | 9 1/2 | 9 |
| Cooper | 9 | 9 |
| Midshipman | 12 | 12 |
| Armourer | 9 | 9 |
| Sail-maker | 10 | 10 |
| Sail-maker's Mate | 8 1/3 | 8 1/3 |
| Yeoman | 8 1/3 | 8 1/3 |
| Quartermaster | 9 | 8 1/3 |
| Cook | 9 | 8 1/3 |
| Coxswain | 9 | 9 |
| Captain's Clerk | 15 | 12 |
| Steward | 10 | 10 |
| Chaplain | 20 | None. |
| Yeoman of powder-room | 9 1/2 | 9 |
| Master-at-Arms | 10 | 9 |
| Seamen | 8 | 8 |

That vessels under ten guns be commanded by Lieutenants:

That the pay of the Officers in such vessels be,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lieutenant commanding | 30 Dollars. | Gunner | 12 Dollars. |
| Mates | 15 | Carpenter | 12 |
| Boatswain | 12 | | |

The other Officers and Men the same as in vessels from 10 to 20 guns:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Marine Officers—Captain | 30 Dollars. | Lieutenant | 20 Dollars. |

Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers the same as in the Land service.

*Resolved*, That the President write to General *Washington*, and inform him he has leave to negotiate an exchange of the Foreign Troops in the pay of *Great Britain*, that are prisoners to these States.

Congress took into consideration a Report from the Board of Treasury, for carrying into execution the Resolutions of Congress relative to the Loan-Offices: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Certificates be of the following denominations:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 737 of 1000 | 737,000 | 2940 of 400 | 1,176,000 |
| 1470 of 600 | 882,000 | 3675 of 300 | 1,102,500 |
| 2205 of 500 | 1,102,500 | 11,027 | 5,000,000 |

That the value or denomination of the Certificates be, in different parts thereof, in print and writing:

That each denomination have a check-letter, corresponding with a letter in the margin, to be left in the book:

That the several denominations be further distinguished from each other, by having the border, at the end of the Certificate, varied or altered from the rest:

That the engraved ornaments between the margin, or part left in the book and the Certificate, be cut indentwise, first having occasional dashes made with a pen across it, of the colour with which the Treasurer signs his name:

That the impressions of the rolling-press, with the signature of the Treasurer, in Certificates of the highest denomination, be made with yellow ink, of the second with blue, of the third with red, of the fourth with green, and of the fifth or lowest denomination with purple.

A Petition from *Joseph Dean, Matthew Irwin, John Dunlap*, and *Benjamin Harbeson*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

Dr. *Charles Ludwig* having been duly examined on the practice of Surgery and Medicine, and recommended as duly qualified,

*Resolved*, That he be appointed Surgeon to the *German* Battalion.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Saturday, November 16, 1776.

*Resolved*, That 300 Dollars be advanced to the Secretary of the Board of War, to defray contingent expenses; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Convention of *North-Carolina*, to station Brigadier-General *Moore*, with the regular troops under his command, in such parts of that State, or of the State of *South-Carolina*, where they will be in a capacity to render immediate and seasonable assistance to their friends in *South-Carolina*; and that they may be on the spot to oppose the enemy when and wheresoever they shall attempt to make their landing good in that State; and that the Convention of *North-Carolina* do, immediately, at the Continental expense, embody 5,000 Militia, to complete any military operations already begun by General *Moore*, to defend the State of *North-Carolina*, or march to the relief of their neighbours in *South-Carolina* or *Virginia*, where there shall be most occasion for their support.

The Committee on the Lottery brought in a Report, which was read:

*Ordered*, To lie on the table, to be taken into consideration on *Monday* next.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Monday*.

—

Monday, November 18, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the sum of 40,000 Dollars be advanced to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*; the said State to be accountable.

A Letter, of the 14th, from General *Washington*, enclosing copies of Letters which passed between him and General *Howe*; one, of the 6th, from General *Gates*; one, of the 10th, from *Richard Stockton* and *G. Clymer*, Esqs., at *Albany*; one, of the 11th, from General *Schuyler*, at *Albany*; one, of the 16th, from Brigadier-General *Stephens*, at *Amboy*; one, of the 1st, from *B. Harrison*, Paymaster in the Southern Department; and one, of the 8th, from Brigadier-General *Lewis*, at *Williamsburg*, were read:

*Ordered*, That the Letters from General *Washington*, General *Schuyler*, General *Gates*, and Brigadier-General *Stephens*, be referred to the Board of War; and that the Letters from Brigadier-General *Lewis* and *B. Harrison* be referred to the Board of Treasury.

A Letter and Memorial from *Joseph Trumbull*, Esq., and a Memorial from *Eb. Hazard*, were read:

*Ordered*, That they be referred to the Board of War.

A Letter from *Juliana Zedwitz* was read, and referred to the Committee on the state of the Prisoners.

*Resolved*, That a Member be added to the said Committee, and that they be directed to take into consideration the case of Lieutenant *M'Lean*, who was sent to *Philadelphia* by General *Wooster*:

The Member chosen, Mr. *Hooper*.

The Marine Committee having recommended *Francis Hopkinson*, Esq., as a fit person to execute the business of the Navy, under their direction,

*Resolved*, That he be accepted.

A Memorial of *Isaac Cox* was read, in behalf of *Alexander Frazer* and others, inhabitants of the Island of *Providence*, owners of two sloops called the *Dragon* and the *Molly*, taken by private sloops of war called the *Congress* and the *Chance*, and brought into the Port of *Philadelphia*, but afterwards released, praying for letters of safe conduct for the said sloops to the Port of *Providence*, in order to prevent any arrest or molestation by the vessels of war in the service of the *United States*:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the Petition be granted.

A Petition from *Muscoe Livingston*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to a Committee of Three:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Wythe*, and Mr. *Ross*.

Congress took into consideration the Report of the Committee on the Lottery: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the scheme of the Lottery be as follows, viz:

That it consist of 100,000 Tickets, each Ticket to be divided into four Billets, and to be drawn in four classes.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| First class, at 10 dollars each billet, - - | 1,000,000 | |
| Deduction, at 15 per cent., - - - | 150,000 | |
| | | 850,000 |
| Prizes. 1 of 10,000 - - - | 10,000 | |
| 2 of 5,000 - - - | 10,000 | |
| 30 of 1,000 - - - | 30,000 | |
| 400 of 500 - - - | 200,000 | |
| 20,000 of 20 - - - | 400,000 | |
| Carried to the fourth class, - - | 200,000 | 850,000 |
| Second class, 100,000 billets at 20 dollars, | | 2,000,000 |
| Deduction, at 15 per cent., - - - | | 300,000 |
| | | 1,700,000 |
| Prizes. 1 of 20,000 - - - | 20,000 | |
| 2 of 10,000 - - - | 20,000 | |
| 10 of 5,000 - - - | 50,000 | |
| 100 of 1,000 - - - | 100,000 | |
| 820 of 500 - - - | 410,000 | |
| 20,000 of 30 - - - | 600,000 | |
| Carried to the fourth class, - - | 500,000 | 1,700,000 |
| Third class, 100,000 billets at 30 dollars each, | | 3,000,000 |
| Deduction, at 15 per cent., - - - | | 450,000 |
| | | 2,550,000 |
| Prizes. 1 of 30,000 - - - | 30,000 | |
| 1 of 20,000 - - - | 20,000 | |
| 2 of 15,000 - - - | 30,000 | |
| 2 of 10,000 - - - | 20,000 | |
| 10 of 5,000 - - - | 50,000 | |
| 200 of 1,000 - - - | 200,000 | |
| 1,000 of 500 - - - | 500,000 | |
| 20,000 of 40 - - - | 800,000 | |
| Carried to the fourth class, - - | 900,000 | 2,550,000 |
| Fourth class, 100,000 billets at 40 dollars each, | | 4,000,000 |
| Deduction, at 15 per cent., - - - | | 600,000 |
| | | 3,400,000 |
| Brought from the first class, - - | | 200,000 |
| from the second class, - - | | 500,000 |
| from the third class, - - | | 900,000 |
| Total, - - - | | 5,000,000 |
| Prizes. 1 of 50,000 - - - | 50,000 | |
| 2 of 25,000 - - - | 50,000 | |
| 2 of 10,000 - - - | 20,000 | |
| 10 of 5,000 - - - | 50,000 | |
| 100 of 1,000 - - - | 100,000 | |
| 200 of 500 - - - | 100,000 | |
| 1,000 of 300 - - - | 300,000 | |
| 15,000 of 200 - - - | 3,000,000 | |
| 26,000 of 50 - - - | 1,300,000 | |
| | | 5,000,000 |

The Lottery being intended to raise a sum of money on loan, bearing an annual interest of four per cent., which, with the sums arising from the deductions, is to be applied for carrying on the present most just and necessary war, in defence of the lives, liberties and property of the inhabitants of these *United States*:

*Resolved*, That the fortunate adventurers in the 1st class who draw more than 20 dollars, and so in the 2d and 3d classes, who draw more than 30 or 40 dollars, shall, at their option, receive a Treasury bank note for the prize or prizes drawn, payable at the end of five years, and an annual interest on the same, at the rate of four per cent. or the preemption of such billets in the next succeeding class, as shall not be renewed within the time hereinafter limited. Every adventurer in the 1st class shall have a right to go through the subsequent classes, but shall not be obliged to do it. The drawers of 20, 30 and 40 dollars in the 1st, 2d and 3d classes, who do not apply for their money within six weeks after the drawing ends, shall be deemed adventurers in the next succeeding class, and have their billets renewed without any further trouble. If any others shall neglect or decline taking out and paying the price of their billets, for a subsequent class, within six weeks after the drawing ends, their billets shall be sold to the fortunate adventurers in the preceding class, or to such as shall apply for the same. The fortunate adventurers in the last class, who draw 50 dollars, shall, upon application to the Commissioners of the Loan Offices in the respective States, where the drawers reside, receive their money, without any deduction, and all who draw above that sum, shall receive in like manner, without deduction, for the sums drawn, bank Treasury notes payable at the end of five years after the drawing, at the Loan Office

*

of the State in which the drawers reside. The interest to commence from the last day of drawing, and to be paid annually at the said respective Loan Offices.

That, for carrying into execution the said Lottery, there shall be seven Managers, who shall give bond, and be on oath, for the faithful discharge of their duty:

That the money, as fast as received by the Managers for billets, be lodged in the Continental Treasury:

That the drawing of the first class begin at *Philadelphia*, on the 1st of *March*, 1777, or sooner, if sooner full.

*Resolved*, That the further consideration of the Report, be postponed till to-morrow.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Tuesday, November 19, 1776.

The Convention of *Maryland* having appointed new Delegates, two of them attending, produced the credentials of their appointment, which were read, as follows:

"Maryland: In Convention, November 10, 1776.

"*Resolved*, That the Honourable *Matthew Tilghman*, Esq., and *Thomas Johnson*, Jun., *William Paca*, *Thomas Stone*, *Samuel Chase*, *Benjamin Rumsey*, and *Charles Carrol*, Bar., Esquires, or any three or more of them, be Delegates to represent this State in Congress, until the first day of *March* next, or until the General Assembly shall make further order therein; and that the said Delegates, or any three or more of them, be authorized and empowered to concur with the other *United States*, or a majority of them, in forming a Confederation, and in making foreign alliances; provided that such Confederation, when formed, be not binding upon this State without the assent of the General Assembly; and the said Delegates, or any three or more of them, are also authorized and empowered to concur in any measure which may be resolved on by Congress, for carrying on the war with *Great Britain*, and securing the liberties of the *United States*, reserving always to this State the sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal police thereof. And the said Delegates, or any three or more of them, are hereby authorized and empowered, notwithstanding any measure heretofore taken, to concur with the Congress, or a majority of them, in accommodating our unhappy difference with *Great Britain*, on such terms as the Congress, or a majority of them, shall think proper.

"Extract from the Minutes: G. Duval."

*Resolved*, That the Board of Treasury be directed, in settling Brigadier-General *Armstrong's* Accounts, to allow his charge for travelling expenses to and from *South-Carolina*, amounting to 400 Dollars.

A Letter, of the 16th, from General *Washington*, and one of the 17th, from *Clemt. Biddle*, were read.

The Board of War brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That 100 three-pounders, 50 six-pounders, 50 twelve-pounders, 13 eighteen-pounders, and 13 twenty-four-pounders, all of brass, be immediately provided as Field Artillery, for the use of the Armies of the *United States:*

That the Secret Committee be directed to take the most effectual measures for procuring the said brass Artillery; that the said Committee confer with the Committee for procuring Cannon, and consult with them how many they can provide:

That this matter be kept as secret as the nature of the business will admit.

*Resolved*, That 400 Dollars be advanced to the Delegates of *North-Carolina*, for the use of that State, which is to be accountable.

Congress resumed the consideration of the Report on the Lottery: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That each of the Managers shall receive for his trouble one-tenth per centum on all the money he shall receive on the sale of the tickets:

That the tickets or billets be sold for ready money:

That each of the Managers give bond to the President, for the use of the *United States*, in the penalty of 20,000 Dollars, for the faithful discharge of their trust.

*Resolved*, That a Member be added to the Committee appointed to hear the appeal against the sentence passed on the libel, *John Barry*, *qui tam*, &c., *vs.* the Sloop *Betsey*, &c., in the room of Mr. *Rutledge*.

The Member chosen, Mr. *Chase*.

Congress being informed, that there are two Ensigncies vacant in the *German* Battalion, proceeded to elect persons to fill up the same; and the ballots being taken,

*George Howard* and *Jacob Laudermilk* were elected.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there ought to be advanced to Colonel *James Livingston* the sum of 2,000 Dollars, for which he is to account with the Commissioners for auditing the Accounts in the Northern Department:

That there is due to *Edward Rutledge*, Esq., for Cash he paid, by order of Congress, to *Joseph Beck*, an express to *South-Carolina*, with despatches, intercepted with *Kirkland*, &c., the sum of 133 30-90th Dollars, and for the expenses of himself, Doctor *Franklin*, and Mr. *Adams*, a Committee to *Staten-Island*, there and back, 71 30-90th Dollars; the whole amounting to 204 60-90th Dollars:

To *Joseph Baldwin*, for Ferriage of Militia, &c., over *Neshaminy* Ferry, 6 54-90th Dollars:

To *Samuel Pugh*, for victualling Troops of the Flying-Camp, on their march, 8 Dollars:

To *John Jarvis*, for Ferriage over *Neshaminy*, 12 21-90th Dollars, and Horse-hire to different expresses, 10 36-90th Dollars, the whole 22 57-90th Dollars:

That there should be paid to the Board of War, to be by them sent to *Benjamin Harrison*, Jun., Esq., Deputy Paymaster-General in *Virginia*, the sum of 300,000 Dollars, for the use of the Army in that Department:

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

Congress resumed the consideration of the Report of the Board of War of the 13th instant: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General, or his Deputies, make regular Weekly Returns of all Rations issued or paid to the Officers and Privates of any Regiment, Troop, or Company, in the service of the States, to the Adjutant-General or his Deputies, to be by him inserted in the General Returns of the Army, and transmitted to Congress monthly:

That, on any sick or disabled non-commissioned officer or soldier, being sent to any Hospital or sick-quarters, the Captain or Commandant of the Troop or Company to which he belongs, shall send to the Surgeon, or Director of the said Hospital, or give to the non-commissioned officer or soldier, so in the hospital or quarters, a certificate, countersigned by the Paymaster of the Regiment, if he be with the Regiment, of what pay is due to such sick non-commissioned officer or private, at the time of his entering the hospital or quarters; and the Captain or Commandant of the Troop or Company, shall not receive the pay of the said soldier in hospital or quarters, or include him in any pay abstract during his continuance therein. And, in case any non-commissioned officer or soldier shall be discharged from the hospital or quarters, as unfit for farther service, a certificate shall be given him, by the Surgeon or Director, of what pay is then due to him; and the said non-commissioned officer or soldier, so discharged, shall be entitled to receive his pay at any Pay-Office, or from any Paymaster in the service of the *United States;* the said Paymaster keeping such original certificate, to prevent impositions, and giving the non-commissioned officer or soldier his discharge, or a certified copy thereof, mentioning, at the same time, his having been paid:

That this Resolution be transmitted to the Commanders-in-Chief in the several departments, to be by them given out in orders, and then delivered to the Directors of the Hospitals in each department, who are to cause the same to be fixed up in some conspicuous place, or places, in every Military Hospital, for the information of all concerned:

That Letters be immediately sent to the Councils of Safety, Conventions, or Legislatures of *Pennsylvania*, and the States to the southward thereof, desiring them, forthwith, to lay up magazines of Military Stores, Ammunition, and Salt Provisions, in the safest and most convenient places in the said States, respectively, for the use of such Continental Troops and Militia as it may be necessary to bring into the field in the ensuing winter, for the defence of these States:

That some proper person be appointed to act in the capacity of Armourer, to assist the Commissary of Stores in

inspecting, superintending repairs, and taking care of all the Continental Arms in the publick magazines at *Philadelphia*.

Congress deem it necessary, upon every principle of propriety, to remind the several States, how indispensable it is to the common safety, that they pursue the most immediate and vigorous measures to furnish their respective quotas of Troops for the new Army, as the time of service, for which the present Army was inlisted, is so near expiring, that the country may be left in a condition, in a great measure, defenceless, unless quickly supplied by new levies.

*Resolved*, That Major *Stewart*, who brought the late intelligence from General *Gates*, and who is recommended as a deserving officer, have the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel by brevet, and be presented with a Sword of the value of one hundred dollars.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Wednesday, November 20, 1776.

*Resolved*, That 40,000 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *J. Mease*, for the publick service; he to be accountable.

The Keeper of the Publick Prison, having informed Congress, that he has discovered a plot among the Prisoners to effect an escape, which one of them has accomplished; and that he has good reason to believe horses are purchased in *Philadelphia*, and kept ready for them, when they shall have escaped from prison: It was, thereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Gaol-Keeper be directed to keep the Prisoners in his custody close locked up till further orders:

That it be recommended to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to examine Mr. *Jewell*, the Gaol-Keeper, respecting this matter, and to take every measure in their power to find out the accomplices in the plot, if any there are.

A Letter, of the 18th, from Brigadier-General Lord *Stirling*, was read.

The Board of War, to whom were referred the Memorials from Captain *Lockwood* and Captain *Oswald*, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That such parts of the said Memorials as relate to their Pay, be referred to the Board of Treasury.

A Letter, of the 2d, from *Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer*, President of the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, was read, and referred to the Board of War.

A Letter, of the 6th, from General *Lee* to Doctor *Franklin*, having been sent to the Board of War, and by them opened, was laid before Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That the Board of War prepare a Letter to General *Lee*, and report the same to Congress.

Congress proceeded to the election of Managers of the Lottery, and the ballots being taken, the following gentlemen were chosen, viz:

*Sharp Delany*, *John Purviance*, *Owen Biddle*, *Francis Lewis*, Jun., *Jacob Barge*, *Jonathan B. Smith*, and *James Searle*.

*Resolved*, That a Member be added to the Secret Committee, in the room of Mr. *Bartlett*, who is absent.

The Member chosen, Mr. *Whipple*.

*Resolved*, That the Postmaster-General be directed to remove *Besonet*, of *Bristol*, in *Pennsylvania*, from the office of Deputy Postmaster, and appoint some other trusty person, in that town, to that office:

That the Committee appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the loss of the packet from General *Washington*, be directed to apply to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to apprehend *Besonet*, of *Bristol*, and his bar-keeper, and bring them to *Philadelphia*, for examination, taking care to keep them apart, and that they have the assistance of the Continental Troops in *Philadelphia*, if necessary:

That the said Committee write to the Commanding Officer of the Continental Troops in *New-Jersey*, to make diligent search for one *Wilkins*, who was at the Tavern in *Bristol* when the packet was lost, and to send him, if found, under guard to *Philadelphia*.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be empowered to administer oaths to persons examined by them.

The Committee of the Treasury report, that there is due,

To Lieutenant *Smith*, for his expenses with a party to escort money to *Brunswick* and to *Fort Montgomery*, a balance of 19 19-90th Dollars, the amount of his Account being 55 19-90th, of which he received from *Robert Erwin*, 32 Dollars, and from *R. Dallam*, 4 Dollars, remains 19 19-90th Dollars.

*Ordered*, That the same be paid.

The Board of Treasury reported farther Instructions to the Commissioners appointed for settling the Accounts of the Army, under the command of General *Washington*, which were agreed to, as follows:

That in adjusting the Accounts of persons, whose particular circumstances may have rendered them unable to procure vouchers, or who, by unavoidable accidents, have lost the same, or any part of the Publick Stores committed to their care, the Commissioners endeavour to obtain the best information from the General Officers or other persons relative to such Accounts, and use a discretionary power in administering oaths or affirmations previous to their settling the same:

That the Commissioners send to the State of *Virginia*, and the States northward and eastward thereof, for their Accounts against the said Army, if such Accounts should not be forwarded, agreeable to a Circular Letter from the Board of Treasury to the said States:

That the Commissioners use every precaution to prevent the loss of any Publick Books or Papers that may be in their possession; and, for this purpose, that they apply to the Quartermaster-General for a Wagon and Horses, to be under their direction:

That they consider the Flying-Camp as part of General *Washington's* Army, and adjust the Accounts accordingly.

The Marine Committee, to whom was referred the bringing in of a plan for increasing the Navy of the *United States*, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That there be immediately undertaken,

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In *New-Hampshire*, | 1 ship of 74 guns. |
| In *Massachusetts-Bay*, | 1 ditto of 74 ditto. |
| | 1 ditto of 36 ditto. |
| In *Pennsylvania*, - | 1 ditto of 74 ditto. |
| | 1 brig of 18 guns, and a packet-boat. |
| In *Virginia*, - - - | 2 frigates of 36 ditto, each. |
| In *Maryland*, - - | 2 ditto of 36 ditto, each. |

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Thursday, November 21, 1776.

*Resolved*, That 250 Dollars be advanced to Captain *Gabriel Long*, of the late Colonel *Stevenson's* Battalion, for the purpose of recruiting his Company; he to be accountable:

That Captain *Long's* Accounts be referred to the Board of Treasury.

As the necessity of obtaining an Army immediately, to oppose the designs of the enemy, is so evident and pressing as to render it proper to give all possible facility to that business:

*Resolved*, That each State be at liberty to direct their Recruiting Officers to inlist their men either for the war or three years, upon the respective bounties offered by Congress, without presenting inlisting rolls for both terms, according to a former Resolution; keeping it always in view, that, in the opinion of Congress, the publick service will be best promoted by inlistments for the war, if the recruiting business is not retarded thereby.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To Lieutenant *Samuel Lockwood*, for his pay as Assistant Engineer in the Army in *Canada*, from the 5th *November*, 1775, to the 18th of *May*, 1776, at 20 Dollars per month, 128 60-90th Dollars; and from the 19th of *May* to the 5th of *November*, at 30 Dollars per month, 167 Dollars; the whole, 295 69-90th Dollars:

To *John Bates*, for two fire hoods, shovel, tongs, &c., for the use of the Treasury Office, 16 36-90th Dollars.

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Friday, November 22, 1776.

A Letter, of the 20th, from General *Mercer*, was read:

*Ordered*, That an extract thereof be sent to the Assembly and Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*.

Congress being informed that a number of sick Soldiers were sent to *Philadelphia* from the Flying-Camp, and lodged in the Barracks, and it being apprehended that their continuance in the Barracks may endanger the health of the Soldiers there,

*Ordered*, That the Medical Committee take charge of the said sick, and have them quartered in private houses and properly taken care of, and that they immediately attend to this business:

That Dr. *Ludwig* be directed to attend the said sick.

The Committee to whom was referred the Petition and Memorial of Mrs. *Zedwitz*, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Lieutenant-Colonel *Zedwitz* be removed to *Philadelphia*, and confined in the State Prison; and that due care be taken to prevent him from keeping up any intercourse or correspondence with the enemies of these States:

That the sum of 58 49-90th Dollars be paid to Mrs. *Zedwitz*, in full for services done for the Continent, as set forth in her Petition:

That the further sum of 80 Dollars be paid to the said Mrs. *Zedwitz*, in full of two months' pay due to her husband.

*Resolved*, That 100,000 Dollars be advanced to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania;* that State to be accountable.

Congress taking into consideration the present state of the Army, of which some parts have already disbanded, and others will probably do so when the times they are engaged to serve for shall expire, which must soon happen; so that there is danger that the enemy must be opposed either by unequal numbers, or by Militia, not only a more expensive but a less efficacious aid than regular forces; and there being good grounds to hope that vigorous efforts at this critical conjuncture, may bring the war to a speedy as well as happy conclusion:

*Resolved*, That blank Commissions be sent to General *Washington*, and that he be empowered to insert therein the names of such officers as he shall think fit, not revoking those appointments which have been made by Commissioners from any of the *United States;* and the General, Commissioners, and Officers are conjured to recruit, by all the means in their power, the Regiments now or lately in the Camp; and that a Committee of Three be appointed to repair to Head-Quarters, and, consulting with the General, assist in the accomplishment of this necessary business.

The Members chosen, Mr. *Paca*, Mr. *Witherspoon*, and Mr. *Ross*.

*Ordered*, That the said Committee make particular inquiry why the Troops are not paid, and that they inquire into, and redress to the utmost in their power, the just grievances of the Soldiers.

*Resolved*, That the sum of 166,666 2-3 Dollars be advanced to the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, in part of their account against the Continent; the said State to be accountable.

*Ordered*, That a copy of the Resolutions respecting the Lottery be delivered to the Managers, and that the said Managers proceed immediately in carrying the Lottery into execution.

Congress took into consideration the Report of the Committee on the application from the Convention of *New-York*, respecting the waste of Hides in the Army: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Commissaries in each Department, be directed to employ proper persons to take immediate charge of the Hides and Tallow in their respective Districts; that the former may be tanned into Leather, or, at least, so far cured as to prevent their being spoiled, and the latter rendered into kegs or casks, that there be no waste of those valuable articles, but that they may be stored for the use of the Continent, and be subject to the orders of Congress; and that the said Commissaries be strongly urged to pay due attention to this Resolve, it being a matter of considerable importance.

*Resolved*, That two months' Pay be advanced to Dr. *Ludwig*, of the *German* Battalion; he to be accountable.

A state of the inconveniences to which the Troops on the *Eastern-Shore* of *Virginia* are particularly subject, was laid before Congress and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

A Letter, of the 16th, from *Joseph Trumbull*, Commissary-General, was read, advising that he has, on that day, drawn on the President, at four days' sight, in favour of Mr. *Matthew Irwin*, for the sum of 20,000 Dollars, to purchase Pork and Flour, and desiring the same may be paid and charged to his (*J. Trumbull's*) account:

*Resolved*, That the President draw an order on the Treasurer for the payment of the said Bills, and that the money be accordingly charged to the account of *J. Trumbull*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Saturday, November 23, 1776.

A Letter, of the 19th and 21st, from General *Washington*, was read:

*Resolved*, That 500,000 Dollars be sent to the Paymaster-General:

That 250,000 Dollars be sent to *Richard Dallam*, Esq.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of Five be appointed, with full powers, to devise and execute measures for effectually reinforcing General *Washington*, and obstructing the progress of General *Howe's* Army; and that they be directed to proceed immediately on this business.

The Members chosen, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Chase*, Mr. *Clymer*, and Mr. *Stockton*.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to order the *Virginia* Battalion, on the *Eastern Shore* of *Virginia*, and the two *Pennsylvania* Battalions, commanded by Colonel *Mackay* and Colonel *Cooke*, to march, with all possible expedition, the former to *Philadelphia*, and the two latter by the nearest route to *Brunswick*, in *New-Jersey*, or to join General *Washington* wherever he may be; and that the said Board is empowered to use every means in their power to expedite the march of these Troops; and they are ordered to attend immediately to this business.

In order the better to oppose the progress of General *Howe's* Army,

*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be directed forthwith to order, under his immediate command, such of the forces, now in the Northern Department, as have been raised in the States of *Pennsylvania* and *New-Jersey*, and that the Commanding Officer in the Northern Department be directed to apply to the Legislatures of the Eastern States, to afford him such assistance as they may stand in need of.

*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be directed to propose to General *Howe*, an exchange of *William Franklin*, Esq., late Governour of *New-Jersey*, for Brigadier-General *Thompson*.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To the Committee of *Northampton* County, and to be paid to *Jesse Jones*, for sundry supplies of Provisions, Wagons, &c., to the Militia on their march to *New-Jersey*, and for supplies to Prisoners and Continental Troops, the sum of 1,337 54-90th Dollars:

To *John Ashbe*, for a Wagon, Horses, and a Negro Man, his property, lost in the service of the States at *New-York*, the sum of 786 60-90th Dollars:

To *John Cox*, for eight Rifle Guns, supplied by *Edward Snicker*, for the use of Captain *Gabriel Long's* Company, of *Virginia* Riflemen, 146 60-90th Dollars:

To Lieutenants *Bogart* and *Ball*, two Prisoners of the *British* Navy, and to be paid to *James Smith*, Esq., for their allowance, from 9th *July* to 19th *November*, 1776, inclusive, 19 weeks, at 2 Dollars a week, 76 Dollars:

To Brigadier-General *Armstrong*, for his pay and rations, from 1st *March* to 23d *November*, instant, inclusive, and his travelling expenses to and from *South-Carolina*, 1,781 63-90th Dollars:

To Dr. *David Jameson*, for sundry medicines and attendance to sick Soldiers of Captain *Grier's* Company, and Captain *Nelson's* Company, in Continental service, the sum of 290 24-90th Dollars:

To Colonel *Jeremiah Dugan*, for sundry supplies to the

Army in *Canada*, for which he has now produced a voucher, the want of which prevented the same being reported the 19th of *August* last, the sum of 484 73-90th Dollars:

To the Board of War, for *Richard Dallam*, Esq., Deputy Paymaster-General, his draft, dated *New-Brunswick*, the 21st instant, in favour of Colonel *Clement Biddle*, Deputy Quartermaster-General, the sum of 10,000 Dollars:

That there should be paid to *Richard Bache*, Esq., Postmaster-General, as an advance, for the use of the Post Office, 2,666 60-90th Dollars:

*Ordered*, That the said sums be paid.

*Resolved*, That by any thing heretofore done, it is not intended to prejudice or strengthen the right or claim of the *United States*, or any of them, to any Lands in *America*, nor to determine in what proportion or manner the expenses of the war shall be raised or adjusted, except as to the first Three Millions of Dollars emitted by Congress, and a farther emission of Three Millions of Dollars, on *December* 26, 1775.

*Resolved*, That 20,000 Dollars be advanced to the Commissoners appointed by the Convention of *Maryland*, to raise their quota of Troops; they to be accountable.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Monday*.

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Monday, November 25, 1776.

A Letter, of the 23d, from General *Washington*, at *Newark*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to a Committee of the Whole; and that General *Mifflin*, who brought the Letter, be desired to attend the said Committee.

Congress then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole; and, after some time, the President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Nelson* reported, that the Committee have had under consideration the Letter referred to them, and have heard Brigadier-General *Mifflin** on the subject; and thereupon came to sundry Resolutions, which he was ordered to report; but, that not having come to a conclusion, desired leave to sit again.

The Resolutions reported from the Committee of the Whole, being read, were agreed to as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, be requested to call forth immediately the Associators in the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia*, and in the Counties of *Philadelphia*, *Chester*, *Bucks*, and *Northampton*, to continue in the service of the *United States* six weeks from the time they join the Army, unless sooner discharged by Congress:

That the Volunteers who shall enroll to serve the *United States* to the 10th of *March* next, shall, nevertheless, be discharged as soon as the situation of publick affairs will possibly admit; it being the intention of Congress to detain them no longer than the present emergency shall render it absolutely necessary:

That 35,000 Dollars be advanced to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, for the publick service the said State to be accountable:

That 4,000 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *Hausegger*, for the use of his Battalion; he to be accountable:

That the Board of War be directed to order the *German* Battalion to march immediately, and join General *Washington:*

That the said Board write to Governour *Henry*, of *Virginia*, and request him to order the Light-Horse, in the service of that State, to march with all possible expedition, to join General *Washington:*

That the said Board order Brigadier-General *Roche de Fermoy* to repair immediately to General *Washington*, instead of going to the northward.

*Resolved*, That General *Mifflin* be directed to stay in the City of *Philadelphia* until General *Washington* shall require his attendance at the camp, and that General *Washington* be informed of this by the President.

*Resolved*, That Congress will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the state of the Army.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Tuesday, November 26, 1776.

A Letter, of the 8th, from *George Morgan*, at *Pittsburg*, and one, of the 21st, from the Council of Safety of *Maryland*, were read.

*Resolved*, That 1,000 Dollars be advanced to *Robert Erwin*, Wagonmaster-General, for the publick service; he to be accountable.

Congress being informed that some persons in the City of *Philadelphia*, governed by principles inimical to the cause of *America*, and with views of avarice and extortion, have monopolized and engrossed Shoes, Stockings, and other necessaries for the Army, whilst the Soldiers of the Continent, fighting for the liberties of their country, are exposed to the injuries of the weather, at this inclement season:

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Assembly of the State of *Pennsylvania*, to adopt such immediate measures for remedying this evil, as their wisdom shall suggest to be adequate to the present purpose, and for preventing like pernicious practices for the future.

The Board of War brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That a Regiment of Artillery, to be armed with muskets and bayonets, instead of fusees, be raised in the State of *Virginia*, on Continental establishment; the two Companies already raised there to be part of the said Regiment; which is to be composed of one Colonel, one Lieutenant-Colonel, one Major, and ten Companies, each to consist of one Captain, three Lieutenants, one Sergeant, four Bombardiers, eight Gunners, four Corporals, and forty-eight Matrosses.

*Resolved*, That 1,150 Dollars be paid to *Gerard Wm. Beekman*, or order, and charged to the account of *Richard Dallam*, Esq., Deputy Paymaster-General, the same being in full of a draft of the said *R. Dallam* on *R. Peters*, Esq., Secretary of the Board of War, in favour of the said *Gerard Wm. Beekman*, dated *New-Brunswick*, *November* 15th, 1776.

Mr. *F. Lewis*, Jun., having informed Congress that he cannot, consistent with his private engagements, undertake to be a Manager of the Lottery, and desiring he may be excused from that service,

*Resolved*, That he be excused; and that another be appointed in his room:

The ballots being taken, Dr. *David Jackson* was elected.

*Ordered*, That the Committee, who brought in the scheme of the Lottery, confer with the Managers thereof, in order that they may proceed on that business.

Congress resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the state of the Army; and after some time spent thereon, the President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Nelson* reported, that the Committee have had under consideration the matter to them referred, and have come to sundry Resolutions, which he was ordered to lay before Congress.

The Resolutions reported from the Committee of the Whole, being read, were agreed to as follows:

* *Memorandum by* CHARLES THOMSON, *respecting the position, &c., &c., of the* AMERICAN *Troops.*

*G. M.* at *Newark* with 3,500; the whole on this side under 6,000, and on the east side 11,000. General *H.* can send 15,000, leaving sufficient to garrison, 6,000 now on this side river; whole force 21,000 effective. He has taken vessels of shallow drawing, to carry 10,000. *Dob Ferry* hazardous. *Peek's Kill.* General *Lee* proposed not to move any from *White-Plains*, but to order 2,000 for General *Heath's* division at *Peek's Kill.* At least 10,000 necessary to be sent to reinforce *G. W.* Best place of rendezvous *Princeton.* These, added to the present force, apprehended to be sufficient. Fourteen pieces brass artillery on this side. At least two hundred pieces. Want a further supply of Artillery-men, not less than 500. Body of Horse essentially necessary. Great losses for want of them. Clothing wretched. General want of blankets, stockings, and shoes; none in store. Loss in Q. M. General at *Fort Lee*, small; company of Artillery large, viz: cannon, mortars, and first stores. General *Bell's* brigade loss whole baggage. Two thousand barrels of flour. Clothing of Colonel *Hand's* battalion. Two thousand barrels in *Fort Washington.* Many stragglers of regiment broke coming on with arms. *Hand* lost one hundred of his men at *Fort Washington.* Great complaints respecting Surgeons. Sick removed to *Springfield* and other towns in rear of *Newark.* Number of disaffected in neighbourhood of Army. Captain *Waters*, of *Smallwood's*, lost for want of timely assistance. Great complaint for want of pay, but often without cause. Arms to the eastward not yet sent for proper sta

General *Mifflin* has it in orders from General *W.* to inform Congress it will be absolutely necessary to call some of the General Officers to Congress, to confer on the regulations of the Army for the next campaign. Five hundred thousand musket-cartridges to be got ready and sent forward as fast

*Resolved*, That the Cannon Committee be directed to inquire what quantity of Cannon are on board the prize-ship that arrived yesterday in the Port of *Philadelphia;* and, if they are fit for Field-Artillery, to take measures to have them mounted on proper carriages, and sent to General *Washington:*

That the Assembly of the State of *Pennsylvania* be requested to give immediate direction, that the brass Field-pieces, with the Artillery companies, or the Field-pieces singly, if there be no such Companies belonging to this State, be, with all possible expedition, sent to General *Washington's* Army in *New-Jersey*, and that they be assured that, as soon as the situation of our affairs will admit, they shall be returned, or others in lieu of the said Field-pieces:

That Mr. *Mease*, the Continental Commissary in the City of *Philadelphia*, be directed to go to the several shops and stores, in the said city, and purchase, for the use of the Army of the *United States*, such articles as are necessary for them, at this and the approaching season of the year; and that he be empowered to employ as many persons as he shall judge necessary to assist him in this service:

That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested, with all possible expedition, to cause application to be made to the House-keepers and others in the said State, for as many Blankets and Woollen Stockings as each can spare for the use of the Soldiers under the immediate command of General *Washington*, in *New-Jersey;* and that they be delivered, as fast as collected, to Mr. *J. Mease*, the Continental Commissary:

That it be recommended to the said Council of Safety to appoint persons to appraise the Blankets and Woollen Stockings, so collected as aforesaid, that the value of them may be paid:

That the Committee, who are sent to the Camp, be directed to make particular inquiry into the abuses in the Medical Department in the Army, and report thereon to Congress.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Wednesday, November 27, 1776.

A Memorial from *Thomas Denef* was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

The Board of War brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Congress appoint the Officers of the Artillery Battalion, agreed to be raised in *Virginia*.

A Petition and Memorial from *John Sergeant* was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Committee on the Letter from *Thomas Cushing*, Esq.,* and that the Report on that subject by them made, be recommitted.

*Resolved*, That the Delegates from the four *New-England* Governments be directed to take the most effectual measures to have, at least, 10,000 pair of Shoes, and 10,000 pair of Stockings, purchased in those States, and sent forward to General *Washington's* Head-Quarters, with all possible expedition, for the use of the soldiers under his command.

That a Committee of Three be appointed to procure a translation into the *German* language of the Treaty between the Courts of *London* and *Hesse*, for Troops to be employed in *America*. That the said Committee be fully authorized to pursue means the most effectual in their judgment for communicating to the *Hessians* the said Treaties, and for accomplishing the views of Congress in their Resolves of the 14th and 27th of *August* last.

The Members chosen, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *R. H. Lee*, and Mr. *S. Adams*.

*Ordered*, That the Secret Committee take proper and effectual measures to procure a quantity of Hard Money, not less than 20,000 Dollars, to be lodged in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, for the purpose of secret services.

The Committee who were appointed, in conjunction with the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to examine *Bessonet* and his Bar-keeper, having reported, that after the most diligent inquiry, they find nothing proved against Mr. *Bessonet*, and that the Council of Safety and said Committee are of opinion he ought to be discharged:

*Ordered*, That the said Committee inform the said Council of Safety, that Congress have no objection to their discharging Mr. *Bessonet*.

The Committee appointed to repair to the Northern Army, having returned, made a Report,* which was read:

*Ordered*, That the same, together with the Papers accompanying it, be referred to a Committee of Five, and that the said Committee be directed to sit from day to day, and report as soon as possible to Congress.

The Members chosen, Mr. *S. Adams*, Mr. *Clymer*, Mr. *Livingston*, Mr. *Wythe*, and Mr. *Harrison*.

*Resolved*, That the sum of 2,500 Dollars be paid to Mr. *Abraham Livingston*, and charged to the account of *Jonathan Trumbull*, Jun., Esq., Deputy Paymaster-General, the same being in full of his draft in favour of the said *A. Livingston*, dated *Albany*, 14th *November*, 1776.

* *Report of the Committee sent to the Northern Department.*

[That supplying the Army by contract is practicable. Estimates and calculations by General *Gates*, *Schuyler*, and for articles, &c., enclosed. Read and referred to Committee of Five, 27 *November*, 1776.]

The Committee appointed by Congress to go to *Ticonderoga*, beg leave to report, that after having obtained all possible information in their power respecting the nature and extent of the important subject of supplying the Northern Army by contract, they (your Committee) are of opinion, that at present the measure cannot be adopted under any idea of promoting the publick service. Your Committee have entered into this subject in conversation with your present Commissary-General, and with your Majors-General *Schuyler* and *Gates*, and also with two gentlemen who offered themselves as contractors. The lowest terms on which a contract could be obtained have been fully considered by your Committee, and after the most exact calculations, have been compared with the present mode of supplying the Army; the result of all which, in the opinion of your Committee, is, that the present mode ought to be continued, under such farther regulations as shall appear proper to be made: and your Committee beg leave to recommend your present Commissary-General as one of the most diligent and able officers, and by any means to be retained in your service. Your Committee also beg leave further to report, that they have visited the General Hospital for the Northern Army, situated at *Fort George;* that there is a range of buildings erected convenient for the purpose, which on the 20th of *October* last contained about four hundred sick, including those wounded and sent from General *Arnold's* fleet; that they were sufficiently supplied with fresh mutton and *Indian* meal, but wanted vegetables; that the Director-General in that department obtained a large supply of medicines, but that the sick suffered much for want of good female nurses, and comfortable bedding; many of those poor creatures being obliged to lay upon the bare boards. Your Committee endeavoured to procure straw as the best temporary expedient; but they earnestly recommend it to the attention of Congress, that a quantity of bedding be speedily furnished, agreeable to a note in paper No. 1. A Hospital, in the opinion of your Committee, should be continued at *Fort George*, for the reception of persons infected with contagious disorders; but your Committee are clearly of opinion that the General Hospital for the Army stationed at *Ticonderoga* ought to be erected on the opposite grounds, called *Mount Independence*, *Fort George* being at much too great a distance. Your Committee recommend that a quantity of vegetables be sent to *Ticonderoga*, without delay, agreeable to a note in paper No. 2. And also, they are of opinion, that extensive gardens should next spring be made on *Mount Independence*, from whence the Army might be supplied with vegetables at a much more certain and less expensive rate than otherwise. Your Committee cannot omit mentioning under this head, the complaints which they have received from persons of all ranks, in and out of the Army, respecting the neglect and ill-treatment of the sick. It is shocking to the feelings of humanity, as well as ruinous to the publick service, that so deadly an evil hath been so long without a remedy. Your Committee do not undertake to determine from what quarter this mischief hath arisen; but they most earnestly recommend that a strict inquiry be immediately made into the conduct of the several Directors-General of Hospitals, their Surgeons, other officers and servants, and that exemplary punishment be inflicted on all such as shall be found to have neglected their duty.

Your Committee are also of opinion, that the number of troops, five thousand, mentioned in paper No. 2, should be garrisoned and cantoned in the Northern Department during the next winter; and they recommend to the consideration of Congress the other particulars contained in paper No. 2, and also those contained in papers No. 3 and 4, and in an especial manner the note in page 10 of paper No. 3, respecting the building of some large vessels on *Lake Champlain*.

Your Committee also beg leave to recommend to the immediate atten-

* *Report of the Committee appointed to consider of the Letter from* Thomas Cushing, *Esq., concerning the* Indian *Missionaries.*

[Recommitted *November* 27, 1776.]

The Committee to whom the Letter from *Thomas Cushing*, Esquire, was referred, have examined the matter thereof, and come to the following Resolutions thereupon, viz:

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee that Mr. *Samuel Kirkland* and Mr. *Aaron Crosby*, whom the Commissioners at *Boston*, appointed by the Society for Propagating the Gospel among the *Indians*, had employed as Missionaries for that purpose, the former at *Oneida*, and the other at *Onaquaughe*, be continued in their offices one year from the expiration of that for which they are now engaged; and that each of them be allowed a salary of four hundred and sixteen dollars and two-thirds of a dollar, equal to one hundred pounds sterling, to be reimbursed by the said Commissioners when they shall receive money sufficient from the said Society.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the *United States* ought not to contribute to the support of a Missionary to the *Mohickon Indians*, of whom some reside at *Stockbridge*, in the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, and others, at several places in the State of *New-York*.

An Appeal having been lodged against the sentence passed in the Court of Admiralty for the State of *Virginia*, on the libel, "*Levin Jones, qui tam*, &c., *vs.* the Sloop *Vulcan*:"

*Resolved*, That the hearing and determining the said Appeal be referred to Mr. *Wythe*, Mr. *Paine*, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Hooper*, and Mr. *Chase*.

tion of Congress the subject of their letter to Mr. Commissary *Trumbull*, dated *Albany*, *November* 10, 1776, and marked No. 5.

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*Memorandum of sundry articles that may be necessary to carry on the Works in the Northern Army in the year* 1777.

| | |
|---|---|
| A, 2,000 iron spades. | 300 augers, of different sizes. |
| A, 2,000 iron shovels. | 150 handsaws, adzes, and other carpenters' tools. |
| A, 3,000 felling-axes. | |
| A, 500 pick-axes. | 30 dozen of files, of different sorts. |
| A, 1,000 bill-hooks. | 40 dozen gimlets. |
| A, 200 stone hammers. | 20 dozen nail hammers. |
| A, 200 mason's trowels. | 800,000 10d. nails. |
| A, 20 crow-bars. | 300,000 6d. do. |
| 300 broad-axes. | Ten casks of 20d. nails. |
| 50 iron squares. | Spikes and other nails as the service may determine. |
| 100 pair of compasses. | |
| 100 pair of framing chisels. | A, a large quantity of bar iron. |
| 400,000 feet of inch pine board. | Steel. |
| A large quantity of plank and timber for gun carriages. | A, 60,000 feet of 3-inch oak plank, for platforms. |

The following works are most suitable to be done during the winter should there be men sent to do it:

Making one hundred platforms for cannon.

1,000 handbarrows. Repairing of the old wood axes.

Pickaxes, shovels, spades, &c. Making carriages for cannon.

To secure the old Fort with plank, by way of blinds to prevent surprise.

Building of three block-houses on the southeast part of *Mount Independence*.

Building of a block-house east of the old Fort, near the General's Quarters, or back of the store, by the wharf.

Building of a block-house on the height of the old *French* lines.

Driving piles through the ice across the Lake, to strengthen the boom.

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*Memorandum of Works to be done near* TYCONDEROGA *next spring.*

Building a Fort on *Mount Independence*, with four bastions and a covert way, on the east and south sides.

Finish the barbet battery with merlons and close the rear.

To repair the old Fort with stone and lime, and build a block-house on the southwest hill across the Lake.

JEDUT'N BALDWIN, *Engineer in the Northern Army.*

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*List of the wants of the Northern Army.*

2,500 officers and soldiers for the winter garrison at *Tyconderoga* and *Mount Independence*.

2,500 officers and soldiers to be cantoned upon the *Mohawk* and *Hudson's* rivers, *Albany* therein included.

2 large Floating Batteries to be prepared to be built, one to cover the boom, the other the bridge of communication and to rake the bay on the south side of *Tyconderoga*.

20 good iron eighteen-pounders, to be sent from *Salisbury* works as soon as the snow will answer to transport them.

10 brass six-inch howitzers, with shells and an attrail.

A plan of a good Fort upon *Mount Independence* to be fixed upon and approved.

As there is an excellent bridge over *Otter Creek*, at *Rutland*, and a good road cut from *Mount Independence* thither, abundant supplies might in the winter be thrown in from the Eastern Governments by that road.

The recruiting the new establishment be pushed with vigour, when the money wanted and voted the 21st *October* arrives.

The General Hospital for the future to be upon *Mount Independence*, except in case of a contagious disease. Then that at *Fort George* to be used.

A quantity of vegetables and antiscorbutics should be sent to *Tyconderoga* as soon as possible, as the scurvy is apt to be fatal there in the spring of the year without such remedies.

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[No. 3.]

ALBANY, *November* 6th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Agreeable to your request, I do myself the honour to communicate to you my opinion of what preparations I conceive necessary to be made the ensuing winter, and what measures to be adopted, effectually to prevent the enemy from penetrating into this country by the northern or western communication.

If the enemy are not able to dislodge our troops from *Tyconderoga*, or penetrate to the *Mohawk* river this fall, they will probably attempt an expedition in the winter, *Canada* being able to furnish them with such a number of sleds as will suffice to transport all their artillery and provisions, if their number should be ten thousand; nor will our garrison of *Tyconderoga* or *Fort George* be any obstacles, as they can easily pass by the former in sleds at such a distance as to be out of reach of our cannon, and the latter is too insignificant to make any resistance so as much to retard their progress. It is therefore of the last importance that as much of the Army as can be kept together should be cantoned in the vicinity of this place, of which the enemy will be informed, and it will probably deter them from the attempt; but should they remain quiet in *Canada* until next spring, it is reasonable to suppose that they will then make the most vigorous exertions to penetrate either by *Tyconderoga*, or, what is much more likely, by *Fort Stanwix*. Both communications, therefore, claim our attention. The fortifications at *Tyconderoga* should, in my opinion, be as much contracted as possible, and a fort built on *Mount Independence* to cover batteries near the lake side and the redoubt on the *Tyconderoga* side, so as that the pass may be defended with a few men.

*Resolved*, That three Members be added to the Committee appointed to revise the Resolutions relative to Captures:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Hooper*, and Mr. *Chase*.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Legislatures of

The navigation should be effectually stopped by sinking cassoons at small distances, and joined together by string pieces, so as at the same time to serve for a bridge between the fortifications on the east and west side. This work should be executed in the winter; but as these fortifications would not prevent the enemy from drawing their small craft over land from the *Three Mile Point* into *Lake George*, the passage of that lake should be also obstructed, either by cassoons from island to island in the *Narrows* if practicable, or by floating batteries. Whilst a part of the Army is employed in this service, another body of troops should be sent to *Fort Stanwix* to strengthen that fortification, and to make some others at such places near the *Mohawk's* river as may be deemed best for the purpose of retarding the enemy should they make themselves master of *Fort Stanwix*. And that we may be well prepared and every department put in order, I conceive it necessary that the commanding officers of artillery should be directed to procure every necessary in his department, that we may not have to seek it when the campaign opens. That the Chief Engineer be directed to do the like. That the Quartermaster-General do the same; and the like order be given to the Commissary-General. That all the batteaus now on *Lake Champlain* and *Lake George* should be put into the best repair as early as possible, in the months of *February* or *March*, at farthest. That one hundred batteaus be built in those months at *Schenectady*. That a quantity of boards and plank should be collected at *Fort George*.

That a sufficiency of pitch, oakum, and whatever may be necessary for building and repairing vessels, floating batteries, or batteaus, be collected and conveyed to *Fort George*, *Fort Ann*, *Skenesborough*, and *Schenectady*, in the course of the winter.

That provisions for five thousand men, for eight months, be immediately brought to *Albany*, and carried in winter to *Fort Ann*, a like quantity to remain in store at *Albany*, to be sent to the westward, if there be occasion. This is a matter that ought immediately to be attended to, and therefore a sufficient quantity of salt should directly be sent to *Albany*.

That a large train of both heavy and light artillery should be sent in the course of the winter, part to remain at *Albany*, and as much as may be necessary for *Tyconderoga* and *Fort George* to be sent there. This must be done in winter, at once to save a vast expense and that we may not be embarrassed in the spring with the transportation of articles so extremely difficult to move.

That a laboratory should be established at *Albany* to fix all the ammunition necessary for the campaign.

That fifteen companies, to consist of a captain or overseer, and thirty men, be engaged for the batteau service, and to be employed on the highways and other necessary work in the Quartermaster-General's department. It not only ruins soldiers to employ them in such business, and is more expensive, but also weakens the Army too much. That four companies of carpenters, to consist of an overseer and twenty-five each, be engaged to attend the Army. If more are occasionally wanted, they can be procured in *Albany* or its vicinity.

I have taken the liberty to enclose a list of some articles that may be absolutely necessary, as also copies of the orders I have given for the Commissary Department, so far as relates to the receiving, issuing, and delivering provisions.

I wish you to mention to Congress the necessity of attending to the request of the *Six Nations*, respecting the *Nautikoke Indians*.

The giving certificates by officers for carriages employed by them, is the source of much confusion and unnecessary expense. Congress might ascertain the number of carriages that should be allowed to each company, and strictly prohibit the hiring of carriages for the publick service without application to the Quartermaster-General or some of his deputies. I have enclosed a draft of an order for the purpose.

The duty of the Paymasters should be clearly pointed out to them. Who is to appoint Paymasters to those regiments who yet have none?

What is to be done with the remainder of *Livingston's*, *Hazen's*, and *Duggan's Canadian* corps, and with the *Canadian* refugees now in *Albany*?

Are *Nicholson's* and *Elmore's* regiments to be completed? if so, who is to grant warrants for recruiting them?

The bedding for the troops should be sent as soon as possible.

Congress has referred the settlement of the accounts of the people engaged in taking *Tyconderoga* and *Crown Point* to the Committee of *Albany*, but has not furnished them with the accounts, which I transmitted to Congress last winter, and without which, and an account of what money has been paid by the *Massachusetts* and *Connecticut*, those accounts cannot be settled.

I daily expect some of the *Indians;* but have nothing to give them. I wish some provision to be made for them.

Be so good as to send me a draft of the *Schuylkill Ferry* scows with their dimensions. I wish to have this as soon as possible.

If fulled woollen caps could be procured at *Philadelphia*, a quantity should be sent up to the Army.

The whipsaws which Congress has ordered should be sent up immediately.

Glass for the barracks is much wanted.

Although the enemy's fleet on *Lake Champlain* is formidable, would it not be well to construct very large and strong vessels this winter? If Congress should resolve on doing it, a very large number of carpenters should be sent up immediately, and guns and carriages provided.

If shelter can be provided for twenty-five hundred men at *Tyconderoga*, I propose that number to remain there, four hundred at *Fort George*, one hundred at *Skenesborough*, one hundred at *Fort Ann*. Barracks are building at *Fort Edward* for four hundred, at *Saratoga* for one thousand. Those in this place will contain about five or six hundred. At *Schenectady* barracks are building for six hundred, about two hundred to be kept at *John's* town and four hundred at *Fort Schuyler*, making in all about six thousand two hundred men.

As the expense in transporting of heavy cannon in wheel carriages amounts to about twenty shillings a mile, the difference in bringing them from *Jersey* or from Mr. *Livingston's* furnace, will amount for eighteen-pounders and upwards to about £150 apiece. Perhaps it may be well to send a skillful person to examine Mr. *Livingston's* works, and if they are found capable of being employed in casting cannon,

the *United States*, respectively, to pass such laws as will most effectually tend to prevent the counterfeiting or forging of the Tickets of the publick Lottery.

A Letter from Mr. *Ross*, Mr. *Paca*, and Mr. *Witherspoon*, was read, informing that they have appointed an Assistant Quartermaster and Commissary, to provide for a number of sick, and take care of stores sent to *Princeton*.

*Ordered*, That the President inform them that Congress approve of the appointments.

*Ordered*, That the Board of War, in conjunction with a member of the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, seize the

immediately to agree with him, and send up a sufficient number of people that understand the business.

You will please to mention to Congress that the military chest in this department is almost exhausted, and that considerable sums will be wanted to clear with the Army.

The Deputy Adjutant-General, Deputy Quartermaster-General, and Deputy Mustermaster-General, have not received their commissions. They wish to have them sent up.

Who is to give the instructions to the Deputy Mustermaster-General?

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

Messrs. *Stockton* and *Clymer*, Commissioners of Congress.

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Whereas great abuses have been committed by troops taking carriages when on a march from one place to another, without applying to the proper officers for the same, to the great grievance of the inhabitants and detriment to the publick service: To remedy which for the future the following orders and regulations are to be strictly observed:

1st. Every company shall be allowed on a march two wagons, each drawn by two horses, or an ox-cart, drawn by four oxen; two wagons to the Colonel, one to the Field Officers, and one to the Staff of the regiment.

The commanding officers of every regiment, troop, or company, that shall be ordered to march shall be provided with carriages, agreeable to this regulation. The Quartermaster or Commissary furnishing the carriages shall give to each driver a written or printed paper, in the following words:

"The bearer, A. B., is loaded at this place with baggage of Colonel C. D.'s regiment. J. H., *A. D. Q. M. General.*

"ALBANY, *October* , 1776."

When the carriage is discharged, the commanding officer of the regiment or party shall certify on the back thereof as follows:

"The bearer, A. B., has conveyed baggage of the regiment or party under my command from *Albany* to this place, and is this day discharged.

"FORT GEORGE, *October* , 1776. L. M., *Colonel.*"

In case a carriage should break down, horses or cattle die, or be lost on the march, and be unable to proceed, it shall be discharged as above, and the commanding officer shall apply to the nearest Quartermaster or Commissary for one to replace it, and if no such Quartermaster or Commissary is at hand, he shall be at liberty to hire one, certifying under his hand to the next Commissary or Quartermaster at any post in his route, that he hired such a carriage at such a place in lieu of one broken down, or the horses of which were dead, lost, or unable to proceed, and such Quartermaster or Commissary shall give the driver a paper as above directed.

If any officer or non-commissioned officer shall employ more carriages than as above allowed of, or they so employing them shall pay the customary price, and in default of making such payment shall, upon conviction thereof before a Court of Inquiry, be fined in treble the sum, for the use of the owner of such carriage, which fine shall be paid by any Quartermaster, on the certificate of the President of the Court-Martial, who shall transmit an account thereof to the Paymaster-General, that it may be stopped from the Paymaster of the regiment, who is to deduct it.

If a body of troops be ordered to march from any place where no Quartermaster or Commissary is stationed, which can very seldom happen, the General or officer giving the order for marching shall order the commanding officer to hire wagons agreeable to the above regulation, and to give certificates; and if any stores are to be moved not immediately belonging to the regiment, the officer shall in the certificate specify what things were carried in each carriage.

To which it is proposed to add:

No Quartermaster, Commissary, officer, or soldier, shall presume to impress any horse or team. If they cannot be hired, application shall be made to the civil magistrate, who is hereby directed to impress only such as shall, in his opinion, be necessary for the then service; which horses or teams so impressed shall be subject to the above regulations.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

Whereas great abuses have heretofore prevailed, as well in the returns made for the drawing provisions and in issuing the same, as by embezzlements of those employed in the transportation: In order to prevent which for the future, the following orders are to be strictly and minutely attended to and complied with:

The Deputy Commissary-General and his Deputies to keep exact accounts of all stores, of what kind soever by him forwarded from one place to another, specifying the particulars sent, the time when, and the person or persons by whom; delivering at the same time a copy of such account to the person taking the provision or stores in charge. Upon the delivery whereof, such person shall receive a certificate from the Commissary or person to whom the same was to have been delivered; but if there shall be a deficiency in any of the articles, the Commissary, or person to whom the same shall be delivered, shall mark such deficiency on the certificate, and charge the person to whose care the provisions or stores had been delivered with such deficiency, in a book to be kept for that purpose, and transmit a monthly return thereof to the Deputy Commissary-General, who shall immediately send a copy thereof to the Deputy Paymaster-General, that he may, and he is hereby required to, deduct the amount out of the pay of such person into whose care the provisions and stores were delivered; provided always, that if any provisions or stores shall be lost by unavoidable accident, and the same can be proved to be so by sworn witnesses, before any officer commanding at the post where such provisions or stores were intended to be sent to, such officers' certificate, with the proofs annexed, shall be a sufficient voucher to the Commissary to cancel such charge, by writing over against the charge, "Cancelled by orders of , commanding here."

No provisions to be issued to any troops but upon a return signed by the officer commanding a corps, or by the Quartermaster, or by the officer or non-commissioned officer commanding a party thereof when detached.

And whereas it has frequently happened that troops who had been victualled at one post to a certain time, and were ordered from thence, and arrived at another post before the time to which they were victualled was expired, and have, nevertheless, on their arrival at such post, drawn provisions as though they were entitled to it; to prevent which, whenever any corps moves from one place to another, the commanding officer shall procure a certificate from the Commissary, signifying to what day inclusive such corps was victualled.

The commanding officer of every party shall do the same; and if a detachment is composed of men from different corps, and who are victualled to different days, the return shall be made, and the certificate shall specify the time to which each was victualled, and no Commissary at any post shall revictual such men unless such certificate shall be produced; but lest, by the negligence of any officer in not procuring the certificate, the men should suffer for want of provisions, and the service be obstructed, the Commissary is permitted to victual the corps or party, and to charge the officer commanding therewith, and make return, that the same may be deducted out of his pay, as in the preceding article; provided, that if such certificate be procured and delivered within thirty days after the drawing of such provision, without certificate, the Commissary shall cancel the charge in manner before directed.

Every Commissary to keep the accounts of provision issued to every corps, or parts or detachments of corps, separately, that it may be readily compared with the monthly returns as a check upon the provision returns.

All provision returns, or orders to issue provisions, to be by the Commissary numbered and endorsed with the date and number of men victualled, and carefully filed, to be produced when called for.

A weekly return to be made to the Commander-in-Chief of the department, and to the General or officer commanding the troops at , of what provisions are in store at every place in the Northern department.

The Commissaries to apply to the commanding officers at every post for working parties to assist in securing the provisions and stores; and such commanding officers are hereby required to give such working parties, and afford all kind of assistance in their power to secure the provisions and publick stores. Every Commissary in the Northern department to keep these orders continually posted up in his issuing store, that no person who may be concerned in the execution of them may plead ignorance.

The officers commanding at the different posts to have copies of them posted up in one or more of the most publick places about their posts.

Whereas the Commissaries cannot at all times furnish every species of provisions agreeable to the orders of Congress, they are in future to take receipts specifying the quantity of each sort of provisions which they may deliver, that if there should be a deficiency, the soldiers may have credit for it on a settlement, or be accountable if they have drawn too much.

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[No. 4.]

*List of Articles wanted in the Northern Department.*

Nails.
Iron, (to be got at Mr. *Livingston's.*)
Steel.
Pick-axes.
Bill-hooks.
Spades.
Shovels.
Crowbars.
Tents.
Camp-kettles.
Canteens.
Handspikes, (to be made here.)
50 iron stoves, with pipes, wanted immediately for the barracks—wrote for.
Axes.
Oil-cloths.
Grindstones.
Cordage of all kinds.
Carpenters' tools.
Oakum.
Draft-chains—to be got here.
Mill-saws for *Dutch* and *English* mills.—These are immediately wanted.
Sheet-iron for pipes for the stoves is immediately wanted. I wish to have 150 sheets expedited the soonest possible.

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[No. 5.]

ALBANY, *November* 10, 1776.

DEAR SIR: Among our other inquiries respecting the Army in the Northern department, we have asked about the disposition of the hides of the cattle which have been killed during the last campaign, and we are much concerned to find that your Deputies here and at *Tyeonderoga* have, without any directions from you, contracted for the sale of them at prices exceedingly inadequate to their real value, and also to the sums which they would have readily brought.

Mr. *Avery*, it seems, contracted with Mr. *Ogden*, of *Elizabeth-Town*, for two thousand hides, at a medium price between seven and ten shillings to the whole of the hides; afterwards with other persons for thirteen shillings and four pence, then for fifteen shillings, and since for twenty or twenty-two shillings. Mr. *Avery* tells us that the hides would have spoiled in the summer without the extraordinary care of a purchaser, and for that reason he sold them at so low a price. In this he is certainly mistaken; or, if he is not, a person should have been appointed to take such care; and, at all events, these gentlemen should not have proceeded in so capital an article without orders. The common price for a hide during this season has been three dollars here. You will therefore immediately perceive the great loss the Continent will sustain. We have directed Mr. *Avery* to proceed no further with such contracts, those which he has made extending to the end of this month; and we have desired him to write immediately to Mr. *Jansen* to desist.

person and papers of Monsieur *Bonvolour;* and having examined him and them, report to Congress.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to detain such of the Companies of the *German* Battalion as have not already marched.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Thursday, November 28, 1776.

*Resolved*, That 300 Dollars be advanced to *William Whitely*, Lieutenant-Colonel of Colonel *Richardson's* Battalion of the Flying-Camp, from *Maryland*, for the use of some sick Soldiers of said Battalion, in *Philadelphia*, for which he is to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That *William Bradford*, Second Lieutenant in Captain *Smith's* Company, of Colonel *Stevenson's* Battalion, be promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, in the room of the First Lieutenant of the said Company, resigned.

A plan of an Artillery Yard being laid before Congress:* *Ordered*, That it be referred to a Committee of Three:

You will be pleased to enforce these orders in such a manner as you may think most proper; and it seems to us at present that the best method to make the most of the hides will be to have them carefully hung up, and upon their being dry, to send them down to *Albany* by the returning batteaus and wagons, which are obliged to bring them without expense to the publick. They can then either be sold here or sent elsewhere, as Congress may direct.

With much respect, we are, sir, your most obedient, humble servants,

RICHARD STOCKTON,
GEO. CLYMER.

To Mr. Commissary *Trumbull*.

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*Return of the Forces of the* UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *which compose the Garrisons of* TICONDEROGA *and* MOUNT INDEPENDENCE, *under command of Colonel* ANTHONY WAYNE, *November 28, 1776.*

| CORPS. | OFFICERS PRESENT. Commissioned. | Staff. | Non-Commissioned. | RANK AND FILE. | Wanting to complete. | Alterations since last Return. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barrel's | 1 | | | | | |
| Wood | 1 | | | | | |
| Irvine | 1 | | | | | |
| Whitcombe | 1 | | | | | |
| Dayton | 1 | | | | | |
| Colonels. | 3 | | | | | |
| Lieutenant Colonels. | 2 | | | | | |
| Majors. | 4 | | | | | |
| Captains. | 26 | 6 | | | | |
| First Lieutenants. | 24 | 5 | | | | |
| Second Lieutenants. | 27 | 6 | | | | |
| Ensigns. | 31 | 7 | | | | |
| Chaplains. | - | | | | | |
| Adjutants. | 5 | 1 | | | | |
| Quartermasters. | 5 | 1 | | | | |
| Surgeons. | 5 | 1 | | | | |
| Mates. | 4 | 1 | | | | |
| Sergeants. | 121 | | 32 | 359 | 17 | |
| Drums and Fifes. | 54 | | 13 | 118 | 3 | |
| Fit for duty. | 1109 | | 363 | 3145 | 67 | |
| Sick, present. | 708 | | 96 | 946 | 48 | |
| Sick, absent. | 362 | | 53 | 785 | 16 | |
| On furlough. | 44 | | 4 | 129 | 21 | |
| On command. | 296 | | 6 | 329 | 66 | |
| Total. | 2451 | | 547 | 5838 | 278 | |
| Sergeants. | 9 | | 3 | 58 | 5 | |
| Drums and Fifes. | 17 | | 5 | 57 | 3 | |
| Privates. | 1444 | | 128 | 1758 | 415 | |
| Inlisted. | 2 | | 2 | 27 | 1 | |
| Dead. | 13 | | 4 | 54 | 1 | |
| Discharged. | 22 | | 1 | 20 | | |
| Deserted. | 3 | | 1 | 42 | | |

| OFFICERS PRESENT. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Matrosses. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Com'issioned. | | | | Staff. | | | Non-Comm'd. | | | | | | | |
| Major. | Captain. | Capt. Lieut'nts. | First Lieut'nts. | Second Lieut. | Chaplain. | Quartermaster. | Conductor. | Surgeon. | Sergeants. | Bombardiers. | Gunners. | Drums & Fifes. | Fit for duty. | |
| 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 38 |

| Sick, present. | Sick, absent. | On command. | On furlough. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 51 |

ANTHONY WAYNE, *Colonel Commandant.*

Copy: J. LANSING, Jun.,
*Secretary to Major-General* SCHUYLER.

*A Calculation of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores wanted for the Army of the Northern Department, made by order of the Honourable Major-General* SCHUYLER. *Dated in Camp at* TICONDEROGA, *November* 30, 1776.

| *Cannon with garrison carriages.* | Round shot. | Canister shot. | Grape shot. | Double-headed shot. | Paper cartridges. | Flannel cartridges. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24-pounders | 1500 | 300 | 150 | 75 | 3000 | 300 |
| 18 | 1500 | 300 | 150 | 75 | 3000 | 300 |
| 12 | 1700 | 340 | 170 | 85 | 3400 | 340 |
| 9 | 700 | 140 | 70 | 35 | 1400 | 140 |
| 6 | 700 | 140 | 70 | - | 1400 | 140 |
| 4 | 700 | 140 | 70 | - | 1400 | 140 |
| 3 | 100 | 200 | 100 | - | 2000 | 200 |

| *Light cannon on travelling carriages.* | Round shot. | Canister shot. | Port-fires. | Tubes. | Tube boxes. | Flannel cartridges. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12-pounders | 200 | 320 | 1200 | 520 | 4 | 520 |
| 6 | 200 | 320 | - | 520 | 4 | 520 |
| 4 | 200 | 320 | - | 520 | 4 | 520 |
| 3 | 400 | 660 | - | 880 | - | 880 |

| | Shells. | Grape shot. | Canister shot. | Flannel cartridges. | Tubes. | Fusees. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Royal howitz | 1468 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 1468 |
| 4 3-inch howitz | 1060 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 1068 |

Two sets powder measures.
Fifteen ton of old junk.
One ton of slow match.
Thirty sets of drag ropes, A.
Twenty sets of men's harness, A.
Two gins, with blocks and falls, A.
Ten sets of spare falls, A.
Fifty weight of copper or brass wire, for priming wires.
One doz. of melting ladles, A.
Fifty large priming horns, screw bottoms, with spring tops and belts, A.
Twenty-five harersacks, A.
300 yards of oil cloth, for covering ammunition.
One gross of gimlets, of different lengths.
Fifty weight of kit.
Fifty weight of flack.
Fifty weight of cotton wick.
Yarn for quick match.

Two galls. of spirits of wine.
150 weight antimony.
150 weight saltpetre, A.
150 weight brimstone.
50 hammers and 30 knippers, A.
1000 weight of twine.
Seven sets of calipers for measuring shot, and 3 for carriages.
500 weight of small lines for quilting of the grape shot, A.
Colours, oil and brushes sufficient to paint 250 carriages of a lead colour; likewise some painters' pencils.
500 dressed sheepskins, for covering sponges, A.
20,000 14-oz. tacks, for sponges.
5,000 copper nails, for ladles.
60 tons of cannon powder.
Two standards, one for *Ticonderoga*, the other for *Mount Independence*—the ground work blue, ten yards by fifteen, A.

Cartridge paper for muskets, 140 ream. Flints, 100,000. Lead for musket balls, 67 tons. Musket powder, 34 tons. Thread, for musket cartridges, 500 lbs.

N. B. If the above-mentioned cannon cartridges and canisters cannot be procured ready made, there must be sent paper, flannel, and tin sufficient to make them; likewise to send copper sufficient to make two ladles of the sizes above-mentioned. If the above port-fires, tubes, and fusees can be procured ready fitted, then the articles of saltpetre, antimony, and brimstone, mentioned above, might be omitted. A Commissary of Ordnance would be of infinite service in this Department; a Master of Laboratory and two Conductors.

EBENEZER STEVENS, *Major of Artillery.*

* *Plan of an Artillery Yard.*

[Read *November* 28, 1776: Referred to Mr. *R. H. Lee*, Mr. *Paine*, Mr. *Middleton*.]

That an Artillery Yard, with proper cover to exercise under in bad weather, be immediately erected at

That a Master or Director of such yard be appointed.

That proper persons be employed, well skilled in the management of Artillery.

That they be empowered to inlist into the Continental service as

*

The Members chosen, Mr. *R. H. Lee*, Mr. *Paine*, and Mr. *Middleton*.

*Resolved*, That 533 1-3 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *L. Cadwalader*, for the use of the men belonging to his Battalion; he to be accountable.

That a like sum of 533 1-3 Dollars be advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel *Penrose*, for the use of the men belonging to Colonel *Magaw's* Battalion; he to be accountable.

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Committee lately sent to the Northern Army, brought in a Report,* which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That a Letter be sent to Governour *Trumbull*, desiring him to order twenty Cannon, carrying shot of 18 pounds weight, to be cast at *Salisbury* Furnace, and transported to *Ticonderoga*, with all possible expedition:

That skillful persons be sent to examine the *Salisbury* and Mr. *Livingston's* Founderies; and if it be found that a sufficient number of Cannon may be cast there, that proper artificers be forthwith employed in that work, an agreement being first made with Governour *Trumbull* and Mr. *Livingston* for that purpose:

That the Commissary-General be directed to procure Provisions sufficient for 5,000 men, during eight months, to be sent to *Albany*, and from thence to *Fort Anne*, and the like quantity to remain in *Albany*, and be removed elsewhere, as occasion may require; and that the Commissary-General be directed to send to *Albany*, a sufficient quantity of Salt to cure the said Provisions:

That General *Schuyler* be informed of the Cannon ordered from *Salisbury* to *Ticonderoga*, and directed to have Carriages provided for them.

*Resolved*, That the Committee have leave to sit again.

A Letter of the 19th, from General *Schuyler* at *Saratoga*, was read.

*Resolved*, That the Commissary-General be empowered to import such quantities of Rice from the Southern States, as he shall think necessary for the use of the Army.

The Medical Committee, to whom Dr. *Shippen's* Letter was referred, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Dr. *Morgan* take care of such sick and wounded of the Army of the *United States*, as are on the east side of *Hudson's* River, and that Dr. *Shippen* take care of such sick and wounded as are on the west side of *Hudson's* River; and that they both be directed to use the utmost diligence in superintending the Surgeons and Mates of the Army, so that the sick and wounded may be effectually provided with every thing necessary for their recovery.

many able-bodied men as shall be willing to inlist into the Artillery service.

That the men be constantly exercised at the guns, in the Artillery Yard, as bombardiers and gunners.

That the most expert be from time to time drafted and sent to the Army.

That no man be promoted to any office in the Artillery service, until he has given proofs and specimens of his abilities in the said yard.

That novices, on their first inlistment to learn the Artillery service, shall be allowed soldiers' pay.

That as soon as the Master shall report to the Board of War, that any of the said novices are qualified for the respective duties of matrosses, gunners, or bombardiers, they shall thereupon be advanced to the pay of such characters respectively.

* *November* 28, 1776. *Report of the Committee to whom was referred the Report of the Committee lately sent to the Northern Army—last article postponed.*

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the Report of the Committee lately sent to the Northern Army, beg leave to make report, and pray that they may be allowed to sit again.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a Letter be sent to Governour *Trumbull*, desiring him to order twenty Cannon, carrying shot of eighteen pounds weight, to be cast at *Salisbury* Iron-Works, and transported to *Ticonderoga* with all possible expedition.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that skillful persons be sent to examine the *Salisbury* and Mr. *Livingston's* Founderies, and if it be found that a sufficient number of Cannon may be cast there, that proper artificers be forthwith employed on that work, an agreement being first made with Governour *Trumbull* and Mr. *Livingston* for that purpose.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Commissary-General be directed to procure Provisions sufficient for five thousand men, during eight months, to be sent to *Albany*, and from thence to *Fort Anne*, and the like quantity to remain in *Albany*, and be removed elsewhere as occasion may require; and that the Commissary be directed to send a sufficient quantity of Salt.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that one thousand good Blankets, and five hundred Mattresses and Pillows, be purchased or otherwise procured, and sent to *Albany*, for the use of the Hospital in the Northern Army.

*Resolved*, That 100,000 Dollars be advanced to the Delegates of *South-Carolina*, the said State to be accountable.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Friday, November 29, 1776.

A Letter from *S. Purviance*, and one from *J. Connolly*, and a Petition from *J. Sullivan*, were read:

*Ordered*, That the Petition from *J. Sullivan* be referred to a Committee of three, and that they be directed to inquire minutely into the facts relative to the capitulations entered into by Major *Sherbourne* and Major *Butterfield* in *Canada*; that they be empowered to send for persons and papers, and to examine witnesses on oath, and that they report to Congress.

The Members chosen, Mr. *Chase*, Mr. *Harrison*, and Mr. *Wythe*.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Mease* supply the sick Soldiers, in the House of Employment in *Philadelphia*, each with one Shirt.

A Petition from Major *John Lamb* was read: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the General be directed to include Major *Lamb* in the next exchange of Prisoners.

The Committee on the affairs of the Northern Army, brought in a farther Report,* which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Medical Committee be directed to provide sufficient quantities of Antiscorbutics for the use of the Hospitals in the Northern Army:

That the Hospital at *Fort George* be continued for the reception of Soldiers labouring with contagious diseases, and that there be a General Hospital erected on *Mount Independence:*

That a suitable spot of ground for a Garden be enclosed in the neighbourhood of the General Hospital, to supply the Army with Vegetables; and that labourers be hired to cultivate it, under the direction of an overseer, to be appointed by the General or Commanding Officer:

That the General or Commanding Officer, in each of the Armies, cause strict inquiry to be made into the conduct of the Directors of the Hospitals, and their Surgeons, Officers, and Servants, and of the Regimental Surgeons, that if there has been any just ground of complaints in those departments, the offenders may be punished:

That the Colonel or Commanding Officer of every Regiment, make frequent inquiry into the health of the men under

* *Report November* 29, 1776, *on the Northern Army; agreed to.*

The Committee to whom the Report of the gentlemen who were directed to repair to *Ticonderoga*, and the Papers therein mentioned, were referred, have come to several other Resolutions thereupon, viz:

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Northern Army may be supplied more advantageously and conveniently in the present mode by the Commissary-General governing himself by such regulations as have been, and may be from time to time ordained, by the General or Commander-in-Chief, than by contractors.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Commissary-General be directed, without fail, to supply the Northern Army this winter with Vegetables twice in every week, or more frequently, if possible, and that they be well supplied with Vinegar.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that two large Floating-Batteries be built on *Lake Champlain* to cover the Boom and the Bridge; and that General *Schuyler* be desired to contract with builders for this purpose in *New-York* or *Massachusetts*, or both, and that General *Schuyler* provide the materials.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Committee for supplying Cannon be directed to procure ten brass six-inch Howitzers, with shells and a proper attrail, for the use of the Northern Army.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a Fort be constructed on *Mount Independence;* that the navigation of the Lake near that place should be obstructed by caissons to be sunk in the water at small distances from one another, and joined together by string pieces, so as at the same time to serve for a Bridge between the Fortifications on the east and west sides; that to prevent the enemy from drawing their small craft over land beyond *Three Mile Point* into *Lake George*, the passage of that lake be also obstructed in like manner by caissons from island to island in the *Narrows*, if practicable, or by Floating-Batteries; that *Fort Stanwix* be strengthened, and other Fortifications be made at proper places near the *Mohawk's* river; and that General *Schuyler*, or the commanding officer of the Northern Army, execute these works this winter; and that the Commanding Officers of Artillery, Chief Engineer, Quarter-master-General and Commissary-General, provide and perform whatever things in their respective departments are necessary, or may contribute to the accomplishment thereof.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of the Committee, that the General Court or Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay* be requested to procure such a quantity of Oakum, or any other articles, as General *Schuyler*, who is desired to write to them on the subject, shall require, and to forward the same to such places as he shall direct.

his command, and report the state thereof, with any negligence, mal-practice, or other misconduct of the Surgeons or others, to the General and to Congress, delivering copies of such reports to all persons therein accused:

That the General, or Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Army, direct all the Batteaus on Lakes *Champlain* and *George* to be immediately repaired:

That 100 Batteaus be built at *Schenectady*, so as to be ready for use in *February* or *March* next, at farthest; and, for this purpose, that Boards, Pitch, Oakum, and other necessary materials, be collected, and artificers employed by the General or Commanding Officer:

*Resolved*, That the Committee have leave to sit again.

The Committee of Treasury reported that there is due,

To *P. E. du Simitiere*, for designing, making, and drawing a Medal for General *Washington*, 32 Dollars:

To *John Dunlap*, for printing sundry Resolves of Congress, Commissions, Proclamations, &c., 654 66-90th Dollars:

To *John Bates*, for Camp-Kettles, delivered to *Robert Towers*, Commissary, 80 Dollars:

To *Joseph Greenwold*, for porterage of Powder to the Magazine, 37 45-90th Dollars:

To *James Anderson*, for ferriage of *Virginia* Troops, Wagons, and Militia, over *Susquehanna*, 27 18-90th Dollars:

To the Estate of Captain *Spring*, for storage of Continental Powder, 111 38-90th Dollars:

To the following Prisoners from *Canada*, and to be paid to Mr. *Ross*, the sum of 229 77-90th Dollars, viz:

To Captain *Thomson*, expenses of himself and baggage from *Albany* to *Trenton*, 11 55 Dollars, and his allowance from 26th *April* to 28th *November*, inclusive, 31 weeks, at 2 Dollars a week, 62 Dollars:

To *Alexander M'Culloch*, expenses of himself and baggage from *Albany* to *Trenton*, 10 35-90th Dollars, and his allowance from 26th *April* to 28th *September*, inclusive, 31 weeks, at 2 Dollars a week, 62 Dollars: And

To *William Goodwin*, his expenses of family and baggage, from *Albany* to *Burlington*, 14 27-90th Dollars, and his allowance from 27th *March* to 27th *November*, inclusive, 35 weeks, at 2 Dollars, 70 Dollars:

To *John House*, for his account of ferriage of Troops, Wagons, and Horses over the River *Potomack*, 30 30-90th Dollars:

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

*Resolved*, That the Secret Committee be directed to provide, as soon as may be, Arms and Equipage for 3,000 Horse.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed to consider and report a proper method for establishing and training a Cavalry in this Continent:

The Members chosen, Mr. *R. H. Lee*, Mr. *Paine*, Mr. *Middleton*, Mr. *Nelson*, and Mr. *Floyd*.

A Petition from *Alexander Mercer* was read, and referred to the Board of Treasury.

The Committee appointed to confer with the Managers of the Lottery, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration:

Whereupon, *Resolved*, That the Prizes only be drawn:

That the Managers be authorized to employ as many Clerks to assist in numbering the Tickets, as may be necessary for expediting the business:

That two Presses be employed for printing the Tickets.

*Ordered*, That the remainder of the Report be recommitted.

*Resolved*, That to-morrow be assigned for appointing the Officers of the Regiment of Artillery ordered to be raised in *Virginia*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Saturday, November 30, 1776.

A Letter, of the 27th, from General *Washington*, with a list of the Prisoners taken by the enemy during the campaign of 1776; and one of the same date, from the Council of Safety of *New-York*, were read:

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to the Board of War, and that they confer with Colonel *Miles*, who is come from *New-York* on his parole to expedite the exchange of Prisoners.

*Resolved*, That 1,000 Dollars be advanced to *Robert Erwin*, Wagonmaster-General, for the publick service; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to have eight Carriages for Field-Pieces got ready, with all possible expedition, at the expense of the Continent, to be delivered as fast as made to the order of the Board of War.

The Commissioners for *Indian* Affairs, in the Middle Department, having transmitted to Congress the Minutes of their Proceedings,

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to the Standing Committee for *Indian* Affairs.

The Committee appointed to confer with the Managers of the Lottery, brought in a farther Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the gratuity to the Managers of the Lottery, for their trouble in the conduct of that business, be left to the future judgment of Congress:

That the Managers be authorized to appoint Agents for the sale of Tickets in the several States, and offer them one-tenth per cent. on the Tickets or Billets by each respectively sold:

That the publick be at the risk of conveying the Tickets or Billets to the Agents in the different States:

That the Agents pay the Money received by them for the sale of Tickets or Billets to the Commissioners of the Loan Office of the State where they are sold, taking receipts therefor, and transmit them to the Managers of the Lottery at *Philadelphia*.

*Resolved*, That the State of *New-York* be empowered to raise another Battalion on the Continental establishment:

That the Convention or Council of Safety of *New-York* be empowered to appoint an Aid-Major to each of the Battalions raised by that State, the pay or expense of which to be borne by that State.

Agreeable to the order of the day, Congress proceeded to the election of officers for the Artillery Battalion, ordered to be raised in *Virginia;* and the ballots being taken, the following were elected:

*Charles Harrison*, Esq., Colonel; *Edward Carrington*, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel; *Christiern Holmer*, Major; *Samuel Denny*, *William Pierce*, *Nathaniel Burwell*, *Buller Clairborne*, *Joseph Scot*, *William Murray*, *Spotswood Dandridge*, *Matthew Smith*, Sen., *John Pettus*, and *William Waters*, Captains.

*Resolved*, That the Governour and Council of *Virginia* be requested to recommend proper persons for Subaltern Officers.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to purchase for the publick service, six Wagons, with four Horses and proper Harness to each Wagon, and to employ suitable Drivers.

An Address from *Nicholas Biddle*, *John Barry*, *Thomas Read*, *Charles Alexander*, and *John Nicholson*, was laid before Congress, and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Marine Committee, who are directed to pursue such measures as they shall think proper in consequence thereof.

The Assembly of *Pennsylvania* having, by Mr. *Morris*, informed Congress that they have appointed a Committee of their body to confer with a Committee of Congress, on the requisition of Congress, to call forth immediately the Associators of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia*, and of the Counties of *Philadelphia*, *Bucks*, *Chester*, and *Northampton:*

*Ordered*, That the Board of War confer with the Committee of the Assembly of *Pennsylvania* on this subject, and agree on such measures as shall be deemed most for the publick service.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To *Steiner & Cist*, for Paper and printing Minutes of Congress, &c., and trouble and expenses in attending the making the Paper for the Loan Office Notes, 130 15-90th Dollars:

To Lieutenant *Peacock*, a Prisoner of the Seventh Regiment, for his allowance from 20th *December*, 1775, to the 28th *November*, 1776, being forty-eight weeks, at 2 Dollars, 96 Dollars:

To Dr. *William Currie*, for his Bill of Medicines and Provisions to sick Soldiers of Colonel *Scott's* and Colonel *Lawson's Virginia* Regiments, 67 37-90th Dollars:

That there should be advanced to Major *John Lamb*, for the payment of the men of his Artillery Company, 2,000 Dollars; he to be accountable.

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Intelligence be directed and empowered to establish Expresses, to go daily to and from Head-Quarters.

*Resolved*, That when any Resolutions are passed which respect the *United States*, or any of them, or to the Armies of the said States, they be sent by Express, if the regular Post is interrupted or not ready, provided the President shall judge it necessary.

A Petition from *John Noble Taylor*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Monday*.

—

Sunday, December 1, 1776.

Congress, on a summons, met this day, when two Letters, of the 30th, from General *Washington*, at *Brunswick*, were read: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to order the *German* Battalion to march immediately to join General *Washington*, and that the said Board use every measure in their power to expedite their march with all possible despatch:

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to take effectual measures for supplying Guards for the Publick Stores, &c., in the room of the *German* Battalion:

That the Secret Committee be directed to appoint one or more trusty persons, to proceed immediately to the Eastern States, and see that the Clothing and Stores, which have been ordered to be purchased for the Army, be collected and forwarded to the Army, with all possible despatch; and that the said person, or persons, have power to purchase, or cause to be purchased, such necessary Clothing as can be procured in those States, and to have it forwarded to the Army:

That General *Washington* be informed, he has the full approbation of Congress to order the Troops on the east side of *Hudson's* River, over to the west side of that river, whenever he shall think it conducive to the publick service so to do:

That General *Washington* be directed to order the Clothes, which have been, or shall be sent to Head-Quarters, or to any of the Camps, to be distributed, first among such of the Soldiers as stand most in need of them:

That Mr. *J. Mease* be directed to purchase all the Hats and Caps he can procure, proper for Soldiers, and to employ as great a number of Tailors as possible in making up Clothes for Soldiers; and forward those articles, from time to time, as fast as ready, to General *Washington:*

That the Medical Committee be directed to take such steps, as they shall judge proper, for the accommodation of the sick of the Army.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Monday, December 2, 1776.

*Resolved*, That 800 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *L. Cadwalader*, for the use of the men belonging to his Battalion; he to be accountable:

That 800 Dollars be advanced Captain *Doyle*, for the use of his Independent Company; he to be accountable:

That 500 Dollars be advanced to *Robert Jewell*, for which he is to be accountable:

That 5,333 1-3 Dollars be advanced to the Commissioners for *Indian* Affairs in the Middle Department.

A Letter, of the 1st, from General *Washington*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War, and that they communicate the contents to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, and take such measures in consequence thereof, as they shall judge proper.

Captain *Montgomery* having offered his service, with that of his crew, as an Artillery Company,

*Resolved*, That they be taken into the service of the Continent for two months, unless sooner discharged.

*Resolved*, That he, the said *James Montgomery*, be appointed Captain, that *Samuel Carson* be appointed Captain-Lieutenant, and *John Douglass*, Lieutenant, of said Company:

That Mr. *J. Mease* be directed to advance one month's Pay to Captain *Montgomery's* men, upon their inlisting, and that a like advance be made to the other Companies of Artillery:

That the Marine Committee be empowered to advance 20 Dollars to each Seaman who will enter to serve on board the *Randolph*, Captain *Biddle*, the same to be deducted out of their share of the prize-money.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to give orders for ten or twelve covered Wagons for the Artillery; to be immediately purchased.

That the Board of War give orders for removing by water to *Christiana Bridge*, the 2,000 barrels of Beef, now under the care of Commissary *Wharton*.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to send expresses immediately to the Counties that have been desired to send forth their Associators, urging them forthwith to march, in order to oppose the hasty advances of the enemy.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Governour and Council of the Commonwealth of *Virginia*, to take the most effectual measures for purchasing and collecting, for Continental use, all the Copper, and other materials fit for casting brass Field-Artillery, that can be got in that State, and that Congress will defray the cost and expense of the same.

*Resolved*, That 100 Dollars be advanced to the Delegates of *Virginia*, for the use of the Deputy Paymaster-General in that State.

A Letter of the 1st, from General *Washington*, at half after seven, was read.

Mr. *Read*, a Delegate from *Delaware* State, attended, and produced the Credentials of the appointment and power of Delegates from that State, which were read as follows:

"In Council, November 8, 1776.

"Whereas *George Read*, *John Dickinson*, and *John Evans*, Esqr's, have been chosen by joint ballot of the two Houses of Assembly to represent the *Delaware* State in the Continental Congress: *Resolved*, That they, or any one or more of them, are hereby fully authorized and empowered, for and in behalf of this State, to concert, agree to, and execute every measure, which they or he, together with a majority of the Continental Congress, shall judge necessary, for the defence, security, interest, and welfare, of this State in particular, and of *America* in general; with power to adjourn to such times and places as shall appear most conducive to the publick safety and advantage.

"Sent for concurrence.

"In Assembly, *November* 9, 1776. Read and concurred in:

"JOHN M'KINLEY, *Speaker.*

"A true copy:

"SLATOR CLAY, *Clerk of the Council.*"

*Resolved*, That the Committee for establishing Expresses be directed to send Colonel *Stewart*, or any other officer, express to General *Lee*, to know where and in what situation he and the Army with him are.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to send immediately one of their Galleys along the *Jersey* shore, between this and *Trenton*, to bring over all the River Craft, Vessels, and Boats, from the *Jersey* to the *Pennsylvania* side of *Delaware*, in order to prevent their becoming serviceable to the enemy, in their attempts to cross the said river:

That it be earnestly recommended to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to order the Battalions of this City immediately to march and join General *Washington:*

That the said Council of Safety be requested to furnish the Wagonmaster-General with one thousand Wagons for

the use of the Army; and, as in the present emergency of publick affairs, such a supply of Wagons is absolutely necessary, that it be recommended to the said Council of Safety to impress the Wagons, if they cannot be otherwise speedily procured.

Adjourned to six o'clock.

—

Eodem die, P. M.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *J. Mease* be directed to receive from Mr. *Hyman Levy* the goods in his hands purchased for the State of *New-York*, paying him the balance due for the said goods, and that Mr. *J. Mease* be directed to send the said goods, together with those he has now ready, to General *Washington*, taking especial care that they be sent in so safe and secure a manner as to avoid any danger of falling into the hands of the enemy.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Tuesday, December 3, 1776.

A Letter, of the 2d, from General *Washington*; one, of the same date, from Adjutant-General *Reed*, and one from *J. Mease*, were read:

*Resolved*, That 50,000 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *J. Mease*, for the publick service; he to be accountable:

That 2,000 Dollars be advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel *Edward Antil*, for the purpose of recruiting his Regiment; he to be accountable.

That 14,890 Dollars be advanced to Major *Charles Symes*, for the use of the Twelfth *Virginia* Battalion; he to be accountable.

Mr. *Clarke*, a Delegate from the State of *New-Jersey*, attended, and produced the Credentials of the appointment of Delegates from that State, which were read, as follows:

"At a joint meeting of the Council and Assembly of the State of *New-Jersey*, held at *Burlington*, on the 30th day of *November*, 1776, the Honourable *Nathaniel Scudder* in the chair; the joint meeting proceeded by ballot to the election of five Delegates, to represent this State in Congress, to serve for one year, unless a new appointment should be made before the expiration of that time; and the following persons were duly elected, viz: The Honourable *Richard Stockton*, *Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant*, Esq., Dr. *John Witherspoon*, *Abraham Clarke*, Esq., *Jonathan Elmer*, Esq.

"*Resolved*, That any one or more of the said Delegates, who shall attend in Congress, be fully empowered to represent, and vote in behalf of this State. That the said Delegates, or such of them as have not already taken the oaths of abjuration and allegiance mentioned in the act of Assembly lately passed, entitled 'An act for the security of the Government of *New-Jersey*,' do take the said oaths before they take their seats.

"Signed by order of the Council and Assembly of the State of *New-Jersey*:

"CHARLES PETTIT, *Secretary*."

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to have the Prisoners, now at *Bristol*, removed from thence back into the country.

*Resolved*, That Mrs. *Chanier* be permitted to go to her husband at *New-York*; and that Mrs. *Lewis*, at *Flushing*, on *Long-Island*, be required in exchange.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Mease* be empowered and directed to settle with and pay the Militia of the *Maryland* Flying-Camp.

That the Commissary of Provisions in *Philadelphia* supply with Rations, in lieu of Mileage, such of the *Maryland* Troops as choose to go home:

That such of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the said Troops who will inlist for three years, be immediately clothed; and that Mr. *Mease* be directed to detain as many of the clothes, now in his hands, as will be necessary for that purpose:

That each of the Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the *Maryland* Militia, who will not inlist for three years, but will engage to march to the immediate reinforcement of General *Washington*, and remain under his command one month, be supplied by Mr. *Mease* with a Shirt, a pair of Shoes, and a pair of Stockings, on paying for the same:

That such of the Militia as shall engage to serve to the 10th of *March* next, unless sooner discharged by Congress, be entitled to a pair of Shoes and Stockings, and to the same Rations and the same monthly Pay with the other Troops on the Continental establishment, to commence from the time of their enrollment; and that one months' Pay be advanced to each Volunteer, upon his enrollment.

*Resolved*, That to-morrow be assigned for giving the *Indians* in town an audience; and that the Committee for *Indian* Affairs be directed to prepare a proper speech to be delivered to them.

*Resolved*, That the Officers of the *Maryland* Troops be requested immediately to parade those Troops, and to use their utmost influence to persuade their adoption of the terms proposed by Congress.

*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be directed, in case he has not entered into a negotiation with General *Howe*, for exchanging Governour *Franklin* for General *Thomson*, to suspend the execution of that matter till farther orders.

A Petition from *William Dod* was read, praying for leave to visit his brother, who is confined in prison:

*Resolved*, That the Petitioner have leave to visit and converse with his brother in the presence of the Gaoler.

*Resolved*, That *Thursday* next be assigned for taking into consideration the state of the Treasury.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Wednesday, December 4, 1776.

A Letter, of the 3d, from General *Washington*, was read.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to detain from marching with the Militia, the Printers engaged in printing Certificates for the Continental Loan Offices, and to direct them to continue executing the business in which they are employed.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that they have had under consideration the Accounts of *John Harvie*, *John Montgomery*, and *Jasper Yates*, Esqrs., Commissioners for *Indian* Affairs, in the Middle Department; that the said Commissioners have produced accounts of the expenditure of 13,464 74-90th Dollars, for the charges and expenses of the late treaty held with the *Indians* at *Pittsburg*, and for their allowance for their time and expenses attending the said treaty; that in this account, are included the expense of goods purchased by Mr. *Morgan* for private presents; for expenses and pay to Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Long*, and Mr. *Girty*, on different messages; for kettles, rations, and linen supplied the Continental Battalion at *Kittanning*; for expenses of Mr. *Morgan* coming to *Philadelphia*, and going to *New-York* with two *Indian* Chiefs, and returning with them to *Pittsburg*; his going to the *Indian* towns to invite them to a treaty; for sundry sums paid to the Militia Officers, and for the several accounts due from the Department to this time, except the Militia accounts yet unsettled, and the salaries due to Mr. *Morgan* and the former Agent, and also 800 2-90th Dollars due to sundry persons before their appointment, whose accounts were settled by a Committee of Congress for *Indian* Affairs. The balance due to *George Morgan*, Esq., is 207 74-90th Dollars, first deducting 400 Dollars paid him by Congress, 21st *September* last, for which he is debited:

That they credit the sums of 3,000 Dollars received of Congress, in *August*, and 5,333 1-3 Dollars the 2d instant, and also 5.30 Dollars for the freight of a still to *Redstone*, and two sums, amounting to 67 45-90th Dollars, which are twice charged in the accounts:

That the balance due to the Commissioners is 5,057 82-90th Dollars:

*Ordered*, That the said sum be paid.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Thursday, December 5, 1776.

A Letter, of the 4th, from General *Washington*, enclosing

a copy of a Letter from Major *Clark*, of the 29th *November*, was read:

*Resolved*, That Mr. *J. Mease* be directed to pay to each Captain of the *Maryland* Troops of the Flying-Camp, who cannot produce Pay-Rolls, such a sum as they think will be equal to the arrears due to their respective Companies; taking a receipt from the respective Captains for the money advanced.

*Resolved*, That two months' Pay be advanced to Mons. *Romand de Lisle*, and to Mons. *Kosciuszko*.

The *Indians* being introduced, delivered a Speech; and *Saturday* next was appointed to return them an Answer.

*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to procure the use of the *Pennsylvania* Hospital, for the purpose of accommodating the sick belonging to the Continental Army.

*Resolved*, That the Medical Committee be empowered to procure suitable persons to take care of the sick, and to remove them to such convenient places in the country as they shall think proper.

Some inhabitants of *New-Jersey* being sent under guard to *Philadelphia*, charged with the crime of inlisting men for General *Howe*, and some of inlisting themselves in the service of the enemy,

*Resolved*, That they be sent under guard to *Frederick*, in *Maryland*, there to be safely confined; and that, until they can be sent away, they be kept confined in the State-Prison in *Philadelphia*.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Ottendorf* be directed to raise an Independent Corps, consisting of 150 men, Sergeants and Corporals included:

That the same be divided into three Companies; the first Company to consist of 60 men, Light-Infantry, commanded by one Captain and two Lieutenants; the other two Companies of Hunters, of 45 men each, to be commanded each by a Captain and 2 Lieutenants:

That Captain *Ottendorf* have the rank of Major, be Captain of the Light-Infantry Company, and command the whole.

That an Adjutant be appointed for this Corps, who is to act as Quartermaster and Paymaster, with the rank of Lieutenant, and pay of other Adjutants.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War write to the General, and desire him to send *Isaac Corren*, of the Artillery, to *Philadelphia*.

*Resolved*, That 150 Dollars be advanced to *Gunning Bedford*, Mustermaster-General; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That the time for commencing the drawing the Lottery be altered to the 10th of *April*.

*Resolved*, That this Congress will, to-morrow morning, previous to any other business, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the state of the Treasury, the ways and means of raising supplies for the ensuing year, and supporting the credit of the Continental Currency.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Friday, December 6, 1776.

A Letter, of the 5th, from General *Washington*, and one, of the 27th of *November*, from General *Gates*, at *Albany*, with a Paper enclosed, sent from the Commanding Officer at *St. John's*, were read.

Agreeable to the order of the day, Congress resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the state of the Treasury, the ways and means of raising Supplies for the ensuing year, and supporting the credit of the Continental Currency; and, after some time, the President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Nelson* reported, that the Committee have had under consideration the matters to them referred, and have come to sundry Resolutions thereon; but not having perfected the business, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That Congress will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the state of the Treasury, the ways and means of raising supplies for the ensuing year, and supporting the credit of the Continental Currency.

*Resolved*, That 50,000 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *J. Mease* for the publick service; he to be accountable.

Upon representation made by *Daniel* and *Samuel Hughes*, that *Melchior Salady*, a private Soldier in Captain *Farmer's* Company, of Colonel *Miles's* Battalion, would be very serviceable to them in executing their contract for making Cannon for Congress:

*Resolved*, That *Melchior Salady* be discharged, by the proper officer, from the Company, provided he enter into the service of the said *Hughes*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Saturday, December 7, 1776.

A Letter, of the 6th, from General *Washington*, at *Trenton*, and one, of the 21st to 25th *November*, from General *Schuyler*, at *Saratoga*, with sundry Papers enclosed, were read:

*Ordered*, That they be referred to the Board of War.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be empowered and directed to exchange such of the *Canadians* as they shall think proper.

*Ordered*, That the President write to the four *New-England* Governments, and request them to use their utmost influence in raising their respective quotas of Troops, and to hasten their march, with all possible diligence, to the places appointed for their rendezvous, by General *Schuyler*.

*Resolved*, That 100,000 Dollars be advanced to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to be applied towards furnishing the several Officers with bounty-money for inlisting men on the new establishment; the said Council to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That Captain *Biddle* be empowered to inlist into the Continental service, such of the Sailors in Prison as he shall think proper.

The Committee of Treasury reported that there is due, and to be paid to the order of *Allen M'Donald*, Sen., *Allen M'Donald*, Jun., *Alexander M'Donald*, *Rennel M'Donald*, and *Archibald M'Donald*, hostages sent by General *Schuyler* to *Reading*, for the allowance due to themselves and their three servants, from the 25th of *September* to the 10th of *December*, inclusive, 143 Dollars:

That there should be advanced to *Thomas Smith*, for supplies to the Troops of the Fifth and Sixth *Virginia* Regiments, left sick at *Wilmington*, the sum of 677 25-90th Dollars:

That there is due to Lieutenant-Colonel *Jacob Boyer*, for furnishing his Battalion of Militia with 7,495 Rations of Provisions, on their march from *Berks* County to the camp in *New-Jersey*, 739 45-90th Dollars:

To *Thomas Edwards*, for victualling the Second Battalion of Militia, of *Lancaster* County, commanded by Colonel *Curtis Grubb*, on their march to *Bergen*, in *New-Jersey*, and for the hire of two Baggage-Wagons, the sum of 1,319 61-90th Dollars, to be paid to *Philip Marsteller:*

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

*Resolved*, That 1,000 Dollars be advanced to the Committee for procuring Cannon for the publick service; the said Committee to account for the expenditure.

*Resolved*, That for the more speedy and effectual discharge of business, the following Rules be invariably observed:

That Congress be opened every morning at ten o'clock, *Sundays* excepted:

That Mr. President take the chair precisely at that time.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the *Indians* were introduced, and the following Speech was delivered to them:

"*Brothers of the Six-Nations, Delawares, and Shawanees:*

"We, the Delegates of the Thirteen *United States of America*, are extremely pleased to see you. We take you by the hand, and bid you welcome to our great council-fire.

"*Brothers:* You say that God Almighty has been pleased to bring us together. You say well. He superintends and governs men and their actions. He now sees us. He

judges of the sincerity of our hearts, and will punish those who deceive.

"*Brothers, Sachems, and Warriors:* You have heard what our Commissioners have said to you at *Pittsburg* by our directions. You have listened to their arguments; and your own reason will suggest, that the conduct they have recommended to you must be productive of your happiness and welfare. We think that you must be fully convinced that your safety, as nations, depends on preserving peace and friendship with the white people of this island.

"We are sorry to hear of the death of your great men, and are well pleased that our Commissioners have wiped the tears from your eyes, and covered the graves of our departed friends.

"Our hearts are good towards all the *Indians* in the woods, who have friendly disposition towards us.

"We love peace, and wish that the chain of friendship between us and you may contract no rust. On our part, we will do every thing to keep it bright and strong.

"But should we be attacked by any tribe of *Indians* in the woods, we hope to convince them that we can repel their attempts with ease. Friendship, however, with you, is what we earnestly desire; our Commissioners have told you so, and they have not deceived you.

"We now inform you, that we wish to sit down with you under the same tree of peace; to water its roots and cherish its growth, so that it may shelter us and you, and our and your children.

"*Brothers:* We have prepared some presents for you, which our Commissioners will deliver before your departure."

The *Indians* having returned thanks for the Speech delivered, informed Congress they had something to say on *Monday* next, and withdrew.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be desired to suspend the farther execution of the request made to them on the 2d instant, to procure one thousand Wagons:

That the Wagons procured in consequence of the said request, be sent to the Quartermaster-General.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Mease* be directed to return to Mr. *Levy* the goods he had from him, and receive back the money advanced on that account: the said goods being sent for by the State of *New-York*, on whose account, and by whose order, they were purchased.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there is due,

To Brigadier-General *Thompson*, for his pay for the months of *October* and *November*, 250 Dollars:

To Lieutenant *Ross Currie*, of the Second Battalion of *Pennsylvania* regular forces, for the balance of his pay from *March* to *November*, inclusive, 90 Dollars:

To *Samuel M'Kinzie*, Surgeon to the Second Battalion of *Pennsylvania* regular forces, for 4 months' Pay, at 33 Dollars per month, 132 Dollars.

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Monday*.

—

Monday, December 9, 1776.

A Letter, of the 8th, from General *Washington*; one, of the 22d *November*, from General *Ward*, enclosing one of the 9th of the same month, from General *Gates*; one of the 18th of the same month, from *G. Morgan*, at *Pittsburg*; and a Petition and Remonstrance from the Captains and Subalterns of Colonel *Mackay's* Battalion; a Letter, of the 17th *November*, from Lieutenant-Colonel *Wilson*, of the said Battalion; and a Letter of the 22d *November*, from *John Avery*, at *Boston*, were read:

Also, a Letter of the 25th *November*, from Colonel *Moses Hazen*, was read, and referred to the Committee on the Northern Army.

*Resolved*, That another Member be added to the said Committee.

The Member chosen, Mr. *R. H. Lee*.

The *Indians* being introduced, spoke to Congress; but having said nothing relative to matters between them and the *United States*, no notice was taken of it, and they withdrew.

*Resolved*, That the sum of 117 11-90th Dollars be paid to Colonel *Haussegger*, in full of his Account for Boards, &c., bought for the publick service, and for his expenses.

*Resolved*, That 1,000 Dollars be advanced to Major *Ottendorff*, for the purpose of recruiting his Companies; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That *Houelman Arnold* be appointed a Lieutenant of the Company commanded by Major *Ottendorff*:

That 2,000 Dollars be advanced to the Delegates of *New-Jersey*, for the publick service; they to be accountable:

That 50,000 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *J. Mease*, for the publick service; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Risberg*, the Assistant Quartermaster in *Philadelphia*, be directed to send by water to *Christiana Bridge*, the Military Stores sent from the Army, and that they be safely lodged there till farther orders.

*Resolved*, That 5,000 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *Carpenter Wharton*, for the publick service; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to give the Continental Officers, and all others, employed in removing the publick stores from *Philadelphia*, whether by land or water, all the assistance in their power.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare an Address to the Inhabitants of *America*, and a recommendation to the several States, to appoint a day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer:

The Members chosen, Dr. *Witherspoon*, Mr. *R. H. Lee*, and Mr. *Adams*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *J. Mease* be empowered and directed to settle and pay the arrears due to Colonel *Hay's* Battalion of the Flying-Camp.

*Resolved*, That *Thomas de Naif* be appointed a Lieutenant of Artillery under Mons. *Romand de Lisle*.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to inquire into the state of the Prisoners sent from *New-Jersey*.

The Members chosen, Dr. *Witherspoon*, Mr. *Clarke*, and Mr. *F. L. Lee*.

Whereas, in consequence of many complaints that engrossers had distressed the publick, by raising Salt to an exorbitant price, the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, with the approbation of Congress, took the management of the affair into their hands, and have endeavoured, by as just and equal a distribution as possible of the Salt imported from time to time, to supply the different parts of the country; yet, it is found upon trial, either from the artful conduct of interested persons not discovered, or from the impossibility of the thing itself, that the remedy has been ineffectual; and, on the contrary, Salt continues scarcer and dearer in this port, than where no regulations have been tried: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, to take off all restraint upon the sale of Salt; and give publick notice that it shall be lawful for any person to import and sell it, in such manner, and at such prices, as shall suit voluntary purchasers.

*Resolved*, That 200 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *William Govett*, Assistant to the Auditor-General; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That in case this Congress shall be under the necessity of removing from *Philadelphia*, it shall be adjourned to *Baltimore*.

Whereas, General *Washington* hath repeatedly applied, and hath yesterday renewed his application, for an immediate reinforcement for the defence of *Philadelphia*, and the State of *Pennsylvania*:

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested, this day, to send expresses, that can be relied on, to the several Counties, earnestly requesting that they march what Troops they can collect, armed and provided in the best manner possible, to the Army under the command of General *Washington*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *J. Mease* be directed to furnish Captain *Henderson's* Company, of the Eleventh *Pennsylvania* Battalion, with Blankets and Stockings.

*Resolved*, That Expresses be immediately sent to the Committees of the Counties of *Cæcil*, *Baltimore*, *Hartford*, and *Frederick*, in *Maryland*, requesting that they apply,

without delay, to the Militia of their respective Counties, to send forward, immediately, for the defence of the City of *Philadelphia*, and the reinforcement of General *Washington's* Army, as many Troops as possible, informing the said Committees that some assistance, in the way of Arms, may be furnished here, to such as have no Arms to bring with them:

That an express be sent to the Council of Safety of *Delaware*, requesting them to send forward, as fast as possible, for the defence of this City, and the reinforcement of General *Washington*, as many Troops as possible, informing the said Council that some assistance in the way of Arms may be furnished here to provide such as have no Arms to bring with them.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to take care of the Arms belonging to the Continent, and have them properly secured.

*Resolved*, That *William Chambers* be appointed Captain, *Alexander Wilson* First Lieutenant, and *Adam Hoops*, Second Lieutenant, in the Third Battalion of the Regiment commanded by Colonel *Moses Hazen*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Tuesday, December 10, 1776.

A Letter, of the 8th, from General *Lee*, at *Morristown*; one of the 9th, from General *Washington*, with a Letter of the 6th, from General *Heath*, were read.

*Resolved*, That the Prisoners sent from the State of *New-Jersey* by General *Washington*, and ordered to *Fredericktown*, in *Maryland*, be conveyed there by Captain *Mountjoy Baily*, with a guard of eighteen Soldiers:

That the said Guard be furnished with Arms, Cartridges, Knapsacks, and Blankets:

That 1,000 Dollars be advanced to the Committee of the Middle District of *Frederick* County, to defray the charges of conveying the Prisoners there, and the expense of furnishing Rations to the Prisoners and the Guard; the said Committee to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That General *Mifflin* be directed to repair immediately to the neighbouring Counties, and, by all the means in his power, rouse and bring them in, to the defence of *Philadelphia*.

As the Congress deem it of great importance to the general good and safety, that General *Mifflin* should make a progress through the several Counties of the State of *Pennsylvania*, to rouse the freemen thereof to the immediate defence of this City and County,

*Resolved*, That the Assembly be requested to appoint a Committee of their body to make the said tour with General *Mifflin*, in order to assist him in this good and necessary work.

*Resolved*, That the President return to Congress the 25,000 Dollars received for the use of the Marine Committee.

*Resolved*, That Major-General *Putnam* be directed to have the several Recruits, and other Continental Troops in *Philadelphia*, immediately paraded, and that he proceed, without delay, to make the proper defences for the protection and security of this City:

That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to give Major-General *Putnam* all the assistance in their power, for the execution of the above necessary business, by calling forth the inhabitants, and by any other means in their judgment proper.

*Resolved*, That 2,000 Dollars be advanced to the Delegates of *Georgia*, for the use of that State, which is to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That 135 1-3 Dollars be paid to *Robert Patton*, for his services as Messenger, from the 15th of *May* to the 4th of *December*, instant.

The Committee appointed to prepare an Address to the Inhabitants of *America*, brought in a draft, which was read; and being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to.

*Ordered*, That the said Committee have it published and dispersed.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that there should be advanced to Mrs. *Stevenson* the sum of 200 Dollars on account of her husband, *James Stevenson*, one of the Commissioners of Accounts; he to be accountable:

That there is due to *John Montgomery* and *Jasper Yates*, Commissioners of *Indian* Affairs for the Middle Department, for their account of Debts due to sundry persons on the visit of the *Indian* Chiefs from *Pittsburg* to Congress, the sum of 1,178 24-90th Dollars:

To the Rev. Mr. *Fowler*, *Indian* Missionary, being a balance due to him for his services at the treaty with the *Indians* at *Pittsburg*, 36 Dollars:

To *John Gibson*, Esq., for eight months' House-Rent for the Treasury Office, as Auditor-General, to the 9th instant, Wood for the use of the Office, &c., &c., the sum of 369 61-90th Dollars:

To *St. Lake la Corn*, Captain *Frazer*, and Major *Campbell*, for the allowance for themselves and three servants, from 24th *September* to 3d *December*, 90 Dollars; the same to be paid to Colonel *Donald Campbell:*

*Ordered*, That the said Accounts be paid.

*Resolved*, That the President write to General *Washington*, and desire him to send a party to watch the roads leading from *New-Jersey* to *Philadelphia*, above *Trenton*, and give Congress the earliest notice of the enemy's motions.

*Resolved*, That 2,000 Dollars be advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel *Antil*, for the purpose of recruiting the Battalion commanded by Colonel *Moses Hazen;* he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That two of the Continental Battalions, now raising in *Connecticut*, be stationed for the defence of the said State in such parts thereof as Governour *Trumbull* shall judge most conducive to that purpose, till Congress shall order otherwise.

*Resolved*, That the Treasurer, upon the order of the Government of *Connecticut*, pay out of the first moneys which shall be received into the Loan Office in that State, 40,000 Dollars; the said State to be accountable for the expenditure thereof.

*Resolved*, That *Antoine Seelim* be appointed a Captain of a Rifle Company in the Corps commanded by Major *Ottendorf*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Wednesday, December 11, 1776.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Resolution for appointing a day of Fasting and Humiliation, brought in a Report, which was read and agreed to, as follows:

"Whereas, the war in which the *United States* are engaged with *Great Britain* has not only been prolonged, but is likely to be carried to the greatest extremity; and whereas, it becomes all publick bodies, as well as private persons, to reverence the Providence of God, and look up to him as the Supreme Disposer of all events, and the Arbiter of the fate of nations: Therefore,

"*Resolved*, That it be recommended to all the *United States*, as soon as possible, to appoint a Day of Solemn Fasting and Humiliation; to implore of Almighty God the forgiveness of the many sins prevailing among all ranks, and to beg the countenance and assistance of his Providence in the prosecution of the present just and necessary war.

"The Congress do also, in the most earnest manner, recommend to all the members of the *United States*, and particularly the officers civil and military under them, the exercise of repentance and reformation; and further, require of them the strict observation of the articles of war, and particularly that part of the said articles which forbids profane swearing and all immorality, of which all such officers are desired to take notice.

"It is left to each State to issue out Proclamations fixing the days that appear most proper within its bounds."

*Ordered*, That the above be published by the Committee who brought in the Report.

A Letter, of the 10th, from General *Washington*, at Head-Quarters at the Falls of *Delaware*, was read.

Whereas a false and malicious report hath been spread by the enemies of *America*, that the Congress was about to disperse:

*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be desired to contradict the said scandalous report, in General Orders, this Congress having a better opinion of the spirit and vigour of the Army, and the good people of these States, than to suppose it can be necessary to disperse. Nor will they adjourn from the City of *Philadelphia* in the present state of affairs, unless the last necessity shall direct it.

The Committee appointed to examine the Prisoners sent from *New-Jersey*, reported, that they have performed that service, and find some considerable distinction between them: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the said Committee be empowered to discharge from Gaol such of the said Prisoners as do not appear to have been engaged in measures against the *United States of America*; the said Prisoners first signing a Declaration, that they will not hereafter engage in such measures, nor give the enemies of *America* aid, information, counsel, or assistance, in any way or manner whatsoever; and that such as the said Committee judge proper, give security not to depart the City of *Philadelphia* without leave of Congress.

*Resolved*, That General *Putnam* be directed to order parties of active, spirited men, with proper guides, to cross from *Philadelphia* into *New-Jersey*, and, under the conduct of good officers, to act as harassing parties, and to get the best intelligence of the motions and situation of the enemy, directing them to send frequent daily intelligence through him to Congress, of the discoveries they shall be able to make of the enemy's movements and situation.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Thursday, December 12, 1776.

A Letter, of the 11th, from General *Washington*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

*Resolved*, That 20,000 Dollars be advanced to *Gustavus Risberg*, and charged to the account of *Richard Dallam*.

That 50,000 Dollars be advanced to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, for the publick service; the said Council to be accountable:

That 5,000 Dollars be advanced to Dr. *Nicholas Way*, of *Wilmington*, for the publick service; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That the two Companies raised in the Town of *Westmoreland*, be ordered to join General *Washington*, with all possible expedition.

*Resolved*, That the Continental Apothecary be directed immediately to pack up all the Continental Medicines, and send them to the Quartermaster-General:

That the Quartermaster-General be directed to remove all the Medicines belonging to the Continent in *Philadelphia* to a place of security:

That the Frigate *Randolph* and the Sloop *Hornet* be put under the direction of the Continental General commanding in *Philadelphia*, to act as he shall direct, for the defence of this City, and preventing the enemy from passing the *Delaware*.

*Resolved*, That 53 1-3 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *Sproat*, Clerk at the War Office, for his services; he to be accountable.

Mr. *Walton*, a Delegate from *Georgia*, attended, and produced a Letter from the Secretary of the Convention of that State, informing him of his appointment, with others, to represent that State for the ensuing year:

*Resolved*, That he be admitted to a seat.

*Resolved*, That *Elisha Sheldon* be appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a Regiment of Cavalry on the Continental Establishment, with the rank and pay of a Colonel of Foot; and that General *Washington* be authorized to appoint the other officers to the said Regiment; and that the Colonel, with his officers, proceed, without delay, to raise and discipline the said Regiment; and that they repair to and join the Army under the command of General *Washington*, by Companies, as soon as each Company shall be complete:

That General *Washington* be empowered to advance to Colonel *Sheldon* such sums of money as may be necessary for the service.

*Resolved*, That the Marine Committee be directed to employ one or more fast-sailing Vessels, to proceed immediately on a cruise off the Capes of *Delaware*, and give notice to all Ships and Vessels inward bound of the state of this Port, in order that they may proceed to some other place or places of more safety.

*Resolved*, That General *Putnam* be directed to send Dr. *John Connolly* under guard to *Baltimore*, in *Maryland*, there to be confined.

*Resolved*, That General *Putnam*, or the Commanding Officer in *Philadelphia*, be directed to appoint suitable persons to make proper provision of combustibles for burning such of the Frigates, and other Continental Vessels as may be in immediate danger of falling into the enemy's possession, should this City come into their hands.

But when it shall happen that the General has no further occasion for the use of the Frigate *Randolph*, for the defence of this City, if the same should fall into the enemy's hands, should Captain *Biddle* in that case carry the said Frigate safely to sea, and thereby save her from falling into the enemy's hands, this Congress will reward him and his people with a present of 10,000 Dollars.

*Resolved*, That the Continental General commanding in *Philadelphia*, be directed to defend the same to the utmost extremity, against the attempt of the enemy to get possession of it; and that, for this end, he apply, from time to time, to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* for their aid and assistance.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *R. Morris* be empowered to borrow a sum not exceeding 10,000 Dollars, for the use of the Marine Committee; and Congress will indemnify him.

*Resolved*, That *Timothy Dod* be released from confinement.

*Resolved*, That the Arms, Ammunition, and Clothing, in or near the City of *Philadelphia*, be put under the direction of General *Putnam*; and that Mr. *J. Mease*, and all other persons having Continental Stores in care, make immediate return of the same to General *Putnam*, of the quantities and kinds of each, and where the same are placed, that the General may take order therein, whether for safety or use, as he shall judge proper.

*Resolved*, That General *Putnam* be authorized to employ all the private Armed Vessels in this Harbour, for the defence and security of the City; and that he take the most effectual measures for manning them, and putting them in fit condition for the above purpose.

Major-General *Putnam* and Brigadier-General *Mifflin* being called to a conference, and having, by strong arguments, urged the necessity of the Congress retiring, it was, thereupon,

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Wilson* inform the Assembly and Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* of the proposed adjournment of Congress, and the place to which they have resolved to adjourn; and acquaint them, that Congress will, at all times, on their application, be ready to comply with their requisitions for the security of this City and State against the common enemy.

Whereas the movements of the enemy have now rendered the neighbourhood of this City the seat of war, which will prevent that quiet and uninterrupted attention to the publick business, which should ever prevail in the great Continental Council:

*Resolved*, That this Congress be, for the present, adjourned to the Town of *Baltimore*, in the State of *Maryland*, to meet on the 20th instant, unless a sufficient number to make a Congress shall be there sooner assembled; and that, until the Congress shall otherwise order, General *Washington* be possessed of full power to order and direct all things relative to the department and to the operations of war: and that the several matters to this day referred, be postponed to the day to which Congress is adjourned.

*

Baltimore, Friday, December 20, 1776.

Congress met according to adjournment.

The Delegates from Georgia produced the Credentials of their appointment, which were read as follows:

"In Convention, Savannah, October 9, 1776.

"The Convention proceeded to ballot for Delegates to represent this State in the Continental Congress for the year ensuing: when, on closing the poll, it appeared that *John Houston, Lyman Hall, Button Gwinnett, George Walton,* and *Nathan Brownson,* Esqrs., were duly elected, and declared so accordingly.

"A true copy from the Minutes.

"EDWARD LANGWORTHY, *Secretary.*"

Sundry Letters were laid before Congress and read, viz:

Three from General *Washington,* of the 12th, 13th, and 15th; one, of the 13th, from General *Sullivan;* four, from *R. Morris,* at *Philadelphia,* of the 13th, 14th, 16th, and 17th: one, of the 8th, from General *Wooster:*

*Ordered,* That they be referred to a Committee of four:

The Members chosen, Mr. *R. H. Lee,* Mr. *Wilson,* Mr. *Harrison,* and Mr. *S. Adams.*

*Resolved,* That *Benjamin Griffith* be appointed to supply the Prisoners from *North-Carolina* with Provisions, Clothing, Blankets, and Fuel, sufficient to protect them from the inclemency of the weather; and that the apartments in which they are confined be glazed, and in other respects secured from the weather, so that the health of the Prisoners may be preserved, and they experience that humanity which hath ever marked the conduct of this Congress to its Prisoners.

*Resolved,* That the President send to the Council of Safety of *Maryland* a copy of the Resolution passed the 9th, and forwarded to the Committee of *Cecil,* &c., and inform the said Council of the reasons that induced Congress to send the same to the Committees, and request the Council of Safety to exert their utmost endeavours in forwarding the reinforcements.

*Resolved,* That the President write to General *Washington,* and desire him to send a Flag to General *Howe,* and inquire in what manner General *Lee,* who has been taken prisoner, is treated: and if he finds that he is not treated agreeable to his rank and character, to send a remonstrance to General *Howe* on the subject; and farther, to inquire of General *Howe* whether he will grant permission to send General *Lee* such supplies of money as may be necessary to support him, during his confinement, in a manner suitable to his rank in the service of the *United States of America:*

That the President also write to Mr. *R. Morris,* and request him to send 100 half-johannes to General *Washington,* for the use of General *Lee.*

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Saturday, December 21, 1776.

A Letter, of the 1st of *October* last, from *S. Deane,* Esq., also, one of the 19th, from the Committee of *Frederick* County, with sundry Resolutions passed by the said Committee, respecting the marching of the Militia of that County, to join General *Washington,* were read.

Congress being informed that a number of Prisoners were arrived at *Baltimore* from *Philadelphia:*

*Resolved,* That the Committee of *Baltimore* Town be requested to secure, in a convenient room, under a guard, the said Prisoners, except the two *Goodriches,* who are to be committed to Gaol; that Mr. *B. Griffith* be empowered to supply them with Provisions and other things absolutely necessary for them, until farther orders of Congress.

*Resolved,* That 6,000 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *Thomas Price,* for the purpose of recruiting his Battalion; he to be accountable.

The Committee of Treasury reported, that they have had under consideration the Account of Colonel *W. Richardson,* for guarding the Continental Treasury from *Philadelphia* to *Baltimore;* that the expense of the Guard, with the Provender for the Teams, amounts to 378 83-90th Dollars; that he credits 300 Dollars received by a Warrant on the Treasurer, and that there remains due to the said Colonel *W. Richardson,* 78 83-90th Dollars:

*Ordered,* That the said Account be paid.

A Letter, of the 15th, from General *Armstrong,* at *Philadelphia,* was read:

*Ordered,* That it be referred to the Board of War.

The Committee to whom were referred the Letters from General *Washington* and Mr. *Morris,* brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved,* That Mr. President inform General *Washington* by Letter, that Congress approve his conduct in not publishing in General Orders the Resolve of Congress of the 11th instant.

*Resolved,* That proper Magazines of Provisions for the Army be immediately formed in or near *Pennsylvania,* and that Congress approve of the General's sending General *Armstrong* to fix upon the most secure and convenient places for such Magazines, to animate the Militia, and facilitate the recruiting service in *Pennsylvania:*

That Congress approve of General *Washington's* sending General *Smallwood* to *Maryland,* to encourage and promote the speedy raising of the New Levies therein; and that General *Smallwood* be requested to use his utmost endeavours in executing that business:

That *Robert Morris, George Clymer,* and *George Walton,* Esqs., be a Committee of Congress, with powers to execute such Continental business as may be proper and necessary to be done at *Philadelphia:*

That 200,000 Dollars be immediately sent to Mr. Commissary *Mease,* subject to the disposition of the said Committee, for providing the Militia going into service; for paying the Soldiers from *Ticonderoga,* and for such other publick uses as they shall think proper:

That if the above sum should be insufficient, the said Committee have power to call on the Commissioner of the Loan Office, in *Pennsylvania,* for such farther sums as the Continental service there may demand:

That the said Committee keep up a regular correspondence with Congress, informing them, from time to time, of their proceedings herein:

That the Resolve respecting the appointment of this Committee, and its powers, be transmitted to Messieurs *Morris, Clymer,* and *Walton,* by Mr. President; and that he inform the said gentlemen, that Congress approve their care of the publick business as signified in Mr. *Morris's* Letters. Also, that Mr. *Morris* be informed, that Congress highly approve his plan of fitting the Continental Frigates at *Philadelphia* regularly for sea, with all possible expedition:

That Mr. Secretary *Peters* be directed, by the Board of War, to repair to *Baltimore* as soon as possible.

*Resolved,* That 19,000 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *John Boyd,* Paymaster of Colonel *Mackay's* Battalion, for the use of the said Battalion; he to be accountable.

*Resolved,* That two Chaplains be appointed to Congress, and that *Monday* next be assigned for electing them.

Congress took into consideration the Letter from the Committee of *Frederick* County: Whereupon,

*Resolved,* That 18,000 Dollars be transmitted to the Committee of *Frederick,* for the use of the Militia of the Counties of *Frederick, Washington,* and *Montgomery,* who march to reinforce General *Washington;* the said Committee to be accountable:

That the said Committee transmit to General *Washington* a particular account of the Money advanced to the Militia.

*Resolved,* That Officers of Troops inlisted for three years, or during the war, receive pay on the new establishment, from the time of their being appointed by their respective States, in consequence of the Resolution of Congress passed the 16th of *September* last.

*Resolved,* That such alteration be made in the Rations of the *Virginia* Troops as the Governour and Council of that State shall direct, provided the expense does not exceed that of the Ration established for the Continental Army.

*Resolved,* That 3,000 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *W. Richardson,* for the purpose of recruiting his Regiment; he to be accountable.

*Resolved,* That Mr. *Hooper* be empowered to examine into the state of the *North-Carolina* Prisoners, and have such of them as are sick, removed to a private house, and

kept under guard; and that he provide a Physician to attend them.

*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be directed to pay the Militia that may reinforce his Army, in the same manner as his other Troops are paid; and that, on their discharge, one penny a mile be allowed in lieu of rations, to support them on their march to their respective places of abode.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Monday*.

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Monday, December 23, 1776.

Agreeable to the order of the day, Congress elected the Rev. Mr. *P. Allison*, and the Rev. Mr. *W. White*, Chaplains.

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Witherspoon*, Mr. *S. Adams*, and Mr. *Hooper*, be a Committee to inform the said gentlemen of their appointment, and desire their attendance.

Mr. *Hooper* having reported that the present situation of the Prisoners is very disagreeable and dangerous to their health, on account of the Prison being much out of repair: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That until the apartments in the Jail of the Town of *Baltimore* shall be repaired, and put in such a condition as not to endanger the health oft hose who may be confined in them, the Prisoners from the State of *North-Carolina* be removed from thence to different rooms in the Court-House, or wherever else they can be procured, and there safely locked up and secured; and that the Committee of Inspection of the said Town be requested to direct proper apartments for their reception, and from time to time to keep up a good and sufficient guard over them; and, in order to secure them more effectually, that the Prisoners, agreeable to their own voluntary proposal, shall be upon their parole not to make any attempts to escape from confinement, nor interfere in the present war with *Great Britain*, by carrying on any correspondence, conversation, or otherwise, with the enemies of *America*; and that during this confinement, *Benjamin Griffith*, who, by a late resolve of Congress, was directed to supply the Prisoners when confined in Jail, continue to supply and accommodate them with necessaries for their support.

*Resolved*, That *Robert Patton* be appointed Doorkeeper, and *James Long* Messenger, to Congress.

*Resolved*, That to-morrow be assigned for appointing skillful persons to be sent to examine the *Salisbury* and Mr. *Livingston's* Founderies, agreeable to the Resolution of the 28th of *November* last.

The Committee of Secret Correspondence having applied for Instructions to enable them to return an Answer to the Letter read yesterday from Mr. *Deane*, Congress took the said Letter into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Secret Correspondence be directed to inform the Commissioners at the Court of *France*, that Congress have received no advices concerning the proceedings of *Portugal*, but what they have seen in the newspapers, the authenticity of which may be doubtful. That Congress desire exact information from the Commissioners whether any *American* Vessels have been prohibited entering, or have been confiscated in the Dominion of *Portugal*, and on what principles.

That they be directed to remonstrate in the firmest tone with the *Portuguese* Ambassador on these subjects so soon as they shall have well-informed themselves of the facts above-mentioned.

That the Commissioners be authorized to arm and fit for war any number of Vessels, not exceeding six, at the expense of the *United States*, to war upon *British* property; and that Commissions and Warrants be for this purpose sent to the Commissioners, provided the Commissioners be well satisfied that this measure will not be disagreeable to the Court of *France*.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *John Boyd*, the Paymaster of Colonel *Mackay's* Battalion, be empowered to receive from Mr. *William Smith*, at *Hanover*, such a number of Shoes as may be wanted for the use of the said Battalion.

*Resolved*, That the Assemblies, Conventions, Committees or Councils of Safety, and other persons that are or may be entrusted with Money for the Militia reinforcing the Armies of the *United States*, transmit the receipts of the Officers receiving the same to the Paymaster or Deputy-Paymaster General of the respective Armies; who are hereby directed to make proper stoppages, and give Certificates of the delivery of such Receipts, specifying therein the names of the persons signing them, the dates and sums mentioned in the same, and the persons to whom the Receipts were given; which Certificates shall be received by the Commissioners of the Treasury as sufficient vouchers for discharging the respective accounts from the sums expressed in the same.

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners of Congress at the Court of *France* be authorized to borrow, on the faith of the Thirteen *United States*, a sum not exceeding Two Millions Sterling, for a term not less than ten years.

That if the Money borrowed cannot be obtained at a less interest than six per centum, the Commissioners be permitted to engage for that rate of interest, and that they stipulate for the payment of the interest at periods not less than annual.

That if the Commissioners can contract for the payment of the principal and interest in the products of *North America*, to be delivered here, it will be very agreeable to Congress.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Tuesday, December 24, 1776.

A Letter, of the 20th, from the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*; one, of the 21st, from Mr. *R. Morris*; one, of the 10th, from General *Schuyler*, with sundry Papers enclosed, were received and read:

*Resolved*, That the last be referred to the Committee on the Affairs of the Northern Army.

*Resolved*, That two Members be added to the said Committee:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Heyward* and Mr. *Whipple*.

*Resolved*, That 200,000 Dollars be advanced to the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, for the publick service; the said Council to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That Mr. *Hillegas*, the Treasurer, be empowered to employ proper persons to sign the Bills which remain unsigned in the Treasury, and that he return their names to Congress.

*Resolved*, That a Letter be immediately written by Mr. President to the Assemblies of *New-Hampshire*, *Massachusetts-Bay*, and *Connecticut*, informing them of the critical state of the Fortress of *Ticonderoga* and the other Posts in that quarter; and the extreme danger of General *Carleton's* possessing himself of that Fortress as soon as *Lake Champlain* shall be so frozen as to be capable of bearing horses; that, by a Letter from General *Schuyler*, Congress is informed that the Troops, now occupying those Posts, will not tarry after the 31st of this month; and, in the most pressing terms, urging the necessity of hastening up Troops, from their respective States, with the utmost despatch, in the following proportions, viz: 2,500 from *Massachusetts-Bay*, 1,500 from *Connecticut*, and 500 from *New-Hampshire*, making 4,500; informing them that Congress desire they will not wait till the several Corps are completed; and that there is now a plentiful stock of Provisions at *Ticonderoga*, and nothing to fear from the enemy till the Lake shall be frozen, as above-mentioned.

*Resolved*, That two Members be added to the Committee appointed on the 17th of *October*, for the better regulating the Treasury Board:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Nelson* and Mr. *Ellery*.

*Resolved*, That 533 1-3 Dollars be advanced to *Thomas Nichols*, Deputy Quartermaster-General, for the publick service, and charged to the Account of Brigadier-General *Mifflin*, Quartermaster-General, to whom said *Nichols*, who is an officer in his department, is to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed to prepare and report a plan for obtaining Foreign assistance:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Gerry*, Mr. *Witherspoon*, Mr. *R. H. Lee*, Mr. *Clark*, and Mr. *S. Adams*.

Sundry *French* Letters were laid before Congress, and read:

*Ordered*, That the said Letters be referred to the Committee for procuring Cannon.

*Resolved*, That a Member be added to the said Committee:

The Member chosen, Mr. *Lewis*.

*Resolved*, That two other Magazines of Ammunition, in addition to that agreed to on the 21st, be formed, one in the Eastern States, and one in the Southern States:

*Ordered*, That the Delegates of the Eastern States confer together, and also those of the Southern States, and fix upon proper places, and report to Congress on *Thursday* next.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on *Thursday* next.

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Thursday, December 26, 1776.

Sundry Letters were read, viz:

One, of the 16th, from General *Washington*, with an extract of a Letter from Commissary-General *Trumbull*:

One, of the 13th, from Commissary-General *Trumbull*, at *Morristown*:

One, of the 8th, from Governour *Cooke*:

One, of the 20th, from General *Washington*, with a plan for the establishment of Artillery, and a memorandum:

One, of the 21st, from General *N. Greene*:

Two, of the 22d, from the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, with sundry Letters from *Ticonderoga*:

One, of the 2d, from Colonel *Anthony Wayne*, at *Ticonderoga*, with sundry Papers enclosed:

One, of the 6th, from Colonel *J. Wood*, at ditto:

One, of the 23d, from *Samuel Washington*, of *Berkley* County, *Virginia*:

One, of the 10th, from Colonel *John Brown*, of *Albany*, with Papers enclosed:

Also, a Letter from *Donald M'Leod*, *Alexander M'Leod*, *Kenneth M'Donald*, and a Petition from *Thomas Slater*, Prisoners.

*Resolved*, That 400,000 Dollars be advanced to *Joseph Trumbull*, Esq., Commissary-General; he to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That *J. Trumbull*, Esq., Commissary-General, be empowered to import, at the Continental risk, from *Virginia* and *Maryland*, and the other Southern States, such quantities of Flour and other Provisions as he may judge necessary for the support of the Army.

*Resolved*, That the Delegates of *Virginia* be empowered and directed to write to the Governour and Council of their State, and request them to contract with proper persons for the delivery of 10,000 barrels of Flour on *James*, *York*, *Rappahannock*, and *Potomack* Rivers, to the order of *Joseph Trumbull*, Commissary-General of the Continental Army, or of a larger quantity should he require a further supply; the said *Joseph Trumbull* to send Vessels to take it in, and to pay for, or draw orders on the President of Congress for the payment of the same.

*Ordered*, That the Letters read be referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Congress then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Letters; and, after some time spent thereon, the President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Harrison* reported, that the Committee have had under consideration the Letters to them referred; but, not having had time to finish, desire leave to sit again to-morrow at ten o'clock.

*Resolved*, That this Congress will, to-morrow, at ten o'clock, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into further consideration the Letters read this day.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the state of the Army, and report thereon to-morrow morning:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Richard H. Lee*, Mr. *Wilson*, and Mr. *S. Adams*.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of five be appointed to prepare a plan for the better conducting the Executive business of Congress, by Boards composed of persons not members of Congress:

The Members chosen, Mr. *Whipple*, Mr. *Wilson*, Mr. *Gerry*, Mr. *Nelson*, and Mr. *Morris*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Friday, December 27, 1776.

*Resolved*, That 3,333 1-3 Dollars be advanced to Mr. *James Nourse*, for the use of the Militia of *Berkley* and *Frederick* Counties, in *Virginia*, who are about to march to reinforce General *Washington*; the said Mr. *J. Nourse* to be accountable for the expenditure.

*Resolved*, That the Resolution passed the 3d of *December*, granting a pair of Shoes and Stockings to the Militia of *Pennsylvania*, and the same Rations and Monthly Pay as the other Troops on the Continental establishment, to commence from the time of their enrollment, be extended to the *Virginia* Militia, who march to reinforce General *Washington*.

Sundry Letters were read, viz: one of the 23d, from Mr. *R. Morris*; one of the 3d, from General *Schuyler*, at *Saratoga*; one from *Henricus Godet*, of *St. Eustatia*, of *November* 30th; one of the 18th, from *Richard Dallam*, Deputy Paymaster-General, at *Newtown*, in *Bucks* County, *Pennsylvania*; one of the 5th, from *Jonathan Trumbull*; one of the 25th *November*, from *Joseph Trumbull*; also a Petition from *Faneuil* and others, to the Assembly of *Massachusetts-Bay*, and a Resolution passed by the said Assembly in consequence thereof.

The Committee on the state of the Army, brought in their Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That a Brigadier-General of Artillery be appointed. And the ballots being taken,

Colonel *Henry Knox* was elected.

*Resolved*, That General *Washington* be empowered to use every endeavour, by giving Bounties and otherwise, to prevail upon the Troops, whose term of inlistment will expire at the end of the month, to stay with the Army so long after that period as its situation shall render their stay necessary:

That the New Levies in *Virginia*, *Maryland*, the *Delaware* State, *Pennsylvania*, and *New-Jersey*, be ordered to march by Companies, and parts of Companies, as fast as they shall be raised, and join the Army under General *Washington*, with the utmost despatch:

That the foregoing Resolution be transmitted by the President to the Executive Powers of the States before mentioned, who are requested to carry it into execution; to appoint Commissaries to precede the Troops, and procure Provision for them on their march; and that they be empowered to draw money for this purpose from the nearest Continental Paymaster:

That General *Washington* be empowered to appoint a Commissary of Prisoners, and a Clothier-General for supplying the Army; to fix their salaries, and return their names to Congress:

That General *Washington* be requested to fix upon that system of promotion in the Continental Army, which, in his opinion, and that of the General Officers with him, will produce most general satisfaction; that it be suggested to him, whether a promotion of Field-Officers in the Colonial line, and of Captains and Subalterns in the Regimental line, would not be the most proper:

That the Committee of Congress at *Philadelphia* be desired to contract with proper persons for erecting at *Carlisle*, in *Pennsylvania*, a Magazine, sufficient to contain ten thousand stand of Arms and two hundred tons of Gunpowder, and also for erecting a Laboratory adjacent to such Magazine:

That the Council of *Massachusetts-Bay* be desired to contract with proper persons for erecting, in the Town of *Brookfield*, in that State, a Magazine sufficient to contain ten thousand stand of Arms and two hundred tons of Gunpowder, and also for erecting a Laboratory adjacent to such Magazine:

That Congress approve of General *Washington's* directing the Quartermaster-General to provide Teams for each Regiment, and for other necessary purposes:

That the Committee of Secret Correspondence be desired to direct the Commissioners at the Court of *France* to procure if possible from that Court an hundred thousand stand of Small-Arms:

That the Second and Seventh *Virginia* Regiments, with all the convalescents from the other corps left in that State, and now fit for duty, be ordered to march and join the

Army under General *Washington*, with the utmost despatch, leaving the Arms that they have at present, with the Governour and Council of that State, as they will be provided with others at the *Head of Elk:*

That three Regiments, upon the new establishment, in *North-Carolina*, be ordered to march immediately to join General *Washington:*

That the State of *Virginia* be empowered to call into service, at the Continental expense, three Regiments of Militia or Minute-Men, if such a measure shall, by that State, be judged necessary.

The unjust, but determined purpose of the *British* Court to enslave these free States, obvious through every delusive insinuation to the contrary, having placed things in such a situation, that the very existence of civil liberty now depends on the right execution of military powers, and the vigorous, decisive conduct of these being impossible to distant, numerous, and deliberative bodies:

This Congress, having maturely considered the present crisis, and having perfect reliance on the wisdom, vigour, and uprightness of General *Washington*, do, hereby,

*Resolve*, That General *Washington* shall be, and he is hereby, vested with full, ample, and complete powers to raise and collect together, in the most speedy and effectual manner, from any or all of these *United States*, sixteen Battalions of Infantry, in addition to those already voted by Congress; to appoint Officers for the said Battalions; to raise, officer, and equip three thousand Light-Horse, three Regiments of Artillery, and a Corps of Engineers, and to establish their pay; to apply to any of the States for such aid of the Militia as he shall judge necessary; to form such Magazines of Provisions, and in such places as he shall think proper; to displace and appoint all officers under the rank of Brigadier-General, and to fill up all vacancies in every other department in the *American* Army; to take wherever he may be, whatever he may want for the use of the Army, if the inhabitants will not sell it, allowing a reasonable price for the same; to arrest and confine persons who refuse to take the Continental currency, or are otherwise disaffected to the *American* cause; and return to the States of which they are citizens their names, and the nature of their offences, together with the witnesses to prove them:

That the foregoing powers be vested in General *Washington*, for and during the term of six months from the date hereof, unless sooner determined by Congress.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* be requested to take the most vigorous and speedy measures for punishing all such as shall refuse Continental currency, and that the General be directed to give all necessary aid to the Council of Safety for carrying their measures on this subject into effectual execution.

Mr. *Hillegas* having returned the names of persons by him employed to superintend the Press, and to sign the Bills of Credit, they were agreed to; and are,

Superintendents of the Press: *Thomas Harrison*, *William Smithe*, and *John Merryman*, Junior.

Signers of Money: *William Asquith*, *John Griffith*, *Hercules Courtney*, *John Cockey*, *James Kelso*, *Richard Cromell*, *James Colhourn*, *George Welsh*, *Theodore Barrel*, *Thomas Donnellan*, *John Boyd*, *Benjamin Levy*, *Samuel Hillegas*, and *William Govett*.

*Resolved*, That 266 2-3 Dollars be advanced to *John Griffith*, for the use of the sick Soldiers in *Baltimore;* he to be accountable.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Saturday, December 28, 1776.

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare a Circular Letter to the several *United States*, explaining the reasons which induced Congress to enlarge the powers of General *Washington*, and requesting them to cooperate with him, and give him all the aid in their power:

The Members chosen, Mr. *R. H. Lee*, Mr. *Wilson*, and Mr. *Adams*.

*Resolved*, That the Five Millions of Dollars, which, by the Resolution of the 2d of *November* last, the Treasury Board were ordered to prepare and have ready for emission, be now emitted on the faith of the *United States*.

*Resolved*, That the Council of Safety of the State of *Maryland* be, and they are hereby, requested to furnish Mr. *John Griffith* with fifty Blankets for the use of the Sick Soldiers in *Baltimore*, who stand in immediate need thereof.

*Resolved*, That 400 Dollars be advanced to Colonel *Carvill Hall*, for the use of his Battalion; he to be accountable.

The Committee to whom the Report of the gentlemen who were directed to repair to *Ticonderoga*, and the Papers therein mentioned, were referred, brought in a Report, which was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of Congress, the Northern Army may be supplied more advantageously and conveniently, in the present mode of the Commissary-General's governing himself by such regulations as have been, and may be, from time to time, ordained by the General or Commander-in-Chief, than by Contractors:

That the Commissary-General be directed, without fail, to supply the Northern Army this winter with Vegetables twice in every week, or more frequently, if possible, and to take effectual measures that they be well supplied with Vinegar:

That two large Floating Batteries be built on *Lake Champlain*, to cover the Boom and the Bridge; and that General *Schuyler* be desired to contract with builders for this purpose in *New-York*, or *Massachusetts-Bay*, or both, and that General *Schuyler* provide the materials:

That the Committee for supplying Cannon be directed to procure ten brass six-inch Howitzers, with Shells and a proper attrail, for the use of the Northern Army:

That a Fort be constructed on *Mount Independence:* that the navigation of the Lake near that place be obstructed by caissons, to be sunk in the water, at small distances from one another, and joined together by string-pieces, so as, at the same time, to serve for a bridge between the Fortifications on the east and west side; that, to prevent the enemy from drawing their small craft over land beyond *Three Mile Point* into *Lake George*, the passage of that Lake be also obstructed, in like manner, by caissons from Island to Island in the Narrows, if practicable. or by Floating Batteries; that *Fort Stanwix* be strengthened, and other Fortifications be made at proper places near the *Mohawk* River, and that General *Schuyler*, or the Commanding Officer of the Northern Army, execute these works this winter; and that the Commanding Officers of Artillery, Chief Engineer, Quartermaster-General, and Commissary-General, provide and perform whatever things in their respective departments are necessary, or may contribute to the accomplishment thereof:

That the General Court, or Council, of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, be requested to procure such a quantity of Oakum, and any other articles, as General *Schuyler*, who is desired to write to them on the subject, shall require; and to forward the same to such places as he shall direct.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Plan for obtaining Foreign assistance, brought in a Report, which was read:*

*Ordered*, That the same be referred to a Committee of

* *December* 29, 1776.—*Report of Committee on a Plan for obtaining Foreign assistance.*

The Committee appointed to prepare a plan for obtaining Foreign assistance, beg leave to report the following Resolutions:

*Resolved*, As the opinion of this Committee, That Commissioners be forthwith sent to the Courts of *Spain*, *Vienna*, *Prussia*, the Grand Duke of *Tuscany*.

That the several Commissioners of the *United States* be instructed to assure the respective Courts, that notwithstanding the artful and insidious endeavours of the Court of *Great Britain* to represent the Congress and inhabitants of these States to the European Powers, as having a disposition again to submit to the sovereignty of the Crown of *Great Britain*, it is their determination at all events to maintain their independence.

That the Commissioners be respectively directed to use every means in their power to procure the assistance of their Most Christian, Catholick, and *Prussian* Majesties, for preventing *German*, *Russian*, or other Foreign troops from being sent to *America* for hostile purposes against these *United States*.

That his Most Christian Majesty be induced, if possible, to engage with the *United States* in the present war with *Great Britain*.

That to this purpose, the Ambassadors be instructed to represent to the Court of *France*, that in case *Great Britain* should succeed against *America*, a military government will be established here, and the *Americans*, already trained to arms, will, however unwilling, be forced into the

the Whole; and that Congress do immediately resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to take the same into consideration.

Congress then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee on the Plan of obtaining Foreign assistance; and after some time spent thereon, the President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Harrison* reported that the Committee have had under consideration the Report to them referred, and made sundry amendments; but not having time to go through the whole, desire leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That Congress will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into further consideration the Report of the Committee.

That the Board of War be empowered and directed to write to *Philadelphia* for accoutrements and necessaries to supply the six Troops of Light-Horse ordered from *Virginia*.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

—

Sunday, December 29, 1776.

*Resolved*, That the Committee appointed to consider the Letter from General *Schuyler*, dated the 10th of *December*, be directed to send a suitable person or persons to Mr. *Livingston*, owner of the Foundery in the State of *New-York*, and to Governour *Trumbull*, under whose direction is the Foundery at *Salisbury;* also to the Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, to procure such Cannon and Ordnance Stores, as are required by the General in his said Letter; they being immediately necessary for the Northern department.

Congress then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, to take into consideration the Report of the Committee on the Plan of obtaining Foreign assistance: and after some time the President resumed the chair, and Mr. *F. L. Lee* reported, that the Committee have had under consideration the Report to them referred, and have made sundry further amendments, which he was ready to report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be received and taken into consideration to-morrow.

*Resolved*, That to-morrow be assigned for appointing more General Officers.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

—

Monday, December 30, 1776.

A Letter, of the 21st, from Brigadier-General *Lewis*, was read; also two Letters, of the 26th and 27th, from Mr. *R. Morris*.

The Committee, appointed to consider the Letters from General *Schuyler*, relating to the Northern Army, brought in a Report: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That General *Schuyler*, or the Commanding Officer of the Northern Army, be directed to cause an Elaboratory to be erected at such place as he shall judge most convenient, to fix all the necessary Ammunition for the ensuing campaign.

*Resolved*, That fifteen Companies, consisting of a Captain or Overseer, and thirty men each, be engaged, upon such terms as General *Schuyler* shall think just and equitable, for the Batteau service: and be occasionally employed on the highways and other works in the Quartermaster-General's Department; and that four Companies of Carpenters, to consist of an Overseer and twenty-five men each, be engaged in like manner to attend the Northern Army.

For the better regulating Wagons in the Northern Army,

*Resolved*, That two Wagons be allowed to each Company on a march, and one Wagon to the Colonel, one to the Lieutenant-Colonel and Major, one to the Staff of a Regiment, and one for the particular use of the Director of the Hospital. Each Wagon to be drawn by two Horses, (except that for the Colonel, which is to be allowed four Horses,) and subject to such orders as shall, from time to time, be issued by the General or Commanding Officer.

*Resolved*, That if any Commissioned or Non-Commissioned Officer shall employ more Carriages than are mentioned in the foregoing Resolution, he shall not be allowed to make a publick charge of it, but shall pay the customary price himself; and, on his refusal or neglect of so doing, he shall be subject to be fined by a Court-Martial in treble the sum; one third part of such fine to be for the use of the owner of the Wagon or other Carriage so employed, and the other two thirds to the Paymaster for the publick use; the part adjudged to the owner of the Carriage shall be paid to him by any Quartermaster on the certificate of the President of the Court-Martial, who shall transmit the whole fine to the Paymaster, in order that the same may be deducted from the pay of the delinquent.

Congress being informed that some of the Prisoners have broken out of Gaol, and made their escape,

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Observation for *Baltimore* County be requested to direct immediate and strict search for the Prisoners, who last night escaped from the Goal in *Baltimore* Town; and to offer a reward for the apprehending and securing the said Prisoners; and that the said Committee make inquiry into the conduct of the Gaoler, or any other person suspected of permitting or assisting their escape; and that they take such measures as they shall think proper to bring the offenders to punishment.

*Resolved*, That 200 Dollars be paid into the hands of the Committee appointed to consider the Letter from General *Schuyler* of the 10th of *December*, for the payment of the expenses of some suitable person or persons to be sent by them to Mr. *Livingston*, Governour *Trumbull*, and the Council of the State of *Massachusetts-Bay*, agreeable to a Resolution passed yesterday; the said Committee to be accountable.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Circular Letter to the several States, reported a draft, which was read, amended, and agreed to:

service of his *Britannick* Majesty, whereby his power will be greatly augmented, and may hereafter be employed to reduce to his government the *French* and *Spanish* Islands in the *West-Indies*.

That should the independence of *America* be supported, *Great Britain*, on the contrary, would at once be deprived of one third of her power and commerce; that this, in a great measure, would be added to the Kingdom of *France*, whose territories in the *West-Indies* would be less liable to molestation from *Great Britain*, and probably enlarged.

That the Commissioners be further empowered to stipulate with the Court of *France*, that all the trade between the *United States* and the *West-India* Islands shall be carried on by vessels either belonging to the subjects of His Most Christian Majesty, or of these States, each having free liberty to carry on such trade.

That should the proposals already made be insufficient to produce the proposed declaration of war, and the Commissioners are convinced that it cannot be otherwise accomplished, they assure His Most Christian Majesty that such of the *British West-India* Islands as in the course of the war shall be reduced by the united force of *France* and these States, shall be yielded in absolute property to His Most Christian Majesty; and the *United States* engage, so soon as the *British* arms shall be removed from their territories, to furnish and pay ten thousand men, to cooperate with the arms of *France* in making a conquest of said Islands, provided, nevertheless, that His Most Christian Majesty will be at the expense of transporting them to the *West-Indies* and back again.

That the Commissioners be likewise instructed to assure His Most Christian Majesty, that should his forces be employed in conjunction with the *United States* to exclude his *Britannick* Majesty from any share in the cod fishery of *America*, by reducing the Islands of *Newfoundland* and *Cape Breton*, and ships of war be furnished when required by the *United States* to reduce *Nova Scotia*, the fishery shall be enjoyed equally and in common by the subjects of His Most Christian Majesty and these States, to the exclusion of all other nations and people whatever, and half the Island of *Newfoundland* shall be owned by and subject to the jurisdiction of His Most Christian Majesty, provided the Province of *Nova Scotia*, Island of *Cape Breton*, and the remaining part of *Newfoundland*, be annexed to the territory and government of the *United States*.

That the Commissioners for the Court of *France* and *Spain* consult together, and prepare a treaty of commerce and alliance as near as may be similar to the first proposed to the Court of *France*, not inconsistent therewith nor disagreeable to His Most Christian Majesty, to be proposed to the Court of *Spain*, adding thereto: "That if His Catholick 'Majesty will join with the *United States* in a war against *Great Britain*, 'they will assist in reducing to the possession of *Spain*, the town and 'harbour of *Pensacola*, and in consequence of the unprovoked injury 'offered them by the King of *Portugal*, will declare war against the said 'King, if that measure shall be agreeable to and supported by the Courts 'of *France* and *Spain*."

That the Commissioners for the Court of *Berlin* consult with the *France*, and prepare such treaties of friendship and commerce, to be proposed in as shall not be disagreeable to their Most Christian and Catholick Majesties.

That the Commissioners at the Court of *France* be informed of the designs of Congress to send Commissioners to the Courts of *Vienna* and the Grand Duke of *Tuscany*, to cultivate the friendship of those Princes, and to form such treaties of commerce as may be beneficial to those countries and the *United States*, and directed that the Ambassadors from their Courts to that of *France* be made acquainted with this design, and in the mean time to solicit through those Ambassadors the interference of the Emperour and the Duke of *Tuscany* to prevent *Great Britain* from sending Foreign troops to this country, and to procure a recall of such Foreign troops as are already here.

*Ordered*, That copies be made, signed by the President, and transmitted to each of the *United States*.

It appearing to Congress that it will be extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to supply the Army of the *United States* with Bacon, Salted Beef, Pork, Soap, Tallow, and Candles, unless the exportation thereof be prohibited: Therefore,

*Resolved*, That none of the said articles, except such as may be necessary for the crew of any Ship or Vessel, be exported from any of these *United States* after the 5th day of *January* next, until the first day of *November* next, or until Congress shall take further order therein. And it is earnestly recommended to the Executive powers of the several *United States*, to see that this Resolution be strictly complied with.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be empowered to agree with, and employ, as an Assistant Clerk, Mr. *Nourse*, late General *Lee's* Secretary.

The Report of the Committee of the Whole being read, the same was taken into consideration: Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That Commissioners be forthwith sent to the Courts of *Vienna*, *Spain*, *Prussia*, and the Grand Duke of *Tuscany*:

That the several Commissioners of the *United States* be instructed to assure the respective Courts, that notwithstanding the artful and insidious endeavours of the Court of *Great Britain* to represent the Congress and Inhabitants of these States to the *European* Powers as having a disposition again to submit to the sovereignty of the Crown of *Great Britain*, it is their determination, at all events, to maintain their independence:

That the Commissioners be respectively directed to use every means in their power to procure the assistance of the Emperour of *Germany*, and of their Most Christian, Catholick, and *Prussian* Majesties, for preventing *German*, *Russian*, or other Foreign Troops from being sent to *America* for hostile purposes against these *United States*, and for obtaining a recall of those already sent:

That His Most Christian Majesty be induced, if possible, to assist the *United States* in the present war with *Great Britain*, by attacking the Electorate of *Hanover*, or any part of the dominions of *Great Britain* in *Europe*, the *East* and *West Indies*:

That the Commissioners be farther empowered to stipulate with the Court of *France*, that all the trade between the *United States* and the *West-India* Islands, shall be carried on by Vessels either belonging to the subjects of His Most Christian Majesty, or of those States, each having free liberty to carry on such trade:

That the Commissioners be likewise instructed to assure His Most Christian Majesty, that should his forces be employed in conjunction with the *United States* to exclude His *Britannick* Majesty from any share in the codfishery of *America*, by reducing the Islands of *Newfoundland* and *Cape Breton*, and ships-of-war be furnished when required by the *United States*, to reduce *Nova-Scotia*, the fishery shall be enjoyed equally and in common by the subjects of His Most Christian Majesty and these States, to the exclusion of all other nations and people whatever; and half the Island of *Newfoundland* shall be owned by and subject to the jurisdiction of His Most Christian Majesty; provided the Province of *Nova-Scotia*, Island of *Cape Breton*, and the remaining part of *Newfoundland*, be annexed to the territory and government of the *United States*:

That should the proposals already made be insufficient to produce the proposed declaration of war, and the Commissioners are convinced that it cannot be otherwise accomplished, they assure His Most Christian Majesty, that such of the *British West-India* Islands as in the course of the war shall be reduced by the united forces of *France* and these States, shall be yielded in absolute property to His Most Christian Majesty; and the *United States* engage on timely notice to furnish at their expense, and deliver at some convenient port or ports in the said *United States*, provision for carrying on expeditions against the said Island, to the amount of two millions of dollars, and six frigates, mounting not less than twenty-four guns each, manned and fitted for the sea, and to render any other assistance which may be in their power, as becomes good allies:

That the Commissioners for the Court of *France* and *Spain* consult together, and prepare a treaty of commerce and alliance, as near as may be, similar to the first proposed to the Court of *France*, not inconsistent therewith nor disagreeable to His Most Christian Majesty, to be proposed to the Court of *Spain*, adding thereto, "That if His Catholick Majesty will join with the *United States* in a war against *Great Britain*, they will assist in reducing to the possession of *Spain* the town and harbour of *Pensacola*, provided the citizens and inhabitants of the *United States* shall have the free and uninterrupted navigation of the *Mississippi*, and use of the harbour of *Pensacola*, and will, provided it shall be true that His *Portuguese* Majesty has insultingly expelled the vessels of these States from his ports, or hath confiscated any such vessels, declare war against the said King, if that measure shall be agreeable to and supported by the Courts of *France* and *Spain*:

That the Commissioners for the Court of *Berlin* consult with the Commissioners at the Court of *France*, and prepare such a treaty or treaties of friendship and commerce to be proposed to the King of *Prussia* as shall not be disagreeable to their Most Christian or Catholick Majesties:

That the Commissioners at the Court of *France* be informed of the designs of Congress to send Commissioners to the Courts of *Vienna* and the Grand Duke of *Tuscany*, to cultivate the friendship of those Princes, and to form such treaties of commerce as may be beneficial to those countries and the *United States*; and directed to acquaint the Ambassadors from their Courts to that of *France* with this design, and in the mean time to solicit through those Ambassadors the interference of the Emperor and the Duke of *Tuscany*, to prevent *Great Britain* from sending Foreign Troops to this country, and to procure a recall of such Foreign Troops as are already here.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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Tuesday, December 31, 1776.

A Letter, of the 27th, from General *Washington*, and one, of the 28th, from the Committee of Congress, at *Philadelphia*, with sundry Papers enclosed, were read:

*Resolved*, That Doctor *Mackenzie* be, and he is hereby authorized, to purchase such Medicine as is immediately wanted for the sick Soldiers belonging to the Army of the *United States*, now in *Baltimore*, and return an account thereof to Congress.

*Resolved*, That General *Smallwood* be directed to exert his utmost endeavours, and give the necessary orders and instructions to expedite the raising the Levies in the State of *Maryland*; and that it be earnestly recommended to the Legislature and Council of Safety, the several Committees of Observation, the Civil, Military, and Militia Officers of said State, and every friend of liberty and the *United States*, to give General *Smallwood* every assistance in their power.

*Resolved*, That 300 Dollars be advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel *Antil*, of Colonel *Hazen's* Battalion, for the use of the said Battalion; and that the same be charged to the account of Colonel *Hazen*, who is to be accountable.

*Resolved*, That the requisition of General *Schuyler* for a supply of sixty tons of Cannon Powder, and thirty-four tons of Musket Powder, for the use of the Northern Army, be referred to General *Washington*; and that he be directed to furnish that Army with such quantities of that article as can be spared.

*Resolved*, That the Board of War be directed to inform General *Washington* of the quantities of Gunpowder, belonging to the Congress, on hand in the different parts of *America*, as far as may have come to their knowledge.

A Memorial from Lieutenant-Colonel *Antil* was presented to Congress, and read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to the Board of War.

A Letter from *William Kennon*, of *North-Carolina*, to General *Lee*, was read:

*Ordered*, That it be referred to a Committee of three: The Members chosen: Mr. *Hooper*, Mr. *Heyward*, and Mr. *Harrison*.

*Resolved*, That any restrictions heretofore imposed upon

the exportation of Staves and other Lumber, except to *Great Britain, Ireland,* and the *British* Islands, or any place under the dominion of *Great Britain,* cease.

*Resolved,* That a Letter be written to General *Washington,* desiring him to order the Clothier-General to send agents into each State, to buy up Linens, and other Clothing proper for the Soldiery; and that he give similar orders to the Quartermaster-General to pursue the same mode for procuring a sufficient quantity of Tent Cloth; and that they be severally directed to apply to the States to afford all necessary assistance therein. And whereas great expense hath heretofore arisen from publick agents bidding against each other, the General is desired to caution the Clothier-General and Quartermaster-General, that their agents aforesaid, fall not into the above mistake in time to come.

A Memorial from *John Matthewson,* and others, was read; also a Letter from Mr. *Hughes:*

*Ordered,* That they be referred to the Marine Committee.

An Appeal being lodged against the judgment of the Court of Admiralty for the State of *Rhode-Island* and *Providence Plantations,* in the libel, *Esek Hopkins vs. Richard Derby:*

*Ordered,* That it be received, that it may be prosecuted before the Committee on Appeals.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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END OF THE THIRD VOLUME OF THE FIFTH SERIES.

WASHINGTON, *January,* 1853.

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